

Provost Newsletter



News from the Provost

All things considered, we've managed to get through this winter season with few weather-related closures...I should probably bite my tongue until at least the end of May!

I'm happy to share some exciting news about things happening in UC. Dr. Susan Cook received the President's Award from the Nineteenth Century Studies Association, an interdisciplinary association for the study of nineteenth-century world cultures. "Founded in 1979 as a forum to encourage interdisciplinary exchange, the membership has grown to include scholars whose disciplinary focus ranges from art, architecture, and literature, to religious, scientific, and legal writing, to social, political, and economic debate." Susan will also be taking on the presidency of NCSA beginning in AY 18-19.

The following UC students, staff and community partners will be recognized as award winners at this year's Campus Compact President's Awards event on April 11th: Senior Cori Lyons has been nominated for the "President's Leadership Award", Sara Telfer from the Alumni Engagement Office has been nominated for the "President's Good Steward Award," and our community partner, "The Way Home" has been nominated for the "President's Community Partner Award." Nicole Clark, a junior earning her degree in Education, has been nominated for the very prestigious "Newman Civic Fellow" award. The recipient of that award is enrolled in a year-long program with other fellows from around the country. A selection committee is still reviewing nominations and will let us know next month if Nicole has been selected. Good luck, Nicole!!

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We are on serious “baby watch” in the Provost’s Office. Evan Gaudette, Asst. Director of Institutional Research, and his wife Kayla are expecting their first baby on April 5th. Allison Bouchard, Academic Operations Coordinator, and her husband Matt, will welcome their first baby on May 28, 2017. And Tim Whittum from UC Admissions, his wife Hayley and daughter Evie, are excited to add a baby boy to their family in mid-March.

Lastly, since the inauguration, many students in UC have expressed feelings of anxiousness and anguish. It’s not hard to imagine the stress that an international student may be experiencing these days, or the disappointment and fear a non-binary student may be suffering. Many of our students have expressed deep concerns about the future of human rights in our country. Their concerns include protections around reproductive rights, the possibility of losing their healthcare coverage, the status of same-sex marriage, and their overall safety. Several of our conservative students, such as those in the Republican Club, have also reported feeling ostracized and ridiculed, and even being made to feel uncomfortable in some of their classes, or in the Dining

Hall, or in the dorms. The feeling of “not belonging,” or the feeling of being judged, hurts. The emotions of hurt and fear are debilitating, and they negatively impact the process of learning. I want to extend my sincere thanks to every faculty member, every staff member, every Board member, and every coach who has reached out to groups of students, or individual students, and has provided them with support, comfort and guidance. That “reaching out” across race, religion, gender, or political perspective is what SNHU is all about. It’s what sets us apart from so many other universities – that unspoken, we-live-it-everyday, SNHU “ethic of care.” Thank you. ■



Patricia A. Lynott
Executive Vice President and Provost

NCSE 2017

By Sarah Schoenbeck

From January 24th–26th, I had the privilege of attending the 17th annual National Conference and Global Forum on Science, Policy, and the Environment in Washington, D.C. with STEM Advisor Mike Weinstein. The conference was a three day event filled with speakers, workshops, networking activities and seminars which, this year, revolved around integrating environment and health. The conference was hosted by the National Council for Science and the Environment, of which SNHU is an affiliate member. NCSE is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the scientific basis for environmental decision-making. NCSE specializes in programs that foster collaboration between the diverse institutions and individuals creating and using environmental knowledge, including research, education, environmental and business organizations as well as governmental bodies at all levels. The council remains non-partisan in hopes to provide a neutral forum for all.

We flew into Crystal City on Tuesday morning and heard from many amazing keynote speakers from all over the world, including Newt Gingrich, who spoke to his thoughts on the role of science in the current political environment. Being an Education major and Environmental Science minor, I was able to attend a symposium on Educating Environmental Issues where I made connections with other educators at all

levels from all over that had amazing advice to give on how to incorporate environmental studies into my future classroom. NCSE also made a great effort to incorporate student-specific networkng events, which were a great way to connect with students and academic professionals across the country. Some of my other favorite seminars I attended were on indigenous peoples and the environment, and the rise of aquaculture. These were eye-opening to me, as they are not topics that students typically get to study at SNHU.

At the same time I was in those seminars, our new presidential administration was freezing funding for the EPA and moving forward with the Dakota Access and Keystone XL pipelines. While attending a symposium on Indigenous Peoples, Environment, and Health, I heard a great quote from Minnie Degawan, Director of the Indigenous and Traditional Peoples Program at Conservation International. She said, “indigenous peoples are only as strong as their land.” Being an Education major, but also a science geek, I had been feeling guilty recently about not pursuing my passion for science, and choosing to be an education major instead. However, Andrea Gore, a professor at U.T. Austin’s College of Pharmacy, was a speaker at the keynote panel on Wednesday, and really inspired me to continue to pursue teaching. She said that one of the most valuable ways to give back to the environment is to teach and educate the younger generations on these issues so that hopefully they can help. She stressed that science is not all about research and protesting; it also means translating

the science and making it easier for the general public to understand. That will maybe spark an interest in the topics and create the smallest actions that eventually make a big impact.

On Wednesday, we also got to visit monuments of the national mall, and even made it into the Smithsonian museum of Natural History, which was intriguing and really tied into what we were learning about in the conference. I am so thankful to have been sponsored by Student Involvement, who made it financially possible for me to attend the conference. I truly learned so much, made great connections, and was an experience I will never forget. I hope to return to the conference next year as well. ■



Sarah Shoenbeck, Mike Weinstein, and Michelle Wyman at NCSE 17.

Faculty Promotion ePortfolio Pilot

By Aaron Flint

Over the past several months, Instructional Support has been working with the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs, faculty, and others to investigate options for submitting Faculty Promotion Portfolios as ePortfolios as opposed to the traditional paper binder. During this time, we researched the promotion process, spoke with faculty, and investigated tools for creating and submitting ePortfolios.

The benefits of transitioning to an electronic format are many, but some key considerations include:

- Ease of creation for faculty – most of us keep your materials in electronic format already, so dragging files to and organizing an ePortfolio can be less time consuming than printing and assembling a binder. Also, scholarships today do not lend easily to print or to be presented any more easily electronically. Video, PowerPoint, web content and other multimedia can be included. Faculty can create an ePortfolio and build it incrementally over time, building it between promotion periods.
- Ease of access for reviewers – When faculty are happy with their portfolio, it is shared with the appropriate individuals via a secure URL. Promotion committees can be more efficient as ePortfolios can be reviewed at their convenience from their computer. Committees are not limited by having to schedule time to go to a specific location to view the portfolio. With the large number of faculty up for promotion this year, the need to use time efficiently is key.
- Saving trees and backs – ePortfolios save reams of paper and weigh much less than the traditional binders.

By the start of the academic year, we felt comfortable enough with the information to run a promotion ePortfolio pilot using Microsoft OneNote. OneNote was chosen for the pilot over traditional portfolio tools as it is universally available to all faculty, integrates with Office, is PC and Mac compatible, easy to use, and its layout mimics a traditional binder. There is also no additional licensing cost to use OneNote. With a record number of faculty up for promotion this year, this seems to be a good time for a pilot.

In mid-October all faculty eligible for promotion were notified of the pilot and offered the option to participate. Of the twenty-three faculty eligible for promotion, ten faculty representing all three schools opted to create ePortfolios. After an initial meeting with Instructional Support to review OneNote and portfolio sharing best practices, faculty built their ePortfolios. Nine faculty used OneNote, while one used a previously purchased ePortfolio tool. We experienced some issues as is expected with any pilot, including a few questions on layout and OneNote functionality. There have been a couple issues with sharing permissions, but overall the pilot has progressed smoothly.

Feedback from pilot faculty and reviewers interviewed has been quite positive. Faculty have felt that the creation process was straightforward and less time consuming than building a paper portfolio, while reviewers have indicated that the ePortfolios have worked well and have been easy to review. We are still in the middle of the promotion portfolio review period and continue to collect feedback and suggestions to be aggregated when the process is complete. Additional information will be shared at that time. ■

You Are Welcome Here

By Leanne Bowden

International Student Services and Diversity Programs co-sponsored a You Are Welcome Here event on March 1st to show support for SNHU’s international community and celebrate their impact on this campus. SNHU has a long history of welcoming international students to its campus, including those with non-immigrant visas who return home after their studies, those who have immigrated to the US, and refugees and political asylees who found a new home in the US when conditions in their countries made it unsafe to stay there any longer. There is also faculty and staff, such as President Paul LeBlanc, who were born in other countries. The diversity they bring to campus is important in exposing us all to new ideas and new experiences, and to prepare students for an increasingly multicultural workforce and global economy.

Executive Vice President and UC Provost Patty Lynott spoke about how the experiences and lives of our students and staff are enriched by our international community, noting that SNHU wouldn’t be SNHU without our international students.

Faculty member Andrea Bard talked about the magic she sees in her Intercultural Communication class when students hear first-hand from weekly panels of students from countries like Saudi Arabia. Students from Iran, Afghanistan, Bhutan and the U.S. spoke about their experiences at SNHU, the relationships

they’ve built with students from other cultures, the benefits of venturing outside your comfort zone to connect with students from other countries.

Close to 100 people attended the event, enjoying the various speeches, colorful flags and internationally-themed refreshments, writing out messages on “SNHU Welcomes



A moment from the You Are Welcome Here ceremony.

You” postcards, and adding notes of support to the You Are Welcome banner. A sampling of notes:

- “We wouldn’t be SNHU without you”
- “Love & peace always prosper”
- “We’re in this journey called LIFE together... every step, every day”
- “This land is your land, this land is my land...You are always welcome here!”
- “Proud to be part of this community”

Watch a short video clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yi9p6-4cBw>) that captures the spirit of the event. It was a true testament to how our community is enriched when diversity exists. ■

Gillett viewed this as a great way to pursue further research and see first-hand what life is like in refugee camps. Last May, Gillett took flight for a trip lasting just over a month. His first ten days were spent in Rowanda at two camps: Kiziba and Mahuma. His next three weeks were spent in Greece, primarily at Kara Tepe in Lesbos, and Souda in Chios.

According to Gillett, “Speaking to people and really understanding what it means to be a refugee spending the last 20 years in a camp was most interesting part of the experience.” The refugee camp, Kiziba, had access to College for America, which gave individuals in this camp access to education. If refugees in this program are granted access to the U.S. they will be better prepared to succeed in educational environments.

This experience does make Gillett a more informed advocate for the work he does with refugee populations within the United States. He spent time in Nepal a few years ago, but adding to his exposure to these situations was even more rewarding.

Gillett referred to the trip as both rewarding and frustrating. He spoke of the brilliance seen within each person in the

OMEP Student Chapter

By Margaret Ford

OMEP is an international, non-governmental and non-profit organization with Consultative Status at the United Nations and UNESCO. Founded in 1948, it defends and promotes the rights of the child to education and care worldwide and support activities which improve accessibility to higher quality education and care.

Four Education students established a Student Chapter of OMEP (World Organization for Early Childhood Education) in Spring 2016. In Fall 2016, these students submitted a proposal

Welcome, Dan Murphy

By Dan Martel

This past fall semester, SNHU welcomed Dan Murphy as a new full-time faculty professor in Accounting. He taught a graduate-level corporate tax course here as an adjunct over the summer. Last semester, he taught Financial Accounting (ACC-105), Managerial Accounting (ACC-205), and a graduate class, Corporate Tax. This semester, he’s teaching similar courses, but instead of teaching a graduate version of Corporate Tax, he’s teaching the undergraduate version.

Murphy was born in Long Island, NY., and went to Boston College for his BS in Business Administration with concentrations in Accounting and Marketing. He then pursued his MS in Accounting here at SNHU.

He received his certification in Massachusetts and worked at a large accounting firm. He eventually became the CFO of Hollis Automation in Nashua, NH, which is a company that Christos Papoutsy (of SNHU’s Christos and Mary Papoutsy Distinguished Chair in Ethics and Social Responsibility) formerly had a significant impact on as CFO of former Hollis Engineering.

After years of fulfilling the same roles consistently, Murphy decided to work independently. During this time, he was coaching his children in soccer, lacrosse, and baseball. He was especially interested in lacrosse because he played for Boston College. According to Murphy, “I really enjoy helping kids and watching them grow. This is what lead me to begin thinking about teaching.”

Over the next several years, he began his journey of

camps he traveled to. Seeing that everyone in these camps lives with tremendous uncertainty was the most frustrating. Their lives are on hold and they have no opportunities to advance themselves while living in the camps. According to Gillett, “Resettling is part of establishing a moral leadership position, and if the U.S. wants to be a global leader for good, it needs to show care for the most defenseless populations in the world.” ■

to present at the OMEP Annual Meeting in Atlanta. In February 2017, Emily App, Meredith Murray, Megan DeLorenzo, and Mikala Clark presented a session, Why is Special Education Important in Early Childhood? OMEP officers were present at the session and invited the students to be the founding officers of a new initiative within the organization, the Young Professionals Network. They were also invited to present the same session at a The Belize International Symposium on Education in January 2018. Professor Diane HARRISES is the Advisor to the group. ■

teaching at the collegiate level. He has one year experience at Manchester Community College, ten years at Great Bay Community College, and eight years at New England College. His time at New England College was spent in the graduate program, teaching 50% of his courses online. When asked about the difference in teaching atmospheres, Murphy responded, “online is necessary as a delivery mode for many students, but it’s more enjoyable for myself teaching in a classroom.” He also spoke about the interesting situation of getting to know students without ever seeing them face-to-face.

Murphy understands that accounting is not an easy subject to learn, but watching the light bulbs go off for his students makes being a professor much more rewarding. He feels that his experiences help him be a more informed professor.

When asked about what he wanted his legacy to be on campus, he responded by saying, “accounting is a necessary skill to have in life. If I can get non-accounting majors comfortable using it as a business tool in life, then I will be pleased.” ■



Accounting professor, Dan Murphy

The Women's Center Marches

By Megan Palmer

Arms were raised and signs were held high. The air was cold, but filled with the words, chants, and songs of over 100,000 people. As the sun shone down on Boston Common on January 21, 2017, everyone in attendance knew that they were a part of history. The Deborah L. Coffin Women's Center, under direction and organization of Brooke Gilmore and a team of dedicated workers, enabled 40 members of the SNHU community to inhabit a corner of that history.

Prior to the bus leaving SNHU's campus for Boston, the Women's Center was hard at work. Making history is never an isolated event, and it necessitated sign making, snack shopping, t-shirt organizing, and a good deal of discourse to make it happen. In the week leading up to the march, it seemed as though everyone only had one thought on their mind, which was: I just have to make it through the week and get to Saturday.

Saturday came and the troops were rallied. As a worker in the Women's Center, I could barely contain my excitement. I was given the unofficial title of "Community Journalist," because it was known that there were many stories that I wanted to tell. I handed out disposable cameras, conducted a whiteboard photo series entitled, "Why We March," and talked to as many people as I could.

The people I spoke to were excited. They were happy, angry, honest, and genuine in their desire for change. I marched next to a woman who told me that many years earlier, she had

marched with Martin Luther King Jr. I shared trail mix with a group of educators who wanted to know what they could do to get their students fired up about social justice. I linked arms and hearts with a movement much larger than myself.

As we all stood, packed together, on Boston Common, there was this sense of comradery that can only be described when you are standing there in the midst of it. Speakers such as Senator Elizabeth Warren and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh inspired the crowd with their words and wisdom. We danced and we sang to the sounds of Mary J. Blige, Lin Manuel Miranda, and the beating of drums that pounded in time with our hearts.

Though the SNHU marchers waited over two and a half hours before even touching the pavement of the street, never once did the energy or passion drop. Upon flooding onto the road, chants of "Love, not hate, makes America great," "Say it loud, say it clear: immigrants are welcome here," and "Show us what democracy looks like" began in full force. Everyone wanted to be heard, represented, and protected.

Almost a month later, I still feel empowered because of the opportunity to march. There is still more that I want to do and more that I want to say. I will be forever grateful to the Women's Center for always giving me a chance to say them. I am honored to have marched and will keep marching every day. The SNHU community has always welcomed everyone with the utmost love, and I vow to keep it that way. Where there is injustice, there will be marches. Where there is sadness and loss, there is also hope. Where there is SNHU, there is community and joy. ■



SNHU students at the Women's March in Boston, MA.



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