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**Please note the deadlines for submitting to the VPAA Journal:**

### Deadline for Submission

March 10

April 8

April 28

### Publication Date

March 17

April 15

May 2

It is my great privilege to share with you the exciting and affirming decisions made at our recent Board of Trustees meeting in Boston. The entire meeting focused on University College, and more specifically – on our future. First and foremost, the Board approved the most recent University Strategic Plan. That Plan, as you know, supports a University College that is even more dedicated to providing a well-rounded academic and co-curricular experience for our traditional-age students; a more finely focused “coming of age” experience. They expressed sincere gratitude to the University community for the excellent and collaborative work we did on creating the Plan. They reaffirmed their commitment to our mission, and in the most visible way possible – by making a multi-million dollar investment in us. The Board has approved the construction of two new dorms. These dorms are not intended for us to expand our enrollments, in fact, our five year growth plan is modest at best in terms of recruitment. Our charge is to provide stable and sustainable growth, and an unparalleled academic and personal learning experience. The Board understands that several of our older dorms do not provide our students with the level of housing excellence available in our newer residence halls. The Board also supported formal decentralization and the creation of separate academic governance structures for the three business units; University College, the College for Online and Continuing Education, and the College for America. This makes tremendous sense at so many levels given the distinctly different populations each unit serves. I am keenly aware of the many details that yet need to be worked out, and over the next few weeks and months I will work closely with faculty to make these “details” a top priority.

As I said to the Trustees, all of us in University College are extremely grateful to COCE for their tremendous success, and we are deeply proud of the innovative and noble work of College for America – but the decisions made by the Board of Trustees last week are an inspiring testament to their faith in what we do each and every day ..... and what we do makes a positive and measurable difference in the lives of our students.

**Patricia A. Lynott**

*Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs*

## Library Learning Commons Update

*Submitted by: Dean Kathryn Growney*

The construction of the new Library Learning Commons building is going well and remains on track for opening this fall! The floor plans are now available online at <http://libguides.snhu.edu/floorplans>. While you're there, you can also check-out the latest photos of the construction. In addition, despite rumors to the contrary our books are moving with us. There will be collections on all three floors with the majority of books being housed on the third floor.

## Taking Home Nationals, and Still Making the Grades

Usually when a person thinks of a student athlete they will think of a stereotypical athlete who is unintelligent and focuses more on the sport they play than their academics. Here at SNHU our athletes are not like that stereotype at all. Even though the men's soccer team just won the National Championship last semester Marc Hubbard, men's head soccer coach, still believes academics is a top priority.

Marc Hubbard said that the players' academic career is very important to him. Marc knows that he can't control everything on the playing field, but he does have a lot more control over the end results for grades. He can control the grades more by having players go to the Learning Center for help or even reaching out to professors to make sure that his team is doing well. He even once had teammates walk one of the players to class and then call Marc to let him know that player was not skipping.

When it comes to grades Marc makes sure the players are on top of their work. In the fall semester the team had an average GPA of 3.01. If a player's GPA would drop below a 2.7 that player would have to go to study hall. If their GPA dropped again to below a 2.5 the player would be placed into a mentoring program. And if the GPA dropped below a 2.0 then that player would not be able to play in any games.

For the 2012-2013 season the men's soccer team received the NCAA Team Academic Award with a GPA of 3.08. Marc does not want to let that award go when it comes to this season. Even though all practices are planned around the players' classes so they do not have to skip, it was when the soccer team was playing for the national title that players had to skip a few classes for games.

Marc is one of those rare coaches that cares about his team on and off the field. Whether it's getting the national title or getting good grades Marc is there for his team and SNHU is lucky to have him be a part of our community.

## Meet Megan Sawyer

The Provost's Office would like welcome mathematics' newest professor, Megan Sawyer to the School of Arts and Sciences. Megan received her BS in Mathematics from the University of Colorado Denver in 2007. Megan spent a year at the Baccalaureate Program for Women in Mathematics at Smith College. It was during her time at Smith College where Megan had a turning point in her education. Megan started to struggle in one of her classes. Megan and her fellow classmates would all work on the homework together and have tea with the professor during the professor's office hour. That experience taught Megan about the type of community of peers that she wanted to work with throughout the remainder of her education and professional career.

After Megan's time at Smith College she went on to earn her MS in Mathematics from North Carolina State University in 2010 and her PhD in Applied Mathematics from the same university in 2013.

One of the reasons why Megan was interested in coming to SNHU was because she was looking for a place that had community, a supportive faculty and administration, and small class sizes. Megan enjoys SNHU and said that she likes the support that she gets from her department and dean.

## Closure is Coming! Save the Dates!

*Submitted by: Deb Wilcox, Special Assistant to the Provost*

Believe it or not, despite the cold and snow, the end of the academic year is fast approaching! We will be holding a few days of "Closure" events and meetings again this year on either side of Commencement (May 10, 2014). Please save May 7, 8, 9, 12, and 13. We will kick the week off on the morning of the 7th (hopefully followed by lunch and a very interesting guest speaker) and then the schools will hold their meetings in the afternoon. Department meetings will take place on the morning of May 8 and, back by popular demand, the Center for Teaching and Learning's Faculty Showcase from 2-5 pm that day! Fri. May 9 will be the end-of-year wrap-up meetings for academic committees with Honors Convocations in the schools in the evening. May 12 and 13 will include the traditional Common Book luncheon and discussion, spots for SNHUPEA to meet as well as Faculty Senate, Undergraduate Research and Community-based Research Discussion time, a workshop on Service Learning/Experiential Learning and the ever popular Promotion Boot Camp. In a couple of weeks I will send out the draft schedule. There are not a lot of time slots available, but if your committee would like to hold a special meeting or workshop please let me know. And if you have any questions just email or call! (d.wilcox@snhu.edu, 603-369-2888)

## Congratulations to Harry Umen

Congratulations to Harry Umen for his new photography exhibit, "Light Forms." "Light Forms" will be opening on February 12th at Gateway Gallery at Great Bay Community College. The exhibit explores the interaction of virtual color and light created through small scale constructed studio stage sets. Be sure to stop by and support Harry before the exhibit closes on March 14th.



*Window Light One, 2013,  
Digital Print*

## Career Development Center's "Career Corner"

*Submitted by: Christina Cassella, Administrative Assistant, Career Development Center*

Spring semester is off to a great start for The Career Development Center. We have had several programs on campus with a lot of student attention!

### SNHU 303 Resume Critique Night

SNHU 303 students kicked off the semester with the Resume Critique Night on Wednesday, January 29th. There were over 55 employers from a variety of industries that helped critique resumes for over 300 students! Employer feedback was wonderful, many commented on how thrilled they were to see so many students taking advantage of this program. Students also had positive comments and some waited in line multiple times to have second or third critiques done to their resume!



### Internship Fair

The Internship Fair hosted over 50 employers from a variety of industries currently seeking interns from SNHU. The event drew more than 300 students who came to explore internship options with non-profits and corporations in the region and meet the recruiters hiring for these positions. Employers remarked on the students' preparedness and professionalism. Some employers even ran out of applications while on site!



### U.S. Department of State Information Session

The U.S. Department of State is the lead U.S. foreign affairs agency responsible for advancing freedom for the benefit of the American people and the international community. The Department's employees work at over 265 locations overseas, and throughout the United States. On Wednesday, February 12th 10 students took advantage of the opportunity to attend an information session with Evyenia Sidereas, Diplomat in Residence for the New England Region to learn about the variety of rewarding career and internship opportunities offered by the Department of State.

## Alumni Spotlight: Active Alumni, Vibrant Campus

Submitted by: The Office of Institutional Advancement

### *Presidential Scholars Dinner*

On Monday, February 17, the Office of Admissions hosted the Presidential Scholars Dinner to welcome the newest SNHU students to campus and celebrate their academic achievement.

The 120 high school students in attendance have been accepted to SNHU and received highest merit support possible to come to university; they were met by faculty, staff, administration and current students representing all three schools and a variety of programs. The Office of Alumni Relations was especially pleased to welcome several legacy students – students whose parents or siblings have attended the university.

The keynote address was delivered by Liz White '10, head cake decorator at Carlo's Bakeshop in Hoboken, NJ, home of the reality television show, Cake Boss. Miss White scored an internship at Carlo's after her first year at SNHU, by cold calling the famous bakery. She spoke with Buddy himself, who was impressed enough that he asked her to send her portfolio for consideration. After a month and a half of long, unpaid hours creating flowers and other small sugar decorations, Miss White was finally allowed to touch one of the bakery's spectacular cakes. She displayed such dedication and creativity that the bakery staff invited her to come back to work each summer and on any school breaks.

Miss White told the audience that her professors and administrative staff were incredibly supportive, emphasizing the importance of experiential learning. While she easily could have taken a more passive role in an internship, she knew that she needed to make the most of the opportunity at Carlo's, especially in such a tough, competitive job market. She made the decision to fully invest in the experience, and it has certainly paid off in the form of an impressive, rewarding, full-time job.

*The Office of Alumni Relations is always looking for input from the SNHU community in recognizing outstanding alumni. If you have worked with someone who has made an impact on the university (or if you would like to expand your roster of alumni who are interested in giving back in the classroom), please contact Kristi Durette Director of Alumni Relations (k.durette@snhu.edu or 603.645.9780).*