I cannot believe we are getting close to the end of another very busy, very exciting academic year. I want to encourage all faculty to send Jane Yerrington a brief description of any major academic achievements/accomplishments for this year; book or article publications, major presentations, officer appointment to an academic organization, etc. We are preparing the annual booklet for the May Board of Trustees meeting. I can attest to the fact it is one of the most popular pieces of literature that all of the Trustees look forward to reading!

I was recently invited to serve on the Higher Education Advisory Council for Educational Testing Service (ETS). After attending my first meeting, I was struck by the level of accomplishment our Assessment Committee has been able to achieve over these past few years. And I have also come to appreciate how much more we could accomplish in terms of validating student learning with the appropriate supports — both internal and external. Our ability to examine, define, evaluate and improve student learning outcomes has never been more important. University College will be looking to hire a Director of Assessment to help guide our further success in assessing program outcomes, and student learning.

I also wanted to share with you a very exciting change I have seen in the last two years. There has been a significant increase in the number, and quality, of research project proposals being submitted to the IRB. Not only is the IRB receiving numerous faculty proposals for review and approval, but we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of proposals being submitted by students. I am utterly certain this is a response to the heightened focus we have given to undergraduate research at SNHU, including the fine work being led by Dr. Susan Cook, Director of Undergraduate Research and the ongoing work of Dr. Andrew Martino, Chair of the University Honors program. My sincere thanks to all those actively involved in both these very important programs.

Lastly, if you have not had the opportunity to read it, I strongly encourage you to read Dr. Susan D’Agostino’s recent piece in the March 17th issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education, (Chronicle Review), "The Outlier Who Wasn’t." http://chronicle.com/article/The-Outlier-Who-Wasn-t/145297 It is a poignantly written piece that will tug at your heart, and may even compel you to reach for a tissue.
In 2013, The Environment Protection Agency released a $5,000 grant RFP through Maine Campus Compact and invited all New England colleges and universities to apply through their state’s Campus Compact. SNHU and ten other institutions were awarded the funds. The purpose of the grant is to prepare college students for a lifetime of environmental stewardship through the development of a water quality project that involves and impacts the local community. The grant is supporting the development and implementation of a collaborative service learning project within three different courses; Environmental Science, College Composition I, and Waste: Sources, Reduction and Remediation.

Service Learning is a teaching method that brings volunteering into the classroom. Students enrolled in the three mentioned courses will take knowledge from the course lectures and apply it towards the project. In essence, service learning can be thought of as a living textbook.

Much of the project will take place at Beech Street Elementary School. SNHU students will lead a 3rd grade class through a number of science and social exercises to educate them about water quality. SNHU students will introduce the 3rd graders to rain gardens, a type of garden that provides phytoremediation and absorption in areas where water levels and water quality are of concern. The Beech Street students will read books on water quality, plant seeds to grow in their classroom, and ultimately help the SNHU students plant a rain garden on campus. Beech Street has been identified as the number one school in need in the state of New Hampshire with 100% of the students qualifying for free or reduced lunch assistance programs. This very multicultural school is home to students of immigrant and refugee background.

The three courses involved in this service learning project will all bring different skills to the table with the ultimate goal of all three classes interacting and learning from each other. Environmental Issues, taught by Dr. Michele Goldsmith, will work on taking samples of SNHU water from 4 different locations on campus. Students will be testing the water’s PH levels and other chemicals that affect water quality. The third graders will join Dr. Goldsmith’s class during one of the water quality testing sessions.

Students in College Composition I, taught by Dr. Allison Cummings, will research plants and water to learn what plants will help improve water quality. This class is playing a major role in the service learning portion of the project. Students will also make a children’s book with the students of Beech Street Elementary that details how to plant a water garden. Each elementary school student will receive their own copy.

Waste: Sources, Reduction and Remediation, taught by Dr. Joseph Corbin, is taking the lead in this project. Students will be working to create rain gardens on campus and develop many of the projects at Beech Street School.

The Center for Community Engaged learning hopes this project will not only beautify the campus community but provide space for continued student research. A sustainability plan is being created to preserve the rain garden space as well as expand upon the project.
Shapiro Library Welcomes New Librarian

Shapiro Library is pleased to announce that Mary Zickafoose has joined our team as our new E-Learning Librarian. Mary’s primary focus will be working closely with COCE to build and maintain assessable information literacy objects, library tutorials, learning modules, and other technologically enhanced instructional materials to be embedded in courses. Previously, Mary was the e-Learning Instructional Designer at Edmonds Community College and Instruction and Reference Librarian at Green River Community College. She received her Master of Science in Library and Information Science from Drexel University, her Master of Science in Information Systems from Drexel University, and her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Sam Houston State University in Texas. Please join Shapiro Library in welcoming Mary to SNHU!
Congratulations Emily Monaco

Congratulations to Emily Monaco for getting an internship with the Cannes Film Festival in France. Emily is a hospitality major in her senior year here at SNHU. Emily was told about the internship with the film festival by Professor Monk. Professor Monk has also helped out two other students in the past to get an internship with the film festival. Emily is happy to be a student at SNHU because she would not have been able to find out about the internship without Professor Monk. Emily is most excited for the learning experiences form the internship. Congratulations again Emily for this exciting opportunity.
SNHU University College
Undergraduate Research Day
April 2, 2014

2-3pm  Panels and Roundtable in Robert Frost Hall 110, 221, 222, and Walker
3:15-4:15pm  Panels and Roundtable in Robert Frost Hall 110, 221, 222, and Walker
4:30-5:30pm  Poster session in ACC Lobby
5:30-6pm  Awards ceremony and reception in ACC First Floor Learning Commons

Questions?  Contact Susan E. Cook at s.cook@snhu.edu
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