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Please note the deadlines for submitting to the VPAA Journal:

### Deadline for Submission

April 8

April 28

### Publication Date

April 15

May 2

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.

**Patricia A. Lynott**

*Restaurante Velaschovic Architects*

## Library Learning Commons Update

Submitted by: Dean Kathryn Growney

The new Library Learning Commons building construction continues at a fast pace and on schedule for a fall 2014 opening. The exterior is really taking shape with the stone face portion installed and the wood siding now being hung. The inside of the building is also moving along with drywall already being hung in some areas. Want to see how the construction is progressing? Check out our construction website (<http://libguides.snhu.edu/newbuildingconstructionupdate>)!

## Water Quality Project

Submitted by: Whitney Mooney

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.

## Alumni Spotlight: Active Alumni, Vibrant Campus

*Submitted by: The Office of Institutional Advancement*

### Alumni Relations on the Road

Did you know that the Alumni Relations team will take our show on the road? If you have a student event that could be enriched by alumni participation, let us know! We'll work with you to create an experience that fits your students' needs – networking, guest speakers, Penmen fans, community service project volunteers... these are just a few of the ways our alumni love to get involved with students.

Kristi Durette, Director of Alumni Relations, just joined ten students and two staff advisors on Alternative Break in Washington, D.C., where the SNHU team was volunteering at a variety of organizations to help end hunger and homelessness in our nation's capital. After spending some time at the Capitol Area Food Bank and A Wider Circle (which provides home furnishings to people transitioning to new housing from shelters), Kristi arranged for an alumni-student networking dinner. In attendance were the Chief of Staff for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans; the Director of the Office of Diversity and National Outreach at Peace Corps; and an events and special programs coordinator at the Library of Congress - all alumni and current online students with a keen interest in helping SNHU students succeed.

If you would like to learn more about ways to bring alumni perspectives and expertise to your students, please contact Kristi Durette at [k.durette@snhu.edu](mailto:k.durette@snhu.edu) or 603.645.9780.



## 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 Library and Information Science from Drexel University, her Master of Science 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 from the internship. Congratulations again Emily for this exciting opportunity.

## Career Development Center's "Career Corner"

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

March will be an exciting month for the Career Development Center as our team continues to host events that will bring employers to campus and give students an edge in their job and internship search.

### **Culinary Career Fair – New Date!**

On Tuesday, March 18th, the Career Development Center will bring representatives from Restaurants, Resorts, Food Supply Companies and more to the Hospitality Center for the Culinary Career Fair. Employers will start the day by enjoying lunch in the Quill, made and served by SNHU Students. The Culinary Career Fair from 1:00-3:00 PM will provide our students a chance meet with employers and chefs to discuss potential internship and job openings.

### **Teacher Career Day**

Wednesday, March 19th, students from the School of Education have the opportunity to meet and interview with principals and other representatives from schools in the region. By the time students arrive at this event they will have already attended a Resume Writing for Educators workshop, had their resumes reviewed by our career team and attended a Prep Session for the Fair. The Teacher Career Day will take place on the 2nd floor of the Dining Center from 11:00-12:00 PM and will be followed by networking interviews from 1:00-3:00 PM.

### **Sales Dinner**

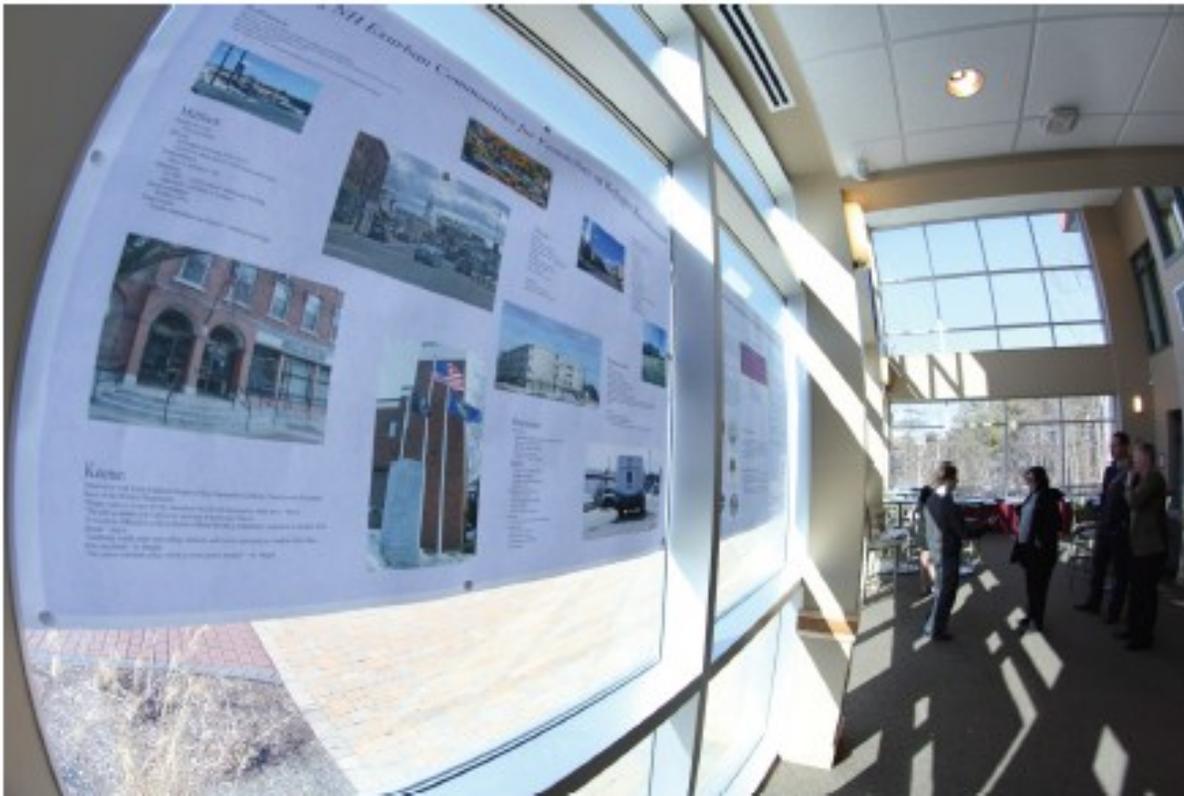
Thursday, March 20th marks our first student and alumni dinner for students in our new Sales program. Collaborating with Professor Micheline Anstey, the career development team reached out to some key recruiting partners and alumni who have been instrumental in training students in this program to join us for a night of networking. Students in the minor will have an opportunity to enjoy dinner and learn more about potential careers in this exciting industry.

### **SNHU 303 Mock Interview Days**

In collaboration with SNHU 303, all students currently enrolled in this course will have the opportunity to take part in Campus Mock Interviews. The Career Development Center will be holding two full days of mock interviews with employers from a variety of disciplines. On Tuesday, March 25th, and Thursday, March 27th, employers will be on the 2nd floor of the Dining Center from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and again from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Employers will conduct and evaluate an interview with each student. From the evaluation, students will receive feedback on their interviewing strengths as well as areas for improvement prior to their first professional interview.

**Many employers are looking for new ways to partner with Southern New Hampshire University, if you have any interest in bringing an employer into your classroom, please contact our office at 603-645-9793 or by emailing [careerdevelopment@snhu.edu](mailto:careerdevelopment@snhu.edu) and we would be happy to facilitate the partnership!**

## Undergraduate Research Day



# SNHU University College Undergraduate Research Day April 2, 2014

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|-------------|--|
| 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](mailto:s.cook@snhu.edu)  
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