

Academic Affairs

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I want to extend my sincere gratitude to every member of the SNHU community who participated in, or contributed to, the NEASC accreditation visit. For over two years, a large number of people have done a considerable amount of work preparing the University's Self-Study. Early indicators would suggest that the visiting team was duly impressed with our efforts to improve and ensure academic quality. We should have formal feedback from the Commission sometime in the spring. President LeBlanc will share that feedback with the entire University community once it is received. Particular gratitude is extended to Nicholas Hunt-Bull, Deb Wilcox, Tom Beraldi, Jane Yerrington, Rose Palis and Nancy Richardson. Additionally, I am deeply appreciative of the work conducted by Bob Begiebing and the Standard 4 & 5 Committee. These folks spent months and months hammering out the very import details of the numerous sub-standards.

I am also extremely proud to report that we have been invited to join (as the result of a competitive process), the CIC "Degree Qualifications Profile Consortium." CIC (Council of Independent Colleges) has agreed to test the Lumina Foundation's "Degree Qualifications Profile," which attempts to "define what students learn, understand, and know how to do at each degree level, no matter what the student's major." As participants on the ground floor of this project, we will ultimately be examining what skills and knowledge are necessary to distinguish between Associate's, Bachelors, and Masters level work. This is a very exciting opportunity for the University and Nicholas Hunt-Bull will provide periodic updates on this initiative.

Lastly, as you know, we recently suffered the tragic loss of one of our freshmen. Jamie Lee Cruz was a beautiful young woman who made a huge impact on this University community in a very short time. I have never been more proud of, and humbled by, the work of our colleagues in Student Affairs. Spending the last 25+ years on the "academic side of the house," I think at some level I have harbored an *arrogance* about the role of Student Affairs professionals. That arrogance was forever erased as I watched our Dean of Students, Heather Lorenz, our Director of Public Safety, Jim Winn, our University Chaplain, Fr. Bruce Collard and Director Jet Goldberg and the many wonderful professionals in our Wellness Center who so lovingly and responsibly addressed the needs of Jamie's family and of our students. It has been a privilege to serve with each of you during this incredibly difficult time. *Thank you.*

Patricia A. Lynott

Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

Announcements

A sincere congratulations to Joseph "Chip" Polak, the Director of Athletics, for his recent appointment to the NCAA Management Council. Polak will not only be representing Southern New Hampshire University, but also the Northeast-10.

New SNHU Baby! Congratulations and best wishes to Beth and Todd Sheehan on the birth of their first child - Brandon Oliver Sheehan - on Tues. Nov. 1 at 9:30 am! Brandon arrived at 4 lbs. 8 oz. and 17 in. long. Beth is the Director of College Unbound@SNHU. We look forward to meeting Brandon on campus soon!

Disability Awareness Panel—October

Submitted by: Hyla Jaffe, Director of the Disabilities Services Office

On Wednesday, October 19th, the Office of Disability Services hosted its annual Fall Panel Discussion in Walker Auditorium in Robert Frost Hall. This disability awareness event featured five SNHU students, registered with the Office of Disability Services, who shared the stories of their different disabilities, the effects on their lives, their challenges and their successes. Moderator, Nicholas Hunt-Bull, led the panelists through a series of questions designed to promote disclosure of useful information to the fairly young audience of nearly one hundred people, consisting mostly of freshmen students from SNHU. Nicholas' relaxed style provided an atmosphere conducive to the sharing of personal information, as well as to the asking of questions by audience members. American Sign Language interpreters provided interpretation for those who had hearing based disabilities. For those who were not in attendance, the event was fortunately recorded for future viewing and can be seen at <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/17979926>.

The Ethics of Gaming

In early October, three members of the SNHU community presented a paper at the Ethics and Games Conference at DePauw University. The paper was collaboratively written by Corbin Bogert, a Game Design and Development student at SNHU, Dr. Nicholas Hunt-Bull, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, and by Lundy Lewis, Professor and Chair of Game Design and Development. Their paper discussed the development of moral consciousness within gamer societies.

For those who play massively multiplayer games online (MMOs), there is a general understanding that the players are brutal. Often they behave like bullies who constantly attack other players, insulting anything from their playing tactics to their online persona. The lack of structure and respect turns a lot of people, like parents, off to these types of games. At the conference, Bogert and Hunt-Bull presented their paper addressing this aspect of a MMOs society. They argued that the same environment, where people act horribly towards one another, actually allows for certain kinds of moral development.

Bogert and Hunt-Bull stated that in these communities the gamers have developed their own norms, as they work together in a team. They are people who share objectives and create bonds through their tasks, inevitably creating their own structure of morality. These details cannot be overlooked simply because of colorful language and "trash talking," because at the heart of every gaming team there is a basic sense of principles.

Lewis and Hunt-Bull noted that "Corbin was the only undergraduate presenting on the main program at the conference, but he showed that some of our undergrads can stand up well against grad students at other institutions—we can be proud to have students like him." Their only disappointment was that keynote speaker Peter Molyneux missed the conference since he was busy completing *Fable III*.

The Career Development Center is pleased to report a very busy month of November. We have held three events in addition to many workshops on campus and have found each to be a success. On the 1st, we were fortunate to host seven local employers who volunteered their time and expertise to conduct resume reviews for our students in the Academic Center. The 42 students in attendance were able to meet one-on-one with the employer of their choice and gain insight on how to effectively leverage experience into a workable document worthy of employer presentation.

The following day, eight employers conducted mock interview sessions, tackling the often-overlooked personal interaction aspect of the interview process. During the 31 interviews conducted, students were guided through the question and answer process, given pointers on body language, and one employer went so far as to instruct students on how to properly enter and exit the room during an interview. These skills are rarely taught so candidly, and we are fortunate to maintain relationships with employers who are so eagerly willing to assist our students in putting their best foot forward (literally)!

The semi-annual Career & Internship Expo held on the 9th in the Dining Center Banquet Facility was a complete success. With 73 representatives from 45 employers present and over 200 students and alumni in attendance, the only mishap was a shortage of parking! With students filtering in and out throughout the day, the ratio of company representatives to students was perfectly conducive to everyone having their turn to speak, gather information, and drop off a resume if they wished.

We also wish to thank members of the faculty for directing students to the Expo. Working toward the shared goal of student success by providing the highest level of education and offering quality support services is what distinguishes us as a university. As we continue to provide workshops through the remainder of the month, we look forward to apprising the SNHU community on statistical data we gather on both students and employers during these events.



Communications major Colleen Landon interviews CoreMedical Group representative and alumnus Anthony Harcutu-nian at the Career & Internship Expo

Academic Affairs on mySNHU

We have finally launched the mySNHU page for the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs. You can find us by logging into mySNHU (as I hope everyone does first thing each day!), clicking on "Offices" in the upper right and then "Academic Affairs".

On this page you will find links to important documents like the Master Agreement 2010-2015 and the latest Academic Governance document, as well as minutes from the Academic Council and the UC Leadership Team. There is also a link to all Catalogs from 2005-06 to the current year. We will continue to add minutes and policies as well as other links as time goes by.

Please let us know if there is something specific you would like to see on the site by emailing Deb Wilcox d.wilcox@snhu.edu. She will work on it right away.

Update: The Learning Commons

Submitted by: Kathryn Gowney

In the current economy where many libraries are seeing budget cuts, we are very fortunate to be planning a new library which, in the President's words, will be "a signature building that communicates the centrality of academics" at SNHU. As the number of students we serve has grown substantially, the current library facility has become inadequate to meet the demands for both silent and group study spaces. The new library is an exciting opportunity to create a center of learning that meets the needs of today's students and their collaborative, social learning style while conveniently providing more services in one location. The current plans are for a building that is roughly 50,000 square feet and located next to the Dining Center. The Task Force recently met with the architects from Perry Dean Rogers to discuss programing and the site location. The Task Force will next meet with the architects on December 15, 2011.

Retention Alert!

Submitted by: Carey (Bradbury) Glines, Director of Academic Advising

We are excited to announce the release of a detailed procedures manual to guide advisors and others working with the **Retention Alert** system. The system has been "live" since September, but for most advisors the first Alerts appeared in mySNHU—or in your email inboxes if you have turned on email alerts for this product **as we recommend that you do**—after midterm grades were submitted.

The manual, which explains exactly what you should do when you receive a retention alert message, is available on mySNHU (under My Working Groups – Retention Task Force – Shared Documents). Carey Glines is happy to provide training and answer any questions you may have about the product.

Thank you for your support and commitment to this very useful tool.

SNHU Weather Alerts

The easiest way to hear about campus cancellations is through the SNHU Weather Alerts. These alerts bring news to students, faculty and staff about cancellations due to extreme weather conditions through a text message or an email.

To receive weather alerts you must sign up every year through the SNHU website—even if you signed up last year you have to do it again! This ensures that the alerts are kept within the SNHU community. To sign up visit: <http://www.snhu.edu/126.asp>

If the link will not open, you can always navigate through the SNHU's main website by clicking the EMERGENCY INFO tab at the very bottom of the page. Then you will need to click on the "SNHU Alerts" option, which will bring you to the application page.

You can always call the weather phone lines. If you are a faculty member looking to see if classes are canceled, call 603 644 3133. If you are a staff member looking to see if offices are closed, call 603 645 9760. The difference in the phone numbers comes from the difference in the two decisions.

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