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News from the Provost

In this final newsletter of the semester, I want to recognize an academic event on campus that really symbolizes what University College is all about – students conducting research and gaining hands-on experience, faculty collaborating across disciplines, and a community coming together to understand and preserve the environment.

The SNHU Arboretum Project is the culmination of a lot of work done by several offices across the University – Academic Affairs, Facilities, Institutional Advancement, and our General Counsel. This semester, five classes in University College collaborated on the project: in Science, Kate York’s Introductory Botany and Michael Weinstein’s Global Climate Change class; in Math, Adam Gilbert’s and Megan Sawyer’s Applied Statistics classes, and; in Graphic Design,

Tracy Dow’s Typography class. Over 100 students invested over 1000 hours on this project.

For the first five weeks of the semester, the science students conducted field work in the Arboretum space. This included using technology to obtain information on water quality, soil characteristics, and biological inventories of the tree species represented, such as measurements of the trees’ heights, diameters, and canopy cover. Once the science students had collected all of their raw data, they then passed this information on to the members of their group in the math classes. The math students worked together to analyze the data and summarize it, using descriptive statistics and hypothesis testing to compare different methods used for measuring certain variables in the field. Once the data was analyzed and summarized, the

graphic design students worked with their groups to design the final posters, which were displayed at an extremely well attended poster presentation in the ACC Learning Commons on Monday, December 14th. The graphic design students created the posters to communicate information through the use of colorful and dynamic infographics, custom iconography, and engaging design.

This project demonstrated both the School's and the Arboretum's true potential to inspire collaboration not just between STEM disciplines, but into the arts as well. It was absolutely inspiring to attend the poster presentation and see the incredible work our students had conducted with the support of their dedicated and

engaged faculty. Having passionate and curious faculty is what creates passionate and curious students. I want to give a special shout-out to Mike Weinstein, STEM Advisor to the School of Arts and Sciences, who has been the champion of this project, and who continues to work towards getting SNHU designated as a registered arboretum. Check out this link to see more on the project, and to view pictures from the poster presentation.

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BxAADmyps9-dFZ6cmZRTU9oYoU&usp=sharing>

Patricia A. Lynott
Executive Vice President and Provost

Hospitality Pen Pal Program

Submitted by: Office of Institutional Advancement and Career Development



This fall, Dr. Kimberly Monk embarked on a project with the Office of Alumni Engagement, matching the first-semester freshman in her Hospitality 101 class with alumni and business leaders in the industry. Her goal was to add depth to a class project, which identified dream jobs in hospitality, by giving incoming students the opportunity to connect with real contacts in the field.

Twenty-seven alumni and friends of SNHU answered the call to support current students in their major exploration and career development, by representing a breadth of experience and angles in the hospitality industry. Some alumni participants include Barry Moskowitz '87 of the Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau; Tia Downing '04 of Double Tree by Hilton; Kenneth Tarara '05 of Lafrance Hospitality Company; Tony Barbato '13 of Wynn Las Vegas; and Elizabeth White '10 of Carlo's Bakery.

The students connected with their mentors three to five times throughout the semester via email, Skype, and occasional in-person meetings. They asked questions about career choices and opportunities, as well as how to make the most of their educational experience.

If you would like to learn more about leveraging the power of the Institutional Advancement team to enrich your students' experiences, including tapping into the SNHU alumni network and career development resources, please contact us at alumni@snhu.edu or careerdevelopment@snhu.edu.

News to Highlight

Dr. Patty Lynott, EVP and Provost of University College, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Joining Lynott as the newest members of the Board are Patrick Tufts, President & CEO of Granite United Way; Nick Willard, City of Manchester Chief of Police, and Peter Lachance, partner at Howe, Riley & Howe. Congratulations Dr. Lynott!

Congratulations to Dr. Eklou Amendah and his wife on the birth of their new son! They welcomed Aldrich-Giuseppe Zane Atisso Amendah on December 1, 2015 at the Elliot Hospital in Manchester. He was born at 6:20am, weight 7.2 Pounds, and had a height of 21 inches. To the Amendah's and all other SNHU faculty and staff, best wishes and enjoy this holiday season with family and friends!

Student Engagement Thriving on Campus

Submitted by: Meagan Sage



The Office of Student Involvement (OSI) has had a busy semester, which started this summer with the merge of two departments. For those who don't know, Student Center Operations, formerly managed by Scott Tierno, merged with Student Involvement. With that, Student Involvement, Student Center, and Orientation are now under one umbrella reporting to Meagan Sage. The OSI staff is excited about this change, as it provides the opportunity to streamline many programs and processes, and has provided room for creativity and innovation.

The fall has been a busy one for student involvement, with many successful programs, trainings, and highlights throughout the semester. With the addition of four new clubs this semester, (College Republicans, Accounting Society, OMEP early childhood education group, and Gearheads car club), there are more than 70 clubs available for students to get involved with. A Club Collaborations monthly training is a new addition for club members this year, providing networking opportunities and trainings on topics like conflict resolution, budgeting, and more.

Leadership programs have thrived this fall as well, with 43 students involved within the three tiers of the Signature Leadership program. As a pilot to the Driven program, a program created to allow students to gain credit for out-of-classroom experiences, half of the students involved with Signature are gaining credit for their work in this leadership experience. The Fall Leadership Conference was at capacity, with student leaders throughout campus attending workshops at the SERESC conference center on the topics of social justice, international leadership, communication, and more.

Homecoming 2015 was the biggest it has been, thanks to a hugely successful collaboration between the Office of Student Involvement, Alumni Engagement and other campus partners. With the addition of carnival rides, a larger Street Fair than before, delicious food trucks, two paint night events in the Last Chapter Pub, fireworks and more, the weekend was a hit for families, alumni, and students alike.

Also, enhanced training programs for Student Center employees were coordinated this year, and although the department is down one staff person, the Concierge Desk, Copies Plus and the Last Chapter Pub are thriving and busy. The students working in those areas are getting excellent "real world" experience that they will be able to use after they leave SNHU. The Student Center continues to provide important services to the campus, and a space for students to spend time between classes and in the evenings.

Finally, the Orientation program is continuing to develop and expand, with a committee of staff from throughout campus creatively looking at the schedule for summer programs and brainstorming ways to be engaging and innovative. SNHU will welcome a group of new students to campus on January 18, 2016 for Spring Orientation.

If interested in getting more involved with Student Involvement, there are many ways to connect. OSI staff are always looking for faculty and staff to present various leadership programs and presentations, to assist with chaperoning various trips and events, and are often in search of faculty and staff willing to be advisors to clubs. Email involvement@snhu.edu for more information or with questions! Thank you for your continued support of student engagement opportunities!

Honors 20th Anniversary Celebration

Submitted by: Alicia Frazier

It was 1995 when Professor Bob Carven created the Southern New Hampshire University's Honors Program, a selective group to recognize SNHU's top scholars. Since its origin, the program has more than doubled in size and is continuing to grow under the leadership of program director, Dr. Andrew Martino. The University Honors Program strives to enrich the students' academic experience, by offering honors level courses to encourage a higher level of thinking with smaller, more engaged classes. In order to graduate with honors, each student must complete eleven honors courses and a capstone thesis. Students may fulfill these honors course requirements by

completing honors modules. Honors modules allow the students to expand upon traditional course work in a non-honors class through an independent research project.

Aside from academics, the program now has a student led council, with students represented from each class. The council plans events and acts as a liaison between faculty and students when it comes to sharing information. In addition, each month the program sends out a monthly newsletter highlighting students, sharing updates, tips about writing a thesis, and more. Continued pg. 4

Continued from pg. 3...The most recent success of the University Honors Student Council has been the organization of the University Honors Program 20th Anniversary Celebration. The event was held in the Last Chapter Pub on Thursday, December 3rd. Students, faculty, and staff, all came together to celebrate with a cake made by culinary and honors student, Dana Nima, a holiday raffle basket, and a video made by honor's student, Logan McCarthy. More than 60 people attended to celebrate this milestone!

Lastly, this spring the University Honors Council will continue to host faculty and student lunches at the Quill Restaurant, thanks to the partnership between Chris Decloux, general manager of the Quill. The goal of these lunches is to create connections within the program between students and faculty, and also to encourage intellectual and moving conversation.

If you are interested in participating in the Quill lunch, or have any questions and suggestions for the University Honors Program, please do not hesitate to reach out. Please contact Dr. Martino or any of the members of the University Honors Council executive board, Alicia Frazier, Jessica Malone or Katelyn Ouellette at honors@snhu.edu.



Undergraduate Research and Conference Experience

Submitted by: Dr. Crystal Bickford

There are two misconceptions about collegiate research. The first is that research is not conducted by the students. The second is that when students do conduct research, it begins and ends on-campus. Both of these, as it turns out, are false. I say this because I have seen it first hand by working on a year long research study with Brittany Heyman, a graduate student, and Megan Palmer, an undergraduate student.

Our study began with an article that I had previously published in the Journal of Academic Writing on teaching strategies for the Millennial Generation. This article discusses a peer-response process different than most, called "Group conferencing". This led to a review of secondary research discussing both the Millennials and traditional peer response. But what we found was less than satisfying. As a result, much of our research came from Dr. Jeanne Hughes' doctoral dissertation in which she studied my classroom for a year and conducted qualitative research on group conferencing.

From here, myself, Brittany, and Megan decided that we could use some primary qualitative and quantitative research. An electronic survey was sent out to students, asking a number of questions about their experience with peer response, and we separated them based on how their professors conduct peer response. We had a total of 36 participants; 14 participated in group conferencing and 22 participated in traditional peer response. Brittany analyzed the results for positive and negative correlations between the responses to the statements and the group the students were included in. This new student perspective led us to the conclusion that there was something different about group conferencing in its results and in the way that the students reflected upon it. The numbers were staggering, and we knew we had something.

This research has taken us to both regional and national conferences. First, we took our research to the Learning Assistance Association of New England's (LAANE) 32nd Annual Conference at Cape Cod Community College. Two days later, we flew to Portland,

Oregon, for the College Reading and Learning Association's (CRLA) 48th Annual Conference. Having the opportunity to present our own research at a national conference is not something that every student gets the chance to experience, but there we were, standing in front of a room discussing our findings with people who were avidly listening and full of questions and conversations. It was fantastic.

While in Portland, a first for all of us, sightseeing was a must. Places included Mount Hood and some local hotspots, like Powell Bookstore- the largest bookstore in North America.

In addition to sightseeing and presenting our own research, the conference itself proposed learning opportunities to bring back to the university. We attended sessions about tutoring, publication, English, and math, each touching on all of our interests to report back. The CRLA Conference gave us a space not only to present our own research, but to engage in the research of others.

The benefits of research and conference attendance are endless, though maybe not as obvious as we would like them to be. Investigative projects such as these allow students to partake in extended research, propelling into the throes that can prepare them for theses, dissertations, and professional research. Meeting and interacting with others in the field offers professional development that is uniquely empowering. Conferences like these are confidence builders and give students a foundation before they even leave the university. But that is only conferences and research in general. This particular endeavor brings about even more specific benefits. It has given us the opportunity to see people and places we never otherwise would have. It helped put the name of our university out there with us. And more than that, it gives us a reason to come back to school and advocate for student-led research beyond the four walls of SNHU. Conducting and presenting research while having the opportunity to share ideas with the world is an integral experience that should be encouraged of and available to all students.



2015 Spirit of NH Volunteer Award Recipient

Submitted by: Jane Yerrington

Congratulations to Logan Kenney of Penacook, NH. Logan is currently a first year music education student at Southern New Hampshire University and recently awarded the 2015 Spirit of New Hampshire Volunteer Award.

Logan received her award at the annual Spirit of New Hampshire Awards, held by Volunteer NH at the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord on November 10, 2015.

Logan was nominated by Granite United Way for her volunteer work on their Income Review Team. Logan was the only student on the team working side by side amongst business professionals. She spent many hours researching and presenting on this committee, during her senior year at Merrimack Valley High School.

The Spirit of NH Awards is administered by Volunteer NH in collaboration with the Office of the Governor. It highlights the impact that a volunteer can have and how the impact has improved the state of New Hampshire. While all awards are honored and are critical to fostering the traditions of volunteerism, the Spirit of NH award establishes an example of inspiration each year that sets the tone for future contributions of service.

