

# Academic Affairs

## In this issue

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| News from the Provost              | P.1 |
| Closure Around the Corner          | P.2 |
| Alumni Helping Student Internships | P.3 |
| What is Student Success?           | P.4 |
| Honors Connects with Faculty       | P.5 |
| Blast from the Past!               | P.6 |



### Please note the deadlines and publications for the VPAA Journal:

| <u>Deadline</u> | <u>Publication Date</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| May 6           | May 13                  |

### The Monthly Journal of the Vice President for Academic Affairs Southern New Hampshire University

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Lots of great things happening in University College as we wind down the semester. First and foremost, I want to publicly and enthusiastically congratulate Dr. Paul Barresi – our latest Fulbright Scholar!! We had a record number of Fulbright applications this year – six, of which *two* have been accepted and funded by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board; Dr. Charlotte Broaden's research in Botswana on foreign direct investment in the SADC region, and now Dr. Paul Barresi. Paul's award is a 5-month teaching Fulbright beginning in February 2016. He will teach a course in comparative environmental law and sustainable development that focuses on China, India, Russia, and the U.S. based primarily on his original research as well as a course in either the American legal tradition or international environmental law and negotiation, depending on the interests of his Chinese hosts. We are *extremely* proud.

As we all know, a major component of UC's "Coming of Age" experience is the opportunity for our students to engage in hands-on, experiential learning. University College has many impactful "pockets" of these experiences available to students, but we do not have a coherent, institutional program in place. I have put together a small team of key stakeholders from UC to participate in a planning institute for "High Impact Experiential Education" that will be offered this summer by WACE. The goal of this institute is to have the team create a wide-spectrum, integrated experiential-education program for University College. The team's finished plan will be designed to strengthen and increase our experiential-education portfolio to include such opportunities as internships; semester in industry; cooperative education; international co-op exchanges; study abroad; research; clinical rotations; service learning and community service, etc. I look forward to sharing the team's *draft* plan with the entire UC community on Opening Day in late August.

**I want to give a huge shout-out to our incredible UC Admissions team. This has been an exceptionally difficult recruitment year, and despite some pretty overwhelming obstacles, both Bethany Perkins (freshmen) and Julie Callahan (transfer) have managed to lead their teams to close an extremely large enrollment gap we were facing as late as this February. Accepted Student Day on April 11th was the largest event on record for the past several years. Between the two ASD events we held this year, we hosted 739 students. Based on history, we can anticipate at least 80 percent of those students will enroll at SNHU – over 590 students! We are absolutely confident that we will meet (if not exceed) our enrollment targets for this year. And here's the truly great news ....the average accepted student GPA is 3.05!**

Lastly, I am truly excited by the many great opportunities we will have available during Closure (be sure to send in pre-registration by this Friday, 4/24). On May 7<sup>th</sup>, from noon until 2:00pm, we will be hosting a luncheon workshop with Debby Irving, author of *Waking Up White*, and *Finding Myself in the Story of Race*. The book has been described as opening "a rare window on how white Americans are socialized." I certainly hope we have a large turn-out for this very special guest, on a very important issue – an issue that has taken on even greater significance in the weeks since Ferguson, the chokehold death of Eric Garner, etc.

**Patricia A. Lynott**

*Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs*

## Closure is Coming Again! Save the Dates!

*Submitted by: Deb Wilcox, Special Asst. to the Provost*

The final 2015 Closure schedule is complete and pre-registration information has been distributed by the Academic Affairs Office several times already, but a friendly reminder never hurts! Closure is only five days this year so we hope to see a great turn-out at every event!

The dates are May 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12. We will kick the week off on the morning of May 6 and then the schools will hold their meetings in the afternoon. The Center for Teaching and Learning is planning a very interesting program on “Teachers Talking about Teaching” to close out the first day. Thursday May 7 begins with department meetings within the schools followed by a very special program and lunch with Debby Irving, author of “Waking up White”. Provost Patty Lynott’s celebration of the 2014-2015 year will round out the day at the Bedford Village Inn from 4:30-7:30 pm. You don’t want to miss that opportunity for food, beverages, and schmoozing!



As usual Friday will be filled with academic committee meetings then Honors Convocations beginning at 5:30 or 6 pm in each school. Saturday May 9 is Commencement of course, with 3 ceremonies this year in the Verizon Wireless Arena, each followed by a reception on campus.

Monday and Tuesday May 10-11 include the very popular “Reacting to the Past” program, sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning. This is a chance for faculty who would like to teach a “Reacting to the Past” course to participate in this unique learning opportunity as a student. There are also several other excellent programs during both days. Check them out on the Closure schedule!

Many programs require pre-registration and some have limited space so if you haven’t registered yet please follow the link below and register now. The deadline is Friday, April 24. Don’t miss out!

[https://snhu.qualtrics.com//SE/?SID=SV\\_cp8VidCCT8FzDXT](https://snhu.qualtrics.com//SE/?SID=SV_cp8VidCCT8FzDXT)

If you have any questions just email or call Jane! ([j.yerrington@snhu.edu](mailto:j.yerrington@snhu.edu), 645-9695)

## Hiring SNHU Students: Mission Accomplished!

*Submitted by: Alumni Office and Career Development*

Hiring a SNHU student as an intern or professional employee is an investment in success. Our students have leveraged every benefit of an education steeped in experiential learning, market-ready skills, and real-world challenges. They are networked, experienced, and driven, ready to make valuable contributions to an organization on day one.

Faculty members have pushed them and opened their minds. The Career Development Center staffers have guided them in practical career preparation. Advisors and mentors and staff members have counseled them.

And now... our alumni can't wait to hire them!

Take graduating senior Dan Simard, for example. While finishing his degree in the 3Year Honors Program, he has been working part time as a Client Manager at Granite Group Benefits, owned by SNHU alumni Brian '88 and Linda '89 McLaughlin. After Commencement, Simard will move into a fulltime position as a Benefits Consultant.

Simard says that both he and the McLaughlins took big risks in this hire. "I'm the youngest employee they've ever hired, and the only one with no direct experience in insurance or sales. And I took a risk to create a career from this position."

So far, the risk has paid off. With Commencement fast approaching, Simard has completed all the necessary certifications and gone on his first sales call, and he is excited to dig in.

The McLaughlins are among many alumni employers who know the value of hiring an employee with an SNHU education.



Senior Dan Simard on the far right, with his fellow classmates to his left.

Submitted By: Dan Simard

*To learn more about connecting your students with alumni employers or bringing alumni into your classroom or programs: contact Alumni Relations (Sara Telfer, [s.telfer@snhu.edu](mailto:s.telfer@snhu.edu) or 603.644.3165) or Career Development ([careerdevelopment@snhu.edu](mailto:careerdevelopment@snhu.edu) or 603.645.9793).*

## Dates to Remember!

**Leadership Banquet:**

**April 21st**

**Late Night Breakfast:**

**April 23rd**

**Closure Pre-Registration:**

**April 24**

**Final Exams Begin**

**April 27th**

**Closure starts:**

**May 6th**

**Commencement:**

**May 9th**

**Summer Vacation:**

**May 10th!**



## “Understanding Student Success and Our Role”

Submitted by: Sarah Stearns

Among the diverse and fascinating research topics presented by students at Undergraduate Research Day this year, one topic that higher education faculty and staff may be interested in is “Understanding Student Success: Developing the Holistic Student”, presented by John Wescott. He presented his year-long research on student success coupled with his hands-on experience as an intern in the Office of Academic Advising. Earlier this year, he set out to learn both what makes a college student successful and what part each of us plays in this success.

What he learned, and presented at UG Research Day is that there are multiple definitions of student success. He even began his presentation by collecting the audience’s definitions. The group’s list included students who are involved and are excited to learn; who display independence, work ethic, and growth; who are willing to take risks, and are transformed when they leave. John said that the complicated part of determining student success (and ultimately student retention and persistence) is that everyone has a different definition. But what he could easily conclude is that there is a significant role that faculty and staff play in a student’s success – whether we consider that to be a graduated student, an employed student or a transformed student.



Senior John Wescott presenting to students about his honors thesis!

Submitted By: Sarah Stearns

John shared that there are multiple factors in determining student success, including Society (political, economical, location), Individual (Motivation, parental support, socio-economic status, culture & values) and Institution (Faculty/Staff, successful fit, Engagement: Interaction with the institution). A clear conclusion that John came to is that the more often a student interacts with the institution outside of the classroom, the more likely they will graduate. In a survey from the University of Chicago, “students who reported high levels of both academic engagement and social/community engagement, 94.6% were persistent and completed their degree on time. Likewise, 97.1% of students who reported having low/middle academic engagement but high social/community engagement completed their degree on time. In addition, just 62.8% of those who report high academic engagement but low/middle social engagement completed their degree on time and only 59.3% of those that reported low levels of both academic engagement and social/community engagement completed their degree on time.” So even if a student had a lower academic engagement, but a high social/community engagement, this was more of a predictor of success. In conclusion, the more involved and engaged a student is outside the classroom, the more successful they will be in it.

As a sophomore, John served on the Coming of Age Task Force Committee among faculty and staff. Two years later, his research supports much of what came ...Continued pg. 5.

Continued from pg. 4...out of this experience: that the more a student connects with the professionals at the university, the more likely they will be successful. His thesis concludes, "The research presented demonstrates that student success is no one individual's responsibility but that it is a collaborative effort between students and their academic advisors, career advisors, student organization advisors, faculty, and administrators. Any individual working in a higher education setting who interacts with students on a one-on-one basis has a duty to understand and aid in the development of the holistic student – as a scholar and as an individual with unique personal, professional and academic goals and experiences."

To read John's full thesis on student success, click here: <http://bit.ly/StudentSuccessResearch>



**Congrats on finishing your thesis John!**

## **Student and Faculty Lunch at the Quill: Hosted by the University Honors Program!**

*Submitted by: Alicia Frazier*

For many, when they hear SNHU Honors Program, they automatically think of the 3-Year Honors Program. Why? This is an amazing and unique program that is leaving its mark each day on the institution of higher education. Due to this, many seem to forget about the four year University Honors Program. This program is for any major and allows students to graduate in the traditional four years with honors credit and recognition. Two years ago, a University Honors Program student council was created. On the council there are representatives from each class, including the 3-Year Honors Students.

The purpose of the council is to increase the student involvement within the University Honors Program, but to also gain and increase recognition on campus as a program. Another goal the council had was to become more involved with the faculty and staff within the program and create a stronger bond for mentorships.

To achieve these goals, at the start of this semester they started The Honors Student and Faculty Lunch at the Quill. With much thanks to Chris Decloux, Manager of the Quill restaurant and someone involved with honors culinary students, each month one faculty member and three honors students have a free lunch at the Quill. This gives both parties a chance to build stronger connections between each other and in the program!

*If you are an honors professor interested in having lunch with honors students in the future, please contact Alicia Frazier at [alicia.frazier@snhu.edu](mailto:alicia.frazier@snhu.edu).*



University Honors Students (Liz Holland, Alicia Frazier, Katelyn Ouellette, Erin Lafond, and Dan Martel) at the Quill having lunch with Dr. Patty Lynott!

Submitted By: Alicia Frazier



## *VPAA Journal 50th Edition!*

Take a look below at this blast from the past,  
to the VPAA Journal's very first edition!....



### **New Academic Building Opens**

The new academic building, located across from the main campus, opened on July 16. The School of Community Economic Development and the Vice President for Academic Affairs offices moved into their new locations just in time for the new academic year.

The modern, "eco-green" building is environmentally and student friendly with motion sensed lights through out the building and climate controlled classes and offices.

The multi-purpose classroom can be partitioned into two separate rooms. The open learning common area will allow students a relaxing atmosphere to study, read, or meet in study groups while sitting in a brightly lit glass walled space in front of a fireplace. A café and coffee shop will also be located in the new building

The official opening of the new academic building will be held at 11 am on Tuesday, September 8, beginning with a ribbon cutting by President LeBlanc. A barbeque will follow. All are welcome to attend.

### **We announced the opening of the ACC!...**



### **Pets were added to the SNHU family!....**

### **New pets welcomed this summer!**



Ali Poore enjoying a cool drink.

### **Congratulations!**

To the Poore Family and their new dog Ali, named for the great humanitarian and human rights advocate Muhammad Ali. He is a rescue dog from the great state of Mississippi.

### **New faculty member's family visits from Germany**

The family of new Culinary faculty member, Stefan Ryll had a chance to visit SNHU in August. Stefan's sister Marina and brothers Ralf and Bodo, from Berlin, Germany also enjoyed a visit to SNHU and the newly named "Quill" restaurant in the hospitality building. Some of the souvenirs they took back with them included Quill logo shirts and promises to advertise in Berlin.



Photo by Stefan Ryll

The family of Stefan Ryll, Bodo, Ralf and Marina visit the Quill during the summer

### **Culinary Chef to Judge Cook Off**



Desmond Keefe, seen here with Martin Yan, from the TV show *Yan Can Cook*, will be a judge in the first ever Hood New England Dairy Cook Off in Portland, Maine on Nov. 1.

**Culinary was bringing the heat and bringing family to visit!...**