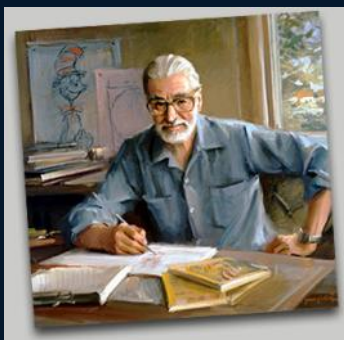


Academic Affairs

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Read Across America Day

Read Across America Day, which is also Dr. Seuss's birthday falls on March 2nd. Spread the word and celebrate the day by reading to a child or by taking some time out of your day to read.

Have any reading suggestions? E-mail them to mayra.gomez@snhu.edu and they will be shown in next month's journal.

MESSAGE FROM THE VPAA

As we move closer and closer to our reaccreditation visit by NEASC (self -study due August, 2011 and site visit scheduled for November, 2011), I want to remind everyone of the great work being done by the Assessment Committee, and I want to stress how very important it is for *all of us* to understand that assessment is *everyone's* responsibility. As a community of scholars, we have a strong institutional commitment to educational assessment. We recognize that assessing academic outcomes is essential to the evaluation of institutional effectiveness and to the process of institutional planning. Moving forward, we need to change the culture at SNHU about *what* and *how* assessment is conducted, and most importantly - by *whom*. Although we have created a permanent standing committee of University-wide Assessment, that Committee is NOT mandated to create and implement assessment of courses, programs and majors. Each faculty member who designs a course, each Department that designs a program, and each School that creates a new major must *build into the design* a comprehensive, measurable assessment method for determining whether and/or how the learning objectives have been met.

Just as a reminder, the basic responsibilities of University-wide Assessment Committee include:

- *Evaluating* all school assessment plans and the data collected for them on a regular basis with respect to confidentiality, data consistency, etc.
- *Providing guidelines* for the collection, storage, retrieval, dissemination and use of assessment data by specific programs, departments, etc., and reviewing and revising these guidelines as necessary.
- *Facilitating* University-wide discussions of assessment findings and their implications for improving student learning.
- *Reviewing* and *updating* assessment plans and disseminating the results.
- And eventually, *creating and maintaining* an Assessment website.

In our Mission Statement we claim that "our students develop the *knowledge* to understand a complex world, the *skills* to act effectively within that world, and the *wisdom* to make good choices." Our success as a University is contingent upon our ability to *verify* that this learning occurs.

Patricia A. Lynott
VPAA of SNHU

Senate News

February, 2010

The following issues were discussed and motion made:

Aaron Flint discussed CoursEval and invited suggestions for increasing the response rates. The motion passed to have the Faculty Center oversee a revision of the current course evaluation questions.

Faculty Senate will be included in the interview process for academic leadership positions.

The VPAA shared a summary of the mission, vision, values, and rationales of the University Academic Plan. She hopes to share the entire plan at the next Senate meeting.

The Gen Ed proposal was distributed and discussed.

Faculty Center has planned a full spring calendar of events and encourages faculty to attend. For further information see the Faculty Center web site.

Next meeting :
March 17, 2010 at 2 p.m.
in Hospitality 202

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program



It was not long after the IRS approached Professor Dennis Shea with the idea that the VITA program was established at Southern New Hampshire University. As the program director of the VITA program, Dennis states, "The program helps students gain a unique, practical experience." This is because, in order to participate in the program, students must pass certification by taking the IRS approved exam before becoming IRS certified tax preparers. This opportunity translates into impressive resumes for future employers.

The response to the VITA program, which does complete returns for the city of Manchester, was very good last year as the program received 500 clients. This is thanks to the program's publicity, which stems from word-of-mouth to publications in issues such as the Hippo Press. The fact that SNHU is the only school in the Northeast that does tax returns for residents as well as non-residents can be considered as another likely cause. Dennis estimates the number of clients will be slightly ahead this year.

Prove him right. If you haven't done your taxes yet, stop by Webster 109. The program's deadline is April 3rd! For a list of what to bring as well as other helpful information, visit this link <http://acadweb.snhu.edu/vita/>.



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 14th. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour ahead of standard time.



Paul Barresi, Associate Professor of Political Science and Environmental Law in the School of Liberal Arts, was recently named to the editorial board of the *Interdisciplinary Environmental Review* (IER), the peer-reviewed journal of the Interdisciplinary Environmental Association. IER is an international journal that seeks to enhance communication on environmental issues across traditional disciplinary and political boundaries. Paul also serves on the Executive Committee of the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors, an association of institutional representatives who come together to improve the quality, stature and effectiveness of academic environmental programs at U.S. colleges and universities, and as Founding Chair of the Section of Environmental Politics and Policy of the Northeastern Political Science Association.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!
Wednesday, March 17th
Show your spirit—Wear green!



New services from the Shapiro Library

Submitted by Alice Platt

Ask A Librarian via Chat!

Now students and faculty can chat with a reference librarian live online. The Shapiro Library is soft-launching a chat reference service, expanding our reach to students on campus and online. Visit the Shapiro Library website and look for the Chat link in the right-hand toolbar. You can also access the chat service from our Facebook page!

Be a Facebook Fan of the Shapiro Library

The Shapiro Library is on Facebook! Search for "Shapiro Library @ SNHU" to become a fan and receive up-to-the-minute info from your library. See where our books travel, photos of library events, new books, chat with a librarian, and see what our fans are saying.

Get to know your library -- and give us the opportunity to get to know you better. The library has more than 450 fans so far. Check us out and become a fan today.

Check out the Kindle

You can literally check out the new Amazon Kindle from the Shapiro Library: we have added four Kindle 2s to the library collection. Pick a book from the Kindle Store, and we will purchase it and load it onto the reader! Kindles check out for one week. Ask for details at the Circulation Desk.

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