

Academic Affairs

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I want to extend my sincere, and warmest thanks for all the good wishes I received when my son recently underwent pyeloplasty kidney surgery. Collin's surgery reminded me of two important things. One: advances in technology are simply beyond comprehension! My son's surgery utilized a laparoscopic surgical instrument called the da Vinci. The da Vinci surgical system is a robotic platform that has a huge console with a computer, several large screens, and an enormous, multi-arm machine that looks like Doc Octopus from the Spider-Man movie! The da Vinci performs minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery, but it is not a robot and it cannot move or operate on its own. Through small incisions that the surgeon makes, miniaturized wristed instruments and a high-definition 3-D camera are inserted into the surgical site of the body. That allows the surgeon to view the surgical site through magnified, high-resolution 3D images. The computer in the da Vinci then controls the miniature-wristed surgical instruments to actually mimic the surgeon's hand movements. It's simply unbelievable. Collin's surgeon told me that funding to develop these technologies was originally provided by both NASA and the U.S. Army with the hopes of conducting surgical procedures remotely. My son's surgery really affirmed for me that our focus on majors in STEM disciplines is absolutely critical to preparing our students for this ever-evolving technological world. The products and processes of technology today, were the stuff of science fiction when I was a kid!

The second thing I am reminded of is this: SNHU has extraordinary health insurance. As you may know, after age twenty-six, adult children can no longer be covered as dependents in terms of healthcare. Collin is twenty-seven, so for over a year he has been covered under a private health insurance plan through Humana. The premium was a bit steep, but the policy was far better than the health coverage option he was eligible for at the state University where he was attending as a full-time Grad student. Despite the private coverage, the out-of-pocket for this very expensive procedure will be more than the annual salary of my first job! Which, to be fair in terms of the time-value of money, was back in the Stone Age of 1975! The same surgery for a covered employee at SNHU today would cost a whopping \$50 out-of-pocket! I am not complaining (the surgery was absolutely necessary and a complete success), nor am I preaching, but this recent medical episode with my son has vividly reminded me of how lucky we are to be employed by an institution that provides so many benefits - benefits that most employers simply cannot, or will not offer. And when I think of all the good wishes and support that poured in from so many friends and colleagues yeah. This place is pretty darn cool. Thanks everyone.

Patricia A. Lynott

Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

Library Learning Commons Update

Submitted by: Dean Kathryn Growney

The new Library Learning Commons is well underway and progressing on schedule. The large windows are currently being installed and interior work is scheduled to begin in February. Photos of the building's progress are regularly posted on the construction website <http://libguides.snhu.edu/newbuildingconstructionupdate> and at Shapiro Library's Facebook page. The building will be completed this summer and ready for students this Fall!



Alternative Break in South Africa

Submitted by: Elizabeth Richards, Center for Community Engaged Learning

On December 31st, twelve Southern New Hampshire University students and two faculty/staff advisors left Boston and began their journey to Kurland Village, South Africa on an Alternative Break trip through our Center for Community Engaged Learning. Kurland Village is a remote township that has been plagued by poverty and high rates of unemployment. Most of its residents live in makeshift housing with no running water, bathrooms, or many of the comforts we all take for granted. SNHU created a partnership with Kurland Village and Willing Workers in South Africa (a non-profit organization based there) five years ago.

Throughout the ten days they were there, the volunteers worked long days on several service projects in the village including home improvement projects for local families and work in the library with some of the village's children. Student Trevor Hunt recalls, "When we arrived at the house, we were greeted by twenty-one year old Shauton, who was the man of the house. We were given a brief tour of the house and found that almost everything was covered in a thick layer of dirt and dust and the windows in the front had been shattered."

When asked about the trip, student Megan Klok answered, "It's difficult to put this incredible experience into words. I'm still processing every moment of the trip, but, I will say this: applying for this opportunity was the best decision I've ever made. Being in South Africa gave me the greatest sense of purpose that I've ever had."

While the majority of the time was spent on the service projects, students also had the chance to do some sight-seeing. They were able to visit a primate sanctuary, swim in the Indian Ocean, and take a safari in Addo National Park. They were also able to visit the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg where they learned about the lasting impacts of apartheid rule and about Nelson Mandela's fight for equality.

Alternative Break is an immersive service experience offered twice a year through the Center for Community Engaged Learning. Over spring break a group of students will head to Washington D.C. to work with organizations focused on urban poverty and homelessness.

For each Alternative Break trip, participants are selected and spend the semester before their trip learning about the place they'll be going and the service organizations they'll work with. They also explore the root causes of poverty in that area and how non-profits work to address those issues. While service is an important part of each trip, a heavy focus is on reflective activities that aim to move students from occasional volunteers to active citizens.

Career Development Center's "Career Corner"

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

Looking Forward Spring 2014

The Career Development Center is offering a wide variety of events this spring that are focused on connecting students with employers and alumni to promote career and internship placement. These events are open to all students. Please encourage your classes to attend!

SNHU 303

The Career Development Center is excited to be partnering with the SNHU 303 classes to connect students with employers, SNHU alumni and friends of the university as part of the classroom experience.

Specialized events coordinated by CDC will include:

Resume Critique Night – on January 29th, over 50 guests from a variety of industries have volunteered to review resumes for students enrolled in SNHU 303. This mandatory event will provide an excellent forum for students to gain professional feedback in advance of the upcoming Internship Fair.

Mock Interview Days – on March 25th and 27th, students will be invited to practice their interview skills and gain important professional advice from guest interviewers. If you would like to support this program, please contact Colleen Bolton c.bolton@snhu.edu for more information.

Careers That Give Back – January 21st, 3:30 – 4:45; Hospitality Salons

Partnering with the SNHU Center for Community Engaged Learning, Career Development will be hosting a panel that will focus on careers in service. Guests will share their experience and career path as well as discuss ways students can get involved.

Internship Fair – February 12th, 2:00 – 5:00; Dining Center Banquet Hall

The internship fair will host 50 employers from a variety of industries currently seeking interns. This event is open to all students and will allow students to explore options with non-profits and corporations in the region and meet the recruiters hiring for these positions.

US Department of State – February 12th, 12:00 – 1:30; Academic Center, Learning Commons 2nd floor

Guest speaker, Evyenia Sidereas will share her experience working for the US Department of State and provide information about career and internship opportunities. To learn more about career paths, visit: <http://careers.state.gov/>. The internship program is described in this online brochure: "[U.S. Department of State Internship Program](#)"

Culinary Career Fair – February 18th, 1:00-3:00 PM; Hospitality Center

Chefs and property recruiters will visit campus to experience the Quill and meet students enrolled in culinary programs to discuss internships, summer employment and professional positions.

Teacher Career Day – March 19th, Career Fair 11-12; On-Site Networking Interviews 1:00-3:00

Principals from the region are invited to campus to provide information about their schools as well as meet candidates from our program. A morning fair will be followed by a series of networking interviews where future teachers will have the opportunity to meet with principals to discuss potential positions.

Date and Time	Event	Location
January 29, 2014 6:00 – 8:00 PM	Resume Critique Night for SNHU 303 students	Dining Center, 2 nd Floor
February 12, 2014 12:00 – 1:30 PM	State Department Information Session	Academic Center Commons, 2 nd Floor
February 12, 2014 2:00 – 5:00 PM	Internship Fair	Dining Center, 2 nd Floor
February 18, 2014 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Culinary Career Fair	Hospitality Salons
March 19, 2014 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Teacher Career Day	Dining Center, 2 nd Floor

Women's Center Coming to SNHU!

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

The Office of the Provost/Sr. VPAA and the Office of Institutional Advancement are excited to announce that Southern New Hampshire University is the recipient of a \$500,000 gift from an alumna for the creation of a Women's Center on campus!

The current mission of the Women's Center is: "To advance gender equity by addressing gender issues, developing women's leadership, and involving and celebrating women who can serve as role models and mentors to challenge, motivate and inspire."

The idea came from a group of women faculty members and students who proposed the development of a women's center to Provost Patty Lynott and President Paul LeBlanc.

Details are currently being worked out with the donor, who wishes to remain anonymous. This is very exciting for students and the SNHU community, and we are most grateful to have received this generous and thoughtful gift.

Dr. Lundy Lewis - Papoutsy Chair Update Fall 2013

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

Congratulations

Congratulations to Betsy Gunzelmann for her newly published book, *Global Voices and Global Visions: Education for Excellence, Understanding, Peace and Sustainability*. Gunzelmann's book was released on December 20th 2013 by Rowman & Littlefield.

Dr. Jerome L. Rekart from Rivier University said that "Dr. Gunzelmann has written an important and timely text that describes not only why global education is necessary at this point in history, but the power it has to impel real change in the world. This inviting book should be considered by all educators interested in broadening the knowledge and understanding of their students in an increasingly diverse and connected world."

Dr. Lundy Lewis assumed his position as the Christos and Mary Papoutsy Distinguished Chair in Ethics and Social Responsibility in September 2013. Lewis is Professor of Computer Information Technology and Game Design & Development at SNHU. His proposal, "New Ethical Dilemmas and New Solutions with Advanced Technologies such as Video Games, Robots, and Intelligent Avatars" was unanimously selected by the eight-person committee.

Lewis spent a very busy first semester as Papoutsy Chair studying professional literature, talking to people on and off campus, doing hands-on experiments with various technologies, and writing.

One of his projects is "Humanoid Robots and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)." He was able to purchase a robot which arrived in mid-December and on Dec. 12 Lewis demonstrated it for Prof. Nancy Charron's Special Education class on robot therapy for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Charron and Lewis discussed robot therapy for ASD throughout the semester and will continue this work into the future. Lewis continued to work with the robot over the holidays and will be demonstrating it to lots of people this spring. If you would like a demo of the robot for your class, contact Lundy at l.lewis@snhu.edu!



(Prof. Bob Seidman and the robot!)

Another project of Lewis' is "Neuro-Feedback Technology (NFT) and Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS)." NFT consists of a device much like a headset that picks up certain brainwaves that occur close to the skull, communication of raw brainwaves to a computer, e.g. with Bluetooth, and a software application that processes the brainwaves and provides a visual display in real time of mental states such as degree of focus, attention, and imagination. It is much like EEG but smaller, affordable, and useable outside of hospitals. Lewis did some hands-on work with a particular NFT called Mindset. If anyone would like to see a demo of it, please contact him. NFT is being used increasingly by professional clinicians as adjunct therapy for PTS, ASD, hyper-activity problems, attention deficit disorders, and other mental problems.

Alumni Spotlight: Active Alumni, Vibrant Campus

Submitted by: The Office of Institutional Advancement

Penmen Pink Day

Join the SNHU women's basketball program as the Lady Penmen bring together students, alumni, staff and Penmen fans to celebrate women in sports and raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research.

Penmen Pink Day offers a multitude of possibilities for class projects, from event promotion and sponsorship solicitation for the awareness fair, to opportunities to connect with alumni. Please contact Audrey Bourque in Alumni Relations (a.bourque1@snhu.edu or x9792) if you would like to get involved.



Dean Heather Lorenz and her daughter Petey at the 2013 Penmen Pink Day.

Connect with alumni, teammates, fans and administration on social media with #PenmenPink.

Saturday, February 15, 2014

9:00 a.m. – All Girls, All Sports Clinic

10:00 a.m. – Alumnae Basketball Game

1:00 p.m. – Pre-Game Fair (raffles, novelties, massages, face painting, etc.)

1:30 p.m. – Women's Basketball Game, SNHU vs. Stonehill (wear pink for free admission!)

3:30 p.m. – Men's Basketball Game, SNHU vs. Stonehill (wear pink for free admission!)

The Office of Alumni Relations is always looking for input from the SNHU community in recognizing outstanding alumni. If you have worked with someone who has made an impact on the university (or if you would like to expand your roster of alumni who are interested in giving back in the classroom), please contact Kristi Durette Director of Alumni Relations (k.durette@snhu.edu or 603.645.9780).

Dr. Lundy Lewis - Papoutsy Chair Update Fall 2013 pt 2

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

Another very interesting project Lewis is working on involves "Socially Assistive Robots and Elderly Quality of Life." He has written up a concept/design paper on the topic and submitted it for consideration as a book chapter. The title of the paper is "Using Narrative with Avatars and Robots to Enhance Elder Care" and the book title is Healthcare Informatics and Analytics: Emerging Issues and Trends, to be published by IGI Global Press.

Dr. Lewis was invited to be a Keynote Speaker at the Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies Conference in Greece in May. The theme of the conference is "Systemic Entrepreneurship: Innovation, Business, Growth." This is a great opportunity to showcase the work he has been doing as the Papoutsy Chair.

Vice President for Institutional Advancement Don Brezinski and Dr. Lewis created a new lecture series entitled the Papoutsy Lecture Series on Business Ethics. Its purpose is to bring in successful SNHU alumni to speak on real-world topics involving business ethics in the workplace. Stay tuned for further information on this exciting new series!

It is clear that Dr. Lewis is taking every advantage of the opportunities the Papoutsy Chair brings with it and will have much to share with the SNHU community as his two years continue. We look forward to further updates!

School of Education News

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

We are very pleased and proud to announce that Lois Costa, Ed.D. Cohort 1 member has been named NH Principal of the Year by the New Hampshire Association of School Principals (NHASP). Congratulations, Lois!

Costa has been Principal at the Adeline C. Marston School in Hampton for five years. She first joined the staff of Marston 14 years ago as assistant principal. Prior to joining the Marston staff, Costa worked for several years as a third-grade teacher at Reeds Ferry Elementary School in Merrimack.

Costa holds a bachelor's degree in family consumer studies and elementary education from the University of New Hampshire, as well as a master's degree in education from UNH.

Costa says "I feel that my time here at Southern New Hampshire University has deepened my understanding of educational leadership, and I am excited to begin the next semester tomorrow morning with my dear, fellow, cohort members. I was honored and delighted to receive this wonderful recognition from my colleagues. I am proud to be able to share this accomplishment with you."

