

Academic Affairs

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Please note the deadlines and publications for the VPAA Journal:

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
February 9	February 16
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May 6	May 13

**The Monthly Journal of the
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I want to begin the first VPAA Journal of 2015 by sharing some of the great things that are happening in University College. As you may know, our own Susan D'Agostino, Associate Professor of Math, was appointed to serve on the Governor's Task Force examining the future of STEM programming in the state of New Hampshire. Since Susan authored two of the eight recommendations that will be included in the final report that is being released to the public, the Governor has asked Susan to speak at a News Conference held on January 13th. We are extremely proud of Susan for taking on this state-wide leadership role.

I am also extremely pleased to report that for the first time in my eight years at SNHU, we feel utterly comfortable publicly reporting a placement rate for our graduates. Thanks to the excellent data collection and analysis of our colleagues in the Career Development Office, we can boast an overall University College placement rate of 88%, and that is based on a survey in which we received an impressive 75% response rate. The UC placement rate includes UC graduates who are: currently employed, attending graduate school, participating in military or volunteer programs, or who have started a business. The UC-wide average placement rate is 88%, but many program-specific placement rates are at 100% such as: Econ/Finance, Hospitality, Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, Justice Studies, and English Language and Literature. This is a real testament to the hard work of faculty and Chairs who purposely and consistently consider and address how their students can achieve meaningful work once they graduate. And to Beth Prieto and her team, on behalf of the entire faculty at UC, the department chairs, and the deans - I want to publicly thank you for the superior job you have done making the UC Career Development Office a truly high-quality, professional service to our students.

Lastly – let me give you an update on UC's Marketing and Student Recruitment division which is responsible for International Admissions, Transfer Admissions, and Freshmen Admissions. International Admissions continues to blow the doors off its recruitment goals. International student matriculations are currently at 481 compared to last year's final count of 504. We feel very confident that international enrollments will surpass their budgeted target by as many as 40 students. Julie Callahan and her team in UC Transfer Admissions are also enjoying great success. They will surpass their Spring 2015 goal of 110 new students by at least 10, and their YTD applications for Fall 2015 are also up. Freshmen Admissions is about 11.1 percent behind on apps for Fall 2015, and the decline is overwhelmingly in very specific pockets in Massachusetts. Bethany Perkins and her team are working those areas in MA with everything they've got! I am absolutely confident we will make our 2015 goal of bringing in 697 freshmen.

Patricia A. Lynott

Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

The Deborah L. Coffin's Women's Center

Submitted by: Alicia Frazier

For the past few years there has been much talk among the SNHU faculty and staff in regards to opening a Women's Center on campus. Inspired by the efforts made at SNHU about LGBTQ, many agreed that something specific to women's gender was still lacking. To begin the process, first came the gender studies minor. Brooke Gilmore, previous Informational Literacy Librarian and now new Director of the Deborah L. Coffin Women's Center, said that, "creating a minor was a way for us to bridge the gap between academic and student affairs." However, there was still a question of funding to hopefully provide a physical space for the center.

Around this time, the Office of Institutional Advancement began forming a relationship with alum, Deborah Coffin. When Coffin heard about plans for the center and herself having a passion for women's equality, she generously made a private donation making it possible to build the center.

"This is the year to do the leg work," says Gilmore. The center will be allocated physical space in the old library and has a tentative timeline to open about a year from now. However, the center is still currently actively partnering with the new Women's Advocacy Club, and hosting films, panels, and workshops of their own. Faculty and staff apart from the center's advisory group include: Denise Benner, Brigid Flanigan, Allison Cummings, Michael Hendery, Lori DeConinck, Gavin Telfer, and Elizabeth Richards.

SNHU Speaking Out For STEM



Dr. D'Agostino speaking at the News Conference and Governor Hassan.

"New Hampshire is already fortunate to have in place passionate educators and engaged STEM-industry professionals. With the implementation of the NH STEM Task Force recommendations, we will see these educators and industry professionals come together more frequently so that young New Hampshire citizens will be poised to meet the demands of the global innovation economy," says Dr. D'Agostino.

1 in 7 architecture and engineering occupations are held by women.

Only..

1 in 4 computer and math occupations are held by women .

New Mentor Program...“SNHUcan”

Submitted by: Alumni Office and Career Development

SNHUcan is a pilot mentoring program working with the first year Signature Leadership Group on campus and alumni or friends of the university. SNHUcan stands for SNHU Career Advisory Network and it is made up of the 22 first year students taking part in the Signature Leadership Group, as well as 22 mentors that match these students' majors and career interests. The program kicked off on January 14th at the Leadership Meet & Greet where students were introduced to their mentor. JoAnna Luiso describes the program as, “another layer of support as the students continue to progress and make career related decisions.”

Beyond January 14th the students and mentors will connect on their own throughout the semester to help the students develop into professionals. They will discuss topics such as, but not limited to, goal-setting, resume development, interviewing skills, career trajectory, and possible job shadow opportunities. The mentors are only asked to give a minimum of 10 hours of their time to the student throughout this experience. The group will re-convene on March 12th for an Etiquette Dinner in the Quill where students will learn about professional dining with their mentor.

In April, as the program wraps up, feedback will be given to determine what was successful and what needs improvement. We will also be asking if the mentors would like to continue mentoring the student into their second year of the Leadership program to continue this mutually beneficial relationship.

During this program, we will also be piloting the use of a new mentor software called SmartMentor, an online database where students can search for, identify, and reach out to alumni and friends of the college for mentoring opportunities and career-related advice. The software program will be piloted with the first group of mentors, where participants will begin building their profiles into the new system.

If you, or anyone you know might be interested in serving as a mentor to an SNHU student, please contact JoAnna Luiso at j.luiso@snhu.edu or 603.645.9793 or Sara Telfer at s.telfer@snhu.edu or 603.644.3165 for more information on the program.

Build Your Alumni Volunteer Network

If you are interested in learning more about bringing alumni into your classroom or programs to build opportunities for students, please contact Alumni Relations (Sara Telfer, s.telfer@snhu.edu or 603.644.3165) or Career Development

Welcome to SNHU Jeff Harbin and Trisha Prevett!

Submitted by: Kathryn Gowney

Meet the newest members of the Shapiro Library Team!

Jeff Harbin joined Shapiro Library in the fall as our new Access Services Librarian. In this role, Jeff oversees the Information Desk including circulation, reserves and interlibrary loan. Most recently, Jeff was the User Services Librarian at the P.H. Welshimer Memorial Library at Milligan College. He received his Master of Science in Library Science from The Catholic University of America.

In addition, Trisha Prevett has joined Shapiro Library in the new position of Head of Reference. Her focus is in building our reference services to meet the growing demand from students and faculty. Trisha is also the library liaison to the School of Education. She received her Master of Science in Library Science from the University of Rhode Island and her Bachelor of Arts in English/Secondary Education from Merrimack College. *Please join Shapiro Library in welcoming Jeff and Trisha to SNHU!*

SNHU visits China!

Over winter break, SNHU's very own Lundy Lewis traveled to China! His mission for the trip was to share his research. While there, he gave a total of seven talks at three different universities. Lewis is the first professor from SNHU to visit China as part of our professional partnership with those select universities. Congratulations Lundy Lewis and welcome back to the states!



Bottom Left: *Lundy speaking to 300 students at Wuhan Polytechnic University on technology, ethics, and social responsibility.*

Top Left: *Lundy speaking to students at Donghu University about game design, robots, and social responsibility.*

Above: *Lundy posing with students at Donghu University after a talk.*

Photo Credit: Lundy Lewis

SNHU STAFF -
THEY'RE
JUST LIKE
YOU!

Submit any photos of yourself or other faculty and staff to
alicia.frazier@snhu.edu!

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Two groups of students along
with SNHU professors/staff
spent their winter break doing
service on an Alternative
Break trip!



They do service!



Above: SNHU students
and professors in New
Orleans!

Left: SNHU students and
professors in the Domini-
can Republic!



Professors Tracy Dow and
Katrina Kerr working in the
Lower 9th Ward.

Photo Credit: Tracy Dow

SNHU Partners with Manchester School District to Launch New Mentorship Program

Submitted by: Alicia Frazier

One foundation and distinction of SNHU is its competency based learning model. This caught the eye and sparked the interest of the Manchester School District. As an effort to help students stay in school and continue their education past high school, the Manchester School District announced their partnership with SNHU along with the National Center for Competency-Based Learning (NCCBL), who seeks to help students succeed by advocating for nontraditional options for learning, to create a community mentorship program. The three are looking for 1000 mentors in Manchester and the surrounding community, which led to the program's name, "1000 Mentors Program".

At the official announcement of the program was SNHU's Ray McNulty, Dean of the School of Education. "Learning in a classroom is one way, but not the only way, to master a skill or discipline," said Ray McNulty. "A student's success shouldn't be determined only by how he or she got there or how many hours it took." Anyone interested in being a mentor can contact Superintendent Debra Livingston at 624-6300 or superintendent@mansd.org.



*Mayor Ted Gatsas, Dr. Debra Livingston and Ray McNulty
of SNHU at the announcement of 1,000 Mentors.*

Photo Credit: Anonymous