

Academic Affairs

In this issue

News from the Provost	P.1
Library Learning Commons	P.2
Alumni Spotlight	P.3
NCAA D2 Update	P.3
Center for Teaching and Learning	P.4
Luminous Firefly Dress	P.5
New Shuttle Tours in Admission	P.6
New VPAA Editor	P.7
News to Note and Photos	P.8



Please note the deadlines and publications for the VPAA Journal:

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
October 8	October 15
November 10	November 17
December 8	December 15
January 14	January 19
February 9	February 16
March 9	March 16
April 8	April 15
May 6	May 13

**The Monthly Journal of the
Vice President for Academic Affairs**
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Editor: Alicia Frazier

I don't think there are words to express how thrilling the start of this school year has been. The opening of our new, incredibly beautiful Learning Commons is a dream come to life for everyone here at University College. It has created such a positive and upbeat vibe all throughout the campus. You hear students talking about it (and they are tweeting about it like crazy), how great it is, and how proud they are to be here! Yesterday, I was down at the Mill for a meeting, and I walked into "Cindy's Café" I was just blown away by how that space has been transformed into something really comfortable and inviting. I was in awe of how expansive our COCE operation has become (it occupies almost that entire Mill building on Commercial Street). And last week, I watched with great pride the PBS Newshour video where our President, Paul LeBlanc, was interviewed about SNHU's competency-based degree programs delivered by our colleagues in College for America, which is now headquartered on Elm Street, and boasts over 1,000 students!

I think back to that awful 2008-09 school year when things got pretty scary around here, as well as everywhere else in the country. I recall that our CFO at the time suggested to Paul that he think about halting construction on the new buildings (we were building the Dining Hall, and the ACC was to immediately follow). No one could have blamed him. A lot of schools (with much bigger endowments than ours) pulled back on major building projects at that time. But we went forward. Not only did we continue with construction, but Paul went to the Board and convinced them that it was time to really invest in an online strategy. Most schools at the time were hunkering down and cutting spending everywhere, and certainly not investing in anything as "frivolous" as an online program. We hired a guy named Steve Hodownes, who put together an incredible team, and with the support and assistance of our full-time faculty, that "little" online operation has become one of the biggest success stories in higher education. Fast forward to April of 2013, and Paul's vision for a low-cost, entirely competency-based degree program became the first in the nation to be approved for Title IV funding by the U.S. Department of Education.

I know these past few years have been hectic, sometimes even chaotic - and growth has been absolutely off the charts in many ways. But think about what we've accomplished. Think about how far we've come, when so many of our peers are struggling to stay afloat. And the greatest evidence for me? We won't be certain for another 14 days or so, but right now - University College is tracking to have its highest fall-to-fall retention rate in recent memory. Our 2008 entry cohort had a retention rate of 64.7%. For the last five years, we've been tracking between 71% - 72.2%. As of today, we are tracking at 78.9% and estimate that by 15th day, our retention rate will land at approximately 77%. That is nothing short of phenomenal. Yep. Best start to a new school year in my life!!

Patricia A. Lynott

Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

Library Learning Commons Officially Revealed!

Submitted by: Dean Kathryn Gowney

The new Library Learning Commons building opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 2 at 1:00 pm. This stunning, dynamic building will encourage, foster and inspire students to study, collaborate and create knowledge and scholarship. It will also provide a home for the Center for Teaching and Learning – a space dedicated for faculty use, discussion and meetings. Make sure to check this out!

The Library Learning Commons brings together student academic services in one convenient location. In addition to library services, there is an IT Help Desk, The Learning Center and Instructional Support. To keep everyone energized while in the building and to help promote those learning conversations that happen outside of the classroom, there is also a lovely coffee shop, the Zachos Commons Café.

We have nearly tripled our seating capacity, with seating for group work as well as an entire floor dedicated to quiet contemplation. We have increased our number of public workstations to 60, expanded our Archives Storage, and are in the process of adding the AV DVD collection to our catalog. For DVD requests, you may now contact our excellent technical services librarian, Steve Robichaud.

We have innovative technology throughout the building, from Mediascape technology that allows students to easily share their laptop screens with a click of a button - to the Innovation Lab and Makerspace suite.

The mission of the Shapiro Library Innovation Lab & Makerspace is to support Southern New Hampshire University students, faculty, and staff in exploring new technologies, learning new skills, and developing innovation. We seek to support student, faculty, and staff involvement in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) as well as personal growth and development. Learn more at <http://libguides.snhu.edu/makerspace>.



President LeBlanc and guests cutting the ribbon.
Photo Credit: Stacey Brenton



The first of many students, faculty, staff, and guests entering the first floor of the Library Learning Commons.
Photo Credit: Alicia Frazier

Additionally, we currently have five training sessions or workshops planned for the month of September to introduce users to the space and services. If you have any questions, please contact our Technologies and System Librarian, Jennifer Harris at j.harris@snhu.edu.

Once again, it is our sincere hope that this space and the services provided here foster the exploration new of technologies and skills, that it provides a safe and accessible learning environment which supports STEM and the coming of age experience and that in the end, we make something amazing.

Alumni Spotlight: Celebrating Alumni Volunteers

Submitted by: The Office of Institutional Advancement

Homecoming is a time to celebrate at Southern New Hampshire University, and this year, we're honoring the alumni, students, families, faculty, and friends of the university who make an impact in the SNHU community and beyond.

At the President's Reception on Saturday, October 18, President LeBlanc and the SNHU Alumni Association will recognize the talented, influential, and dedicated recipients of the 2014 Alumni Awards:



Young Alumni Award: Doug Howard '09, '11 (BA English, MA Education); Doug has been active with his fraternity as an alumni adviser, as well as with the Office of Diversity Initiatives and his academic program.

Distinguished Service Award: Neil Donahue '82 (BS Hotel Management); Neil has served on the Alumni Board; Hotel Management advisory board; as a class presenter, career volunteer and alumni hockey participant.

Hall of Fame Award: Robert Schiavoni '72 (BS Business Administration); Bob spent many years as the Director of Residence Life and has been active in the university community as well as community-based leadership and volunteerism.

Please visit <http://alumni.snhu.edu/homecoming> for the full schedule of activities and programs throughout the weekend, including the DeBlasi Cup Golf Tournament for student scholarships; reunion celebrations; the Superheroes 5K Run/Walk; the SNHUPERHEROES Street Fair; alumni and Penmen athletics; Penmen College enrichment courses; Greek Night... and more!

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 Kristi Durette, Director of Alumni Relations (k.durette@snhu.edu or 603.645.9780).

A New Voice in Division II

There are three divisions within the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), with Southern New Hampshire University playing within Division 2. Sport Management professor, Doug Blais, has acted as the Northeast 10 representative to the NCAA for 15 years. Blais is a member of the Management Council which, along with the President's Council, is a governing group within Division 2.

According to Blais, over the past few months changes have been made specifically within Division 1. New rules have been passed to benefit the student athlete, such as allowing schools to give an additional \$2,000 dollar scholarship for college expenses. "With the changes going on within Division 1, Division 2 said, what can we do?" said Blais. The governing groups questioned how they could increase the student athlete voice within the NCAA. The result, two...Continued pg. 4

Continued from pg. 3... student representatives from the Student Athlete Advisory Committee have been added to the Management Council. Blais said, together these two students will receive on vote on the council.

The official tagline for Division 2 is "life in the balance."

There is less of a demand opposed to Division 1 and student athletes have the option for partial and full scholarship, unlike Division 3. Although athletic scholarships are given at SNHU, Blais said, "I don't think faculty and staff are aware the amount of fundraising student athletes have to do on their own to fund their trips and equipment." For example, the baseball team is one of many SNHU teams who volunteer to park cars at the NH Motor Speedway.

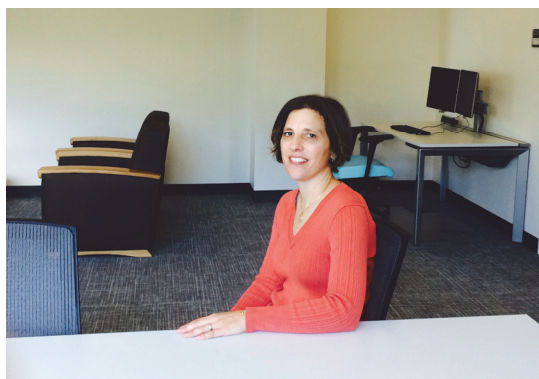
With high hopes for SNHU's athletic teams this year, the Division 2 has aspirations of its own to continue to provide a positive experience for student athletes and increase the student athlete voice.

Submitted by : Alicia Frazier

From Passion to Practice: Sheehan named Director of CTL

Submitted by: Alicia Frazier

The process of learning is a passion Elizabeth Sheehan, new director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, has pursued for many years. Entering her 10th year at the university, Sheehan has taught in the classroom, served as the director and academic coordinator for the College Unbound Program, and most recently, was named director of the Center for Teaching and Learning.



Sheehan in the Center for Teaching and Learning Space.
Photo Credit: Alicia Frazier

With its new location on the second floor of the Learning Commons, the Center for Teaching and Learning will officially hold a physical space on campus for faculty to come together. The goal of the Center for Teaching and Learning is to support and promote excellence in teaching and learning. According to Sheehan, it is a place where professors can extend the conversations of their classrooms and foster a

community among one another. It is also a resource that provides workshops and seminars surrounding topics such as professional development and research.

As new director of the center, Sheehan's main goal for the new year is to "generate enthusiasm and participation among the faculty". She hopes the space will be a place where faculty can feel comfortable and begin to connect with one another. In addition, she plans to put into action many of the ideas the center has spoken of before. In particular, at the top of this list is to formalize and revitalize the faculty mentorship program.

When Sheehan first began at the university back in 2005 as a professor in the Sport Management Department, she was assigned a mentor, Helen Packey, within the English Department. She explained that much like students, new faculty experience some anxiety coming to a new school and having someone there to guide you through your first semester makes a lasting impression. She explained that this type of program in particular speaks to the overall culture at SNHU.

She described the atmosphere as open and collaborative among professors and students. Working in this environment, Sheehan said she was able to really find her voice as a person, a professor, and as an advocate of learning. With this voice, she has been able to give back to the environment that fostered it. Sheehan has proactively advocated for integrated and experiential learning on campus. Many of her efforts can be...*Continued pg. 6*

SNHU Lights Up the Runway...Cast Your Vote!

Submitted by : Alicia Frazier

Synesthesia Muse



Model ,Hailey Bonczar, striking a pose in the Luminous Firefly for these final shots.
Photo Credit: Alicia Frazier

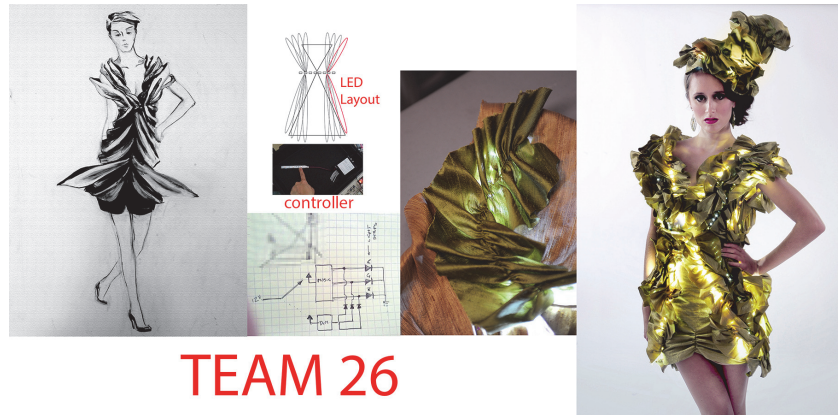
Descience is an organization that combines fashion and science to not only target a younger generation, but to give new life to the fashion industry. By invitation only, groups of individuals are asked to participate in their yearly competition, Descience Runway. With originally 60 competitors from around the globe, one of the top finalists can be found here at Southern New Hampshire University.

Harry Umen, graphic design professor, and Dr. Angela Chang, former game design professor and fellow at MIT Media Lab, partnered up and produced an innovative and beautiful dress. Modeling the dress is Hailey Bonczar, who will be

a senior at SNHU this year. Umen, Dr. Chang, and Bonczar, who's team name is Synesthesia Muse, create an all SNHU team in the competition. Umen said, "What we did as a team a lot of small companies do."

After many sketches and computer images, the final product is inspired by a firefly lit up at night and is influenced by natural form. With its golden textured surface and interactive lights, Luminous Firefly Dress takes you back to a warm summer night and a jar in your hand. Umen said, "I am trying to illustrate the closeness of things that are manmade compared to nature." Not only does the dress light up, but it is responsive! Umen and Dr. Chang have the dress light up to music as Hailey models it on the runway.

At the end of the summer, Umen and Dr. Chang interviewed in Boston with Ari Daniel Shapiro, Nova and New York Times reporter, about their collaboration on the Luminous Firefly Dress. "I stand behind however it ends up. I feel confident about our dress," said Umen. If the SNHU trio make it to the top 15, they will have the chance to participate in Fashion Week in Boston and the winner of the popular vote will win a cash prize.



TEAM 26

From hand drawn sketches, to a computer model, and finally the runway, Synesthesia Muse is lighting up the competition!
Photo Credit: Alicia Frazier

When talking with Bonczar, she described that she learned how much thought and detail go into each design. "I have also been blessed to be a part of a new type of fashion, one that has shown me there is much more potential for creativity moving into the future!," says Bonczar.

With the potential of participating in Fashion Week in Boston and truly establishing a name for SNHU programs, Umen said, "My attempt is to share with my SNHU students in any way I can and as much as I can. I hope Hailey gets paid modeling work, as well as contact with people in the fashion industry." ...Continued pg. 7

Future Penmen on Board!

Submitted by: Alicia Frazier

One of the most essential parts of any college campus is the campus tour. The campus tour not only provides prospective students with an image of what college is like, but it tells the story of an institution. For Southern New Hampshire University, it is evident with the growth of campus that we are at the climax of our story. To show new buildings and to share more of the resources campus has to offer, the Undergraduate Freshman Admission Office purchased a shuttle for campus tours.

In the past, Admission only provided walking tours, but now to be more kind to the feet of guests, the shuttle transforms walking tours into hybrid tours. Admission has a Ford Goshen Bus on a two year lease from Merchants Auto.

Tour guides still walk the inside circle of campus, such as Athletics and the Student Center, but now drive down to



President LeBlanc cutting the ribbon to the new shuttle!

Photo Credit: Alicia Frazier

Webster Hall as well as drive around East Side Drive. With a natural drawback being capacity, fitting 12 prospective students or family members on tour, the Office of Admission will still provide traditional walking tours as an alternative for large tours.

However, Bethany Perkins, Director of Undergraduate Freshman Admission, says, "I think we owe it to our prospective students and families to show them as much as possible what they are truly investing in by attending Southern New Hampshire University. By utilizing a hybrid tour, we are able to show them all of the positive changes and growth; we are able to prove that they would be investing in a university that invests in its students."

To celebrate this new milestone, an official ribbon cutting and cookout took place in August! President Paul LeBlanc spoke and following, tours were provided throughout the afternoon to interested faculty and staff. When talking about how families and guests have responded to the shuttle tours, Erin Fitzgerald, tour guide leader, says, "Families seem to have been loving the shuttle bus tours! When they walk out of the Office of Admission and see that shuttle waiting for them with "Future Penmen on Board" plastered across the front, they get excited and feel as though they are already part of the SNHU family."

Coordinating the tours this year is in the hands of Brittany Morgiewicz. Morgiewicz, who previously worked in the Transfer Admission Office and has the...Continued pg. 7

Continued from pg. 4....seen through the College Unbound Program and she now hopes to continue these efforts through the Center for Teaching and Learning. Sheehan says, "I thought, here is another opportunity, just through a different venue, to support faculty and many of the ideas that I think are already embraced at the institution."

"I have always had a passion for the process of learning," says Sheehan. "I want to thank the advisory board for this opportunity. It was a wow moment, knowing I will be able to serve fellow faculty. I see this position as serving a larger group versus directing. This is what drives me."

If you happen to catch Sheehan on the dance floor when she is not acting as director, don't be surprised if you see her doing the moon walk! She said it is a hidden talent many professors may not know about her. Much like her moon walk, the Center for Teaching and Learning can expect a smooth transition with Sheehan as director when the new year begins.

New VPAA Journal Editor

Submitted by: Deborah Wilcox

Provost/Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs Patty Lynott and her staff are extremely pleased to welcome our new VPAA Journal editor – Alicia Frazier! Alicia is a junior in the University Honors program with a dual major in Psychology and Child Development Leadership. She is President of the University Honors Program Student Council after creating the Council in her freshman year! She works hard to organize and facilitate meetings and build an active membership among her fellow University Honors students.

As you can already tell Alicia is a busy woman and you will see her around campus frequently working in Admissions as a tour guide. She worked three days a week on campus this summer as a tour guide and loved meeting prospective students and their families. She filled out her summer at a local Head Start program for two days a week as an excellent tie-in to her Child Development Leadership program. She worked in the Head Start classroom, but also was able to participate in home therapy visits.

In the summer of 2013 Alicia was an Editorial Intern at *Business NH Magazine*. She wrote 6 articles that appeared in the magazine that summer and fall. When asked about fun in her life Alicia says she has a very close family and enjoys swimming, shooting hoops, art, music, sculpture and painting.

As the Journal editor Alicia wants the faculty to know she has experience and they can expect good quality in her interviews and articles. She is used to open communication as an interviewer and writer and would encourage faculty to feel comfortable in contacting her with story ideas. (Alicia.Frazier@snhu.edu)

As to her future? Alicia loves kids, but is still deciding between Art Therapy and something in higher education. I am absolutely sure Alicia will be a success at whatever future she chooses and I look forward to working with her. Welcome to the VPAA Journal, Alicia!



Continued from pg. 5...“I am grateful the support the university and the students have given,” said Umen.

Voting for the competition is still open but closes soon!
Cast your vote for the Luminous Firefly Dress here at <http://www.fashiondescience.com/#!desciencevote/cmk>.

To see video of the collaboration process and the dress light up to music, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58nmVqZjCl0>.

*Continued from pg. 6...*unique perspective of being a tour guide herself for SNHU, joined the Undergraduate Freshman Admission team this summer. Perkins is confident this transition will be smooth for everyone, including the tour guides. “We have a culture where everyone can contribute and be heard as we make our visit experience the most authentic and positive experience it can be for prospective students,” says Perkins.

When is the last time you have taken a campus tour? For those who are interested, Perkins says, “Come for a ride! See what our prospective students see when they tour our community. As faculty, staff, and students, you are a part of the community we are trying to introduce people to. We'd love to hear what you think and suggest.”

News to Note

Dr. ERICKSON TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL >>> AARP New Hampshire recently announced the appointment of Dr. Karen Erickson, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, to its Executive Council. In this volunteer role, Erickson will collaborate with state leadership to ensure the achievement of AARP's strategic priorities and objectives and work to build partnerships with leaders in business, government and nonprofits.

JIM WALTERS SCHOLARSHIP >>> We were very happy and proud to learn over the summer that the Hooksett Kiwanis Board of Directors voted to name one of its annual scholarships to high school seniors in memory of Dr. James Walter. The James Walter Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a Hooksett senior who "has demonstrated a commitment to school and community service."

Jim was a charter member of the Hooksett Kiwanis. He served in numerous leadership roles during his thirteen years in the organization including multiple terms on the board of directors. He also organized the Kiwanis Circle K Club here on campus. Jim was active on the Hooksett Conservation Commission and always chaired their booth at Hooksett's Old Home Day.

The Kiwanis recognized Jim as a "kind and gentle educator, whom we will dearly miss." As will we.

DEAN MCNULTY TO SIT ON NEBHE PANEL>>> Raymond McNulty, Dean of the School of Education, was asked by the New England Board of Higher Education to attend a September 11 meeting made up of legislators from New Hampshire and Vermont who have been tasked with answering, "What are the challenges of preparing and recruiting 21st century teachers?" This will be a small group of all the key players in New Hampshire and Vermont. McNulty will participate on the panel discussing this question and responding to the legislators' questions. McNulty will be the only Dean on the panel; the others are from the National Governor's Association, and a senior Associate from HCM Strategists (a Washington, DC public policy and advocacy consulting firm focused on advancing effective solutions in health and education).

CTL RECEPTION>>> Center for Teaching & Learning Opening Reception, September 22nd, 4:30-6:00pm in the Learning Commons, Room 222 (food and drinks included)!

Photos from Library Learning Commons and Admissions Shuttle Ribbon Cutting!

Photo Credit: Alicia Frazier

