

# Academic Affairs

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We are off to a wonderful start in University College this spring term, with a very low attrition rate, and a reduced number of students being brought before Scholastic Standing. I want to publicly commend the members of the Scholastic Standing Committee who have the very difficult job of determining the best interests of each and every student brought before them, and rendering the most responsible decision possible – an often thankless, and difficult task. Your work is truly appreciated.

As most of you know, in the next few weeks Dean Mary Heath will be “stepping aside” from her leadership role in the School of Education. We are planning an Open House-type of celebration on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 in the Quill to recognize and honor the many contributions Mary has made to this institution. Dr. Mark McQuillan will become the new Dean of our School of Education. Dr. McQuillan is the former Commissioner of Education for the State of Connecticut, the former Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operational Officer for the Massachusetts Department of Education, and President of the Education Collaborative for Greater Boston. He received an AB in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley and his EdD is from that quaint little school in Cambridge, MA . . .

I am also pleased to announce that Dr. Michele Goldsmith will serve one more year as the Chris and Mary Papoutsy Distinguished Chair in Ethics and Social Responsibility. The additional year is essential given all of the incredible work Michele has accomplished thus far, and the additional initiatives she can complete if awarded the additional time. The Papoutsy Lecture Series was extremely well received and the topics discussed by experts in their fields, ranged from public health programs in Rwanda, to Al Gore’s Climate Project, to art and sustainability in Japan, and the future of global climate change. Michele was invited to participate on a roundtable discussion at the “Rio+20 Conference” at the National Council for Science and the Environment in Washington, D.C. And on campus, Michele worked closely with the Environmentally Sustainable Student Club as their faculty advisor, and designed modules in environmental ethics and environmental justice that can be incorporated into courses taught across the University. She will now work to create a Center for Environment Ethics on campus that will incorporate academics, facilities, and research under one umbrella.

Lastly – we continue to work hard on preparing a proposal to submit to President LeBlanc regarding the creation of an on-campus early childhood center. The task force has had several meetings, and we were recently contacted by two women who run a small Manchester child care center. They are expanding to a building very near campus and want us to consider partnering with them. This could be a great opportunity for a short-term solution until we can secure the space we need on-campus. We have a graduate student conducting a feasibility study for us as an internship. We will keep everyone posted, because given the way we are “procreating” around here - the Child Care Center could be the most populated building on this campus!! Our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Beth Sheehan on the birth of son, Brandon (November 1), and to Dr. Elise Pepin on the birth of daughters Isabelle and Salena (December 18).

Patricia A. Lynott

Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

## Notes

### Community Based Research at SNHU 2011-2012

Submitted by: Eleanor Dunfey-Freiburger

Community engaged learning and SNHU's mission meet not-for-profit agency needs in two major ways:

1. **Direct Service:** Within specific courses, students have hands-on experience in a community program. This service enhances understanding of course content and, through reflection, its connection to community needs. SNHU has had a formal service learning program for 7 years and received the Carnegie Status for Civic Engagement in 2010.
2. **Community-Based Research:** More recently, we have piloted another form of engagement: an opportunity for faculty to explore ways in which course learning can be enhanced by community-based research which engages students and assists local not-for-profits.

Community-based research (CBR) is a form of applied scholarship that collaboratively engages campus and community organizations in the research process. By definition, a CBR problem originates in the community, and campus/ community partners actively work together during the design and analysis phases. As a result, the research outcome is more likely to be relevant for student learning and beneficial to the community partner.

With support of and assistance from the Provost and the Faculty Center for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching, Jolan Rivera, PhD, recognized CBR leader, presented an inaugural workshop to interested faculty at the end of last semester. His focus was two-fold: long term vision and strategy for such a program, including the role of the Logic Model.

During this spring term, faculty will be incorporating several pilot projects into their courses. Other faculty are encouraged to contact Eleanor Dunfey-Freiburger or Sarah Jacobs to explore ways in which critically important research projects may fit specific courses for AY 2012-2013.

Another major community-based research workshop will be offered during the Closure Week activities in May.

## News From SNHU's MFA Program

We are excited to announce that international best-selling author Matt Bondurant is the newest fulltime faculty member to join Southern New Hampshire University's Masters of Fine Arts Low-Residency program. The MFA low-residency program meets as a group twice throughout the year – once during the summer and once during the winter. This year, the winter residency program was enriched by Bondurant and by visiting faculty, Chris Bohjalian. Bondurant and Bohjalian both have new novels coming out this year. Bondurant's novel, *The Night Swimmer*, will be published through Scribner this January. Bohjalian's newest novel was published this past October through Random House.



"Bohjalian has long been a favorite author of mine," says MFA Director Diane Les Becquets. "I've enjoyed teaching his books to creative writing students. Bohjalian is a master of both character and story development. And I have found him to be a warm and generous person as well."



"Matt is an inspiring writer, teacher, and person -- a perfect fit for our program," says MFA Director Diane Les Becquets. "Our faculty are an engaged and engaging group who write beyond the desk. They live big lives and bring big stories to our students."

## Bookmark mySNHU Today!

Please note that the link to mySNHU portal is no longer easily accessed on Southern New Hampshire University's homepage ([www.snhu.edu](http://www.snhu.edu)). The portal can be accessed through <https://my.snhu.edu> and we recommend that you bookmark the link in your 'Favorites' tab or make it your internet homepage for convenient access.

### Notes

Submitted by:

## Announcements

### Save the Date!

On Wednesday **April 4, 2012** the Office of the Provost and the Schools of Arts & Sciences, Business, and Education will host an inaugural **Undergraduate Research Showcase!** A planning committee is currently hard at work and information on when and how students can apply to participate in the event will be distributed to the University College undergraduates in the very near future. Tentative plans for the afternoon are to hold Concurrent Sessions (panels and/or presentations) from 2-3 pm and again 3:15-4:15 pm. Poster Presentations will take place in the Dining Center Banquet Hall from 4:30-5:30 pm followed by refreshments and social/networking time.

### Innovative Teaching Partnership Program

Submitted by: Megan Paddack, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics

This past Fall President LeBlanc and Provost Lynott showed their continued support for the faculty effort in pressuring innovative teaching and learning experiences. By funding the Faculty Center's new Innovative Teaching Partnership Program, President LeBlanc and Provost Lynott have given up to six faculty members the opportunity to create and co-teach a new course. The program is structured so that two faculty members will work together in a year-long partnership, with up to three partnerships selected each year. During the Fall semester each partnership will develop their course, meet with the other partnerships to discuss the challenges and benefits of creating a course together, and present at a Faculty Center sponsored event. During the Spring semester they will co-teach their course, meet with the other partnerships to discuss the challenges and benefits of co-teaching, and present at a Faculty Center sponsored event. Each faculty participant will be awarded a \$1500 stipend. This is a wonderful opportunity and the Faculty Center would like to encourage faculty members to apply and make this first year an amazing experience for all involved. The application deadline is March 15. Please visit the Faculty Center through mySNHU for more information.

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