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## News from the Provost

The Spring 2016 semester has been pretty exciting. In my nine years here, I don't think we've ever made it to the middle of February with only one delayed start and no full-day closures due to weather! Pretty amazing.

As you probably know, earlier this month we closed a ten-year deal on purchasing the naming rights to the current "Verizon Wireless Arena" in downtown Manchester. That 12,000 seat facility will become the "SNHU Arena" on September 1st of this year. This partnership provides exceptional opportunities at many levels, not the least of which is the number of student internships it will provide.

We are truly proud and excited by this new partnership.

Faculty in University College have been very busy this term in a number of ways. Four new books written by SNHU faculty are coming out in the next few weeks, authors include: English faculty member Cassie Wright; Politics & Global Affairs faculty member Pamela Jordan; Psychology faculty member Betsy Gunzelmann, and; Creative Writing faculty member Diane Les Becquets. Diane's book, *Breaking Wild*, is published by Penguin Random House and is garnering some serious critical acclaim. Diane has just begun a national book tour.

SNHU's MFA in Fiction and Nonfiction is celebrating its 10th

anniversary this spring, and we are planning to host a celebration some time before the end of the term. We are extremely proud of our MFA – the caliber of its faculty, and the literary accomplishments of its graduates. Here's wishing the MFA another ten years of great success!

As a reminder, we are preparing for four Commencement ceremonies this May (yes.....four!) On Saturday, May 14th, the 10:00am ceremony will be for UC undergraduate, Masters (MFA,

PCMH, VT Ed), and doctoral students (EdD and PhD); the 2:00pm ceremony is for all COCE undergraduate students. On Sunday, May 15th, the 10:00am ceremony will be for COCE graduate students in Business, and the 2:00pm ceremony will be for COCE graduate students in all other programs. Whew. President LeBlanc will probably have carpal tunnel by Sunday evening!!

**Patricia A. Lynott**  
Executive Vice President and Provost

## SNHU Spotlight: Deanna Bechard

Submitted by: Alicia Frazier

“They are what makes working at SNHU great. They are ready to tackle and try anything new, that is fun to work with,” said Dr. Andy Lynch, Associate Dean of the School of Business, when speaking about Deanna Bechard, University Registrar, and her team. Lynch explained how especially in the School of Business, their programs are always being improved upon and changed. To do this is not a seamless process, but these are the words he used when he thinks of his collaboration with the Registrar’s Office. He said, “They are not afraid to answer big questions, which allows us to be comfortable asking

them. This is so important.” He noted Bechard as the leading force behind this team and an exceptionally amazing individual to work with.

When asking questions to Bechard, she had nothing but positive comments about her team and the hard work they do each day. “I would say we are the behind the scenes crew that keeps this university running (in terms of academics). We are the record

keepers, policy enforcers, program and course builders, and degree conferrers, etc.,” said Bechard.

This past August marks two years Bechard has worked at SNHU. In the office, she sets the tone for a positive and encouraging atmosphere. She described the team she gets to work with each day as the best part of her job. She has received so much support from them and the university, it makes for a great team to lead. Bechard explained that co-collaboration is not only an important value when working with their office, but all connecting offices and individuals in and outside the university. The depth, complexity, and constant change in projects can be the hardest part of their job, said Bechard. However, she said her team, “is always willing to take on any task or challenge and amazingly, always do it with a smile.”

When asked a fun fact many do not know about her, Bechard gave the name Ariel. Ariel is her adopted manatee who lives in Florida. To escape the snow, we should probably all take a trip with her to visit Ariel! Even in her life outside of work, it is clear that Bechard is an individual who is truly caring and humble. This quality allows her to lead one of the hardest working teams on campus. Bechard said, “I was a little taken back when you first contacted me because honestly, my team is what makes this office a success. I was just the fortunate one that was given the opportunity to lead them.”



## Game Day Involvement Fair

Submitted by: Tom Balestracci

Hundreds of SNHU students visited the Game Day-themed Spring Involvement Fair on Wednesday, January 27. This event, held each semester, is a way for students to learn about all kinds of opportunities for engagement on campus. There were representatives on hand from over 60 student organizations, as well as many campus departments and community organizations. Attendees were able to network with organizations, learn about the benefits of getting engaged on and off campus, and enjoy the energetic atmosphere.

In addition to this being a great chance for new and returning students to find out ways to get involved, it was also a venue for organizations to show all they have to offer. An example of a group that took advantage of this was ...Continued pg. 3.





Continued from pg. 2...the newly-formed Accounting Society, who showed off their new logo and shared information on their first welcome event of the semester. Another was the Center for Community Engaged Learning, who provided information on upcoming service projects and future alternative break opportunities. Community partners also shared some great connection opportunities, such as StayWorkPlay, an organization that strives to keep the best and the brightest living and engaged in the state of New Hampshire.

Of course, this event is also loads of fun! Some aspects of the program included game day-themed food such as sliders and popcorn, and baseball tee shirts for the students and volunteers who helped coordinate the event. Just like a great game day experience, there was never a dull moment.

The Involvement Fair was planned, promoted, and executed by the student staff in the Club Suite, located within the Office of Student

Involvement. Volunteers included staff from Student Involvement and Residence Life. The event also relies on wonderful support from the Athletics Operations staff and Sodexo.



## The Office of Diversity and LGBTQ Initiatives Remembers and Celebrates

Submitted by: Dan Martel

Southern New Hampshire University's Office of Diversity and LGBTQ Initiatives, plans to join the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Black History Month this February. The office, which is located inside the Student Center, is promoting this celebration by means of social media postings, bulletin boards, and event planning for students and faculty.

Located directly outside the office, there is a bulletin board filled with information regarding the origins of Black History Month and a select number of important figures throughout African American History.

This bulletin board is one of the lasting pieces of the hard work



done by Louisa Martin, Director of the Office of Diversity and LGBTQ Initiatives. It is with much sadness, the office and SNHU as a whole suffered a huge loss recently. Louisa Martin passed away after losing a long battle with cancer. A graduate of the University of Connecticut, Louisa worked in the field of financial aid, which led her to SNHU in 2006. In 2009, she became the Director of the Office of Diversity and LGBTQ Initiatives where she continued to serve. For many years, Martin played a strong helping hand in the spreading of awareness and event planning for Black History Month at SNHU.

Martin also set a lasting tone for the office. The tone is described as an incredibly open and friendly area on campus. If you stop by at any given time, you will see an array of students and faculty members in the office, either working or even just relaxing. Why do students love this location so much? According to students such as Chelsea Marceau and Toneita Thomas, the Office of Diversity & LGBTQ Initiatives has an open door policy where everyone is welcome to "celebrate and educate diversity." Another student, Nicole Villalon, doesn't work in the office, but still enjoys stopping by because she has realized, "everyone comes in here to hang out. Skin color and ethnicity doesn't matter."

Louisa Martin has left a mark on SNHU that will never be forgotten. Her ability to joke and cheer up anyone who crossed her path was special. She was loving and treated everyone like they were her own. She was there whenever anyone needed professional advice, life advice or just wanted to talk. In addition, she impacted many students and faculty. Chelsea Marceau, a student assistant in the Office of Diversity & LGBTQ Initiatives, worked very closely with Martin. When confronted about the sudden loss, Chelsea gave insight into who Louisa Martin really was and finished by saying, "She was my role model and I will miss her greatly." Thank you Louisa Martin for all that you have done for Southern New Hampshire University. You will be missed.

## Reflecting on Reflection and the Value of Experiential Learning

Submitted by: Jon Boroshok

As a full-time Instructor in Communication at SNHU, I've come to understand, appreciate, and respect what my colleagues call lifelong learning. Some of that learning means taking advantage of programs and opportunities offered to us by SNHU's Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). I have to admit, that hasn't always been the case.

At first, I figured that my 25-year progression from entry-level marketing communications professional to a seasoned veteran (even running my own boutique public relations practice) meant I could also teach it.

My years as a practitioner did indeed provide me with an understanding of industry that a textbook or classroom setting can never fully capture. The problem is, we need to make that happen in order to provide students with the skills and exposure to real situations that both inspire and test critical thinking. But how do you know you've succeeded?

I've always incorporated "Experiential Learning" into my classes (even winning a Bentley Service Learning Faculty Award in 2009), but I had never used that term for it. Truth is, there were many academic terms I either didn't know or simply avoided. I simply saw bringing in exposure to industry as an absolute necessity, in an age where students need to have at least two internships on their resume just to qualify for an entry-level position.

When the CTL offered a limited number of scholarships/grants for the National Society for Experiential Education's "Experiential Education Academy," I jumped on it. Finally, a chance to learn the best way to teach what I already know. My industry experience has served me well, and I hope it does the same of my students. I needed to know how to test and improve my own classroom effectiveness.

Putting aside my disdain for (and ignorance of) terms such as "reflection" and "rubrics," I attended the first two Academy sessions on January 6. While my career academic colleagues might have been trained to be in front of a classroom as part of their pursuit of a terminal degree, my experience in the "school of hard knocks" offered no such formal training. I saw "reflection" papers as academic busywork offering little practicality.

I was wrong, and the first Academy session proved it! The first

thing I noticed walking in the room was who else was there. It was a roundup of the "usual suspects," people who I respect because of what they do for our students. It was the same people I see going beyond the basics, getting involved, caring, and truly making SNHU a better place through tireless efforts.

I also know they'd be less likely to judge me as I asked questions that often came from the practitioner side rather than the academic point of view. While some people were there to learn how to incorporate experiential learning and industry exposure, I was there to try to absorb and understand the pedagogy to what I was already bringing into my classroom. We were all aiming for the same "destination," just taking a different route there as part of our individual journeys.

Being exposed to Kolb's Experiential Learning Model for the first time, I learned the value of reflection to help students (and faculty) realize what they have gained from experiential learning projects and situations. It's not just busywork for me or the students. I appreciated this being done as a workshop rather than just a discussion of scholarly works.

Through open discussion and exchanging ideas facilitated by Albert Cabral of NSEE, we shared experiences and "war stories." This wasn't just another conversation about a discussion about assigned reading – it was a very hands-on, spirited conversation.

It was a day well spent, and I look forward to the next two sessions in the series, taking place at SNHU on May 17. For the first time, I've even incorporated a separate individual reflection paper to a major group project in my Social Media class. This will help students realize what they've learned, see more of the value of group projects, as well as offering them a chance to give candid feedback to me about that experience.

I plan to take full advantage of CTL's support for faculty wishing to become certified experiential educators. I truly believe this will help me be a better teacher. Just writing this article provided me with the opportunity for reflection about reflection. My own education journey continues. Come join us!

## Serving More than SNHU Students

Submitted by: Carey Glines

The Student Success division had a great retreat just prior to the start of the spring term. In addition to activities that focused on a reflection of 2015 and goal setting for 2016, they spent some time in the community providing service. Half of the student success team spent a chunk of the day at the NH Food Bank and the other half spent that same time at the new Families in Transition facility. The time the team spent at those two sites produced 4,667 meals for the hungry in NH, supported 4 families in an emergency shelter for over a week, and equates to about \$1,230 in labor costs. Many thanks to Elizabeth Richards, Kelley Hobbs and the Center for Community Engaged Learning for coordinating the service activities and facilitating a very valuable issue education discussion related to food security and poverty in New Hampshire.





## Faculty and Student Research Collaborative

Submitted by: Alicia Frazier

### Dr. Katherine York:

York, Assistant Professor in Biology, is not shy to the outdoors. Her most recent research includes Environmental Science major, Mariah Mitchell, on a frog DNA research project. The goal is to identify *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, a fungus that attacks frogs and causes keratinization of the skin and ultimately death. With the help



of York, Mariah has spent 16+ hours in the labs at the Seacoast School of Technology. This summer, they will be involving students from the Epping High School AP Biology class to help collect frogs and conduct testing.

In addition, York's other research is an acoustic survey of bat species in New Hampshire, which is in partnership with NH Audubon and US Fish and Game. Students will be able to join her as she uses an Anabat device to record bat calls along established transects. With this, they will be able to better understand the feeding and reproduction of bat species by monitoring the spread of White Nose Syndrome.

### Dr. Adam Gilbert:

"The math department is very proud of them!" says Gilbert, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, when referring to his recent research project with students. With his help, three students, Alycia Miner, Mary Shakshober, and Jordan Krogmann, are participating in an international mathematics competition sponsored by organizations around the country. For the competition, they "develop, analyze, and defend a mathematical model to find a solution to a real world problem." Due to the competition, Gilbert can only mentor, and not consult on the student's research. These students, on their own, have spent 96+ hours using math to solve their chosen program, "Modeling Refugee Immigration Policies."

## Alternative Breaks and the Alumni Experience

Submitted by: Office of Institutional Advancement

Of the many partnerships we're proud to be a part of across the University, one of our absolute favorites is with the Center for Community Engaged Learning and their successful Alternative Break Program, (AB).

Over the past several years, the Office of Alumni Engagement has been helping to create networking opportunities for students on their AB trips to meet alumni – as well as COCE students and faculty – in the local area in a true SNHU community experience. We've been to New York, Washington, D.C., and New Orleans. The feedback from students and alumni alike has been incredibly positive, describing these events as valuable networking and mentoring opportunities.

This past winter break, Sara Telfer and Erin Neuhardt of Alumni Engagement met Tiff Fifer '00 '02G and Laura Corrdry of COCE for a week-long road trip of networking and community building in Florida. Their trip culminated with a meet-up in Miami that brought together the AB students with local superstar alumnus Barry Moskowitz '87, VP of Sales at the Greater Miami Convention Center. This particular AB trip, led by Women's Center Director, Brooke Gilmore, and Professor Megan Sawyer, was focused on working with organizations to end gender-based violence and inequality. At the end of an intense week,

Mr. Moskowitz was able to offer insight into how students can get involved in their local communities and make a real impact on the challenges and causes about which they are passionate.

Our next regional networking opportunity is in Ohio, where AB students will be on location learning about the intersections of race and poverty in Cincinnati, the fifth most segregated city in the United States. Local alumni and online students will have opportunities to meet with the group to network and to connect with their community.

With a network of nearly 70,000 graduates across the globe, SNHU alumni range from new professionals to seasoned, C-level executives. And more and more, we're learning that they are joined across industries and across educational pathways by a desire to contribute to the current student experience. We love making that happen, whether in your classroom or on location across the globe.

If you would like to learn more about leveraging the power of the Institutional Advancement team to enrich your students' experiences, including the tapping into the SNHU alumni network and career development resources, please contact us at [alumni@snhu.edu](mailto:alumni@snhu.edu) or [careerdevelopment@snhu.edu](mailto:careerdevelopment@snhu.edu).