

Academic Affairs

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Best Wishes to Everyone for a Happy, Healthy Holiday Season
from the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs



Patricia A. Lynott

Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

Prodigious Efforts and Essential Questions pt.1

Submitted by: Shawn Powers, Coordinator of General Education

A Trip to Prague

In early November, Dr. Andrew Martino attended an inter-disciplinary conference in Prague, Czech Republic. The inter-disciplinary conference is an environment where intellectuals can exchange their ideas, research and points of view on a variety of global issues. The conference brings people from all over the world together, for a handful of days, to heavily discuss a certain topic. Each of the individuals invited uses his or her knowledge, pulling from their different backgrounds.

The theme of Dr. Martino's conference addressed how people deal with suffering. For three days, the members of the conference shared their papers on suffering and went deep into discussions based off of the different ideas in the group. Twelve different countries were represented by the twenty individuals at the conference.

Dr. Martino presented his paper on Roberto Bolaño's novel 2666. Dr. Martino and the others discussed how we, as human beings and as people from different disciplines, deal with suffering. The various intellectuals all brought something different to the table for discussion.

"It was a powerful conference." – Dr. Martino

How has the idea of America changed since its foundation? What will the global community look like in the future? What is the relationship between humans, machines, and morality? How do you define wellness? What is right and wrong?

These are some of the essential questions that students will be addressing in the new General Education program to be launched in Fall 2012. The questions form the structure for a series of theme-based, interdisciplinary Integration Clusters that the General Education Committee and faculty have been developing over the past eight months. The clusters are comprised of six to nine courses among which students will study one critical theme closely from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives. The General Education Committee was thrilled to receive nearly 20 proposals for clusters from faculty eager to participate in the new General Education program. After a thorough review eight clusters were selected for inclusion in the 2012-13 university day catalogue: America; Diversity; Ethics; Global Culture; Global Society; I, Robot; Popular Culture; and Wellness.

The Integration Clusters are one of the three interrelated components that form the new competency-based General Education program. The Foundation courses are a collection of required, primarily skills-based courses that include basic studies in Math and English, as well as the SNHU Experience, a series of one-credit courses that guide students through their academic and professional transitions.

The General Education Committee was also exhilarated by the enthusiastic contribution of faculty in developing the Exploration component of the new program. This element allows students to explore courses in fine arts and humanities, social and behavioral sciences, as well as in science, technology, and mathematics and other disciplines offered by SNHU. Over 120 courses were submitted by nearly 40 faculty members. The faculty engaging in the application process took time to analyze their course syllabi and formulate clear benchmarks and rubrics for assessing their students' learning outcomes. (cont. on next page)

Prodigious Efforts and Essential Questions pt.2

Submitted by: Shawn Powers, Coordinator of General Education

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NEASC Presentation

Submitted by: Cathy Stavenger,
Associate Professor for the School of
Education

The General Education Committee is now in the final stages of moving the faculty's prodigious efforts through to implementation. The committee expects its work to continue long after the 2012-13 catalogue has been put to bed with new courses being added for students to experience through the Exploration series, and additional Integration clusters for students to consider multiple perspectives of critical themes.

AAC&U Annual Conference

Congratulation to Robert Seidman, Steven Painchaud and Martin Bradley for their accepted paper proposal for the AAC&U 2012 Annual Meeting. Seidman, Painchaud and Bradley were selected to present their collaborative presentation, entitled Three-Year Degrees and the Liberal Arts: Quality Assurance (Seidman, Bradley & Painchaud).

Their presentation is based off of their book, *Saving Higher Education*. The book discusses how the three-year degree programs that exist do not diminish the Liberal Arts. The Integrated, Competency-based Three-Year model's successful implementation by Southern New Hampshire University is proof. The model eschews seat-time for competency achievement which entails reworking an existing four-year curriculum into one that can be delivered in six semesters and 120 credits without summer or winter-session classes. Saving 25 percent can be the difference between a high school degree and a college education for many students.

On January 25th Robert Seidman, Steven Painchaud and Martin Bradley will be in Washington, DC, attending the AAC&U 2012 Annual Meeting. It should be an interesting conference given that the organization opposes three-year degrees.

We wish them the best!

Nicole Abendroth and Candis Lange, both Juniors in the School of Education, co-presented with Assistant Professor Audrey Rogers and Associate Professor Cathy Stavenger at the NEASC 126th Annual Meeting and Conference in Boston earlier this month. The presentation, "Keeping Students in the Center of Learning" focused on the variety of ways an ePortfolio can be used to demonstrate learning and serve as a tool for reflection.

Announcements

Congratulations to adjunct professor, Darin Leeman, of the School of Hospitality, for being published in the International Journal of Hospitality Management.

Congratulations to the new Dean of Students, Heather Lorenz.

Congratulations to Accounting/Taxation professor, Dr. Richard O. Hanson, for his recent election as the President of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

NE Psychological Association Meeting

Southern New Hampshire University was extremely well represented at the 51st Annual Meeting of the New England Psychological Association (NEPA) on October 28-29, at Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT. Three faculty members from the Psychology Department of the School of Arts and Sciences accompanied by eight of their students were participants in the program.

Dr. Peter Frost, Professor of Psychology, is the current President of NEPA and delivered the NEPA Presidential Address entitled: "There is Always a Clue: Research on Memory Distortion and Implications for Law Enforcement." Dr. Frost and students Taylor Loconto and Valerie Kingsley presented at a poster session on "Memory Distortion and Personality: Fantasy Prone and Compliant Personalities as Predictors of False Recognition."

Dr. Elise N. Pepin, Associate Professor of Psychology and students Danielle Dalton and Brittany Chausse delivered a paper entitled: "Psychosocial Development, Social Support, and Depression in College." Students Joshua Heyman and Samantha Cohen also presented a paper with Dr. Pepin entitled: "Psychological Benefits of College Students' Campus Involvement."

Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Jay Kosegarten and students Paige Fucello and Kristine Gosson presented a poster: "Solving the Monty Hall Problem: Additive Effects of Perspective Change and Counterfactuals in Logical Reasoning."

Congratulations to all our participants!

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