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## NOTE FROM THE PROVOST/VPAA

## Update on the University's new "General Education" program

Since 2008, numerous faculty have worked extremely hard to fulfill Goal One of the University's Three-Year Strategic Plan to, "develop a transformative, competency-based General Education program that engages students, provides academic success, career readiness, and the ability to understand and navigate cultures different from their own." A first step in achieving this goal was the formation of two standing governance committees, the General Education Committee (GEC), and the University-wide Assessment Committee. I want to publicly acknowledge, and sincerely thank, the *many* faculty members and various staff who have served on these committees for the last three years.

The new General Education program is "scaffolded," incorporating "Foundation" courses, "Exploration" courses, and "Integration" courses. The official implementation date for the new program is fall 2012, but the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) has approved a partial roll out of the program (the "Foundation" section) for fall 2011. The GEC has developed two new innovative courses—the "Sophomore Seminar" and the "SNHU Experience"—both of which received UCC approval in November 2010. The Sophomore Seminar is a theme-based seminar that will replace both our public speaking course and our second composition course. The goal in developing the Sophomore Seminar course was to bring together the three linked skills of information literacy, written communication, and oral communication. The "SNHU Experience" is a series of three 1-credit courses designed to promote college and professional readiness; SNHU 101, "Transition to College," SNHU 303, "Life after SNHU," and SNHU 404, "General Education Capstone".

As we move from the design phase into the implementation stage, I have appointed an ad hoc "General Education Implementation Task Force." This team is charged with coordinating and implementing our new General Education program across all University delivery systems, i.e., University College, Online, and the Centers.

The GEC is currently offering a series of professional development sessions for faculty. I *strongly encourage* all faculty to participate in one or more of these sessions. The more faculty input we have in shaping this program, the deeper and richer the learning experience will be for our students.

Lastly, we continue to review candidates for the "Director of General Education" position. We are hoping to have someone in place by early summer. I will keep you apprised of our progress on this search.

Patricia A. Lynott

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

### Meet the New IR Guy!

There is a new addition to the Office of Academic Affairs, Tom Beraldi. Tom is the Director of Institutional Research here at SNHU – meaning he deals with a lot of “number crunching.” A great deal of his research is based off of the students and the programs that are available on campus.

Tom Beraldi completed his Undergraduate studies at Florida State University in 2004. Shortly after, Tom completed his Graduate studies at Tufts University in 2007. After being in two very large Universities as a student, Beraldi was hired as the Director of Institutional Research for Fisher College, Boston. Fisher College is incredibly small in comparison with only 700 students. He began his work as an IR in 2008 and continued with Fisher College until he recently joined the SNHU community.

Feel free to contact Tom at [t.beraldi@snhu.edu](mailto:t.beraldi@snhu.edu) with any question you might have about his services.

Welcome Tom!

“I want the faculty to know that I am a resource. I can help them by assessing student learning and associating course/program level outcomes.”

— Tom Beraldi

## 2011 Institute for General Education and Assessment

We are proud to announce that we have been accepted! For the second<sup>1</sup> year, Southern New Hampshire University has been selected to send a delegation to the Institute for General Education and Assessment. SNHU was chosen from a large and competitive number of applicants. This is a four day conference in June at San José State University, San José, CA. Congratulations to the following professors for their representation of SNHU at the 2011 IGEA:

Diana Polley, Chair of the Gen Ed Committee  
Kimberly Bogle Jubinville, Chair of Assessment Committee  
Brooke Ratto  
Trisha Dionne  
Andrew Lynch  
Susan Youngs

The Institute on General Education and Assessment (IGEA) provides campus teams with opportunities to refine/advance general education programs and their assessment. The IGEA focuses on building a campus learning culture through intentional, well-defined and meaningfully assessed general education curricula. During the Institute, teams explore general education models, processes of redesign and implementation, clarification and integration of learning outcomes, and strategies for assessment. The Institute on General Education and Assessment is designed for any campus, system, or group of campuses engaged in redesigning general education for students. Campuses can be at any stage in the process of rethinking general education approaches and issues emerging from their respective needs and circumstances. Campus teams typically include a senior academic officer and faculty members working on general education committees or teaching general education courses. Admission to the Institute is competitive and limited; however, all accredited two-year and four-year institutions are encouraged to apply<sup>2</sup>.

## General Education Committee

Submitted by: Diana Polley

The General Education Committee is moving on to its next phase of program development: the formation of the Integration clusters (a group of thematically-linked courses). We would like these clusters to come as much as possible from faculty, and so we are asking you for initial informal proposals. The deadline for these initial faculty proposals for clusters is May 9, 2011. For more information, please refer to the “Integration Call for Proposals” on the General Education Blackboard site (under “Documents”). Also, please note that all General Education Course Approval Forms are also available in this folder. We look forward to receiving your proposals!

<sup>1</sup> = The first year that Southern New Hampshire University was at this Institute was in 2009 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

<sup>2</sup> = "2011 Institute on General Education and Assessment." *Association of American Colleges and Universities*. N.p., 2011. Web. 31 Mar 2011. <[http://www.aacu.org/meetings/institute\\_gened/index.cfm](http://www.aacu.org/meetings/institute_gened/index.cfm)>.

This month is all about exciting news!

Professor J. Desmond Keefe, the Chair of the Culinary Program in the School of Business and Associate Professor of Culinary Arts, won the Northeast ACF Culinary Educator of the Year award. Professor Keefe will be representing the Northeast at the National Conference in Dallas, TX this coming July.

Furthermore, the Culinary Team took fifth place, winning the bronze medal, in the student team competition. The students were judged on many different levels other than their culinary skills. As a group, they were critiqued on their sanitation, nutrition, and team work. They attended seminars and—of course— they made many meals. The student team was judged on a cold food platter and a four course hot food combination.

The cold platter that was prepared consisted of a variety of tereens, canapés, a pate sucre, and a spinach wrapped quail egg. The first hot dish that was prepared was a lobster broth with bean medley, topped with seared halibut. The second was pickled cucumber, haricot vert salad with goat cheese dressing, and beet gelee topped with a honey-hazelnut-goat cheese mousse. The third was seared chicken and Brussels sprouts with gnocchi a la roman, topped with an espagnole sauce. The final dish was a dessert of fried chiffon cake filled with pastry crème, and an orange Bavarian topped with cranberry curd.

## Senate News—March 16,2011

At President LeBlanc's suggestion, the Senate Executive Committee agreed to dedicate the March Senate meeting to a review of the NEASC Draft report that can be found at mySNHU, under My Working Groups, NEASC folder. He asked the Senate members to consider the following questions:

1. Is this an accurate portrayal of things as we know them here at the university?
2. Are there any significant gaps or errors that need to be addressed in subsequent drafts?

The Senate members' feedback can be found in the Faculty Senate Minutes for March 16, 2011 at the Senate Blackboard site.

The next Senate meeting is April 20, 2011 from 2-3:15 in HOS 202.

## News from the Shapiro Library

Submitted by: Alice Platt

### **New online catalog in the works – what this means for you:**

On May 15, the Shapiro Library will be sporting a brand-new online catalog, brought to you by Innovative Interfaces, Inc. The public catalog is actually just one small part of what is known as an Integrated Library System (ILS). This new system will make it much easier for the library to welcome new patrons and provide quality services.

The current online catalog is brought to you as part of the GMILCS library system, a consortium of several New Hampshire libraries. As a result of implementing the new ILS, the Shapiro Library will no longer be a part of this consortium.

Therefore, students and faculty at SNHU are no longer able to use SNHU ID cards to check out books at GMILCS member libraries as they have in the past. However, SNHU students and individuals who work full time at SNHU or live in Manchester remain eligible for a Manchester City Library card, which does provide access to GMILCS libraries.

### **Request books from anywhere!**

The Library is also featuring an improved request interface with WorldCat, the world's largest network of library content and services. Any SNHU faculty, staff or student may request resources through this online database. To access WorldCat, visit the library webpage at <http://snhu.edu/library> and click on Library Research to find the WorldCat link and access to millions of resources.

## SNHU-VITA

Submitted by: Dennis Shea

The SNHU-VITA tax preparation program closed on April 2, 2011. Thanks to the efforts of the following students, staff and faculty, as well as COCE and the Dean's Office in the School of Business the program continued its growth and service to the community in the State of New Hampshire:

Eric Ahlquist	Nicholas Coulombe	Erinn Morse
Justin Ballew	Paul Drinkwater	Jason Murphy
Irene Bernier	Ashley Faria	Krupa Patel
Dylan Benway	Bradley Frey	Ronaldo Pelchat
Christopher Berger	Rebecca Gamsby	Dorothy Rabuano
Andrea Buzzetta	Michael Gagnon	Andrew St. Gelais
Serge Byamungu	Chanda Greene	Xueying Zhou
Joseph Carpenter	Christina McKeown	

Michael Bixby-Supervisor	Holly Bundy-Supervisor	Eric Chabot-Supervisor
Victor Paul-Supervisor	Samantha Robinson-Supervisor	Catherine Tran-Supervisor

Dawn Sedutto-International Student Services-Supervisor  
Dr. Laurence Pelletier  
Prof. Karin Caruso  
Prof. Louis Lanzillotti  
Prof. Euclid Dupuis  
COCE Academic Advisor Christie Lenda  
Dean SOB-William Gillett  
COCE Academic Officer-Karen Goodman  
Jeanette Guilmette, Gina Costa & Julia Lee-SOB

The SNHU-VITA program is a part of the Manchester Coalition with Heritage United Way and AARP Tax Aide to better assist the community with both their tax returns and financial planning needs. The program helped 446 people this past tax year to meet their tax compliance obligations. There were 201 returns prepared by the students, which included 63 Non-Resident returns. The students also prepared 245, 8843 forms for international students. The SNHU-VITA program had a positive economic effect, as it returned over \$369,000 back into the greater Manchester community, \$340,000 in federal income tax returns and \$29,000 in EITC benefits.

The combined programs will have a celebratory dinner @ 6:00 P.M. on April 27<sup>th</sup> in the Quill restaurant on the SNHU campus.

### **The Monthly Journal of the Vice President for Academic Affairs**

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