

# Plymouth News and Information for the Plymouth State University Community week

Volume 9, Number 22

March 10–16, 2008

## Innovative IT Workers Save University Time, Money

Two members of the Information Technology staff have come up with a software innovation that will help a number of departments on campus save time and effort, while also helping the University save a substantial amount of money.

The problem that information technologists Zach Tirrell and Matt Batchelder tackled involved the area of the University Web site dealing with prospective students. While involved in PSU's admissions process, prospective students often found themselves working with up to three different username and password combinations. This caused confusion and extra work for the applicants, and there was concern that the situation could make the University appear bureaucratic or indifferent.

To resolve this situation, Tirrell and Batchelder started working on a solution that would allow prospective students to create their own accounts on myPlymouth and then use them to access their applicant and financial aid information. Once the students are accepted to the University and have paid their deposits, their myPlymouth accounts become permanent.

"It's not necessarily a stand-alone system, it's really just a further use of existing systems," said Tirrell. He went on to explain

that the University is likely to receive a good return on this investment of time and resources. After all, a smoother application process will help the University continue to attract and keep the interest of good students.

The improved system should also result in less paperwork and e-mail traffic for several departments involved with incoming students, such as the Bursar's Office, the Admission Office, the Office of the Registrar, and the Financial Aid Office. Some of these offices had actually approached the IT department recently about improving the admissions portal, and Tirrell and Batchelder said that a case of ideal timing allowed them to "make it a reality in a very short period of time." Typically, the beginning of the semester is an extremely busy time for the IT department, considering factors like heavier computer traffic, a jump in the number of new user accounts, and people attempting to log in to the network from new computers.

The new solution is also consistent with efforts by the Office of Alumni Relations to give PSU students a lifelong connection to the University and particularly to its Web site. "The eventual goal is, you go to an open house, fill out a card, and we start driving you through myPlymouth," said Tirrell.



Matt Batchelder (left) and Zach Tirrell.

Just as importantly, the new Web page solution offers considerable budgetary savings, at least in the shorter term, because it spares the University from having to purchase a very expensive prospective student Web portal. "We are not certain exactly how much they saved, but a conservative estimate would be in the tens of thousands of dollars if not more," said Information Technology Manager Ken Kochien. Tirrell says that at some point in the future, perhaps in a couple of years, the University may still need to purchase an admissions portal for the Web site. However, for now he calls it a "nice interim solution."

"From the faculty and staff perspective, they have created the initial framework for the (admissions) portal and have significantly streamlined what had been an awkward process," said Kochien.

## Women's History Month Underway on Campus

A variety of events will be happening on campus in the next couple of weeks as PSU continues its celebration of Women's History Month.

The month-long observation started in California in the late 1970s as "Women's History Week," spreading to various states and campuses. In 1987 the U.S. Congress expanded it to Women's History Month. The month is spearheaded by the National Women's History Project, which has proclaimed the 2008 theme to be "Women's Art: Women's Vision."

In keeping with this theme, a number of the events put on during March by S.A.G.E. and other student organizations reflect the contributions women have made to the arts.

"What Women's History Month does on campus is let men and women know that there is a history. Women have been forgotten a lot in history

Women's History Month continued on page 2.

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS  
PRESIDENT SARA JAYNE STEEN  
CORDIALLY INVITES THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY  
TO JOIN HER  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008 AT 3:35 P.M.  
DOORS OPEN AT 3:15 P.M.  
IN THE HANAWAY THEATRE OF  
THE SILVER CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
4:30 P.M. RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

books, and this adds that piece," said Delilah Smith, director of the S.A.G.E. Center.

The month started with several showings of the "Vagina Monologues," followed by a slideshow created by Erin Crenley at the S.A.G.E. Center entitled "Celebrating Women Making History." The next day, "Up-pity Women Heeding the Call" was a panel discussion focusing on three women from history, Olympia Brown, Dorothy Day, and Suzanne Hiatt, who had followed their religious convictions and as a result had helped to bring about social change in the U.S.

There are still plenty of upcoming events for Women's History Month. On March 13 at 7 p.m., the local writing group Women of Words will present fiction and poetry at the Silver Center entitled "Sojourns through Interior Landscapes." There will also be musical performances by local women. Free tickets for the "Sojourns" event are available at 535-ARTS.

Later in the month, *The Abortion Diaries* will be presented on March 25 at 7:30 p.m.

in the HUB Multipurpose Room. This is a film by Planned Parenthood that provides a historical perspective on the abortion debate, followed by what is expected to be a lively open forum discussion. Two days later on March 27, Women's History Month takes a decidedly more old-school approach with "Mystics and Marriage: Medieval Women." This event, scheduled for 6:30–9:30 p.m. in Boyd 144, will start with members of the Medieval Society showing and explaining examples of medieval clothing. There will also be a presentation by Naomi Klein of the Art Department on marriage boxes, followed by a discussion with Julia Chesley and Karolyn Kinane of the Department of English on religious extremism. The evening concludes with a showing of the film *The Anchoress*.

Finally, the month concludes with the presentation of the Theo Kalikow and POWA Awards. This event is on Monday, March 31 at 3:30 p.m. in HUB 109. Both awards honor individuals on campus who have shown outstanding commitment to advancing women's

issues. The Kalikow Award is named in honor of Theodora Kalikow, who served as dean of Plymouth State College and was the interim president from 1992 to 1993. Kalikow is widely credited for boosting the profile of women's issues on campus, along with making many other improvements. She is currently President of the University of Maine at Farmington.

For more information on nominating someone for the Kalikow or POWA Award, consult the item in this week's "News From" section of Plymouth Week from the President's Commission on the Status of Women.

Along with the S.A.G.E. Center, Women's History Month at PSU is sponsored by AWARE, the President's Commission on the Status of Women, the Women's Studies Council, and the Reflection and Spiritual Care Center.

For more information on Women's History Month and the National Women's History Project, visit [nwhp.org](http://nwhp.org).

## Annual Juried Student Art Show Begins

Student artists from a variety of academic disciplines at PSU are receiving the real-life experience of submitting work to be critiqued by professional artists during the annual Juried Student Art Show. The show opened March 6 and continues through April 12 at the Silver Center for the Arts.

"This exhibition is an annual celebration of the vast talent and creativity of the art students of Plymouth State University," said Terry Downs. "Students are encouraged to present three of their best works for public display to share in the discoveries, expressions, and articulations they have achieved. This provides the art-loving public a glimpse of the process of transformation our students experience in achieving artistic maturity."

Professional jurors were selected to judge the student submissions, which include works in a variety of media such as painting, drawing, photography, ceramics, and sculpture.

Jurors for the exhibition are Tucker McGerald '00, a multimedia artist from Nashua, Davida Cook, a printmaker from Meredith, and Mary Ann Geis '77, a ceramist from New Hampton.

The Silver Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

For gallery information, call 535-2614 or log on to [plymouth.edu/gallery](http://plymouth.edu/gallery).



## Campus Hosts UNH Water Chemistry Researcher March 12

An expert on dissolved organic carbon (DOC) in stream water that drains forested watersheds will be the featured speaker at PSU's Environmental Science Colloquium on Wednesday, March 12. The colloquium will be held in room 001 of Boyd Science Center at 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Bill McDowell, a professor of water resources management and director of the NH Water Resources Research Center at UNH, will review almost 30 years of work studying DOC and its importance to healthy waterways and watersheds.

For more information on Bill McDowell, go to: [plymouth.edu/news/fullstory.php?number=6260](http://plymouth.edu/news/fullstory.php?number=6260)

## Meteorology Students Producing Local Weather Reports

*Need to know how much snow is coming in?* Stay ahead of the storm with forecasts produced by PSU Meteorology students. There are more ways than ever to find out what's going on. Whether it's via TV, iPod, telephone or the Web, PSU students will provide you with local weather you can count on. Just visit <http://vortex.plymouth.edu/forecast>.

When weather reports resume at the end of Spring Break on March 24, tune in to Time Warner Cable Channel 20 weeknights at 7, 10, and 11 p.m. for *PM Weather*. This six-minute program provides a unique perspective on the current local and national weather events of the day and provides a five-day forecast for central New Hampshire.

Listen to the forecast on your iPod or MP3 player and have it automatically downloaded to your device. Students produce a 30-second summary of what you need to know for the next 36 hours. Reports are updated by 9 a.m. weekdays.

Call the Weather Phone at 535-2599 to listen to local conditions and today's weather forecast. Reports are updated weekdays by 9 a.m.

Visit the Web site for a forecast pictorial with updates from students and the National Weather Service. Reports are updated daily.

## Theatre Companies to Audition and Interview Students at PSU April 5

College students interested in working in theater as performers, technicians, or as administrators have a new and unique opportunity to gain valuable experience. On April 5, the New Hampshire Professional Theatre Association, in partnership with PSU and the New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources, will hold auditions and interviews for productions taking place this summer and fall.

New Hampshire's theater industry has a strong history going back more than a century, but it has often had to reach outside the state to fill positions on stage and off. The New Hampshire Professional Theatre Association auditions are designed to benefit both the state's theatre companies and its students.

"We're always looking to cultivate local professional talent for our organizations, but until now there's never been a conduit where New Hampshire's professional theaters could get to that local talent pool," said Bob Shea, artistic director of the Barnstormers Theatre.

Auditions for performance positions, including actors, dancers, and singers, and interviews for technicians and administrative roles, including box office, public relations, and marketing, are open to any student enrolled at any New Hampshire college or university.

Representatives from 14 producing theatres, both equity and non-equity, and from four presenting theatres will be on hand to audition and interview for productions to take place in New Hampshire and for national tours.

"Plymouth State University is delighted to host the New Hampshire Professional Theatre Association in our first annual auditions," said Elizabeth Cox, associate professor and director of theatre at PSU. "We look forward to this collaboration and feel it is an exciting adventure for students from across New Hampshire to have the opportunity to not only audition and interview, but also to get to know people from the professional companies in the area."

The auditions are just one project to come out of the Governor's Jobs Cabinet, which focuses on creating and identifying job opportunities statewide.

As a comprehensive regional university, it is core to PSU's mission to facilitate access for students to as many professional opportunities as possible.

"The New Hampshire Professional Theatre Association auditions are a great way for Plymouth State University to serve a special sector of the statewide creative economy," said Steve Barba, executive director of university relations. "We are pleased to be the host site for such an important event that will lead to solid job experiences for students interested in working in theater."

The auditions and interviews will take place at the Silver Center for the Arts on the campus of Plymouth State University on April 5, starting at 9 a.m.

There is no charge to participate in the 2008 New Hampshire Professional Theatre Association auditions, but registration is required. For more information and to register go to: <http://oz.plymouth.edu/~mkizer/NHPTA/>.

## PSU People in the News

The staff of Human Resources would like to welcome the following individuals to Plymouth State University:

**Briana Bradley** (OS): Administrative Assistant III, Office of Undergraduate Studies

**William Melanson** (OS): Public Safety Officer V, University Police

**Michelle Lauriat** (OS): Administrative Assistant II, Pakistani Institute and College of Graduate Studies

**Angela Uhlman** (OS): (Transfer from Financial Aid) Administrative Assistant III, Center for the Environment

The following faculty changes have also been announced:

**Roger Marshall** is the new chair of the Department of Computer Science and Technology.

**Roderick MacLeish** is now a visiting faculty member with the Department of Criminal Justice. He was previously an adjunct faculty member.

**Patrick Bourgeron** is the new director of the Center for the Environment and a professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy.

**Warren Tomkiewicz** is chair of the newly created Department of Environmental Science and Policy.

**David Haight** is the new chair of the Department of Philosophy.

**Marie-Therese Gardner** is acting chair for spring 2008 of the Department of Languages and Linguistics Department.

**Paul Rogalus** is acting chair for spring 2008 of the Department of English.

**Robert Miller** is acting chair for spring 2008 of the Department of Education.

**James Koermer** is acting chair for spring 2008 of the Department of Atmospheric Science and Chemistry (formerly CEAPS).

**Kevin McGuire** and **Mary Ann McGarry** have been reappointed to the Center for the Environment and the Department of Environmental Science and Policy from the department formerly known as CEAPS.

**Mark Turski** has been reappointed to Environmental Science and Policy from CEAPS.

# News

From

## Writing Center

Student staff members of PSU's Writing Center will make a 75-minute roundtable presentation at the annual Northeast Writing Centers Association (NEWCA) conference on April 12 in Burlington, VT. The conference is entitled "CTRL/ALT/DEL" and the PSU session is entitled "Error Connecting with Server: Case Study Analyses of Writers with Autism." Student presenters include Meredith Barrett, Jessica Dube, and Amanda Cook.

## PAT Senate

It's time once again to select the winner of the 2008 Distinguished PAT Award. The award aims to recognize a PAT employee who demonstrates consistent resourcefulness and knowledge of their office; who is involved in various campus-related activities and committees; who demonstrates leadership qualities; and who is active in regional or national professional organizations and shows an ongoing commitment to professional development. People are also welcome to use their own criteria when submitting a nomination, but should provide at least three reasons for their choice. Nomination forms are available at the HUB information booth. Please have all nominations submitted to PAT Speaker-Elect Rodney Ekstrom at MSC 54 by Monday, March 31.

## Operating Staff

All PSU staff, faculty, and students are invited to help select the 2008 recipient of the Distinguished Operating Staff Award. Nomination forms are available at: [plymouth.edu/committee/opstaff/DOSA%202008.pdf](http://plymouth.edu/committee/opstaff/DOSA%202008.pdf). Print out a copy and make your selection, providing three reasons why you feel this person should receive the 2008 Distinguished Operating Staff Award. Be sure to provide your signature and contact information on the form as well. This link also includes criteria the award recipient must meet, a list of all current Operating Staff members, and a list of past recipients, who are not eligible for nomination in 2008. Send all nominations to Shaughn Bolton at MSC 64 by March 31.

## President's Commission on the Status of Women

This is the final week for you to participate in the selection of recipients for the 2008 Theo Kalikow and Powerful Outstanding Women's Advocate (POWA) awards.

Both awards honor those who show great dedication to improving or elevating the status of women through continuous involvement in, and advocacy for, women's issues. Nominees should also demonstrate genuine concern for the advancement of women and should have a record of working collaboratively with various campus and community constituencies.

For the Theo Kalikow Award, submit the name of the PSU employee (male or female) you believe is most deserving of the award, and three reasons for your choice. The person must have served a minimum of three consecutive years at PSU and must not be a current member of the President's Commission on the Status of Women. For the Powerful Outstanding Women's Advocate Award, submit the name of the PSU student (male or female) you believe is most deserving of the award, and three reasons for your choice.

The nomination deadline is Friday, March 14, with an award reception planned on Monday, March 31 at 3:30 p.m. in HUB 109. Mail or e-mail your nominations to Anne Kulig (MSC #47) or [annek@plymouth.edu](mailto:annek@plymouth.edu).

## College of Graduate Studies

New Hampshire Public Radio's Spring Fundraiser begins in Concord on Wednesday, March 26 and ends Saturday, April 5. They need volunteers to help answer their pledge lines. They will provide training as well as breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

If more than two PSU employees volunteer for the same shift, PSU will be formally recognized during NHPR's on-air programming ("free" advertising for the University).

To see what shifts are available, please visit [nhpr.org/node/13768](http://nhpr.org/node/13768).

## Office of Public Relations

Do you have an event in April that is open to the public? If so, please log on to [plymouth.edu/news/working/work\\_request.html](http://plymouth.edu/news/working/work_request.html) and complete the work request form so your information can be publicized. Completion of the form provides information for the online calendar, myPlymouth, *Plymouth Week*, and for news releases to the media. Submit a form by March 17 to have your event listed in the next PSU tip sheet calendar of events, which is sent to media statewide.

## Keeping You, Me, and Memories Alive

The deadline for nominations for Joan Merrill and Michelle Morse Book Awards has been extended to Thursday, March 13. These awards benefit PSU students who are fighting cancer, or who have a close relative who has been diagnosed. The awards are in the form of \$400 gift certificates to help these students purchase textbooks and/or supplies for the fall 2008 semester. The awards are distributed by the group Keeping You, Memories Alive. Funding comes from last fall's eighth annual Walk to Fight Cancer.

To learn more about Keeping You, Me, and Memories Alive, visit [memoriesalive.org](http://memoriesalive.org). Nominations with the student's name and contact information can be e-mailed to [info@memoriesalive.org](mailto:info@memoriesalive.org), or the group can be reached by phone at 707-1466. Deadline for nominations is March 7. For more information, contact Diane Tiffany at 535-2592.

## Plymouth Week

is published by  
the Office of Public Relations  
MSC 24, Plymouth State University,  
Plymouth, NH 03264.

[plymouth.edu/news](http://plymouth.edu/news)

Editor: Bill Laforme

Designer: Daphne Bruemmer

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