

Plymouthweek

News and Information for the Plymouth State University Community

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PSU recently welcomed a group of Russians who were touring Northern New England to learn more about ecotourism development and environmental protection. From left to right: Dennis Marrotte, Professor Mary Ann McGarry, Ivan Tabanin, Elena Kuznetsova, President Sara Jayne Steen, Alexander Shayev, Solovki Vice Mayor Natalia Yakovleva, and Yuri Surikov.

PSU Campus Welcomes Russian Delegation

Plymouth State University hosted a delegation of Russian visitors from the Solovetsky Islands on Wednesday, December 12, as part of their week-long visit to northern New England that focused on ecotourism development and environmental protection.

The group received a campus tour that included a stop in the Boyd Science Center to learn about PSU's meteorology program, and lunch at Heritage Commons with a variety of faculty, administrators and university officials, including President Sara Jayne Steen. Afterward, they visited the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness before heading to Portsmouth and back to Maine, where the group spent most of their visit. Some of their stops in Maine included the Portland Press Herald, Chebeague Island,

and the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow home in Portland.

Mary Ann McGarry, a professor of science education at PSU's Center for the Environment, explained that the group had come to America to learn more about promoting eco-tourism and sustainability in their region, a rural area in northern Russia near the city of Archangel and the White Sea.

McGarry helped facilitate the visit to PSU thanks to her involvement with the Lakeside Summer Academy in Maine, which sponsors a weeklong program for high school teachers that had hosted a couple of Russian visitors. Portland, Maine is also the sister city to Archangel, and Dennis Marrotte, the vice co-chair of the Sister Cities Exchange program in Portland, was traveling with the

visitors to help with translation and to show them around.

"I didn't have a preconceived path where this would lead, but now I see many different avenues," said McGarry, adding that the diverse backgrounds of the Russian visitors could result in a wide variety of exchange, communication and collaboration opportunities for PSU in the coming years. "It's going to open a lot of doors I think," added McGarry, expressing hope that in the future, PSU students and faculty from many different disciplines could end up furthering their academic pursuits in that part of Russia.

The tourism industry is relatively new to the Solovetsky Islands, having only really started about ten years ago with the estab-

Russian Delegation continued on page 2.

Gingerbread Fundraiser

This year's Gingerbread House Contest to benefit Alternative Spring Break activities raised \$256.98, with seven departments offering their creations this year. The winning entry was a gazebo scene submitted by the Department of Social Science.

According to Fawn Ouellette, the Alternative Spring Break advisor, this year's entries were "not quite as massive" as they were last year, but were perhaps more creative. Among this year's other entries were a desert island created by the College of Graduate Studies, as well as a creation from the Child Development Center and some kindergarten children that included broccoli bushes. There was also a display of the Sears Tower and a New Orleans French Quarter row house from the Office of Public Relations, reflecting the two destinations Alternative Spring Break projects will be taking place in 2008—Slidell, Louisiana and Chicago, Illinois.

"Thanks again to everyone who either voted for entered the contest," said Ouellette.



Adventure-Based Programs Coordinator **Angel Ekstrom** (HUB/Venture Center) ended a three-year term (2004–2007) as an Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education (AORE) BOD member and treasurer (2005–2007) at the end of the AORE national conference on November 3, 2007. She delivered two presentations at the AORE conference. One was “Climate Change in the Northeast: Effects on Outdoor Programs,” while the other, delivered with PSU student Chelsi Coulombe, was entitled “Pollutions Solutions: An Experiential Water Quality Lesson.” She took four PSU students to the AORE conference, two of whom received scholarships from the Venture Center, while the other two received scholarships from the AORE. Ekstrom also defended her dissertation proposal on October 30, 2007.

Chris Chabot (Biological Sciences), and students Casey Doyle, Andy Moore, Conor O’Donnell, Jeff Yelle, and W.H. Watson (UNH) presented a paper entitled “The relevance of environmental cues to the temporal partitioning of behavior in the American horseshoe crab, *Limulus polyphemus*” at the International Symposium on the Science and Conservation of Horseshoe Crabs, Oakdale, Long Island, NY, June, 2007. Chabot and O’Donnell, along with Win Watson and Sue Schaller (UNH) also presented a paper entitled “The relationship between small- and large-scale movements of horseshoe crabs in the Great Bay estuary and *Limulus* behavior in the laboratory.” A chapter in a forthcoming book on horseshoe crabs will be based on the latter presentation.

Elizabeth Ahl (English) has been awarded a fellowship by the Jentel Artist Residency Program. Jentel is located in a rural setting on a working cattle ranch in the Lower Piney Creek Valley approximately 20 miles southeast of Sheridan, Wyoming.

During the four-week residency, Jentel provides space where artists and writers may focus on creating. Each artist and writer is offered a private comfortably furnished accommodation and a light, airy workspace. Each resident receives a stipend to help defray living expenses during the program.

Russian Delegation continued from page 1.

lishment of a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the area in 1992, although the Soviets had established a natural and historic reserve there in 1974. Yuri Surikov, the education director of the Solovki Museum, explained to the lunchtime gathering through an interpreter, Andrei Strukov, that the archipelago is home to the most famous Russian Orthodox monastery in the world, the Solovetsky Monastery, which dates back to the 16th Century and is considered the symbol of Russian Orthodoxy. It was restored as a working monastery after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Another highlight of the area is a set of ancient labyrinths that date back thousands of years.

Surikov went on to explain that his region is home to a unique northern ecosystem unlike any other in the world and that the archipelago had a darker historical chapter as one of the earliest sites in Stalin’s gulag system, which eventually spread throughout other remote sites in the former Soviet Union. He also said that despite the remote location of the Solovetsky Islands, they have often been at the forefront of important developments in

Russian history. Along with the area’s distinction as an early gulag location, he noted that soon after an initial restoration project at the Solovetsky Monastery, democracy began to flourish throughout Russia. McGarry noted that the recently established Kenozersky National Park is home to about 200 lakes and four species of loons. The Solovetsky Archipelago has about 100 islands, but less than a dozen of them are actually habitable, with a year-round population of only about 900.

Along with Surikov, the Russian delegation included Natalia Yakovleva, the vice mayor of Solovki, which is another name for the archipelago; the director of the Malye Kareli Museum, Alexander Shayev; a business media professional, Elena Kuznetsova; translator Andrei Strukov, and the group’s facilitator, who also assisted with translation, Ivan Tabanin.

The visit was sponsored by the Open World Program at the U.S. Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Residents may choose privacy during the program or participate in Jentel Presents, a community outreach program that features slide presentations and readings by visual artists and writers at the residency.

Anita N. Lee (Health and Human Performance) served as a volunteer trainer for the Coaches College of Special Olympics New Hampshire on December 9, 2007, to train aquatic coaches to serve athletes with special needs in New Hampshire.

Rachel Roy (Physical Plant) spent a weekend painting a room in the home of Catherine Amidon as one of the prizes in the recent OS fundraising raffle. Amidon, the director of the Karl Drerup Art Gallery, sees Roy’s gesture as a new high water mark by a PSU staff member. “Rachel gave of herself for student scholarships. If you see her, please thank her for outstanding commitment to our students,” wrote Amidon, “Her generosity taught me to think more creatively about giving to the scholarship fundraisers.”

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Hunger Banquet Raises Funds For Pemi Bridge House

The Hunger Banquet held December 5 on the PSU campus raised about \$160 for the Pemi Bridge House in Plymouth. According to Christopher DiVeglio, a community advisor in the university apartments who helped organize the event, about 40 people participated in the banquet, which was held in the HUB Multipurpose Room. "It was a nice mixed crowd," said DiVeglio.

The way the event worked was for a small percentage of Hunger Banquet participants who paid a five dollar minimum donation to receive a full meal, while many others would simply receive some rice, in keeping with the effort to call attention to world hunger issues. Scott Meyer from the Social Work Department was the guest speaker, focusing on sustainability in New Hampshire, while DiVeglio and student Casey Wishart also spoke, sharing statistics and some of the situations currently facing third world countries. The event is held every two years at PSU.

EAP

Employee Assistance Program

1-800-424-1749

Early Childhood Students Hold Annual Showcase

Gerry Buteau's seniors held their annual Early Childhood Showcase on December 6, presenting projects on a variety of topics ranging from music to children's literature to Bratz dolls.

"It really is a capstone experience for the students," said Buteau, explaining that most of his students will go on to work with children anywhere from infancy through third grade upon graduation. At the showcase, small groups of students work together throughout the semester to prepare half hour presentations on topics of their choice related to early childhood issues. The showcase has been held at PSU for five years.

Senior Brittany Kingery was among the students participating, and she confirmed that the event is one of the academic highlights awaiting PSU's early childhood students. "We come in as freshmen and we see the seniors doing it and we know we're going to be doing it in four years," said Kingery. Kingery and fellow student Elizabeth Card did their presentation on music in primary grade classrooms.

This year's other topics were: "Are Education Videos Really Educational?" by Loryn DeStefano, Brianna McGregor, and Kyle McKay; "The Impact of Bratz on Young Children," by Samantha Chaffee, Ashley Hale, and Audrey Norris; "Energizing Your Primary Grade Classroom," by Megan Lyman and Katie Taft; "Dramatizing Children's Literature," by Jennifer Chiocca, Carrie Daniels and Stacy Rahaim; "Effective Transitions in the Primary Grade Classroom," by Lauren Baron, Terra Clifford and Trisha Marceau; "Celebrating Diversity Through Children's Literature," by Mallory Lefebvre and Ashley Myers; and "Promoting Gender Equity in Early Care and Education," by Jess Card and Shannon McCurry.



Above: (From left to right) Seniors Brianna McGregor, Loryn Destefano and Kyle McKay prepare their presentation "Are Education Videos Really Educational?"

Right: Professor Gerry Buteau presided over the annual Early Childhood Showcase on Thursday, December 6 in Rounds Hall.



News

From

College of Graduate Studies

The College of Graduate Studies team invites all to attend their annual holiday celebration on Friday, December 21, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. A wide variety of delicacies will be offered.

In addition to gourmet offerings, the College of Graduate Studies will also be holding a holiday cookie walk. Staff members will prepare their favorite holiday cookies and guests may purchase tickets to vote for their top cookie choice.

The holiday season can often take a toll on area food banks as they struggle to help provide food to local families in need. The College of Graduate Studies will be collecting food from now through December 21. Please bring along a non-perishable food item to share. Please RSVP to Christy Gleeson at 535-2636 or clgleeson@plymouth.edu by Monday, December 19. Your friends at the College of Graduate Studies wish you a happy and safe holiday season!

College of Graduate Studies (continued)

Elizabeth B. Hall will be defending her master's thesis on Tuesday, December 18, at 10 a.m. in Rounds 212. The topic is "Canterbury Shaker Village: Medicines as Seen through Archaeological Artifacts."

Campus Dining Services

Finals week will be starting shortly and Sodexo is planning to host a special Breakfast for the students on Monday, December 17, prepared and served by the University's administration, staff and faculty. If you are interested in volunteering the morning of the 17th from 7 to 9:30 a.m., please respond to General Manager of Dining Services Chris Mongeon at cmongeon@plymouth.edu or 535-2719.

The Silver Center for the Arts

The 125-voice Pemi Choral Society will be presenting a holiday concert on Sunday, December 16 at 3 p.m. in the Hanaway Theatre. Entitled "Praise and Adoration," the 90-minute program will include holiday selections as well as choral music from the

Renaissance, Baroque, and contemporary periods. Featured guest artist is PSU senior percussionist David Saunders. Robert Swift is the conductor; Margot W. Swift is piano accompanist. Admission is by donation at the door, although a ticket is required.

The concert will also be presented Thursday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lakes Church in Lakeport and on Friday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Franklin.

Human Resources

Looking ahead to the holiday break, exempt staff (PAT) will be paid as scheduled on Friday, December 14, and again on the following Friday, December 21. **The full two-week pay that would normally be received on December 28 is being issued one week early on December 21 due to the holiday closing.** This date pertains to both checks and direct deposits.

A normal pay schedule will resume in January with the first payday of 2008 falling on January 11.

Holiday, Winterim Hours On Campus

The University will be closed to the public from Saturday, December 22 until January 2, 2008.

The Lamson Library will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, December 21 and will reopen on Wednesday, January 2.

The Hartman Union Building (HUB) will also be closing at 4:30 p.m. on December 21 until January 2.

DURING WINTERIM, JANUARY 2–25:

HUB hours: 6:30 a.m.–9 p.m., Mon – Thurs, 6:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Fri, and 9 a.m.–5 p.m. on Sat – Sun

HUB Snack Bar: 7:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Mon – Fri

HUB Fitness Room: noon–7 p.m., Mon – Thurs, and noon–4:30 p.m., Fri – Sun



Faculty Author Celebration

From left to right, Annette Holba, Kylo-Patrick Hart (both Communication and Media Studies) and Angelo Arcchi (Business) were among the faculty authors whose books were highlighted at a celebration at the campus bookstore on December 13.

PAT Fundraising Results

The PAT Fundraising and Benevolent Committee (Deb Tobine, Gail Stone, Alice O'Connor and Gail Carr) would like to thank all who contributed to their successful raffle. They were able to give all the proceeds (\$721) of this year's raffle to the PAT scholarship fund. Below is a list of the winners with their prizes. Organizers appreciate all those who donated something as well as the area businesses who donated items. If you see any of the folks who donated items please thank them for their kindness.

2007 PAT RAFFLE WINNERS

Rik Pfenninger's Christmas Jazz CD – Nancy Betchart
Drerup Art Books – Carol Kuzdeba, Joann Guilmett, Khuan Chong, Sandy Marrotte, Brackley Shaw and Lynn Cuda
Two tickets for *Catch 22* – Chuck Doyle
Robert Frost framed print (donated by Don O'Connor) – Gail Stone
One quart maple syrup – Barb Fahey
Mary Lyon medallions – Barb Fahey, Edna Coffin, Janette Wiggett, Charles Brown
Two tickets for *Joseph Kaiser* – Barb Boschmans
Honey basket made by MaryEllen Godville – Danielle Dustin
Pottery casserole made by Provost Julie Bernier – Jeff Furlone
Joe Monninger book, *Baby* – Betsy Ayotte
Silver Center for the Arts gift set – Gale Beckwith
Rand's Hardware gift certificate – Provost Julie Bernier
Two Waterville Valley lift tickets – Jane Barry
\$15 PSU bookstore gift card – Joann Guilmett
Two tickets for *Soul of the Bayou* – Bob Hlasny
One framed etching from Terry Downs – Marlene Stuart
Gift set from PSU bookstore – Tom Weeks
Robert Frost ornament – Terri Johnson
Mark Okrant book, *I Knew You When* – Jane Barry
Meal passes from Sodexo – Betsy Cheney, Provost Julie Bernier and Amy Morrill
Hand knit scarf and hat from Susan Jarosz – Joann Guilmett
Two tickets for *Alex de Grassi* - Cristy Boucher
Gift certificate for Mandarin Taste (\$20) – Janet Capaul
One week parking in President's space – Jeff Furlone
One week parking in Provost's space – Barbara Fahey
One week parking in VP Financial Affairs' space – Mary Ellen Godville
One week parking in University Relations' space – Jane Weber
Gift certificate for Common Man (\$50, donated by Peter Cofran) – Janette Wiggett
Handmade string bag – Pat Hage
ETC tickets to *Pollyanna* – Betsy Ayotte and Edna Coffin

2008 Homecoming Informational Meeting December 20

It's time to plan for Homecoming and Family Celebration 2008, September 29 through October 5. The vision for Homecoming and Family Celebration is to showcase student, faculty, staff, and alumni success. Individuals or departments are invited to attend an informational meeting on Thursday, December 20 at 9 a.m. in the HUB Student Senate room. Several academic and student affairs departments have participated in the past. Some examples of participation:

Teacher Education Scholarship Ceremony
(Education Dept)

SEEK Symposium
(College of Graduate Studies)

The Parent-Student Relationship: A Time
of Conflict, Growth & and Transition
(Counseling and Human Relations Center)

Experience PSU's Challenge Course
(HHP/Adventure Education Dept)

Other ideas for participation:

Presentation of research

Project display

Scholarly dialogue involving faculty/
students/alums

Student-parent-alumni event for majors
and graduates

Visit www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=dzj36cTuRQgi3qNGYEh_2bg_3d_3d for the event planning sheet. Please complete the form so that organizers can incorporate your event into the schedule. If you've participated in the past, you can just complete the form or you can wait until you learn more at the informational meeting on December 20.

Upon completion, the Student Activities Office student intern Alyssa Hanchett will be in contact to confirm the event or to ask any clarifying questions. Hanchett will also follow up with departments that express an interest in participating to make sure all events are included.

If it's happening at PSU then it's happening at [ThisWeek@PSU](http://www.psu.edu/thisweek).