

Monthly Report to the Faculty
Provost Julie Bernier
March 2011

Because I sent out my February report on a snow day, I will repeat some of the important messages from that report here. My apologies to those of you that have already read these.

Comparators

President Steen, in her report last month shared with you that we have revised the list of comparators. This summer and fall we reviewed the comparator list and removed those that no longer made sense in terms of size, type of institution, location, Carnegie classification or other variables. A number of institutions on our previous list remain as they are still strong comparators. Some have been removed and others added. Below is a report on the process and final outcome.

Comparator Institution Cohort Selection Methodology

To arrive at a list of comparators, Plymouth State gathered data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Initial comparator institution selections were based on the following criteria:

- Public
- Regional comprehensive
- Carnegie Classification
- Total student full time equivalent approximately 5,000 – 12,000
- A portion of the cohort is part of a system
- Similar climate

A data mining Cluster Analysis was used to examine relationships between 85 IPEDS variables and reduced the initial comparator list to a pool of 28. Institutional variables were organized into meaningful structures and a taxonomy developed to determine which institutions would be included in PSU’s comparator list. Further analysis of the pool included graduate student enrollment, undergraduate retention and graduation rates, total price, ratio of students to full time faculty, highest degrees offered, degree of urbanization, and athletic league membership to produce the final list of comparators.

General Descriptors- the following information is from IPEDS 2008 and from the NCAA.

Institution (in alphabetical order)	Location	Sector	Highest Degree offered	Degree of urbanization	Carnegie Classification	Athletic membership
Bridgewater State University	MA	Public	Post Master	Suburb: Large	Masters-L	NCAA Div III
Frostburg State University	MD	Public	Masters	Town: Remote	Masters-L	NCAA Div III
Millersville University of Pennsylvania	PA	Public	Post Master	Suburb: Large	Masters-L	NCAA Div II
Plymouth State University	NH	Public	Doc	Town: Remote	Masters-L	NCAA Div III
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	PA	Public	Post Master	Town: Distant	Masters-L	NCAA Div II
SUNY College at New Paltz	NY	Public	Post Master	Town: Fringe	Masters-L	NCAA Div III
SUNY College at Plattsburgh	NY	Public	Post Master	Town: Distant	Masters-L	NCAA Div III
The College of New Jersey	NJ	Public	Post Master	City: Small	Masters-L	NCAA Div III
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth	MA	Public	Doc	Suburb: Midsize	Masters-L	NCAA Div III
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	WI	Public	Doc	Town: Distant	Masters-M	NCAA Div III
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater	WI	Public	Masters	Town: Distant	Masters-L	NCAA Div III
Western Connecticut State University	CT	Public	Doc	City: Small	Masters-L	NCAA Div III
Westfield State University	MA	Public	Post Master	Suburb: Large	Masters-M	NCAA Div III

Throughout the process, there was a desire to include institutions within PSU’s list recognized as being “best” regional comprehensives selected because of the components of distinctiveness or practices for which PSU displays or aspires. To accomplish this, PSU utilized the following criteria:

- All institutions realize the benefits to students of a smaller institution with reasonable student to faculty ratio.
- Each demonstrated governance, administrative structures, mission statements, and academic goals appropriate to a regional comprehensive institution.
- Each demonstrated commitment to teaching, research, scholarship, academic inquiry and service to the community.

The final group of 12 comparators listed alphabetically above, includes both peer and aspirational institutions.

Headcount and annual FTE data are from IPEDS 2009.

Annual Headcount		Total FTE	
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater	12,825	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater	10,080
Bridgewater State University	12,588	Bridgewater State University	8,730
Millersville University of Pennsylvania	11,272	University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth	8,726
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	10,709	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	8,446
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth	10,582	Millersville University of Pennsylvania	7,907
SUNY College at New Paltz	9,728	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	7,283
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	9,222	SUNY College at New Paltz	7,250
The College of New Jersey	7,999	The College of New Jersey	6,772
Western Connecticut State University	7,669	SUNY College at Plattsburgh	6,195
Plymouth State University	7,477	Western Connecticut State University	5,355
SUNY College at Plattsburgh	7,462	Plymouth State University	5,166
Westfield State University	6,557	Westfield State University	5,044
Frostburg State University	5,893	Frostburg State University	4,750

Graduate credit hours generated data are from IPEDS 2009.

Graduate credits as a percent of total credits earned	%
Plymouth State University	13%
SUNY College at New Paltz	12%
Millersville University of Pennsylvania	10%
Bridgewater State University	10%
Shippensburg Univ of Pennsylvania	8%
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater	7%
Frostburg State University	7%
SUNY College at Plattsburgh	7%
Univ Massachusetts-Dartmouth	6%
Western Connecticut State University	6%
The College of New Jersey	6%
Westfield State University	6%
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	3%

Graduation and Retention Rate- Graduation rate (6-yr) and full-time, first-time retention data are from IPEDS 2008

Graduation Rate	%
The College of New Jersey	85
SUNY College at New Paltz	71
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	64
Millersville University of Pennsylvania	62
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	59
Westfield State University	59
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater	56
SUNY College at Plattsburgh	54
Plymouth State University	52
Bridgewater State University	51
Frostburg State University	48
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth	46
Western Connecticut State University	40
Median	56

Retention Rate	%
The College of New Jersey	95
SUNY College at New Paltz	84
Millersville University of Pennsylvania	81
Bridgewater State University	80
SUNY College at Plattsburgh	79
Plymouth State University	78
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater	76
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	75
Westfield State University	75
Frostburg State University	74
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth	74
Western Connecticut State University	74
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	72
Median	76

Academic Affairs Organization

Bridgewater State University	4	College of Humanities and Social Science, Science and Mathematics, Education and Allied Studies, Business, Graduate Studies
Frostburg State University	3	College of Business, Education, Liberal Arts & Sciences
Westfield State University	0	
Millersville University of Pennsylvania	4	School of Education, School of Humanities & Social Science, School of Science & Mathematics, Graduate School
Plymouth State University	3	Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Health and Human Services, Graduate Studies
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	3	College of Arts & Sciences, Business, Ed & Human Services
SUNY College at New Paltz	5	College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, School of Business, School of Education, School of Fine & Performing Arts, School of Science & Engineering
SUNY College at Plattsburgh	3	College of Arts & Science, Business & Econ, EHHS
The College of New Jersey	8	School of Arts & Communication, School of Business, School of Culture & Society, School of Education, School of Engineering, School of Nursing, Health & Exercise Science, School of Science
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth	8	College of Arts and Sciences, Charlton College of Business, College of Engineering, College of Nursing, School of Law, School for Marine Science and Technology, School of Education, Public Policy and Civic Engagement
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	4	College of Fine Arts & Communication, Professional Studies, Natural Resources, Letters & Science, Graduate Studies
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater	4	College of Arts & Communication, Business & Economics, Education, Letters & Sciences, Graduate Studies
Western Connecticut State University	4	School of Business, School of Arts & Sciences, School of Professional Studies, School of Visual & Performing Arts

During the process, it was observed that PSU has several components that place it among the best regional comprehensives in the country. Most notably:

- Externally evaluated as an excellent place to work and live for both students and employees.
- Incorporating sustainability/green initiatives into the substrate of all aspects of the campus and campus life.
- A commitment to service and outreach.

	Best Colleges to Work For	President's Climate Commitment	President's Service Honor Roll (2010)	Carnegie Classification Engaged Institution
Plymouth State University	X	X	X	X
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth		X	X	X
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	X			
SUNY College at Plattsburgh	X			
Bridgewater State University		X		
Frostburg State University		X		
SUNY College at New Paltz		X		
The College of New Jersey		X		
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point		X		
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater		X		
Western Connecticut State University		X		
Westfield State University		X		
Millersville University of Pennsylvania				

Salary- here we provide for comparison purposes, information regarding the old comparator list and the new list. You'll note that the new list puts PSU faculty salaries further behind. More information will be forthcoming from the faculty Welfare committee regarding salary.

Old Comparators

Faculty Salaries		2009-10 Professors	2009-10 Assoc Prof	2009-10 Asst. Prof
167987	University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth	\$107,803	\$83,056	\$70,491
214041	Millersville University of Pennsylvania	\$100,476	\$80,226	\$61,685
216010	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	\$99,756	\$79,254	\$62,808
130776	Western Connecticut State University	\$95,444	\$75,188	\$62,335
110486	California State University-Bakersfield	\$95,291	\$73,441	\$66,782
129215	Eastern Connecticut State University	\$91,444	\$70,920	\$57,325
196167	SUNY at Geneseo	\$86,435	\$69,753	\$57,659
196158	SUNY at Fredonia	\$86,388	\$64,650	\$56,098
183062	Keene State College	\$86,146	\$72,355	\$58,078
162584	Frostburg State University	\$84,643	\$68,540	\$60,078
183080	Plymouth State University	\$83,831	\$67,561	\$57,868
165024	Bridgewater State University	\$80,629	\$66,023	\$58,082
168263	Westfield State University	\$79,266	\$65,104	\$53,615
181215	University of Nebraska at Kearney	\$78,561	\$63,403	\$53,325
240329	University of Wisconsin-La Crosse	\$77,317	\$59,304	\$55,707
218964	Winthrop University	\$77,309	\$66,189	\$55,013
232566	Longwood University	\$74,310	\$63,104	\$52,504
161226	University of Maine at Farmington	\$72,859	\$55,811	\$48,022

		Professors	Assoc Prof	Asst. Prof
Old Comparators AVG.		\$86,710	\$69,195	\$58,212
183080	Plymouth State University	\$83,831	\$67,561	\$57,868
		-3.4%	-2.4%	-0.6%

New Comparators

Faculty Salaries		2009-10 Professors	2009-10 Assoc Prof	2009-10 Asst. Prof
187134	The College of New Jersey	\$109,510	\$87,600	\$72,007
167987	University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth	\$107,803	\$83,056	\$70,491
214041	Millersville University of Pennsylvania	\$100,476	\$80,226	\$61,685
216010	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	\$99,756	\$79,254	\$62,808
130776	Western Connecticut State University	\$95,444	\$75,188	\$62,335
196176	SUNY College at New Paltz	\$93,019	\$72,650	\$55,409
196246	SUNY College at Plattsburgh	\$85,009	\$67,679	\$56,242
162584	Frostburg State University	\$84,643	\$68,540	\$60,078
183080	Plymouth State University	\$83,831	\$67,561	\$57,868
165024	Bridgewater State University	\$80,629	\$66,023	\$58,082
168263	Westfield State University	\$79,266	\$65,104	\$53,615
240189	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater	\$74,468	\$63,688	\$58,155
240480	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	\$69,431	\$57,654	\$52,142

		Professors	Assoc. Prof	Asst. Prof
New Comparators AVG.		\$89,955	\$72,222	\$60,254
183080	Plymouth State University	\$83,831	\$67,561	\$57,868
		-7.3%	-6.9%	-4.1%

Update on Academic Affairs reorganization

At the end of the semester, I was pleased to announce the names of the Founding Deans of our two newest colleges. I'd like to offer thanks to the search committees for their work during a very busy time of the semester and also to all of you for your participation in the search process. Dr. Gail Mears has been named Dean of the College of Education, Health, and Human Services, and Dr. Cynthia Vascak, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. This semester will be a transition period for both Deans as they continue to serve in their current roles and begin to prepare to take the leadership position on July 1st.

The Council of Chairs will pilot a **new meeting schedule** this Spring. The "**University Council of Chairs**" (i.e. all Chairs) will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. On the 4th Wednesday of each month, the "**College Council of Chairs**" (Chairs within each College) will meet with their respective Dean. In case you missed the announcements, I've attached for you at the end of this report, the press releases on the Dean appointments.

Open House

The recruitment season is upon us and your participation is vital to the success of our admission process. Over the next couple of months you will hear from Admissions staff asking for your participation in our Admitted Student Open Houses. Please consider opening your classroom for observation and participating in other ways as requested. The Open Houses will take place on: Mondays, February 21, March 14, April 11, and, April 18. Thank you in advance for your participation in this very important admissions activity. We know that the time the prospective student spends on our campus is among the most important activity in the decision-making process.

Faculty Calling Program

On Monday, February 7th at 5:00 pm there will be a kick-off/training and dinner provided for all new faculty callers and any faculty caller that wants to have a refresher (or just wants to socialize and have dinner with your colleagues). All faculty participating in the program are invited to hear Bob Nadeau (CoBA) and the Admissions staff discuss best practices for making phone calls to our admitted students. There will be a second session on Thursday, February 10th at 9:30.

Those of you that participated last year may have advice and/or insights to share with new callers. So, please feel free to attend either of these training sessions. The location for both events is Frost Commons.

The target weeks for calling are:

February 14-16

March 7-9

April 4-6

NEWS FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Atmospheric Sciences and Chemistry

- **Dennis Machnik** presented programs at Matunuck Elementary School in Wakefield RI, and at Stone Hill Elementary and Barrows Elementary, both in Cranston RI. In 3 days he did a total of 17 programs to a total of 750 children. His visit to the Matunuck School was nicely covered on the front page of the *Narragansett Times* newspaper.
- **Jim Koermer** has been appointed by the American Meteorological Society to be the next chair of the AMS Surface Transportation Committee. Jim will work with the current chair during the remainder of this year and take over the chairmanship next January at the next Annual AMS Meeting in New Orleans. Jim has been a member of the committee for the past two years.
- **Jim Koermer** presented a paper, "NASA Space Grant Successes with Meteorology Students at Plymouth State University," at the recent 20th Conference on Education at the American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting, which was held in Seattle. Jim and his co-author, William Roeder, from the 45th Weather Squadron in Florida, highlighted the successful use of Space Grant-funding to keep undergraduate and graduate students in the program and have them earn degrees through small scholarships, partial fellowships and summer research opportunities. The main focus of the research over the past 6 years has been on strong winds associated with thunderstorms in the Cape Canaveral area. Work done by PSU students is being used by the Air Force for forecaster training and for making operational decisions. Several new automated forecasting techniques, developed recently by students **Jared Rennie** and **Mitch McCue** as part of their thesis research, are scheduled to be phased into operations over the next year.
- **Lourdes Avilés** chaired a session on University Initiatives as part of the 20th Symposium on Education during the 91st Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Seattle, WA. She is also part of the planning committee for the 21st Symposium on Education which will be held next year in New Orleans, LA.

Biological Sciences

- **Len Reitsma** co-authored two papers in the January 2011 issue of *The Auk* with two collaborators. Dr. Joseph Smith worked on this project for his doctoral thesis at George Mason University and Dr. Peter Marra from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (National Zoological Park) was his advisor. Reitsma helped organize the field seasons, secure funding, and write the papers. The two papers are: 1) The influence of moisture and food supply on the movement dynamics of a non-breeding migratory bird (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) in a seasonal landscape, and 2) Multiple space use strategies and their divergent consequences in a non-breeding migratory bird (*Parkesia noveboracensis*).

Center for Rural Partnerships

- The Center for Rural Partnerships has been selected to host the higher education working group at the Summit for the Northern Forest in May. **Thaddeus Gulbrandsen** will chair the meeting of higher education representatives from across New York, Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. If you would like to be involved in the meeting, please contact Thad.
- The Center for Rural Partnerships, working in collaboration with the Museum of the White Mountains and several off-campus partners, launched a **new web page** (weeklegacy.org) devoted to the history of the Weeks Act. The page is hosted by New Hampshire Public Television.
- **Ben Amsden** had two articles published. The first, entitled "Agrileisure: Re-imagining the relationship between agriculture, leisure, and social change" (co-authored with Jesse McEntee of Cardiff University) appears in the recent edition of the journal *Leisure/Loisir: The Journal of the Canadian Association of Leisure Studies*. The second, entitled "Tools for managing risk in farm and forest tourism" (co-authored with Lisa Chase of UVM Extension) appears in this month's *Tree Farmer* magazine.
- **Ben Amsden** facilitated a workshop on food safety and agritourism at the New Hampshire Farm and Forest Expo in Manchester. This workshop is part of a grant-funded program of education for

agritourism producers which partners Plymouth State and UVM Extension with a host of farmers and risk management experts throughout Vermont, New Hampshire, and the Northeast. Ben also was co-author of a research presentation (with Linda Kruger of the U.S. Forest Service and Rich Stedman of Cornell University) entitled "Volunteering and sense of place" that was presented at the Healthy Parks, Healthy People International Congress in Melbourne, Australia.

- **Fran Belcher** has been named to the Oversight Committee for the Rural Health Workforce Development Training Program, convened by the North Country Health Consortium. The Rural Health Workforce project is one of just 20 projects funded nationally by the U.S. Office of Rural Health Policy of the Health Resources and Services Administration. This collaborative effort between academic institutions, clinical health care providers and community-based organizations will develop an integrated plan to recruit and train health professions students, create community service opportunities and coordinate clinical preceptorships in Northern Grafton and Coös Counties. Plymouth State University is joined in this effort by Franklin Pierce Physician Assistant Program, Dartmouth Medical School and White Mountains Community College.
- **Thaddeus Guldbrandsen** was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Sterling College in Craftsbury Commons, Vermont. He will serve on subcommittees for Academics and Student Life. Sterling college is a small, progressive college in Northern Vermont. It is one of seven work-learning-service colleges in the United States. The college has a strong emphasis in sustainability, local food, and rural life.
- **Thaddeus Guldbrandsen, Linda Upham-Bornstein, Kelly Rice** (student assistant), **Nicole DeGrandpre** (student assistant), and **Lindsay Burke** (Museum of the White Mountains) hosted a multi-faceted exhibition on the Weeks Act and the history of New Hampshire Forests at the annual New Hampshire Farm and Forest Expo.

College of Graduate Studies

- Bring your lunch and join the College of Graduate Studies at their last two brown bag luncheons of the academic year. On Tuesday, March 8, Associate Professor of Education **Marcel Lebrun** will discuss, "Children in Crisis: Violence, Victims and Victories," from noon to 1 p.m. in HUB 109. On Tuesday, April 12, the featured speaker will be **Mark Okrant**, PSU professor of geography and tourism development and director of the Institute of New Hampshire Studies. The April brown bag will be held at noon in Frost Commons.
 - Join the CoGS at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, for the film, *Pushing the Elephant*, and following discussion at 2 Pillsbury Street in Concord. The movie focuses on one woman's mission for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo where ethnic violence has created seemingly irreparable rifts among Tutsis, Hutus and other Congolese. The film is airing as part of the **Community Cinema program** that CoGS and New Hampshire Public Television have partnered to present.
- **Cheryl Baker**, director of graduate recruitment and outreach at CoGS, visited Shanghai, China, from February 9-22 to teach one of PSU's graduate courses at the Shanghai American School (SAS), advise PSU's graduate students, and strengthen the partnership between PSU and the school. This partnership was created in 2007 and enables SAS to offer their faculty and staff the opportunity to earn a master's degree from an American institution. As the result of this partnership, PSU has alumni/ae throughout the world. The current class includes people from Australia, Canada, China, the Philippines, Scotland, South Africa and New Zealand. The first cohort of 14 graduates from Shanghai American School completed their PSU program in 2009. Many of these alumni/ae have remained at SAS and are providing leadership in all areas of the school. SAS is a private school that provides American-style education to expatriate and Chinese children living in the city. The school's goal is to educate its students to become global citizens. All students learn Chinese as a second language and Chinese students have the opportunity to strengthen their English language skills.
- **James Kuras**, the graduate certification coordinator at CoGS, was recently confirmed to serve on the New Hampshire Board of Nursing. The board is empowered to establish standards for nursing practice, approve nursing education programs and oversee the licensing of nurses, among other responsibilities.

- Ten prospective graduate students attended the MBA open house on February 4 at Keene State College. The PSU event was held in cooperation with the Keene Young Professionals Network and the Keene Chamber of Commerce. **Craig Zamzow**, director of PSU graduate business programs, notes that there was particular interest among attendees in PSU offering a possible certificate program in non-profit management. Zamzow and KSC Management Professor John Pappalardo, who is the MBA advisor in Keene, were on hand at the event to answer questions and gather suggestions on the possible new certificate program. Plymouth State has had a long-standing relationship with KSC, where the University has offered the MBA program for more than 20 years.

Communication and Media Studies

- **Annette Holba** was invited to Arizona State University, Barrett Honors College, as Visiting Scholar (February 16-20) to present a paper as scholar-in-residence. Her paper was entitled, "Paradox of Plenty: Reflections on Philosophical Leisure and Food." While there she met with students, discussed her book on Philosophical Leisure informally with students reading her work, presented her paper, had a book signing, and attended a reception with ASU faculty and students. A class from Northern Arizona University came to attend her events after having used her book in their class.
- While on sabbatical in Europe this fall, **Warren Mason**, was approached in Paris by a representative of PubFiction advertising agency to record English voice-overs for their promotional film, "Agility 2." The voice-overs were recorded at SlashDotCom Studios at their Right Bank facility. The English translations will be used as part of their promotional campaign to generate interest in the film. Additionally, Mason interviewed numerous business practitioners about their uses of social media for promotional purposes during his travels in The Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Greece.

Counselor Education and School Psychology

- **Leo Sandy** reviewed a new text, "The Theory and Practice of Counseling Assessment," published by Pearson.

Education

- The 11th edition of the textbook, "Development Through Life: A Psychosocial Approach," was recently published by Cengage Learning. The supplemental instructional components, all authored by **Clarissa Uttley**, include a student study guide, Power Lecture multimedia CD, and the Instructor's Manual with Test Bank. This text, along with the supplements, is used internationally in university courses on human development and lifespan psychology.
- **Dr. Uttley** recently served as a Panel Reviewer for the 2011 AmeriCorps State and National External Review. As a member of the review process, she collaborated with a nationwide team to review and recommend projects, from a variety of states, to employ AmeriCorps members in projects to effect environmental and educational change in their communities.
- **Dr. Uttley** has also been appointed to a 3-year term as a conference proposal reviewer for the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The annual conference is held every November and offers early childhood educators the opportunity to experience a variety of workshops and presentations on topics such as classroom curriculum, child development, and research in early childhood. In this role, Dr. Uttley will review and recommend conference proposals for inclusion in the annual conference
- **Marcel Lebrun** presented "Universal Interventions in Positive Behavior and Response to Intervention Systems" to the faculty of the Conway School District on February 17th. The session was attended by faculty, administrators and para-educators.

English

- **Liz Ahl** discussed working with students on book-making and letterpress projects at her panel, "Hands On: DIY and Handcraft in a Digital Culture," at the annual Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Conference in Washington, D.C. in February. Panelists included writers, publishers, book artists and teachers from The Rose O'Neill Literary House at Washington College, Pilot Books, Octopus Books, Prairie Schooner/The Omaha Lit Fest, and Tuesday; an Art Project.

- **Robin DeRosa** has been nominated to the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, a non-profit educational foundation with a maximum membership of two-hundred scholars and historians. The foundation is designed to promote the study of New England history from earliest settlement through the first decades of the nineteenth century.

Frost School

- **Linda Hammond** presented a professional development program for the Bedford, NH School District's fourth grade teachers on February 9 using Lego Simple and Motorized Machine kits to teach basic physics and simple machines. Linda will be in Bedford for the month of March, teaching in each of the District's eighteen fourth grade classrooms. She will be modeling her technique for this hands-on experience to help students transition their learning to real life understanding. This program is the result of a pilot Linda did with Memorial School in Bedford, NH. The pilot program was the result of a Bedford teacher hearing about our Lego summer camps here at PSU.

Global Education Office (GEO)

- GEO will partner with the U.S. Department of State to host a community passport processing day Saturday, April 2 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm at the Savage Welcome Center. For more information visit <http://www.plymouth.edu/office/global-education/>.

Health and Human Performance

- **Linda Levy** and 4 students (**Alicia Edwards, MS'11; Kevin Silva, '11; Austri Silver, '11; Josselyn DeLemos, '11**) gave a presentation to the Alumni Association Board on February 12 on Athletic Training. The Board was introduced and had the opportunity to practice key concepts in core stability, active release manual therapy, concussion testing and therapeutic modalities.
- **Cheryl Coker** co-presented, "Five Tips for Improving Anticipatory Skills," at the Eastern District Association of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance conference.

History and Philosophy

- The exhibit, "As Time Passes over the Land," will be at the Drerup Gallery from February 8 - April 11. The Project Director was **Catherine S. Amidon** (Museum of the White Mountains), Curator was **Marcia Schmidt Blaine** (History & Philosophy), and the catalogue text was written by **Marcia Schmidt Blaine** and **Mark Green** (Center for the Environment).
- **Whitney Howarth** has been elected to the Executive Council of the New Hampshire Council for the Social Studies which is dedicated to developing an active and informed citizenry by strengthening and supporting social studies education in New Hampshire through all parts of the social studies.

Languages and Linguistics

- **James Whiting** was invited to serve again on the Fulbright Scholarship National Screening Committee for English Language Teaching Assistantships. Whiting and other members of the Committee reviewed applications and then met at the Institute of International Education in New York City in December to finalize the award recipients.

Library and Academic Support Services

- **Robert Fitzpatrick**, Emerging Technologies Librarian, and **Michael Davidson**, Library Technologist, were among the invited presenters at a Northeast Regional Computing Program (NERCOMP) workshop held on January 20th at the Southbridge (Mass.) Hotel and Conference Center. The subject was qualitative research in assessment. The one-day workshop, organized by David Wedaman of Brandeis University and Bradd Lee of Mercy College, also included Brandeis University anthropologists, librarians, and information technologists, as well as ERIAL Lead Research Anthropologist (CLIR Scholarly Communications Fellow) Andrew Asher. Presenters examined the understanding of organizations from the users' perspective, using methods adopted by anthropologists to supplement surveys, user feedback, and usage metrics.

- Sixty 8th grade students and teachers from Plymouth Elementary School visited Lamson to complete individual research for a science project on growing pumpkins, peas and sunflowers. **Anne Lebreche** provided introductory library instruction two days before the visit and followed up with more instruction two weeks later. Now in its 3rd year, this project exposes middle school students to a larger library and gives Lamson librarians the opportunity to work with future students in higher education.

Music, Theatre and Dance

- **Dan Perkins** and his Veritas Quintet performed and presented workshops for high schools and arts councils in NH and ME, and at PSU February 11-13.
- On January 25th Music Education Program Coordinator **Holly Oliver**, accompanied by music education majors **Eben Brown, Kara Kirby, Rachel Carlson, Luca Giordano, and Jeff Thibaudeau**, attended the NH House Bill 39 Congressional hearing. The House bill proposes to exclude the following from the definition of an adequate education: Technology Education, Health Education, Arts Education, and World Languages. An overwhelming majority of testimonies was opposed to the bill and it is their hope that the presence of so many in opposition will send a strong message to the State Education Committee.
- **Kathleen Arcchi** was the Art Song and Aria Festival Chair for NATS-Boston Chapter, February 5/6 at Boston University in which 30 voice teachers entered 130 singers. PSU Senior, **Dan Brevik**, was sponsored in this competition by his teacher Kathleen Arcchi, and was the 1st Place winner in his age group (21-23). He was also awarded the Oratorio Prize for the strongest performance of an oratorio aria in the Finals on Sunday evening.
- **Carleen Graff** recently gave a master class at the Concord Community Music School to Middle School and High School students. She also talked with the students about expectations and preparation to become a piano major prior to college.
- **Aaron Tolson's** New England Tap Ensemble performed "Inspired" at the Palace Theater in Manchester, NH in early February. Tolson was also featured on New Hampshire News "Chronicle" earlier in the month.
- **Lisa Travis** was nominated for "Best Choreographer" by the New Hampshire Professional Theatre Association for her work on "Spelling Bee" for the Papermill Theatre.
- **Gary Corcoran** served as a guest conductor at the Kansas State University Concert Band Clinic in Manhattan, KS, where he also presented a workshop for 50 high school band directors. Dr. Corcoran was also the guest conductor for the Belknap Invitational Band Festival at Gilford High School. He is currently serving on the Legion of Honor Committee for the John Philip Sousa Foundation, a national association that recognizes excellence in teaching in American public schools and universities.

Pakistani Educational Leadership Project

The project is currently in a dual phase in Pakistan. Last summer's delegates are completing master action plans designed and developed during the 2010 institute. Project director **Blake Allen** will return soon to Pakistan to meet with them for a project review. Conditions permitting, she will be joined by U.S. educators who have been involved with the institute component.

The trip will provide meaningful opportunities to work with the delegates, alumni of previous institutes, senior government officials from the remote areas, and project stakeholders. Visits to alumni schools are also on the agenda. An examination of best practices with applicability to in-country ground realities will provide a framework for discourse. It also will contribute to strategic planning in consultation with officials at the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad, and U.S. Consulate, Lahore.

Blake and the Islamabad team have been focusing on preparations for the 2011 institute. The nomination and selection process has begun in Pakistan. The next delegation of 40 Pakistani educators will be predominately female, with the majority from rural and remote areas. Institute training will be aligned with PSU's role as a vibrant regional hub. Site visits to educational and community initiatives will be incorporated into curricula.

Social Sciences

- **Krisan Evenson** reports that the work of her students from Winterim 2010 arrived just this month in Afghanistan! Evenson's course covers citizen-to-citizen diplomacy, and her students have been modeling this process by making afghans, vests, sweaters and hats for the children of Afghanistan through the Afghans for Afghans program. The usual voyage of these goods takes about 10-12 months depending on travel conditions, security issues, and willing organizations. *Facebook* features a video of the delivery which also shows what the children are wearing for 'winter gear.' (See <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=501497857310>) Afghans for Afghans reports that the delivery was beautifully timed, in that a winter ice/snowstorm hit right after delivery. Many, many thanks to the faculty and PSU community members who donated that yarn-- additional deliveries most welcome at MSC #39!
- Four PSU faculty just returned from the Council for Undergraduate Research in Tampa, FL, Feb 18-20, where they discovered ways to integrate undergraduate research into their courses and majors and how to encourage more research. Participants include: **Angela Kilb** (Psychology), **Katherine Donahue** (Anthropology), **David Beronä** (Dean of the Library), and **Bryon Middlekauff** (Geography). Their group developed a strategy to bring back to PSU and David presented it to the other conference attendees.

Social Work

- **Steve Gorin** was a panelist at a Congressional Briefing on "The Implications of Healthcare Reform for the Social Work Professional," sponsored by NY 10th District Representative Edolphus "Ed" Towns on February 16th at the Rayburn House Office Building.
- **Stephen Gorin** conducted a national Webinar as part of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Lunchtime Series for CEUs; the presentation was "Health Care Reform and Beyond: Limits and Possibilities of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)" and almost 400 practitioners called in to participate. He published "Repealing and Replacing the ACA: Prospects and Limitations" in *Health & Social Work*, February 2011, Vol. 36(1). Steve also did a presentation on Social Security reform issues at the February meeting of the State Committee on Aging (SCOA).
- **Scott Meyer** presented "Disturbing the Classroom Peace"(co-authored with Leo Sandy) at the American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences in Las Vegas. He also provided testimony at a hearing of the state legislative committee considering reinstatement of the NH Commission on the Status of Men.

Dr. Gail Mears Named Founding Dean of PSU's College of Education, Health, and Human Services



Dr. Gail Mears. Photo courtesy Achber Studio

Dr. Gail Mears, a teacher, researcher, and administrator nationally renowned for her work in the field of mental health counseling, has been named the founding dean of Plymouth State University's College of Education, Health, and Human Services.

Mears has been a member of the PSU faculty since 1999, and she is currently the chair of the Counselor Education and School Psychology department. Mears is a licensed clinical mental health counselor with over 30 years' experience in the mental health field. She has worked in community mental health, family services, and private practice, and has provided counseling services to university students through the Counseling and Human Relations Center. PSU's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Julie Bernier said Mears is well poised to take on the new challenge.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Mears on a number of recent initiatives and have found her to be a strong leader," said Bernier. "Mears' experiences as department chair and in national leadership roles in professional organizations will serve the new college well."

As an active member of professional organizations, Mears is a past president of the American Mental Health Counselors Association, the New Hampshire Mental Health Counselors Association, and the Northern New England Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. She also serves as the Mental Health Counseling representative to the New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice. On campus, Mears is seen as a collaborative leader. She currently serves on the Provost's Promotion, Tenure and Evaluation Advisory Council and on the University Planning and Budgeting Leadership Group. Both of these have been opportunities for Mears to affect University goals and initiatives. Mears said she is excited about the new opportunity.

"I hope that the development of the College of Education, Health and Human Services will provide greater opportunities for inter-disciplinary collaboration, resulting in innovative curriculum development, enhanced community engagement and increased funding for research, scholarships, and internships," said Mears.

Mears' research is focused on relational aspects of clinical supervision, counselor intentionality, and promoting case conceptualization skills in trainees. She has published many journal articles and book chapters, and she regularly speaks to regional and national audiences. Mears is well regarded both on and off campus, having received numerous awards for her service, leadership and teaching. In 2010, she was awarded the Presidential Service Award for the North Atlantic Region Association for Counselor Education and Supervision and the 2010 Presidential Service Award by the American Mental Health Counselors Association. In 2009, Mears was the PSU Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award recipient. She was the 2008 recipient of the Dr. Peter Harris Community Service Award: Genesis Behavioral Health, and in 2003 she received the Outstanding Counselor Educator of the Year award (2003) from the American Mental Health Counselors Association.

Dr. Mears earned a clinical doctorate in psychology from Antioch New England, a certificate of advanced graduate study and master's degree in counseling from the University of New Hampshire, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Plymouth State.

The creation of the College of Education, Health and Human Services comes at an opportune time as PSU has exciting initiatives in Education and is expanding its offerings in healthcare with a new nursing program. Additionally, PSU is beginning planning on phase II of the Active Living, Learning, and Wellness ([ALLWell](#)) Center, a project that integrates teaching, research, athletics and recreation, and community programming in wellness. The Dean will play an important role in shaping the new college and its strategic directions.

Dr. Cynthia Vascak Named Founding Dean of PSU's College of Arts and Sciences



*Dr. Cynthia Vascak.
Photo courtesy Achber
Studio*

Dr. Cynthia Vascak, a nationally recognized art educator, scholar, and administrator has been named the founding Dean of Plymouth State University's College of Arts and Sciences. A long-term PSU faculty member, Vascak has served as chair of the Art Department at PSU and as coordinator of the Art Education program. She has experience with program development, having led initiatives such as the creation of the Master of Art in Teaching (MAT) degree, and received federal funding for arts projects in New Hampshire schools. In 2009 she was honored with PSU's Distinguished Teaching Award.

Julie Bernier, PSU's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, said Vascak's experience makes her an ideal leader for PSU's new College of Arts and Sciences.

"Her experience in program development and collaborative initiatives at both the undergraduate and graduate levels will be important as we work to establish the interdisciplinary college," said Bernier. Vascak has significant experience in higher education and accreditation, having served as a reviewer for the NH Department of Education and as a member of the 2003 accreditation team at PSU. Most recently, Dr. Vascak was selected to participate in a yearlong think tank where New England academic leaders came together to discuss issues of importance. Vascak said the creation of the College of Arts and Sciences is a natural progression for the University, and the College will play an important role.

"As we continue our journey into the 21st Century, we face increasingly complex and interrelated challenges from local to global that impact our health and well being, careers, workplaces, families and the very future of our planet," said Vascak. "These challenges are escalating – not diminishing – and they demand responses from researchers, citizens, and educators. The College of Arts and Sciences will be in a pivotal position to take a leadership role in navigating this journey."

Vascak is a leader who works across academic fields and has developed innovative partnerships across the state. On campus she chairs the Education subcommittee of the President's Commission on Environmental Sustainability and is a member of the Research Advisory Council. She has engaged community partners in developing large-scale projects, most notably a four-year Federal Department of Education grant that involved 25 educators in three school districts, for which she served as director.

Vascak earned a bachelor's degree in literature and studio art from Pan American University, a master of fine arts from Boston University, and a doctorate from the University of New Hampshire. In addition, she has studied fine arts at the Boston Museum School, Concordia University, the University of Quebec, and the Escuela Belles Artes in San Miguel d'Allende, Mexico. She is a member of the Cape Cod Printmakers, Monotype Guild of New England, Women's Caucus for Art, and Society of Egg Tempera Painters. She currently works in the printing processes of monotype, relief, and drypoint; in the drawing media of charcoal, ink, and silverpoint; and in the media of egg tempera. She has won national awards for her prints, and her works are held in numerous private collections. In addition to her work as a studio artist and art educator, Vascak's scholarship involves interdisciplinary curriculum design and implementation, action agency and service learning, and transformational leadership.

The College of Arts and Sciences will be home to the arts, the humanities, mathematics, and the natural, physical, social, behavioral, and computer sciences. As dean, Vascak will encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration and support students and faculty in their outreach and research efforts and in development of partnerships with the wider community and state.