

Monthly Report to the Faculty
Provost Julie Bernier
November 3, 2010

Inclement Weather

Earlier this week a message was sent from Human Relations regarding our inclement weather procedures. Please note, the following message will be **sent to students** this week:

Plymouth State University normally remains open through inclement weather. Because most students live within minutes of the campus, every effort is made to avoid an official closing. There may be times, however, when an emergency or extreme weather conditions necessitate a general closing of the University (see Inclement Weather notification below).

Students should make reasonable decisions when considering travel or family needs and faculty should respect these decisions. Students should notify their professors at once if they are unable to report to class due to poor driving conditions. During finals week, classes WILL NOT be cancelled. If inclement weather is anticipated, students should communicate with their professors in advance or make arrangements to stay locally.

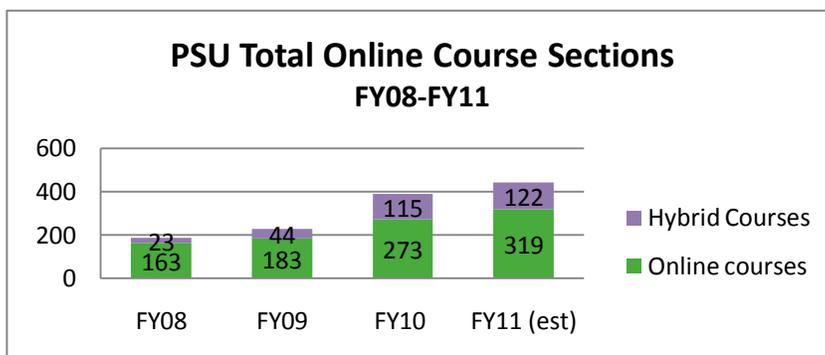
In the event of severe weather or an emergency, the University Administration will do all it can to decide on and post notifications of class/event cancellations and/or facility closures by 6:00 a.m. For canceling evening classes, the decision is usually made and communicated no later than 3:00 p.m. Every effort will be made to make the decision as early as possible.

Inclement Weather notifications will be communicated via the following means:

*PSU Alert Emergency Text Messaging System (sign-up at: plymouth.edu/alerts)
University Web site
"Need2Know" campus e-mail (formerly PSU-Announce)
PSU Alert/Storm Line (603) 535-3535
myPlymouth announcements
Local media*

Report on Online Teaching

Last year PSU offered 273 fully online courses, a 49% increase from the previous year. This included 132 Frost courses and 141 CoGS courses. This year we expect another 17% increase. Online courses will be an important component in our strategic initiatives in the coming years. Greater numbers of students are enrolling in the Frost School and in CoGS and are expecting fully online courses and programs. As you know, we are migrating over to Moodle from Blackboard as our Learning Management System. The feedback from students and faculty who have already implemented the change has been very positive with both groups finding the system more intuitive and user friendly.



This Fall and in the Spring we will be piloting a new online course evaluation tool called CoursEval. For more information about this tool, contact Ellen Murphy in the Office of Online Education. More info here -->http://www.academicmanagement.com/products/course_eval.php

NEWS FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Art

- Three works by **Liz D'Amico** are included in the WCA/NH juried exhibit currently on view at Silver Culture Center: *A Passion for Sewing*, a box assemblage honoring her mother, *The Crossroad*, a collage based on her mother's wartime experiences and *Mending Humanity* a collage hinting at what women know. *Mending Humanity* will also be part of the National Collage Society's (NSC) 26th Annual Juried Exhibition making D'Amico a Signature Member of NCS. For the first time this year, the exhibit will be posted online.
- On Saturday, October 30, **Lauren Dadmun** joined about 25 other New Hampshire Potters for the New Hampshire Potters Guild annual Potters Market at the Holiday Inn in Concord (just off Exit 14).
- Afterschool Arts is currently offering two classes for 32 area school children in grades K-6 at the D&M Building on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. The program continues to grow and meet the educational needs of highly motivated children from the Plymouth region. This semester, we have a new teacher, **Marylena Sevigney** who is teaching "Picturing Books: Storytelling and Artmaking" that integrates stories, children's literature, book making and visual art exploration. Afterschool Arts is an ongoing arts education program at Plymouth State University and an arts advocacy initiative for Plymouth area school children providing high quality, affordable art making enrichment activities presented in partnership with Plymouth Park & Rec/A+ Programs. Spring Afterschool classes will begin in March and plans are being made for a summer children's art camp.
- **Jason Swift** presented a paper titled The Artist/(Auto)Ethnographer: Navigating, Negotiating and Balancing the Dialogue, Opposition and Conflict of Being the Researcher and Research Subject Simultaneously at the SECAC/MACAA joint conference in Richmond, VA.

Atmospheric Sciences and Chemistry

- The Department of Atmospheric Science and Chemistry had three booths at the New Hampshire TechFest in Windham on Saturday Oct. 23rd from 9 am - 3 pm. The TechFest is a festival of science and technology providing hands on learning opportunities for middle and high school students to encourage them to pursue careers in the STEM disciplines. **Dennis Machnik** gave continuous Planetarium shows in the portable planetarium, while **Sally Jensen** had information available about NASA space flights and educational programs. **Jeremiah Duncan** and four undergraduate students (**Patrick Gile, Katie Hills-Kimball, Andrew Hornberger, and Marc Tahtamoni**), had several chemistry experiments for participants including: "alchemy" of pennies and making liquid crystal displays (LCD's). Lastly, **Eric Hoffman, Brendon Hoch** and three graduate students (**Bonnie Anderson, Nick Kyper, and Derek Mallia**) had a display with three dimensional weather visualization software and led students through the interactive "human sling psychrometer" experiment.
- On October 22, 2010, **Anil Waghe** and **Marguerite Crowell**, along with chemistry majors, visited Plymouth Elementary School for their sixth annual "chemistry week" presentation. Activities that they presented to the sixth grade included making "artificial snow" and "crystal mountain," both based on the theme "behind the scenes with chemistry!"

Biological Sciences

- **Katie Rose Boissonneault** and **Chris Chabot** received over \$1.2 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health INBRE program to fund faculty-mentored undergraduate research in their

laboratories. Chabot and his students will investigate the molecular mechanisms of circadian and circatidal clocks, how multiple clocks are coordinated, and what substances might mediate the influences of clocks on various behavioral and physiological functions. Boissonneault's work will focus on developing gene transfer protocols in the marine diatom *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseriis* in order to facilitate characterization of the genes involved in biosynthesis of the neurotoxin, domoic acid.

- **Len Reitsma** and collaborators from The Nature Conservancy and the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center recently published a paper in the journal *Ecology* based upon three years of studying a population of Northern Waterthrushes in Puerto Rico. Smith, J. A. M., L. R. Reitsma and P. P. Marra, 2010: Moisture as a determinant of habitat quality for a nonbreeding Neotropical migratory songbird, *Ecology* 91: 2874-2882). This is the second publication from this three-year study.

Center for Rural Partnerships

- **Fran Belcher** and **Thad Gulbrandsen** presented, "Developing a Regional Engagement Model for Small Rural Universities" at the National Outreach Scholarship Conference in Raleigh, NC (10/5/10).
- **Thad Gulbrandsen** was the keynote speaker at the Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Rural Development Network in Canada (10/14/10). The title of his talk was "Building a Network and Enhancing a Region."
- **Thad Gulbrandsen** presented on "The Northern Forest Higher Education Network" in Watertown, NY (10/25/10) and Paul Smith's College (10/26/10). He was part of a panel that included Sandy Blitz (Federal Co-Chair of the Northern Borders Commission), Joe Short (Northern Forest Center), and other regional leaders.
- "The Community Roadmap to Renewable Biomass Energy" was released at the end of October. This community decision-making tool is a product of two years of collaboration among the Center for Rural Partnerships, North Country RC&D, Coös Economic Development Corporation, the Northern Forest Center, and others. **Tom Evans** is graduate assistant on the project working under the direction of **Thad Gulbrandsen**.
- Funding for the PSU-Coös County Outreach Initiative was renewed (for two more years) by the Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

College of Business Administration

- **Yvette Lazdowski** attended the Northeast Regional meeting of the American Accounting Association in Burlington, Vermont, where she presented a paper titled "A Historical View of Management Accounting in the Early Years of Ford Motor Company".
- **Christina Bradbury** presented a paper titled "The Prosper Credit Risk Rating System: Does It Improve Market Decision-Making Efficacy?" at the 70th International Atlantic Economic Society conference held Oct. 10-13 in Charleston, SC.
- **Brad Allen**, along with twenty-three Plymouth State American Marketing Association (AMA) students traveled to the Balsam's Resort as guests of Mr. Rick McCarten, Director of Sales, on October 14th. The event was designed to be the fall team-building event for the AMA.

The students created a formal business etiquette dinner where they discussed appropriate professional behavior while at a business function. Professor Allen discussed how social events, such as taking a client to dinner, an athletic event, or other social occasion, represent opportunities to build relationships in business that often last for years.

The students enjoyed dressing up and practicing the suggested professional behaviors of successful business social events. In addition, the students were able to tour the facility and gain an appreciation for the history of the Balsam's as they visited many of the hidden treasures presented throughout the property.

Education

- **Pat Cantor** presented on "Supporting Preschool English Language Learners" at the Early Learning New Hampshire Conference in Manchester on October 16. On the 22nd, she presented on

"Teaching and Learning about Constructivism" at the annual conference of the Association for Constructivist Teaching in Chicago. This session highlighted the work she and **Mary Cornish** have done in developing the early childhood course, The Constructivist Approach in Early Care and Education, at PSU.

- **Susan Shapiro** presented a full-day workshop titled, "Differentiated Instruction in the Inclusive Classroom," to teachers statewide, on October 26, 2010, in Concord.
- **Clarissa M. Uttley**, along with two undergraduate students (**Denise Sprague-Colcord** and **Nicole Skelton**) presented at the Early Learning New Hampshire conference in Manchester, NH on October 16, 2010. Their presentation on Therapy Animals in the Early Childhood Classroom was attended by 33 early childhood educators and administrators.
- **Kathleen Norris** participated in the NH IHE network of institutions concerned with the Summit on 21st Century Teaching and Learning as part of her work on the State of NH Professional Standards Board and Subcommittee work on the ED600's which concern teacher preparation program approval.

English

- **Liz Ahl** had two poems published in the latest issue of The Salt River Review: (http://www.poetserv.org/SRR38/srr38_39_contents.html).
- **Art Fried** presented "Jack Kirby and the Creation of the DC Comics Brand" at the Northeast Popular Culture Association annual meeting in Boston on 10/23
- The film that **Scott Coykendall** wrote, "Our Secret Season," won the El Capitan Film Award at the 2010 Yosemite Film Festival in October. It was also pre-selected as a "must see film" at the 2010 SNOB Film Festival in Concord. The SNOB schedule has not been announced, but the festival runs November 26-28.

Health and Human Performance

- **Linda Levy**, assisted by undergraduate and entry-level graduate athletic training students, provided a workshop on "Rescue Techniques: An Evidence-based Approach to Ice Related Injuries" for local EMT's on 10/4. Held at the ice arena, the rescue personnel learned how to care for ankle, shoulder and spinal cord injuries.
- Students **Courtney Lecours**, **Joey Ellis**, and **Amanda Pierson** participated in the Student Leadership Conference at the Stony Acres Environment Center on the East Stroudsburg State University Campus over Columbus Day weekend. The Conference was co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Association AHPERD and EDA/AAHPERD.
- **Barbara McCahan's** and **Margie King's** grant proposal to the National Institutes of Health INBRE program was funded. The grant will fund the following project: Reliability of Center of Foot Pressure as a Predictor of Falls Risk, Balance, Functional Fitness, and Fear of Falling with Older Adults

History and Philosophy

- **Whitney Howarth's** article "Advocates and Arbiters: Travancore and Mysore Missionaries as Public Petitioners and Champions of Social Justice (1806-1886)" was published in *Journal of Postcolonial Theory and Theology*. You can access this article at: www.postcolonialjournal.com and click on Articles

Library and Academic Support Services'

- **David A. Beronä** published the "Introduction" to George Walker's *Book of Hours: A Tragic New York Novel Told With 99 Wood Engravings*. Porcupine's Quill Press, October, 2010 and presented a paper, "Humor, Play, and Identity in Comics: Reading Wordless Comics," on October 14, 2010 at 2010 Festival of Cartoon Art, Ohio State University.
- **Elaine S. Allard** presented a case study on the Lamson Learning Commons at the Super-Convergence – an exchange of experience conference on October 7, 2010 at Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, England.

Mathematics

- **John Donovan** presented a seminar titled: "The Non-Content Half of Mathematics" to students and faculty on October 13.

Music, Theatre and Dance

- **Kathleen Arcchi** served as an adjudicator for the Granite State NATS Musical Theatre Singing Competition in Concord on October 31.
- **Gary Corcoran** was the guest conductor for an Invitational Honor Band at Hollis-Brookline High School on October 16.
- **Holly Oliver** recently served on the NH Department of Education Teacher Preparation Review Team examining the music education teacher preparation program at a New Hampshire university.
- During October, **Dan Perkins** performed a concert with his Trio Veritas at Harvard, performed as collaborative pianist in a recital with baritone Steven Small, spent a week in Ireland planning a future performance/study tour, and while there, ran the Dublin Marathon.
- **Jonathan Santore** wrote the Foreword for *Principles and Practice of Modal Counterpoint*, by Douglass Green and Evan Jones, published in October by Routledge.

Social Work

- **Stephen Gorin** attended his first half-day meeting as a member of the Council on Leadership Development at the annual CSWE conference held in Portland, Oregon, and moderated a break-out session at the Council-sponsored Networking Reception at the conference. He also co-led the NH Chapter new board orientation with the chapter President.
- **Scott Meyer** co-chaired a meeting of New England Regional Field Coordinators meeting in MA.
- **Cynthia Moniz** published "Social Work and the Social Determinants of Health Perspective: A Good Fit", *Health & Social Work*, November 2010, 35(4). She attended her first half-day meeting as a newly appointed Commissioner of CSWE's Commission on Professional Development at the annual CSWE conference held in Portland, Oregon. She also participated in the NH Chapter new board orientation.

Teacher Certification

- **Irene Cucina** (HHP), **Gerry Buteau** (Education), **Holly Oliver** (Music, Theatre, and Dance), **Christie Sweeney** (College of Graduate Studies), and **Cynthia Vascek** (Art Education) were part of a 27 person team representing the New Hampshire Department of Education to review the teacher preparation and advanced preparation programs at a New Hampshire university, October 3-6.
- **Irene Cucina** (HHP) was the keynote speaker at the Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance annual convention in Savannah, GA.