

**Monthly Report to the Faculty**  
**Provost Julie Bernier**  
**October 1, 2008**

The long awaited **Higher Education Re-Authorization Act** has been signed into law. Below is a summary of actions that will impact how we do business.

**Affordability**

A great majority of the provisions are related to college affordability, transparency and reporting requirements. These changes will benefit students in a number of ways with increases in eligibility and greater transparency of costs. The provisions include expanded benefits for military service. With these new requirements, workload will be impacted especially for those in financial aid, bursar and IR offices.

**Transfer**

Institutions are required to publicly disclose transfer of credit policies including at least the criteria used to evaluate and accept credits earned at another institution and a list of institutions with articulation agreements with the institution.

The good news, thanks to Mary Campbell, Laurianne Olcott and others in Undergraduate Studies is that we've been doing most of this for years. Additionally, Mary has been participating in a University System, Community College System transfer collaboration to create [NHTransfer.org](http://nhtransfer.org) (check it out). The site includes a great deal of information regarding transferability among the CCSNH and USNH institutions including a list of articulation agreements <http://nhtransfer.org/documents/Transfer%20Matrix.pdf>. The site is up and running and will continue to see improvements as they build a transfer credit database among the two systems.

**Textbook Information**

- Includes new requirements to provide more information on the cost of course textbooks
- Requires publishers to provide to faculty wholesale prices and retail prices of books
- Requires publishers to “unbundle” college textbooks from supplemental materials, with each unbundled item separately priced
- **Require institution, to the maximum extent possible, to include textbook information on its Internet course schedule.**

This will require will require faculty to choose their books and publish this information before we publish the course schedule for the following semester. We will be discussing possible ways to accomplish this and will be back with more information.

**Title VIII New Programs**

- Rural Development Grants for Rural Colleges and University
  - Authorizes competitive grant awards to rural colleges and universities to work in partnership with other agencies to encourage increased college enrollment rates in rural areas, economic development activities, and student participation in academic programs that lead to careers of a high-need in rural areas.

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### General Education

A forum was held last week; minutes are available on the faculty website- <http://facultygovernance.blogs.plymouth.edu/> Evelyn Stiller, Chair of the General Education Committee, tells me the Committee will follow-up with a discussion of next steps at their October meeting. Please share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns on the blog or directly with Evelyn.

### Reminder from Physical Plant

Please close windows, turn off lights and lock classroom doors at the end of the day. Physical Plant continues to find rooms wide open, air conditioners running, and lights on during their late night walkthrough (especially in Hyde).

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## NEWS FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS Departments and Faculty

### Art

- Adjunct artist, **Elizabeth D'Amico**, had a very busy summer: Two week residency at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT as a printmaker (a work/study fellowship); paintings and prints in the juried exhibit at the New London Historical Society in New London, NH. (*Triptych, Pear Tree, Lake Kolelemuck, McDaniel's March, Mascoma Lake*); two prints in the juried Library Arts Center Regional Exhibition in Newport, NH (*Creativity and Pandora's Box*); participated in Plein Air Week at the Fells in Newbury, NH with three paintings currently on exhibit at the Fells through October 12 (*Mt. Sunapee from the Fells, Smoke Bush at the Fells, Fells Gardens*); a print and box assemblage in the juried Women's Caucus for Art (WCA) exhibit, *Making Her Mark* at Silver Center for the Arts, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH. (*Making Her Mark and Goddess*); submitted six entries to the PSU Faculty Exhibit with two on display: *First Lessons* (sculpture) and *Dreaming of Tuscany* (an altered book).
- **Catherine Amidon** will be presenting a lecture on *Difference and Interface: Cultural Observations from a Fulbright in Jamaica*, Thursday, October 9 at 6:30 pm, D & M 302.

### Atmospheric Science and Chemistry

- **Brendon Hoch** (PAT) and **Baylee Balschmiter** (M.S. Applied Meteorology) were recently presented with the Gold Circle School Partners Award by the New Hampshire Partners in Education. Nominated by Dillard Collins, Principal of Hampstead Central School in Hampstead NH, the award recognizes exemplary educational partnerships through volunteer activities. The awards ceremony was held in Manchester on September 22. Representatives of 38 New Hampshire K-12 schools attended, and Governor John Lynch provided a few words of thanks to all nominated volunteers.
- **Melissa Payer**, a 2008 Plymouth State graduate from the B.S. Meteorology program, presented "Seasonal Frequency of Fronts and Surface Baroclinic Zones in the Great Lakes Region" at the 14th Cyclone Workshop in Sainte-Adele, Quebec Canada from 21-26 September, 2008. Melissa began this research as senior research student advised by **Eric Hoffman** in collaboration with Dr. Neil Laird of Hobart and William Smith Colleges and completed the work during summer research experience at Hobart-William Smith. Melissa is currently a first year graduate student at the University at Albany, State University of New York.

### Biological Sciences

- **Larry Spencer** was appointed by Governor Lynch to the River's Management Advisory Council. His appointment was been approved by the Governor's Council at their 3rd of September meeting in Manchester. He will represent the interests of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions on the RMAC. The RMAC is a statutory council associated with the River's Management and Protection Program. The segment of the Pemigewasset River passing through Plymouth is in that program. Larry is a guest editor for the *Northeastern Naturalist* on an article dealing with marine mollusks in Frenchman's Bay, Maine. As guest editor, he is responsible for finding reviewers of the article and for directing the process from review to publication. He also led a walk on Sunday the 28th of September, on the Rattlesnake Mountain trail in Rumney. During the walk he talked about landscape processes affecting Rattlesnake Mountain. The walk was part of the Nor'easter-EMS event held at Tenney Mountain and at the climbing rocks in Rumney the weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup>-28th of September.

### College of Graduate Studies

- The United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, has continued funding of the University's **Pakistani Project** with an award of \$372, 000. The FY 2009 project will focus primarily on exemplary standards and models in contemporary science education; strategies for conflict resolution and social tolerance will serve as a secondary focus. In collaboration with project director **Blake Allen** of the College of Graduate Studies, NGO Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi of Lahore, the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, the U.S. consulates in Lahore and Peshawar, and institute alumni will provide in-country support.

The project's New Hampshire phase entails an intensive institute at Plymouth State in July 2009, for approximately twenty Pakistani educational leaders. Graduate faculty from several departments including Science, Education, and Counseling will provide advice and instruction in the focus areas. They include **Dr. Warren Tomkiewicz, Dr. George Tuthill, Dr. Mary Ann McGarry, Dr. John Allen, Marguerite Crowell, Dr. Michael Fischler, Dr. Leo Sandy, Dr. Marianne True, and Dr. Gail Mears.** **Dr. Gaye Gould** of Hong Kong University and PSU will teach a module on effective delivery of science education in the English language medium.

The delegation who attended the July 2008 institute are currently implementing the Master Action Plans that they developed while at Plymouth State. Their plans can be found on the project Web site, [pelinstitute.org](http://pelinstitute.org), which was designed by project Technology Architect, John Martin of Lamson Learning Commons. The delegation also is dealing with challenging conditions - FATA representative, girls high school principal Samina Yousaf, and her nine hundred students just survived a Taliban attack in their area.

- **Cheryl Baker** and **Kathleen Norris** have been working with a variety of New Hampshire school districts doing Classroom Walkthrough training.
- "Jaqinabox", a collaborative 3D art piece including the poetry of **Kathleen Norris** was selected for Lamson Library's Special Collections. Kathleen's poetry was also included as work from a "featured poet" in the summer edition of *The Tower Journal*. Kathleen is currently working with Plymouth Regional High School as they begin to assess their course scheduling practices. In addition, she recently facilitated a retreat for school administrators from SAU 4 (Kingswood). In addition, she was acknowledged as a reviewer in the latest (7<sup>th</sup>) edition of the McGraw hill textbook, "How to Design and Evaluate Research in Education."

### Communication and Media Studies

- "Film and Television Stardom," edited by **Kylo-Patrick Hart**, has been published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. It contains three chapters written by Hart -- (1) "Give the People What They Want: Molding the 'New' Bette Davis in the Star Vehicle 'Dark Victory,'" (2) "The Auteur

Filmmaker as Star: Reading the Films of Ingmar Bergman as Autobiographical Acts," and (3) "Now, Voyager,' the (Hollywood) Culture Industry, and Commodity Consumption's Deleterious Illusion of Empowerment" -- as well as contributions from nineteen additional scholars.

- **Kylo-Patrick Hart** and **Metasebia Woldemariam's** co-authored an essay, "Oprah Winfrey as Melodramatic Actress: Contributions of Winfrey's Feature-Film Performances to the Authenticity of Her Star Persona," which was published in the academic journal "Quarterly Review of Film and Video."

### Computer Science and Technology

- **Peter Drexel, Roger Marshall, Christian Roberson** and **Zhizhang Shen** attended the National Science Foundation workshop held at Dartmouth College on Sept. 11, 2008.
- The articulation agreement between the CS department at PSU and the CS department at Nashua Community College has been approved by the curriculum committee.

### Criminal Justice

- On October 19, **Eric MacLeish** will receive the Frank Carrington Champion of Civil Justice Award at the National Crime Victim Bar Association Awards luncheon in Chicago, Illinois. He is being honored for his outstanding work on behalf of victims of crime. The National Crime Victim Bar Association helps victims of crime secure justice in civil courts, and help train attorneys to better represent victims. They have been actively advocating for state legislature to reform the criminal and civil statutes of limitation for child sex abuse.
- **Stephanie Halter** presented "Law enforcement's conceptualization of juvenile prostitutes as commercial sexual exploitation victims in 6 U.S. cities" at the International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference, Portsmouth, NH in June. She also presented "The social construction of juvenile prostitutes by law enforcement: Delinquency offenders or child sexual abuse victims?" at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- **David Mackey** with Kevin Courtright and Cassandra Grimm (both of Edinboro University of PA) presented "Connecting academic criminal justice to the practitioner perspective: The efficacy of the professional interview" at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences at Roger Williams University in June.
- **Eric MacLeish** has appeared as a legal commentator on New England Cable News regarding the Addison case (the murder of Manchester police officer Michael Briggs). On October 2, MacLeish will be lecturing at Harvard Law School. Topic of his talk: "Self-Ethics: What law school does not teach you about managing stress as an attorney."
- **Francis Williams** presented "Online teaching challenges using a publisher-developed course" at The Mass Colleges Online Conference in Lowell, Mass in June. He also presented "A functionalist viewpoint of policing the minority community" at the American Sociological Association annual conference in August.

### Education

- An e-mail alert recently sent from Research Connections (which is sponsored by NAEYC and the National Center for Children in Poverty) includes a link to an article co-authored by **Clarissa Uttley** that appears in this month's issue of *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*. [www.researchconnections.org](http://www.researchconnections.org). Click on the link that asks "What are lessons from Rhode Island's mentoring program for early childhood professionals?"

- Below is the link to a book that **Mary Cornish** edited, "Promising Practices for Partnering with Families in the Early Years," which was recently published:  
<http://www.infoagepub.com/products/content/p484064a0dbd68.php>

### Health and Human Performance

- **Linda Levy, Liesl Lindley and Brian Boyls-White** brought a number of athletic training students to the Highland Games held at Loon Mountain during the weekend of September 20-21. Students covered both the Strong Man and Scottish Dance competitions. Other physical education majors helped with the set-up and break down of the many Scottish events.
- **Angel Ekstrom** has been mentoring student volunteer trip leaders through the Student Outdoor Adventure Recreation (SOAP) trip program this fall. The SOAP [Trip Programs](#) are scheduled cooperative adventures involving human powered/propelled outdoor activities connecting PSU students to their outdoor environments. Trips are led and instructed by PSU student volunteers who promote a respect for the environment and a love for the outdoors. Trips are day and/or overnight(s) involving activities such as, rock climbing, paddling, hiking/camping, surfing and biking. This fall, SOAR trips include: ACA Solo white water canoe clinic on the Deerfield River, Surfboarding, paddling at Squam Lake, hiking Katahdin, rock climbing, and a clinic on surfing sea kayaks. Participation in the SOAR program is available to all PSU students.
- **Barbara McCahan** participated in the first "Cultivating Wellness" Conference at D Acres Organic Farm and Educational Homestead in Dorchester, NH. Dr. McCahan was as an invited speaker on the subject of "The Botany of Nutrients" at this 2 day event featuring educational classes, hands-on workshops, field and forest plant walks, and healing sessions with New England holistic practitioners and wellness experts.
- **Jamie Hannon** and the adventure education students have been continuing their ongoing community service project, the adoption of the Langdon Woods fire ring. There have been at least three clean-up days when AE students collected trash and debris and picked up around the area. Also adventure education students and faculty have formed service partnerships with the CADY-LAUNCH program and the Pemi-Baker Academy POLA program, providing supervised adventure activities to the program participants for group development and educational purposes.

### Lamson Library

- **Publications**  
**David A. Beronä**  
"My Life at First Try by Mark Budman." *Library Journal*, 133:15 (Sept. 15, 2008): 43-44.
- **Conference, Presentations, and Workshop Attendance**  
**David A. Beronä**  
Panel Discussion. "Inside Out: Self and Society in Comic Art: Trends in Autobiography, journalism and social critique in graphic novels." St.Mark's Church in the Bowery, New York. Howl Festival. Sept. 10, 2008.  
Paper and Panel Discussion. "Reading Pictures, Burning Comics: New Perspectives on the History of Graphic Narrative." Columbia University Book History Colloquium. New York. Sept. 25, 2008.

### Languages and Linguistics

- **James Whiting** was recently elected to the Executive Board of Northern New England TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages). He will serve as one of two New

Hampshire state representatives. Northern New England TESOL is the regional affiliate of TESOL International, the leading association of English language teachers.

### **Music, Theatre and Dance**

- The Plymouth State University Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance production of "Hamlet", Shakespeare's classic tale of the conflict between moral integrity and revenge, features **Beth Cox** as Gertrude and **Kevin Asselin** (PSU Alum '97 and guest adjunct faculty) as Hamlet. You can still catch a performance October 2–5.
- **Rik Pfenninger** licensed 8 of his film music cues to Triple Scoop Music in LA. In August Rik also had three of his smooth jazz tracks selected for airplay on the Weather Channel.

### **Office of Teacher Certification**

- **Irene Cucina** and **Royce Robertson** (Education) attended the NCATE/AACTE conference in Washington, DC on September 17-20. The teacher education program is up for NCATE renewal in 2011. PSU has had continual NCATE accreditation for the past 50 years. Faculty in teacher education have been collecting data to assess both the effectiveness of the programs and the quality of our students for the past two years. Workshops will be offered throughout the school year that will help all faculty in the area of assessment. If you have any questions, contact the Office of Teacher Certification at x52224.

### **Social Science**

- **Brian Eisenhauer** contributed a chapter to a recently published book, "Partnerships for Empowerment," (Stylus Publishing, the US distributor for Earthscan) which focuses on community engagement through applied research.
- **Mark Okrant** and Russell Thibeault (Applied Economic Research) were the featured speakers at the Central New Hampshire Economic Forecast, at Waterville Valley, on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. Okrant addressed the region's future tourism economy.
- **Marcia Schmidt Blaine** has recently given two presentations for the NH Humanities Council: one in Campton on female tavern keepers and another in Piermont on 19<sup>th</sup>-century NH farming communities.