

Monthly Report to the Faculty
Provost Julie Bernier
October 2011

PSU Completion Rates Improve

Last May 41% of PSU students from the 2007 cohort graduated. This was the highest 4-year completion rate in more than two decades. By comparison, the average 4-year completion rate in the 1990's was 24%. It's difficult to point to any one factor, but certainly the quality of our students, the FY Seminar course, the integrated skills development throughout our general education program, the individual attention given by many advisors, the University Studies program, the Frost School, the Undergraduate Advising Center, the PASS, Writing, and Math Activity Centers and the caring faculty and staff have all contributed to the improvements.

Online Course Evaluation Tool

Last year we piloted the use of an online course evaluation tool called CourseEval. This year we will extend the pilot by expanding access to the tool to all faculty with the eventual plan of having CourseEval fully operational and serving as the university's course evaluation tool by next year. For this year's continuing pilot, a core set of institutional questions will be provided for every course. Later in the implementation process, additional questions can be added to support the needs of departments, general education, or individual instructors. CourseEval will be integrated into Moodle and will allow department Chairs and instructors to generate reports for review. You will hear more about the rollout of CourseEval in the coming weeks.

Full implementation will require faculty members to ensure that ALL courses have a presence in Moodle to include at minimum, a course syllabus and CourseEval by the beginning of next Fall.

NEWS FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Art

- **Henrieke Strecker**, adjunct/photography, now has her works represented by the Verve Gallery of Photography in Santa Fe, New Mexico -- http://www.vervegallery.com/?p=artist_biography&a=HS.
- **Annette Mitchell** has work in the "Artful Equine Exhibition" at the Mill Brook Gallery in Concord, NH through October 23rd. She also donated a framed foam block print, "White Peony," to Lamson Library in memory of former director, Todd Trevorrow.

Atmospheric Sciences and Chemistry

- **Jim Koermer** presented the results of two major AMS initiatives in areas relating to surface transportation -- a Nationwide Network of Networks and Mobile Vehicle Observations -- to the Federal Highway Administration at their Annual Road Winter Maintenance Meeting held in Albuquerque, NM. Jim is the incoming chair of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Surface Transportation Committee. He also was the AMS panel member in a session with representatives of various public and private sector organizations. Jim, who has been chair-elect for the past year, will formally become chair of the committee at the Annual AMS Meeting to be held in New Orleans this January.

- **Jim** was also appointed by the AMS Executive Committee to a three-year term on the Interactive Information and Processing Systems (IIPS) Committee, which plans and arranges one of the largest scientific conferences at the Annual AMS Meeting. Jim will focus on meteorology associated with surface transportation.
- **Anil Waghe** participated in the "Green Chemistry in Education" Workshop at the University of Oregon, July 17-22. Anil is working with undergraduate students on modifying some traditional labs into "Green Chemistry" laboratories. This will make labs safer for our environment as well as for students, and also reduce the waste disposal cost.

Biological Science

- **Len Reitsma**, adjunct faculty member **Pam Hunt**, and M.S. in biology student **Alexi Kimiatek** served on a panel to respond to questions after a public viewing of a documentary produced by NH Public Television called "Saving Songbirds." The panel discussion took place on September 13th at the Red River Theatres in Concord; the documentary will air on October 5 at 8 PM.

Center for Rural Partnerships

During the past few months the Center for Rural Partnerships has been actively involved with a number of projects related to the history, heritage, and culture of northern New Hampshire.

- On-going collaboration with partners in Berlin and the Androscoggin Valley have resulted in a significant new exhibition about the history of the Brown Company's research and innovation, a project led by **Linda Upham-Bornstein** (Research Assistant Professor). This is a traveling exhibition, which is also available online: <http://www.plymouth.edu/center-for-rural-partnerships/1613/brown-company-rd-industrial-explorers-exhibition-online/>
- Collaboration with partners in Berlin, **Tom Driscoll** and **students from the PSU art department** resulted in a major mural project on the Brown Company's historic R&D Building on Main Street in Berlin, which has received a lot of praise around the state. This is a wonderful example of how strategic partnerships can create excellent learning opportunities for students and benefits for the region. <http://www.plymouth.edu/center-for-rural-partnerships/1764/the-student-murals-get-some-press/>
- **Linda Upham-Bornstein** and other PSU faculty members presented their work on the forest history of the region at the Mt. Washington Observatory in a series that was developed at PSU last year and redeployed at the Observatory with funding from the New Hampshire Humanities Council.
- Planning for the 2012 White Mountains Institute is well underway, under the leadership of **Thad Gulbrandsen**, **Ben Amsden**, **Linda Upham-Bornstein**, **Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle**, **Doug Earick**, and many other PSU faculty members.
- **Ben Amsden** and Tourism Management and Policy student **Kelly McCusker** completed a funded research project exploring opportunities for collaboration and partnership among members of the Northern Forest Tourism Network. They presented their findings at the Summit for the Northern Forest in Whitefield.
- **Ben** published an article titled "Exploring contexts of place: The role of setting and activity in a high-amenity tourism community" (co-authored with Rich Stedman of Cornell University and Al Luloff of Penn State University) in the journal *Tourism Geographies*.
- **Mark Okrant (SS)**, **Ben Amsden**, and **Dan Lee (CoBA)** received a grant from the US Forest Service to update the White Mountain National Forest's Socioeconomic Assessment Report with student-led demographic analysis, social research, and economic impact analyses of regional tourism.
- **Ben Amsden** appeared on a recent episode of WCAX-TV's "Across the Fence" as an expert on the topic of agritourism.
- **Ben Amsden** published a book chapter and a journal article. The book chapter (co-authored with Lisa Chase of UVM and Rhonda Phillips of Arizona State University) is titled "Stakeholder engagement in tourism planning and development" and was published in Uysal, M., Perdue, R.,

and Sirgy, J. (eds.) Handbook of Tourism and Quality Of Life Research. The article (co-authored with Rich Stedman of Cornell University and Al Luloff of Penn State University) is titled "Exploring contexts of place: The role of setting and activity in a high-amenity tourism community" and appears in the journal *Tourism Geographies*.

- **Ben Amsden** delivered a presentation (with Larry Garland of AMC and Alex Linthicum of the USDOT Volpe Center) describing alternative transportation in the WMNF at the meetings of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences. In September, he and Larry joined Bill Dauer of the USFS to present similar research at the North Country Council's Quarterly Transportation Stakeholder meeting in Littleton. Also in September, Ben (with Lisa Chase of UVM Extension) gave a presentation titled "Agritourism in the Northeast: Building Collaborations that Work" at the meetings of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development in Philadelphia. Ben was also appointed Vice President of the Board of Directors of Affordable Housing, Education and Development (AHEAD), a community-based housing development organization serving Coos and Grafton counties. Ben has been a member of the board since 2009.
- **Live, Learn and Play is open for business!** Live, Learn and Play is a community based clinical rotation program targeted toward students working toward healthcare and mental health professions. The LLP program will offer PSU students opportunities to enrich rural their clinical internships with community service in Coös County. As the program gets underway, **Fran Belcher** is working with the PSU's Office of Learning Technologies and Online Education and **Linda Upham-Bornstein** of the History Department to develop an online orientation on the history and culture of the North Country for incoming LLP students.
- The Center for Rural Partnerships and the Lakes Region United Way are collaborating to support the work of the **Financial Stability Partnership**. The Financial Stability Project is a multi-sector partnership, systems change initiative focused on poverty in the Lakes Region of NH. **Fran Belcher** will be working with a PSU student to generate an environmental scan of poverty prevention/wealth creation programs across the US this fall. Fran has also completed facilitator orientation for NH Listens, a civic engagement initiative of the Carsey Institute at UNH. In her role as facilitator for the North Country Listens and Lakes Region Listens chapters, Fran will co-facilitate community dialogue on local and statewide issues.
- **Fran Belcher** was appointed to the Board of Directors of NAMI NH and the Girl Scouts of the White and Green Mountains.
- **Thad Gulbrandsen** led an educational program on economic and demographic trends in rural New Hampshire for the 2012 class of Leadership New Hampshire at their opening retreat at Camp Merrowvista.
- **Thad Gulbrandsen** was interviewed by C-SPAN's "BookTV" program about *Local Democracy Under Siege*, a book he co-authored. Thad recently became part of the newly-formed NH Food Advisory Council.

Center for the Environment

- On Wednesday afternoons from 4-5 pm the Center for the Environment will host the Environmental Science Colloquium series in room 001 of the Boyd Science Center. The talks cover a wide range of topics around environmental science. For more information, contact **Angela Uhlman**. A list of speakers is posted at <http://www.plymouth.edu/center-for-the-environment/1795/fall-2011-environmental-science-colloquium/#more-1795>.
- **Michele Pruyn** and graduate student **Jim VanGyzen**, in partnership with the Margret & H.A. Rey Center, are continuing work on a phenology project on Mt. Tecumseh in Waterville Valley and Mt. Starr King in Jefferson. The data will help delineate the vegetation-climate trends of the region. Over the summer, they engaged in citizen science by involving undergraduates from Hubbard Brook's Research Experience for Undergraduates program and leading two overnight hiking trips up Mt. Tecumseh where guests were informed of the research project and assisted in collecting phenophase data on herbaceous species along the transect.

- On September 23, **Mark Green** gave a presentation at the University of Maine, Department of Earth Sciences Guest Lecture Series, on "Hydrologic change at Hubbard Brook induced by soil calcium amendment."

College of Business Administration

- PSU's **Small Business Institute** has just finished a six month consulting project working with Jim Pamplin the owner of Lakes Region Chiropractic, and partner Jeff Furgeson, the software developer who created WonderDoc - designed to help manage patients and practices through automated administrative tasks. The system helps physicians increase revenue, lower overhead and improve patient outcomes. The SBI consulting group consisting of **Justin Leever, Justin Scopetto, and Cynthia Mongeon**, conducted research about the software and created a business plan to market it to chiropractic clinics internationally.
- In June, **Yvette Lazdowski** attended the 2011 Annual Research Conference of Accounting Historians held at the University of Maryland. The theme was "Modern Perspectives of Accounting History: 125 Years of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants 1887-2012". She presented a paper entitled "The CPA Profession and Examination: Past, Present and Future". In August, Yvette attended the national conference of the American Accounting Association in Denver, where she served as reviewer, moderator, and discussant of several papers in concurrent sessions.

College of Graduate Studies

- **The Pakistani Educational Leadership Project**
For federal fiscal year 2011, the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, has continued funding of one of its flagship programs, the Pakistani Educational Leadership Project. It encompasses a two-part professional development program in Pakistan and the U.S. for Pakistani educational leaders from throughout that country. With Plymouth as host, the project includes an intensive summer institute housed at PSU. The State Department has allocated almost three and a half million dollars to this project since 2003, with 200 Pakistani educators, and their U.S. friends and colleagues, as beneficiaries. The Pakistanis report sharing the program's professional development opportunities with over 100,000 of their students and colleagues.
- With two State Department awards in place for FY2010 and FY2011, project director Blake Allen and assistant Lisa Baldwin are focusing on the Pakistan component, coordinating the project and PSU interface through the Offices of Academic Affairs and Sponsored Programs. For FY2010, the Pakistani educators are implementing Master Action Portfolios that they designed and developed during the 2011 summer institute. Planning also is underway for a third South Asia American reciprocal program that will bring together Pakistani and U.S. educators in Islamabad. FY2011 entails working with the in-country team from Pakistan sub-award organization ITA on the country-wide nomination process to select 20 Pakistani educators, and on continuing alumni initiatives. Planning also has begun for the 2012 institute. Accompanied by Lisa Baldwin, Blake Allen will return to Pakistan to meet with the team, alumni advisors, project stakeholders, and officials at the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad. Blake also is participating in Harvard's South Asia and Pakistan seminars.
- Shaped by Pakistani alumni, the latest project theme consists of "Transcending Boundaries: strengthening civil society through education." With thanks to project supporters on campus, in local communities, and in Washington and Pakistan, "engagement" already is a FY2011 hallmark.

Communication and Media Studies

- **Annette Holba** published a book chapter "Leisure, Communication, and Democracy: Cultivating Creative Democracy" in Omar Swartz's, *Communication and Creative Democracy*:

Interdisciplinary Perspectives and a journal article, "Erasmus: A Responsible Ethical Priest" in *Listening: Journal of Communication Ethics, Religion, and Culture* 46(2), 94-108.

Criminal Justice

- **Stephanie Halter** has been appointed as a research consultant for the NH Court Improvement Project conducting data analyses and assisting in evaluation efforts.

Education

- **Meagan Shedd** has accepted a three-year appointment with the Council for Children and Adolescents with Chronic Health Conditions, beginning [September 2011](#).
- **Marcel Lebrun** presented an all day workshop to Middle and High School Teachers on Universal Tier 1 Interventions in the Franklin School District on September 27th. He also presented an all day workshop to Middle and High School Teachers on RTI Targeted Tier 2 Interventions in the Franklin School District on September 16th, and he presented at the International conference on Behavior Disorders in New Orleans Sept 21-25. Topic: Children In Crisis

English

- **Robin DeRosa's** new edited collection, "Simulation in Media and Culture: Believing the Hype," is out from Lexington Books, a division of Rowman and Littlefield. The book, which examines the formation of hyperreal spaces in television, film, online worlds, and cultural identity, features articles by PSU colleagues **Ann McClellan** and **Cathie LeBlanc**.
- **Karolyn Kinane** presented a lecture and led a discussion on Shakespeare's "The Tempest" as part of the Winnepesaukee Playhouse "Play with Your Food" series.

Global Education Office (GEO)

- **Forty-eight PSU students are studying abroad** this semester including sixteen who are participating in our Freshman Abroad Program at the University of Limerick, Ireland. The remaining students are spending their fall semester in Australia, New Zealand, England, Italy, South Africa, Peru, Costa Rica, Spain, Belgium, and with Semester at Sea (stopping at ports in Morocco, Ghana, South Africa, Mauritius, India, Malaysia, Viet Nam, China, Japan, Costa Rica, and Cuba).
- **Twelve students are participating in the National Student Exchange** program studying at colleges and universities in North Carolina, Louisiana, Colorado, Florida, California, Tennessee, Montana and Canada.
- Through the NSE program, PSU is hosting a **Resident Director** from the University of Wyoming, Nancy Davidson, for the academic year.
- We are pleased to be **hosting two exchange students from the University of Plymouth, U.K.** Daniel Horton and Jack Craddock are both International Business majors and will be spending the academic year with us.

Health and Human Performance

- **Rebecca Busanich** and **Barbara McCahan**, from the Center for Active Living and Healthy Communities, were selected through a competitive process to attend the "Physical Activity in Public Health" courses co-sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the University of South Carolina Prevention Research Center. **Barbara** was additionally awarded the Anne Seeley Scholarship, which enables a person outside the field of public health to attend the practitioners' training. Anne Seeley was a pioneer in the area of active living through her efforts coordinating Active Community Environment's projects for the California Center for Physical Activity within the California Department of Health Services.

Lamson Library and Learning Commons

- **Anne M. Lebreche** and Plymouth Elementary School 8th grade teachers Paula Tanner, Kevin Greenler and Gerry Gontarz, presented the program “It’s Never Too Early: Middle School Students in the Academic Library” at the New Hampshire Library Association Spring Conference on May 6th. The presentation focused on a three-year project designed to introduce middle school students to doing research in a library. This year’s assignment focused on science and results from the students’ research were presented to the audience.
- **Terri Lessard** attended the Conference on Instructional Technology, May 24-27, at SUNY Oneonta, New York where she presented, “Trading Places: Faculty as online students for training.” **Justin L’Italien** also presented at this Conference. His presentation, “Take Back Your Classroom: Leveraging Student Cell Phones For Enhanced Student Learning” was well received by the 40+ attendees.
- **David Beronä** traveled to the Czech Republic in April as the guest speaker at the Institute of Czech Literature, Academy of Sciences in Prague where he presented a paper “The Woodcut Novel: A Tribute to the Art of Storytelling.” He also presented a paper “Telling Stories Today in Woodcuts” at the symposium, “Comics Studies: Potentials and Perspectives” at Palacký University in Olomouc and presented on wordless narratives the following day for the university community at-large. During the summer, Beronä attended the Comic Arts Conference at the San Diego Comic-Con International, July 22nd, where he presented a paper, “Contemporary Woodcut Novels.” He was also part of a panel as a contributor to the forthcoming textbook “Critical Approaches to Comics.”
- *Alastair Drawings and Illustrations*, edited with an Introduction by **David Beronä**, was published by Dover Publications. This retrospective volume showcases the works of a leader of the Decadent movement, Baron Hans Henning Voigt (1887-1969), better known as Alastair and his unique place in twentieth century art and illustration.
- **David** was also the curator for *The Art of the Woodcut Novel* exhibition at the AVA Gallery and Art Center, Lebanon New Hampshire, September 9 – October 7. This show was highlighted in *Art New England* (Sept-Oct) and reviewed in the *Valley News* (Sept 15). This exhibition will travel to Lamson Learning Commons, Plymouth State University as part of the Library Print Series, October 14 – December 15.

Languages and Linguistics

- **Barbara Lopez-Mayhew** and **Debra Regan** (Director, Global Education Office) participated in a USNH delegation visit to several universities in Chile last May with the purpose of further exploring potential partnerships.
- **James Whiting** recently served on a scholarship review committee in Applied Linguistics for the 2011 Fulbright Scholar Program.

Music, Theatre and Dance

- **Elizabeth Cox** presented her one-woman performance, “Chicks,” during the alumni/parents weekend events in September. This was a theatre scholarship fund-raising event.
- **Rik Pfenninger** has developed a new online jazz improvisation course for students and teachers at www.rpimprov.com. It is an interactive course that contains play-a-longs, video, and teaching tools to help teachers, high school students, and college students study jazz improvisation. Pfenninger presented the course at the All New England Band Director's conference this past July.
- **Connie Chesebrough** recently spent three days at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, MA, helping produce a DVD of pianist Marjan Kiepurä. The recording features Kiepurä introducing and performing a number of Chopin Mazurkas, his particular specialty. Excerpts from the DVD will be available on *You Tube* later in the year.

Social Science

- **Katherine Donahue** published an article, "What are Heroes For? Commemoration and the Creation of Heroes after 9/11" in the "In Focus" section of *Anthropology News*, August 29, 2011. C-SPAN's Book Talk aired her interview concerning her book *Slave of Allah: Zacarias Moussaoui vs. The USA* on September 29, 2011.

Social Work

- **Stephen Gorin** discussed Social Security at a meeting of the Belknap Area Committee on Aging and at a luncheon at the Inter-Lakes Senior Center in Meredith. His article "Confusion on Social Security and Medicare: They're not broke, don't add to debt," co-written with Russ Armstrong, Chair of the NH Commission on Aging, was published in the *New Hampshire Business Review*.
- **Cynthia Moniz** chaired a meeting of the NH-NASW Social & Legislative Action Committee which began this year's monthly meetings this month.
- **Christine Rine's** co-authored article "Victimization, psychological distress and subsequent offending among youth" was accepted for publication by *Children and Youth Services Review* and is posted online on Science Direct as an article in press. She also met with prospective students for next year's Child Welfare (IV-E) Educational Tuition Partnership, and is exploring a partnership with the NH Bureau of Homeless & Housing Services research project.
- **Elaine DeMello** (adjunct) reviewed the newest edition of *Sociology of Mental Health* by Gallagher, published by Prentice Hall. Her comments (and PSU) were cited on the jacket of the textbook which was just released.