

**Provost Report for the Month of May 2012**  
**Submitted by Julie Bernier**  
**Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

**Distinguished Teachers Announced**

I am pleased to share with you the names of this year's recipients of the PSU Distinguished Teaching Awards:

Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award – Kathleen Norris (Education Department/CoGS)

Distinguished Adjunct Teaching Award – Annie Hager (Mathematics Department)

Distinguished Teaching Award – Kathleen Arcchi (Music, Theatre and Dance Department)

These faculty members represent the excellent teaching of our faculty in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Please offer them a warm handshake of congratulations next time you see one of them.

**Faculty Salary plan**

Two years ago, PSU revised its list of comparator institutions. We recognized that with this new comparator group our average faculty salaries would drop further behind because these institutions' faculties were more highly compensated, but we believed that these were the appropriate comparator and aspirational institutions for PSU. When we chose the comparator group, the President and Cabinet made a commitment to developing and implementing an equity plan to bring faculty salaries to the mean of PSU comparators. Last year we took a step in that direction by again increasing the salary floor for each rank and raising the promotion increase from \$6,500 (Associate)/\$8000 (Full) to \$8,000 (Associate)/\$10,000 (Full). (Note -- promotion raises have increased from \$3500/\$5,000 in 2006.)

Earlier this year, I asked Faculty Welfare to work with me in developing a model that will guide future equity enhancements. In the materials provided for this meeting, you will see a copy of the Faculty Welfare Committee's recommendation in response to the four models I provided earlier this year. At the faculty meeting, I will provide a brief overview. I will also provide an additional description as an attachment to the agenda (and available → [here](#)).

**CourseEval**

The General Education course evaluation process is open now through May 5. Please encourage students in your Gen Ed classes to complete this evaluation prior to May 5<sup>th</sup>. The regular end-of-semester course evaluation period opens one week prior to the last day of the classes and will remain open until eight days after the last day of the class. For most full-time courses, this will be May 11-May 26.

Research indicates that the most effective method to improve response rate is simply telling students that the evaluation process is important to you, that you will review the results and that you would like them to complete the evaluation! Here is a description of access information that you may provide to students:

There are **four ways** to find your evaluation(s):

*From your smartphone or tablet:*

° Complete your course evaluations on your mobile device! Simply go to

<http://go.plymouth.edu/courseval> and sign in with your myPlymouth username and password.

 *From myPlymouth:*

° Click on the **Courseval link** in the **Student** section of the left-hand **sidebar in myPlymouth**.

OR??

° Click on the **myCourses tab** in myPlymouth and select the link to CoursEval beside your course listing. ??

OR??

° Click on the link in the **Course Evaluation block** inside the Moodle section of your course.

### Finals Week policies

As a reminder, final exams or a final class meeting must be held during Finals Week at the scheduled time. The exam schedule can be found at [http://www.plymouth.edu/office/registrar/files/2011/04/S2012\\_exam.pdf](http://www.plymouth.edu/office/registrar/files/2011/04/S2012_exam.pdf) Classes may not be cancelled during final exam week. The makeup/conflict resolution time period is Friday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 – 5:00 pm.

### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

#### Scholarship, awards, and noteworthy service activities

#### Academic Departments

#### Art

- **Terry Downs** will be exhibiting his 14-piece collagraph suite of the Passion, "LaVia Dolorosa", at the UNH Law Center in Concord, NH. The exhibit will be ongoing through the months of April and May. A link to the suite... <https://picasaweb.google.com/108985091064274656286>.
- **Annette Mitchell** will have a show of "Nightscapes," small paintings of the Plymouth area at Inspire 2Knit & Tea, Tenney Mountain Highway, from May 5th-June 5th.

#### Biological Science

- Undergraduate students **Abby Tibbetts** and **Dave Tardif** (both BS Biology) presented their research on the location of the biological clock in horseshoe crabs done in collaboration with **Chris Chabot** to NH Legislators at the State House on April 11th at the NH-INBRE Poster Presentation for NH Representatives.

Legend: NH INBRE Students on the Capitol Steps. PSU Students: Abby Tibbetts – seated 2<sup>nd</sup> from right; David Tardif – standing – 4<sup>th</sup> from right.



- **Fred Prince** published in the May 2012 issue of *Fur Fish & Game*, a Canadian national outdoor publication.
- **Larry Spencer** will be a participant in the 40th Annual Albert Reed and Thelma Walker Maritime History Symposium that will be held at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath, Maine on April 28th. He will present, "The *RV Albatross* and H. B. Bigelow: The Genesis of the *Fishes of the Gulf of Maine*." The Symposium is a daylong meeting that "will explore a broad spectrum of maritime subjects."

#### Center for the Environment

- **Denise Burchsted** presented "River Continuity and Discontinuity in Ecohydrology," to a civil engineering class at UNH on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mark Green** is part of a team of researchers from UNH and the USDA Northern Research Station that have been funded by the Northern States Research Cooperative to study the long-term decline in evapotranspiration in the northeastern United States.

- Graduate student **Chris Nealen** presented his thesis research to staff from the White Mountain National Forest, NH Department of Environmental Services, and forest harvesters. His presentation was titled "Controls on Aluminum Mobilization in the White Mountain National Forest."

#### Center for Rural Partnerships

- **Ben Amsden** (with Carla Barbieri of the University of Missouri) co-chaired a roundtable management discussion entitled "Local Food Leisure: Opportunities and Resources for Farm Based Research" at the Northeast Recreation Research conference (NERR) in Cooperstown, NY.

#### Communication and Media Studies

- Evelyn Stiller presented a paper at Quinnipiac University on April 27th at CCSCNE, the northeastern region of the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges. Her talk was entitled "Programming for the humanities: using targeted games". She also chaired a session on Visual Elements in Computer Science Education.

#### Counselor Education & School Psychology

- **Leo Sandy** has completed the orientation for Citizen Involvement with the New Hampshire Department of Corrections.

#### Criminal Justice

- **Kristine Levan's** entry "Use of Violence" has been published in the *Encyclopedia of Transnational Crime and Justice*, edited by Margaret Beare and Geoffrey Golson. Sage Publications.
- **David Mackey**, along with Kevin Courtright and Susan Packard (both from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania) had their manuscript "Criminal justice job desirability among incoming freshmen: Exploring relationships between personal characteristics and occupational attractiveness" published by *Corrections Compendium*, the research journal of the American Correctional Association.

#### Education

- **Trish Lindberg** recently returned from the Shanghai American School in China where she taught two graduate courses in Arts and Learning and worked with Chinese Educators to integrate the arts into the teaching of Chinese language to elementary and middle school students. She was one of ten international artists invited to participate in FACE OFF, a three-week arts workshop in Pakistan this May exploring the many sides of terrorism. She and the TIGER actors have also been busy **filming a TV Pilot** on bullying in collaboration with New Hampshire Public Television based on Plymouth State's professional educational theatre program TIGER. The TIGER television program is due to premiere in September on NHPTV.
- On Saturday April 14th, the Early Childhood Studies program held **an Alumni Reception** at the Child Development & Family Center. Former and current students exchanged ideas on job search techniques, philosophies of early childhood programs, and reminisced about courses and experiences with the children and staff at the center.
- As the faculty advisor to the Early Childhood Club, **Clarissa Uttley** is proud to announce that 12 Early Childhood Studies club members served as student volunteers for the **NHAEYC** (New Hampshire Association for the Education of Young Children) **conference** held at PSU on Saturday April 14th. Student volunteers worked from 7am – 5pm, assisting presenters and participants, attending sessions, and representing PSU to the nearly 500 attendees. This was the largest number of student volunteers PSU has provided to the New Hampshire Association for the Education of Young Children! In fact, NHAEYC does not solicit any additional volunteers when holding the conference at PSU because of the dedication of our students. The students include: **Amylee Keith, Krystal Burlock, Meagan Ames, Lauren West, Leatrice Lafontaine, Yulan Millican, Kristina Sanford, Danika Rainie, Laura Donovan, Amanda Thornton, Kelsey Pierro, and Aubrey Ganem.**
- **Clarissa** has also been elected to a 2-year term as Membership Secretary of the NHAEYC that will begin in June 2012. In this role, she will be responsible for data collection and maintenance of current membership records and generating and implementing recruitment and retention

strategies to increase NHAEYC membership. In addition to serving as the Site Liaison for the NHAEYC Annual Conference held at PSU, Clarissa also presented at the annual conference. Her session, "So you think you can present? Of course you can! Developing proposals for local and national conferences" focused on professional development in the field of early childhood education and supported both seasoned and soon-to-be presenters in the decision to develop and submit conference proposals.

- **Mary Earick** (Early Childhood Studies) and **Doug Earick** (ES&P/CFE) co-presented at the National Science Teachers Association National Conference in Indianapolis, IN on March 29th. "The Teacher as Researcher," was a presentation on results from their recently completed NH Math Science Partnership funded project in the Newfound Area School District. The project worked with 30 teachers from the district's four elementary schools, developing environmental science learning progressions in K-5 classrooms and associated content development in an action research based model. The schools produced new curriculum that will be available to all teachers in the state around the topics of plants, cycles in nature, solar energy, and earth resources.
- **Pat Cantor** and **Mary Cornish** presented on "Infant/Toddler Learning: Is There an App for That?" at the NHAEYC Conference at Plymouth State on Saturday, April 14th. They also presented a special session for 50 Coos County early childhood teachers and directors on "Integrating Language and Literacy Development through Play," as part of their work with the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund's Coos County Early Childhood Development Initiative.
- At the NH Child Development Bureau's Celebration of Excellence on April 24th, **Pat Cantor** was one of the recipients of the **Mary Stuart Gile Award**, which goes to a group of people in recognition of their commitment to the development of the next generation of early childhood professionals in the state. The Award went to the members of the Task Force that developed the new Infant/Toddler Competencies and Credentials for the state. She was also one of the recipients of the **Henry Morgan Award**, which recognizes achievement in professional development and commitment to improving NH's quality of early care and education.
- **Marcel Lebrun** presented a full-day training at SERESC in Bedford to school administrators, Head Start directors, and future school administrators. The presentation was entitled "Developing the Inner Leader Within YOU!" It was presented on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

### English

- **Liz Ahl** and **Joe Monninger** were invited presenters at the New Hampshire Writers' Project 2012 Writers' Day on March 30th.
- **Ann McClellan** presented "A Case of Identity: Role Playing, Social Media, and BBC Sherlock," at the 42nd Annual Pop Culture Association Conference in Boston, MA in April. She also chaired a panel. Additionally this month, she facilitated two discussions on Michael Cunningham's "The Hours" for Pease Public Library's *Books to Film Series*.
- **Matthew Cheney** presented "Old Man Action Figures: Age and Masculinity in Post-Millennial Action Films," at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association conference in Boston on April 12th, and presented "Books and Movies Are So Last Century: Media in the New Millennium" at Pease Public Library on April 19th.
- **Vanessa Alander** and **Hannah Davidson** recently led a workshop on paperless teaching at EdCamp in Portland, Maine.
- **Joan Bowers** presented "A Canticle for Leibowitz and Riddley Walker: Neo-Medieval Sites of Post-Apocalyptic Dread" at the 33rd Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum hosted by PSU on April 20th-22nd, 2012.

### Environmental Science and Policy

- Fourteen PSU students (12 ES&P majors and 2 business majors) presented a report on April 27th to town officials and residents of Costigliole Saluzzo, ITALY on a sustainable renovation and preservation plan for a **16<sup>th</sup> century castle (Castello Reynaudi)** in their community. This report was the outcome of an environmental service learning research project which was part of a study abroad semester at St John International University, (SJIU), Vinovo - Torino, ITALY. The report dealt with energy, water management, permaculture, and historic preservation under the guidance of

PSU faculty mentors **Mary Ann McGarry** and **Warren Tomkiewicz**, and graduate assistants **Heidi Baker** and **Rachelle Lyons**. Additional SJIU faculty in architecture, anthropology, and art consulted on the project.

- **MaryAnn McGarry** presented on the Sustainable Italy semester for the “Spotlight on Faculty Using Technology,” via Skype. McGarry created a Mahara site to showcase activities and products for two courses co-taught by McGarry and Tomkiewicz focused on environmental issues in Italy and the PSU group’s environmental service learning project – a sustainable plan for a castle.
- **Doug Earick** (ES&P/CFE) and **Mary Earick** (Early Childhood Studies) co-presented at the National Science Teachers Association National Conference in Indianapolis, IN on March 29th. The “Teacher as Researcher” was a presentation on results from their recently completed NH Math Science Partnership funded project in the Newfound Area School District. The project worked with 30 teachers from the district's four elementary schools, developing environmental science learning progressions in K-5 classrooms and associated content development in an action research based model. The schools produced new curriculum that will be available to all teachers in the state around the topics of plants, cycles in nature, solar energy, and earth resources.

#### Health and Human Performance

- **Lynn Johnson** was elected to the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) Board of Governors as a representative from the Eastern District Association/AAHPERD.
- **Lynn Johnson** and **Linda Levy** had an article, “Supervising PETE Candidates Using the Situational Supervision Model,” published in the April 2012 *Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance*.
- **Linda Levy** and **Liesl Lindley**, along with 25 students from the Athletic Training Program, attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual NH Athletic Training Student Symposium, held at Keene State College on Sunday, April 1. Athletic training students from UNH, KSC, and CSC also attended and presented student research projects. **Provost Julie Bernier** was the keynote speaker for the event. Students from PSU came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Annual Quiz Bowl Competition.
- **Rebecca Busanich** published an article, “Expanding Understandings of the Body, Food, and Exercise Relationship in Distance Runners: A Narrative Approach” in the international journal *Psychology of Sport and Exercise*.
- The Center for Active Living and Healthy Communities: **Barbara McCahan** and **Rebecca Busanich** hosted an organizational meeting for the Eco-Learning Gardens project in an effort to promote a relationship with the land by educating and connecting the community with our food sources. The project is working to organize and establish a series of five teaching and learning gardens in the Plymouth Community, planted, harvested and maintained by volunteers and involving the local schools and various service organizations.

#### History and Philosophy

- **Marcia Schmidt Blaine** was recently elected to the Executive Board of the New England Historical Association.
- **Bruce Heald’s** newest book, “New Hampshire and the Civil War: Voices from the Granite State,” was released in April by The History Press, now in bookstores.

#### Lamson Library and Learning Commons

- **Anne Jung** and Plymouth Elementary School Team 8 teachers Gerry Gontarz, Kevin Greenler and Paula Tanner presented at the New England League of Middle Schools annual conference on April 2nd in Providence, RI. Their presentation, “It’s Never Too Early: Middle School Students in the Academic Library,” discussed the ongoing project between the school and library now in its fourth year.
- **David A. Beronä** published a review in CHOICE, April 2012 of “*The profitable artist: a handbook for all artists in the performing, literary, and visual arts*,” ed. by Peter Cobb, Susan Ball, and Felicity Hogan. Allworth/New York Foundation for the Arts, 2011. **David** was invited to Northern Illinois University on April 17th-18th where he critiqued the exhibition “The Graphic Novel: An Interpretive

History” by students in the Graduate School of Museum Studies in the Art Department. He also presented a lecture “Wordless Novels.”

#### Language and Linguistics

- Apologies to **Lauren Bergeron** – her acceptance into the Graduate Studies MA Spanish Program in the Department of Romance Languages is at Boston College, not Brown University as reported in last month’s report.
- **Eric Cintron** gave a presentation titled “La literatura y la historia puertorriquena de un pajarito de dos alas” (The Literature and History of Puerto Rico of One Bird of Two Wings) in February at The National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- **Wilson Garcia** participated in a program site visit for Spanish Studies Abroad in Seville and Alicante (Spain) March 2nd-10th. He also presented “Life in Colombia” to two groups of 6th graders at the Campton Elementary School on March 14th.

#### Music, Theatre and Dance

- **Kathleen Arecchi** was a judge for the New England Region Finals of the NATS Artist Award singing competition held in Littleton, MA, and spent two days in Lebanon, NH and White River Junction, VT conducting voice master classes and giving private voice lessons to the students of two area studio voice teachers.
- Trumpet instructor **James Boccia** and collaborative pianist **Charles Blood** were featured performers with the New Hampshire Music Educators Association All-State Mixed Chorus at the NHMEA annual convention in Concord on April 14th. At the same concert, senior Music Education major and flutist **Marybeth Cote** performed with the All-State Women’s Chorus.
- **Gary Corcoran** was recently awarded the New England College Band Association (NECBA) Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment and dedication to the creation, promotion and performance of original and traditional band literature. He also recently served as guest conductor at Westford Academy (MA) and as an adjudicator/clinician for the Vermont Music Educators Association Festival at South Burlington High School.
- **Jonathan Santore’s** composition “Front Porch Poems,” originally written for PSU adjunct faculty member **Rodger Ellsworth** (violin and viola) and mezzo-soprano **Eva Nagorka**, was performed by the Chiaroscuro Trio at a concert in Cincinnati on April 22nd.
- **Robert Swift** was invited to participate in a panel discussion at the NH All-State Music Festival on April 13th. The panel of “veteran music educators” offered suggestions and advice to collegiate music education majors.

#### Social Science

- **David Starbuck** appeared in the television program "The Decryters: The Last Mohican" on the National Geographic Channel on March 29th, interpreting the remains of a Native American who had traveled as many as 2,000 miles in the 1750s to live and die at Fort William Henry (Lake George, NY). David is also hosting a series of Wednesday evening speakers on campus for New Hampshire Archaeology Month (the month of April), and on April 21st he spoke in Baltimore to the Archaeology Society of Maryland on "Archaeology at Fort William Henry, Site of 'The Last of the Mohicans.'"
- **Stacey Yap** is proud to share that two of her students, **Kathleen Rosse** and **Peter Haynes** (from her Fall course, Sociology of Race & Ethnicity), presented their papers at the student conference of the Association of New England Undergraduate Sociological Research Conference at Bryant University, RI on Friday, April 27th. Kathleen presented “The English-only Movement in America” and Peter, “African American Muslims: The Black Encounter in the Nation of Islam”.

#### Social Work

- **Stephen Gorin** published a chapter, "Social Workers Advocating for Social Security," in *Social Work Matters: The Power of Linking Policy and Practice (2012)*, E. Hoffler and E. Clarks, eds. **Steve** also participated as a member of the CSWE Council on Leadership Development in a meeting to select

social work educators/applicants for scholarships to the Harvard Leadership program and to address other leadership development plans.

- **Cynthia Moniz** participated as a member of the NASW Delegate Assembly Task Force established by the national president in its first meeting to begin considerations for structural reform for the organization. She also served as a focus group member to provide feedback on a new electronic social work field education program developed by Pearson held at the annual BPD conference in Portland, OR.
- **Stephen Gorin** served with two physicians on a panel to discuss the Affordable Care Act (ACA); the event was held at the Common Man on March 30th. On April 5th, he served on a Panel at the Plymouth Regional Senior Center to discuss Social Security. He was interviewed by the NH Public News Service for a story about the implications for Medicare of repealing the ACA.
- **Scott Meyer** presented a training session on the “Meaning of Death and Dying” for hospice volunteers at Pemi Baker Community Health. He also co-facilitated a training session on campus for social work practicum field instructors with **Christine Rine, Shirley Daigneault, Melissa Hatfield** and **Sharon O’Donnell** entitled “Skills, Assessment & Theory: Linking to Process in Practice Settings.” Lastly, he is serving on a local Panel of professionals at the End of Life Ethics Conference to be held at PSU.
- **Cynthia Moniz** chaired a meeting of the department Advisory Board which showcased the Social Work students Habitat trip during spring break and the department’s new online practicum student evaluation instrument. She also worked with students to present a poster session for the Senior Center Service Learning Project, which is part of her Practice II course for the Student Showcase on campus.
- **Christine Rine** presented work from her faculty research grant, The GIS Foster Care Project, at a meeting of the NH Research Group. She also worked with students to present poster sessions for the NH Homeless Access Survey project, which is part of her Research Methods course, and the GIS Foster Care Project for the Student Showcase and Research Symposium events on campus. Lastly, Dr. Rine conducted student interviews for the 2012-13 Child Welfare IV- E Educational Tuition Partnership, and student interviews for a newly funded one year GIS Foster Care Project research/ Practicum position.

### Academic Affairs Offices

#### Global Education Office (GEO)

- Nearly 140 PSU faculty/staff and greater Plymouth community members applied for passports during our annual **Passport Processing Day** in April, run in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security.
- We are pleased to announce that **Jessica Pine** has joined the staff as International Programming Coordinator. Jessica has been working with GEO since August 2011 as a Graduate Assistant and has been instrumental in developing programming initiatives for our international student population.

#### Math Activities Center (MAC)

- Since Orientation of June 2011, the MAC assessment team (**Jack Barry, Jacquelyn O’Donohoe** and **Shawn Hackshaw**) has piloted an online version of the Math Placement Assessment. This change resulted in a more convenient and efficient way to administer the assessment. The change to online was likely a significant contributor to the 40% increase in the number of students taking the assessment. In addition, the team has added two other online assessments: The College Math Proficiency Assessment which was designed for all students who are not required to take the Placement Assessment and would like know how ready they are for college-level mathematics, as well as a practice exam for the math portion of the Praxis I required of all education majors. Lastly, these three assessments have an online Refresher/Tutorial for students who want to improve their scores by achieving a higher level of mastery. For more information or to refer a student, please contact us through the Math Activities Center’s webpage: <http://www.plymouth.edu/services/math-center/>.

### Pakistani Educational Leadership Project (PELI)

- The Pakistan project currently consists of several intensive phases in the U.S. and Pakistan, representative of the close collaborations entailed in the year-round program. They include Master Action Plan completion by the 2011 delegation of Pakistani educators; institute planning for the 2012 delegation of Pakistani educators; and post-institute planning for in-country implementation and outcomes. Up to 20 teachers from remote, rural areas will participate in the project's ninth summer institute at Plymouth State. During the month of July, the educators will explore dynamic educational initiatives through study tours and learning modules. PSU alumna and M.Ed. graduate student **Sarah Roesener** and PSU '12 **Sam Wisel** will host the Pakistani guests in Mary Lyon.
- Project director **Blake Allen** recently returned from Pakistan. While there she met with a cross-section of Pakistan's vibrant civil society –actors and activists engaged with human rights as journalists, artists, educators, and students. With thanks to project partner Jamal Shah, artist and actor, she accompanied him on site visits and toured fascinating exhibit spaces. She also conducted informal interviews with villagers from throughout Pakistan, hearing more real time stories of conditions on the ground. Intensive meetings with senior officials from the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad, USAID, U.S. Educational Foundation Pakistan, and Higher Education Commission Pakistan provided different, but also valuable, perspectives.
- **Blake Allen** and project assistant **Lisa Baldwin** also are in the process of developing another U.S. Department of State grant submission for Federal Fiscal Year 2012 and the project's 2013 institute. Profoundly shaped by the recent visits to Pakistan, the grant narrative reflects insights and experiences contributed by the project's Pakistani community of practice. At alumni recommendation, the core concept consists of the development of youth service clubs, linking students to child laborers through shared learning activities and community service. Two lively youth advisors (high school students) also are working together on the project and grant: one from D.I.Khan, which is in a heavily militant area, and the other from Westborough, Massachusetts.

### Undergraduate Studies

- **Mary Campbell** was honored for her 23 years of service as a member of the Newfound Area School District's School Board. Complete with video "thank-yous" from members of the community, musical performances by the Newfound Regional High School Select Chorus, and testimonials from teachers, local selectmen, and committee members which highlighted Mary's "outstanding service and commitment to the community," Mary's dedication and hard work were celebrated by all.

Mary's 23-year tenure on the School Board is one of the longest in the state. SAU4 Superintendent Marie Ross presented Mary with seat K32 from the auditorium where Mary sat for every event she attended. The seat was accompanied by a poem, "The Chair," written by Superintendent Ross, acknowledging Mary's "commitment to the chair she loved and her commitment as the chair of the school board." Attached to the chair, a plaque commemorates Mary for her time with the Board, from March 16th, 1988 to March 16th, 2012. Congratulations, Mary.

### Writing Center

- On April 1st, five members of the Writing Center staff attended the Forging Connections conference for NH college and university writing center professionals, held at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester. Assistant director **Jen Dumont**, faculty volunteer **Robert Miller**, and director **Jane Weber** also attended. Two PSU student consultants attended as well, **Abbey Filiault** ('12) and **Brenda Shively** ('13). **Brenda** gave a one-hour presentation on the value of student-led staff meetings, a practice long held by the PSU Writing Center staff during spring semesters.