Greetings from the Provost’s Office!

Though the weather may not be fully cooperating, spring is finally here! This is my favorite time of year academically, as we ramp up our season of special celebrations, events, and performances. I am looking forward to celebrating your students’ many achievements with you, and I thank all of you in advance for your many contributions to our students’ successes.

Be sure to continue to stay in touch if you have news, input, ideas, and/or concerns to share. I enjoy hearing from you, and working with you to creatively address the many opportunities that emerge on our campus!

New Faces/New Positions

Jessica Burnett has recently joined the staff of the Student Success Center’s TRiO program. Jessica graduated from SUNY Potsdam in 2009 with a BA degree majoring in Arts Education and in 2011 with a MST degree in Childhood Education. She is a native of Medford, NY and now lives in Hopkinton with her husband and 8-month-old daughter. We are very excited to have Jessica as TRiO’s new Academic Advisor.

Also new in the TRiO office is Lorraine Njoki, the federal grant program’s Project Assistant. A former TRiO student via the Talent Search Program at Columbia University, Lorraine hails from Kenya by way of New York City and calls many places home. Lorraine is a recent Clarkson University graduate who majored in Political Science and Innovation & Entrepreneurship. She has a passion for humanitarian work and is excited to be able to help students through their college journeys.

If you’re in Sisson Hall, please stop by TRiO (room 119) to welcome Jessica and Lorraine!
Campus Updates

Chief Financial Officer. As the campus community is already aware, Vice President Gerhard Voggel has resigned from the university. Currently, Mary Dolan has assumed many of VP Voggel’s responsibilities until an interim CFO is named. The campus is using the services of the Registry to identify an Interim Chief Financial Officer (CFO); as a reminder, the Registry was used in the past when hiring the Interim Provost (Judy Kirkpatrick). The Registry has identified three qualified candidates, who will be traveling to campus in early May. The campus community will be encouraged to participate in their visit, which will include an open campus forum. Be sure to watch your email for the date/time of the forum as well as more specific information about the individual candidates!

Campus Strategic Plan. The campus continues its work on the critical process of strategic planning. Most recently, a team of faculty members and campus leaders was appointed to begin fleshing out the broader strategic planning goals and developing plans for implementation. This team has also been charged with completing a strategic planning draft by the end of the current spring semester. For more information on the strategic plan or to view the campus’ strategic planning documents, please consult the website: www.potsdam.edu/strategicplanning.

In addition to the campus-wide strategic planning process, work has been unfolding related to the draft outline of the Academic Strategic Plan, which can be accessed at: http://www.potsdam.edu/sites/default/files/AcademicAffairsPlanningGoalsarch.pdf. I want to thank those of you who attended the April 3rd “Coffee and Conversation,” and who shared your initial thoughts and feedback regarding this draft document. I welcome you to continue to share your input, which will be invaluable as the Academic Affairs team revises this outline and begins to develop timelines and an implementation plan.

Center for Creative Instruction—Coordinator of Professional Development. The CCI provides a critical role in supporting the professional development of faculty and staff, a mission which is integrated into the goals of both the campus-wide strategic plan and the strategic goals of Academic Affairs. We are therefore very pleased to announce the search for a part-time Coordinator of Professional Development, who will work with Jill Pearon and the
CCI staff to enhance our offerings in support of innovative instruction! The Coordinator will be provided with two course releases per semester (fall and spring); summer workload is negotiable. More details will be forthcoming on SPOLR. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Pearon (pearonjr@potsdam.edu). We hope that you will consider this unique leadership opportunity!

**Education Careers Academy.** SUNY Potsdam is very excited to announce the Fall 2017 launch of the Education Careers Academy, located at SUNY Potsdam (Flagg 203). This unique initiative is a full-day program open to high school seniors in St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES schools. In collaboration with SUNY Potsdam, students will receive a comprehensive introduction to careers in the field of education, using the BOCES Education and Human Services (Career & Technical Education) program as a foundation and then blending with major components of the introductory coursework taken by SUNY Potsdam students in the Childhood/Early Childhood Education program. Students enrolled in the program will have the opportunity to earn up to eighteen (18) college credits through SUNY Potsdam’s College in High School program (pending individual course approvals) while completing their Regents requirements.

Pending departmental approval, the program will provide high school seniors with the opportunity to earn SUNY Potsdam credit in Principles of Education (EDLS 201), School Health (HLTH 230), Integrating Arts into the Classroom (ARTS 109), Cooperative Activities (PE 148), Introduction to Literature (LITR 100), and Writing and Critical Thinking (COMP 101). These course proposals are currently under campus departmental review. This coursework will fulfill up to six (6) course requirements of the Childhood/Early Childhood Education curriculum and up to five (5) course requirements under the current General Education curriculum.

Effective 2017-18, the new College in High School rate of $125 per course or $75 per course for free or reduced lunch eligible students will make it possible for regional high school seniors to complete the equivalent of one semester of college coursework for as little as $450. Due to overwhelming interest, the original target of 20-25 students has been increased, which may result in a solid pipeline of upwards of thirty (30) students interested in pursuing a degree in education or related careers. This is exciting news, both in terms of reaching enrollment goals but more importantly in support of addressing the state’s projected teaching shortages! More information about the BOCES program can be found at: [http://sllboces.org/domain/197](http://sllboces.org/domain/197).

**Summer Orientation.** The Student Success Center is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for the Summer Orientation Advisor positions. Summer Orientation Advisors play a crucial role in helping our first-year students transition to college by providing a wealth of
information and assisting with their first semester course schedule. For faculty, this program offers a great chance to interact with new students and set them on the path to success.

The Summer Orientation program also provides advisors the opportunity to interact with colleagues from across campus, learn more about the advising process (especially for those new to it), and earn some extra money over the summer. This year, the SSC is able to offer a stipend of $175 per session -- $1,050 total, for those choosing to work all six sessions! (The College’s procedures for extra service apply, so an advisor can only receive payment when the work meets approved criteria. Please see details at http://www.potsdam.edu/hr/fachdbk/chapter_4.html#extra%20service.)

A full program description and application can be found online at: https://www2.potsdam.edu/morsets/Summer%20Adviser%20Invitation%202017.pdf. Applications are due May 1, 2017. Feel free to contact Tim Morse (morsets@potsdam.edu) with any questions.

**St. Lawrence Leadership Institute (SLLI).** On March 28th, the Division of Graduate & Continuing Education coordinated a networking reception to celebrate the relaunch of the Institute at its new home at SUNY Potsdam. Approximately 50 alumni and prospective participants attended the event, with a keynote address from Joseph Kardash, Superintendent of Colton-Pierrepoint Central Schools and SLLI alum. The SLLI is a partnership between SUNY Potsdam’s Department of Business, the Division of Graduate & Continuing Education, and the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce. The program is slated to welcome its first class this fall. Additional information about the program can be found online at: www.potsdam.edu/slli.

**CCI Updates.** Due to the exceptional work of our faculty, the Center for Creative Instruction has closed the Facul-TE Award funding for 2016-17. Thank you to everyone who submitted their applications for Facul-TE Awards this year! Remember, the CCI welcomes and encourages faculty to share their knowledge and skills with the campus community. If you would like to lead a workshop or event for the campus, please contact the CCI staff (cci@potsdam.edu).

Be sure to check out the following upcoming CCI events (more details can be found on the CCI website- www.potsdam.edu/faculty/CCI/):

- **4/7 @ 1pm** – Presentation: Making the Most of Library-Related Assignments and Activities
- **4/14 @ 2pm** – Pop-In Fridays: Drop by for popcorn and conversation about creative instruction
- **4/20 @ 3pm** – Presentation: Closing the Distance with Collaborate
- **4/28 @ 2pm** – Pop-In Fridays: Drop by for popcorn and conversation about creative instruction
- **5/4 @ 2pm** – Presentation: Build your Presentation Powerfully (registration required)

**Student Affairs.** Need to miss a class to attend a conference, professional meeting, or other obligation? Rather than cancel your class, contact Julia Rapczynski, Student Affairs Program Coordinator ([rapczyjk@potsdam.edu](mailto:rapczyjk@potsdam.edu) or 315-267-2332). She will present to your class on any of the following topics: stress reduction/stress management, time management, chair yoga, improving sleep, and a variety of other wellness and self-care issues depending upon the class. If appropriate, student interns may co-present. Some advance notice is preferred but last minute requests up to the day prior will be considered. If interested, don’t hesitate to contact Julie!

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**Coffee and Conversation**

I have enjoyed our dialogue at this semester’s “Coffee and Conversations”! Our discussions around current ideas, questions, and concerns continue to be both invigorating and valuable. I hope that you can join me for the final two “Coffees,” scheduled from 8:30-9:30 in the Raymond 8th floor dining room. The tentative topics include:

- Thursday, April 13th—SSC Campus/New Retention and Advising Support
- Friday, May 5th—Campus Updates

What topics are of interest to you?? Please email your suggestions to me at bergerbs@potsdam.edu.

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**Around the State/System**

**CIT 2017.** Registration is now open for SUNY’s annual Conference on Instruction and Technology (CIT), scheduled for **May 30 – June 2** on the campus of SUNY Oneonta. Registration is just $250 for SUNY participants if you register between now and May 14, 2017. After May 14th registration will increase to $300. In addition, FACT2 will award a limited number of $50 Scholarships to attend CIT. Please refer to the ‘Scholarship’ link on the CIT website for additional information and instructions on how to submit your ‘Statement of Interest’.
Additional information can be found on the CIT website at [http://cit.suny.edu](http://cit.suny.edu).

To register for the CIT, go to: [http://www.cvent.com/d/75q74d](http://www.cvent.com/d/75q74d) or contact SUNY Potsdam’s FACT2 Representatives, Shalu Wunnava (wunnavss@potsdam.edu) or Romeyn Prescott (prescor@potsdam.edu).

**Explorations in Diversity.** SUNY’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is again accepting applications for the 2017-18 Explorations in Diversity and Academic Excellence initiative in support of innovative approaches that strengthen the intersections between diversity and inclusive excellence on our campus. The 2017-2018 guidelines and application form for this initiative can be found at: [http://www.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/diversity/2017-18_ExplorationsRFP.pdf](http://www.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/diversity/2017-18_ExplorationsRFP.pdf). Please note that the guidelines require that both the campus’ Chief Diversity Officer (Bernadette Tiapo) and the Chief Academic Officer (Bette Bergeron) sign off on the final project/proposal.

The deadline for this year’s application is **5 p.m. on Friday, April 14, 2017**, and awards will be announced in May. If you have any questions regarding this program, please feel free to contact Carlos Medina (carlos.medina@suny.edu).

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**In Case You Missed It…**

**Thinking Across the Disciplines.** The SUNY Potsdam Honors Program invites the campus and community to join them for the final "Thinking Across the Disciplines” lecture. Through this lecture series, professors and community members from an array of academic backgrounds have shared reflections on interpretations of race and ethnicity from their own perspectives. The final lecture will be held on **Thursday, April 13**. Dr. Melissane Schrems, Department of History, Saint Lawrence University, will present on "Indigenous Historical Actors in American History: From Pawns to Players Examples from the Age of the American Revolution” from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. on the 8th floor of Raymond Hall.

The “Thinking About the Disciplines” series has been designed by Jeremy van Blommenstein, chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

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Do you have ideas or news to include in the next Provost’s Corner? Be sure to let me know! Just email me at bergerbs@potsdam.edu.
Mark Your Calendars!

**Gay Pride March.** The Center for Diversity is co-sponsoring with our Gender and Sexuality Alliance student organization our annual Gay Pride March on **Saturday, April 15th at 11:00 a.m.** in downtown Potsdam. We encourage everyone to participate in this celebration of inclusion!

**Microaggressions Webinar.** The Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is hosting a PaperClip Communications Webinar to provide opportunities for faculty and staff to continue the discussions around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion-related issues both in and out of the classroom. The Webinar, entitled “Microaggression: Today’s Critical Work – Creating & Sustaining an Inclusive & Civil Campus Community,” will be held on **April 25th.** Please click on the link below for additional information and to register: [http://www.potsdam.edu/diversity/trainingwebinars](http://www.potsdam.edu/diversity/trainingwebinars).

**Honorary Degree Nominations.** The campus is invited to assist in identifying future Honorary Degree recipients. Nominees for an honorary degree must be distinguished and their achievements must be both relevant and appropriate to our campus. The nominee may be an alumna/us, someone with national or international prominence in a discipline in which our campus has a program, or someone who has achieved national or international prominence in their own field. Nominations are due no later than **May 1st** to Carol Rourke at rourkecm@potsdam.edu. Please see the full guidelines for nominations on the website at [www.potsdam.edu/hd](http://www.potsdam.edu/hd).

**Seussical KIDS.** *Creative Arts for Kids!* is a student led non-credit afterschool program overseen by the Department of Theatre and Dance which hosts children in Grades K-4 on the SUNY Potsdam campus. This semester features a production of *Seussical KIDS.* Our youth participants will portray characters from the popular Dr. Seuss books onstage in this fantastical musical extravaganza that promises to be great fun for the whole family. The show will be held in the PAC Blackbox Theatre on **May 12 at 4:30 pm.**

**LoKo Festival of the Arts 2017.** The campus’ annual Lougheed-Kofoed (LoKo) Festival of the Arts takes place this spring, **April 28 – May 7.** This year, we have more than 20 visiting artists offering workshops, demonstrations, lectures, performances, and readings. The full schedule and biographies of all the visiting artists can be found online [www.potsdam.edu/loko](http://www.potsdam.edu/loko).
Disciplined Inquiry in Education Seminar Series. The Disciplined Inquiry in Education Seminar Series is preparing for its last three presentations for the semester; all sessions are held from noon to 1:00pm in the Literacy Center Balcony:

- **April 12**: Sheryl Scales (Department of Literacy)
  *How Common Core Got It Right?!: Let’s Explore the Lesser Known Stories*

- **April 19**: Nancy Dodge-Reyome (Research and Sponsored Programs)
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  *Research and Grant Services Available at SUNY Potsdam*

- **April 26**: Ronald Bretsch (Department of Secondary Education)
  *Basic Concepts for Beginning Teachers*

The Disciplined Inquiry in Education series is coordinated by Sergei Abramovich, Department of Elementary Education.

Employee Recognition Ceremony. All members of the campus community are invited to attend the 2017 Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony to be held at 8:30 a.m. on **Thursday, May 18, 2017** in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Barrington Student Union. During this event, faculty and staff members will be recognized for their service to the College, and individuals who will receive the 2017 Chancellor’s Awards and President’s Awards, as well as those who are retiring, will be recognized. A continental breakfast will be provided. Please indicate your ability to attend and guarantee your seat at the ceremony by sending an email to murrayjm@potsdam.edu.

Economic Fusion. On **April 13th** SUNY Potsdam will hold its **3rd Annual Economic Fusion Day**. This event’s mission is to support and foster entrepreneurship and creativity among our students, faculty, and community. The event includes an Innovation Idea Competition, keynote speaker, and career networking.

Bookstore Briefing

*Do you know how the College bookstore tries to reduce costs for our students?*

- They give students the option of new, used, or rental materials whenever available.
- They tell students which materials are required and which are recommended.
- They use a price comparison tool (Verba Price Compare) to be sure their markup is competitive with online retailers, such as Amazon.
- They shop at multiple vendors and search for discounted deals around the globe to reduce costs for our students!

*What happens when I have students purchase a book for my class then don’t use it?*

- If it is past the first week of the semester, students are unable to return the text for the full amount. While they can resell it as a used text, they only receive a fraction of the money they spent.

*But shouldn’t students be building their personal libraries, even if I don’t use it in my class?*

- In this digital information age more and more materials will be available to students online in their lifetime. Purchasing books they do not need now when most students are on a very restricted budget doesn’t reflect the fiscal realities faced by many of our students.
Faculty are encouraged to include this event in course curriculum and invite students to participate in this great opportunity to interact with regional employers, learn new skills, and take part in the Innovation Idea Competition. As part of the competition on April 13th, student finalists will present their ideas to a panel of judges. More information can be found at [www.potsdam.edu/economicfusion](http://www.potsdam.edu/economicfusion) or if you have any questions, please contact John M. Wicke, Director of Strategic Alliances at x2106.

**Kudos**

**Honors Program.** SUNY Potsdam’s Honors Program serves highly motivated students and offers them benefits such as small classes, early registration, and special programming. However, the most valuable aspect of being an Honors student is the opportunity to work with passionate faculty members who are committed to helping students achieve excellence. On behalf of everyone in the Division of Academic Affairs, I would like to offer my deep appreciation for our colleagues who are teaching in the Honors Program this semester:

- Tom Baker (History)
- Nancy Berbrich (English & Communication)
- Fadi Bou-Abdallah (Chemistry)
- Gary Busch (Music History)
- Deborah Conrad (Elementary Education)
- Stephanie DeGhett (English & Communication)
- Thomas Grabowski (Theatre & Dance)
- Shiho Imai (History)
- Rebecca Lehnman (English & Communication)
- Daniel Lempert (Politics)
- Nancy Lewis (Sociology)
- Sergio Lopez (Modern Languages)
- Sheila McIntyre (History)
- Emmett O’Leary (Music Education)
- Jay Pecora (Theatre & Dance)
- Laura Person (Mathematics)
- Philip Salathe (Music Theory)
- Jeremy vanBlommestein (Sociology)
- Cornelia Yuen (Mathematics)

*Thank you for making such a tremendous difference in the academic excellence of our students!*