Congratulations on Another Successful Semester!

With our 2017 Commencement just around the corner, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making this academic year such a successful and fulfilling one for our students. I’ve had the opportunity to attend many events, ceremonies, performances, and presentations over the last few weeks, and I continue to be amazed by the academic and artistic talents of our students. Their success is your success as well—and I congratulate you for all that you do, every day, to enhance the academic and professional experiences of our students. Thank you!

New Faces/New Positions

The coming 2017/18 academic year will bring new faces to the Academic Affairs leadership…

Dr. Walter Conley has agreed to serve in the interim role as Dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies, effective July 1st. Walt is currently a Professor in the Department of Biology and his recent administrative experiences have included serving as Chair of Biology and as SUNY Potsdam’s University Faculty Senator. In addition, Walt’s commitment to academic excellence and student success has been recognized through the receipt of SUNY Potsdam’s Favorite Professor Award, Chancellor’s Award for Excellence, President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Outstanding Professor of the Year. Most recently, Walt has provided leadership on the Middle States Periodic Review Report Task Force and through the campus-wide strategic planning initiatives. Walt will be serving as the SOEPS Dean until a permanent Dean is identified.

I am also very pleased to announce that Dr. Deborah Conrad has agreed to serve in the interim role of Associate Dean in the School of Education and Professional Studies. This role has most recently been held by Dr. Laura Brown. Deborah is a Professor of Education and has held many leadership and service roles both on campus and within the community. These roles include serving on the Board of Directors for the SUNY Potsdam Childcare Center, Steering Committee for the Presidential Scholars Program, Program Coordinator for the BA in Childhood/Early
Childhood, General Education Committee, Co-Chair for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and most recently, chair of the SOEPS Dean Search Committee.

Joining the Arts and Sciences administrative team as the Associate Dean next year will be Dr. Robin Collen, Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance. Robin will be replacing Dr. Phil Neisser, who will be stepping back to his faculty leadership role. Robin’s disciplinary areas of expertise are extensive and include Modern Dance, Ballet, Improvisation, and Composition. Robin is a member of the New York State DanceForce, described as “a consortium of dance activists committed to increasing the quantity and quality of dance activity throughout New York State,” and is the recipient of the 2011 SUNY Potsdam’s President’s Award for Excellence in College Service.

I want to extend a very special “thank you” to Dr. Robyn Hosley, Dr. Laura Brown, and Dr. Phil Neisser for their extraordinary service to their Schools, campus, and community. Robyn, Laura, and Phil are exceptional administrators and educators, and I thank them for all they have done in support of our students and the Schools’ academic programs. I also want to thank the SOEPS Dean’s Search Committee, which will continue its important work over the coming academic year to identify a future permanent Dean for the School.

Again, please join me in congratulating Walt, Deborah, and Robin! SUNY Potsdam is very fortunate that these exceptional educators have agreed to assume new leadership roles on our campus.

Student Health is pleased to welcome two new part-time Nurse Practitioners.

Caroline Pearson is a Family Nurse Practitioner who moved to the North Country from Canada, where she worked in the true north—near the Arctic Circle. Caroline loves assisting college students, having worked at St. Lawrence University Student Health services for many years. She joins the staff here at Potsdam from SUNY Canton, where she also continues to work part-time. A trained yoga teacher, Caroline is a firm believer in the mind-body connection, and encourages her patients to learn about their health and how to make wise choices in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Caroline will be working on campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
**Miranda Groebler** is a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner who has joined the team at Student Health Services to increase access to mental health support. She provides evaluation, diagnosis, medication management, and education for mental health issues. Her goal is to help increase healthy functioning and overall wellness in the campus community. She is a compassionate professional who looks forward to supporting the needs of our students. Miranda will be working on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

---

**Campus Updates**

**Commencement 2017.** It’s time to celebrate! The campus is seeking volunteers to help with this year’s Commencement ceremony, which will be held on **Saturday, May 20, 2017**. To sign up, please fill out the volunteer form: [http://www.potsdam.edu/current/commencement/volunteerform.cfm](http://www.potsdam.edu/current/commencement/volunteerform.cfm).

The Commencement Ceremony will begin at 10:15am in the Academic Quad. You are asked to arrive for check-in at 8am in Dexter's Cafe. Additional information about the ceremonies and overall schedule details are available at [http://www.potsdam.edu/current/commencement/faculty.cfm](http://www.potsdam.edu/current/commencement/faculty.cfm). If you have particular questions about volunteering, please contact Julie Dold at [doldjm@potsdam.edu](mailto:doldjm@potsdam.edu) or x2947.

**Online Task Force.** In April, the Faculty Senate approved the recommendations made by the Online Task Force to revise the processes for online course approval. Included within the Task Force’s charge was to review current processes and identify potential barriers and opportunities, consider faculty “credentialing” as a possible means for streamlining the approval process and recognizing the expertise of individual faculty members, and develop a framework for a revised course approval process. The new recommended process uses the OSCQR rubric to ensure design quality (Open SUNY Course Quality Review), and provides a streamlined approval process for faculty who have been “credentialed” or trained in course design and delivery. The Task Force is currently working on the logistics of implementation, which is planned for the coming academic year. I want to extend my thanks to the Task Force members for their exceptional work: Martin Walker, Josh LaFave, Michael Phillips, Alan Hersker, Greg Gardner, Kathleen Valentine, Tracy Wanamaker, and John McGinness.

**SUNY Potsdam Law Enforcement Training Institute.** On May 6th, SUNY Potsdam’s Law Enforcement Training Institute celebrated the graduation of its inaugural cohort of 20 cadets. The Institute is a unique collaboration between the Center for Applied Learning, Department of
Sociology and Criminal Justice, and SUNY Potsdam’s University Police. Through this full-semester program, cadets earned 12 upper-division credits while completing pre-employment police basic training approved through the Department of Justice. This blend of rigorous academics and applied learning is truly unique, and will provide our students with distinct advantages as they enter the workforce. Congratulations to everyone involved in this Institute, including Sonny Duquette (program instructor), Toby White, Dr. David Bugg, and Police Chief Tim Ashley.

**Sino-American 1+2+1 Dual Degree Program.** SUNY Potsdam has been officially designated as a participating U.S. university in the Sino-American CHEPD 1+2+1 program, a partnership between the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the China Center for International Educational Exchange (CCIEE). This program gives Chinese undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to spend two years at an AASCU institution while earning a dual degree from their Chinese home institution and their U.S. host institution. Potsdam is the first SUNY university to earn this designation. In order to kick off our inclusion in this partnership, President Esterberg, Charlotte Yue Qin (Assistant Professor of Art), and Krista LaVack (Director, International Education) have been invited to attend the “Sino American CHEPD 1+2+1 Program Annual Conference” in mid-June in Dalian, China. The team will be meeting with several institutions including Nanjing University of the Arts, which is likely to be the first institution with whom we partner through this program. Other possible partnering institutions include: Shanghai Normal University, Soochow University, Changshu Institute of Technology, Nanjing Normal University, and Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology. The 1+2+1 Dual Degree program, which has been recognized by the Chinese Ministry of Education as a Program of Excellence, provides a critical platform for cooperation between Chinese and American universities.

Additional information on the 1+2+1 program can be found on AASCU’s web site: [http://www.aascu.org/programs/InternationalPrograms/DualDegreeProgram/](http://www.aascu.org/programs/InternationalPrograms/DualDegreeProgram/)

**Facilities Master Plan Annual Update.** As part of its charge, the Space Allocation and Prioritization Committee is tasked with providing an annual update to the campus regarding progress towards and changes recommended to the Facilities Master Plan. A draft Annual Report, as well as meeting notes and other resources, are provided on the Committee’s webpage: [http://www.potsdam.edu/about/physicalplant/space](http://www.potsdam.edu/about/physicalplant/space).

**Center for Applied Learning.** SUNY Potsdam’s faculty and staff continue to excel in providing students with vital experiences reflective of “high impact practices” both within and outside of the classroom. The expansion of students’ internship opportunities is certainly no exception.
As noted in the data, below, local internships have not only dramatically increased in number but have also contributed significantly to the local economy. Congratulations to the CAL, and all faculty and staff who support these internships, for an immensely successful year!

**Summer 2015**
24 Local Internships  
156 credits x 40 hours = 6240 Hours  
6240 x $11.00 per hour = $68,640

**Fall 2015**
174 Local Internships  
370 credits x 40 hours = 14,800  
14,800 x $11.00 per hour = $162,800

**Spring 2016**
156 Local Internships  
510 credits X 40 hours = 20,400  
20,400 x $11.00 per hour = $224,000

*Total Dollar Impact on the community for unpaid internships: $455,440*

**Synchronizing Academic Schedule Timeframes.**
After considerable feedback from department chairs and faculty, and in consultation with the Provost, the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education will begin working closely with the Registrar’s office to synchronize course planning between the academic year and special sessions. The goal is to improve efficiencies with the scheduling process by having two planning sessions versus the current four. As such, scheduling timeframes will move to the following under common timelines:

- Winter Session and the Spring semester will follow the same timeline
- Summer Session and the Fall semester will follow the same timeline

**Bookstore Briefing**

*Do you know the impact of submitting your textbook requisition late?*

When you are late submitting your textbook requisitions, the impact is increased costs for the bookstore and, consequentially, those costs negatively impact our students. For example, when you are late:

- The bookstore may not have enough time to get into the textbook rental program for that text.
- The bookstore doesn’t have enough time to price texts from as many distributors.
- The bookstore doesn’t have enough time to utilize the price comparison tool (Verba Price Compare) to determine what is the common market markup.
- Student order processing – packaging their complete textbook order – is not as effective nor as efficient. This, in fact, causes them to have to repackaging many orders every semester.
- Confusion is increased for students and parents, who spend a great deal of time calling the bookstore to try to understand what texts they actually need.

**Why doesn’t the bookstore buy enough books to cover the enrollment cap for my course?**

Publishers are reducing the allowable return rates of texts. In other words, they simply will not let the bookstore return large quantities of texts; those numbers are restricted. So the bookstore does not buy for the maximum enrollment. Instead they base their purchases on previous sales of texts.
Note that the Campus Planning Interface will be the portal through which iterations of the schedule will be produced, as they were for the Fall 2017 schedule of classes. Additional edits to the schedule are certainly still an option and will follow current protocol, and both offices are committed to making accommodations to the schedule as needed after posted deadlines. We are also hopeful this will assist with long-term planning for departments as well as students and advisors. This new process will be launched with the call for winter and spring 2018 from the Registrar’s Office.

**Registrar’s Updates.** In an effort to move toward more efficient electronic processes, the Registrar’s Office is now using fillable PDF forms! These can be accessed at: http://www.potsdam.edu/offices/registrar/faculty

Please note that without a workflow system to manage the approvals process, the forms currently still need to be printed in order to be signed.

---

**Coffee and Conversation**

I want to thank all of you who were able to attend the “Coffee & Conversation” sessions this year. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity for informal dialogue, and found the conversations to be insightful and productive.

I look forward to reestablishing the Conversations in the fall. If you have ideas or suggestions regarding topics or other ways that we can increase communication and transparency, don’t hesitate to let me know!

Please email your suggestions to me at bergerbs@potsdam.edu.

---

**Around the State/System**

**Book Publishing Workshop.** For those of you who have plans or interests in publishing a book, there is an opportunity to participate in an Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley Book Publishing Workshop. Dr. Arthur Bell of Lexingford Publishing LLC is leading a workshop on both academic publishing of books and popular publishing of novels, non-fiction, and similar works. The workshop will include a 10:00 a.m. roundtable discussion with all participants on the book publishing process and its many ins-and-outs, with a discussion
leading into lunch. Dr. Bell will then be available for 1-on-1 consultations with participants on their individual book publishing interests. The workshop will be held on the Clarkson campus.

The Associated Colleges is determining if May the 26th would be a good time to host this event. If you are interested in attending, please email Vicki Jacot (jacotvl@potsdam.edu) in the Associated Colleges office to inform her if you:

a.) Would be interested in participating in such a workshop, and
b.) If you would be available to participate on the possible May 26th date.

Please provide your responses as soon as possible and no later than Monday, May 15th.

Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley. The Associated Colleges is now accepting proposals for Faculty Seminars to be held in the 2017-2018 academic year and Academic Seminars/Conferences to be held in the fall semester of 2017. These two programs are available for inter-university convenings around academic subjects:

The Faculty Seminars program provides up to $1,000 to bring faculty from all four campuses together to exchange ideas, share scholarly interests, discuss curricular issues, promote faculty development, advance individual research interests, read works-in-progress, and/or host a guest speaker. More information regarding the Faculty Seminars program – including submission guidelines and a list of past seminars – can be found on the faculty seminars page of the Associated Colleges website. **The deadline for applications for Faculty Seminars to be held in the 2017-2018 academic year (fall and/or spring semesters) is July 31, 2017.**

The purpose of the Academic Seminars/Conferences program is to bring students and faculty together from the four campuses to collaboratively discuss issues that they are studying in courses. Up to $600 may be requested for academic seminars/conferences to be held in the fall 2016 semester. More information regarding this program – including submission guidelines – can be found on the Academic Seminars/Conferences page of the Associated Colleges website. **The deadline for applications for academic seminars/conferences to be held in the fall semester of 2017 is July 31, 2017.**

These programs are supported by the Chief Academic Officers of the Associated Colleges. Inquiries may be addressed to Ben Dixon, Administrative Coordinator of the Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley, at (315) 267-3330 or by email to dixonbr@potsdam.edu.

**SENCER Summer Institutes (SSIs).** SUNY Stony Brook is home to the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement (NCSCE), with Science Education for New Civic Engagements
and Responsibilities (SENCER) as its signature program. The mission of SENCER is to strengthen student learning and interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by connecting course topics to issues of critical local, national, and global importance. The SENCER Summer Institutes (SSIs) represent the cornerstones of SENCER’s faculty development and academic reform program, and feature a rich mix of plenaries, workshops, and other sessions that focus on what students should learn and how that learning might be accomplished. This year’s Institute will take place at Stony Brook University on August 3-6, 2017.

For more information contact Kyle Simmons, SENCER’s Faculty Development Events Manager at the Washington, DC Office, at (202) 483-4600 or by email at kyle.simmons@ncsce.net.

Mark Your Calendars!

**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**.

**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.

In Case You Missed It…

**Facul-TE Awards.** Facul-TE Award funding is now eligible for summer projects! However, as all 2016-17 funding has been spent, we can only accept applications for projects falling in the
next fiscal year (projects starting on or after July 1, 2017). Please carefully read the new rules, policies, and procedures below for details.

The Facul-TE Awards (maximum $500) are intended to support faculty teaching excellence projects directly related to professional development in improving teaching and learning. The proposed project must be clearly conducive to the improvement of teaching and/or active learning strategies in the classroom and college environment. Funds may be used for participating at workshops or conferences, online faculty development courses, as well as sponsoring on-campus workshops or speakers for faculty. Funds for purchasing equipment and supplies are not eligible.

Award policies include the following:
- Awardees are encouraged to share the knowledge and skills gained from the Facul-TE project with the campus community. The CCI will happily sponsor a workshop or event facilitated by the awardee or can video record a brief interview with the awardee regarding the project.
- Starting with the 2017-18 award cycle, faculty may only receive this award in alternate fiscal years. In other words, if you were awarded Facul-TE award funds for the 2017-18 fiscal year, you would not be eligible for funding in the 2018-19 fiscal year.
- The annual Facul-TE Award allocation will be split into three equal pools of funding.
- Unused funds will be reallocated to a subsequent portion of the same fiscal year.
- Applications will be reviewed by a committee of CCI Board members.
- Funding will be allocated to the fiscal year in which the funds are spent. (The fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.)
- Should your project include a component that bridges fiscal years, such as a hotel expense from June 29 – July 2, the fiscal year is determined by the start date of that expense.

Faculty must apply for funds based on the date of their project following the table and steps outlined below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Accepted</th>
<th>For Activities Between</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 10-26 for this year (May 1-15 in 2018)</td>
<td>July - October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1-15</td>
<td>November - February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1-15</td>
<td>March - June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For this application cycle only, the application deadline has been extended to Friday, May 26th.

1. Download and complete the Facul-TE Application Form
2. Download and complete a Travel Requisition (http://www.potsdam.edu/sites/default/files/documents/offices/purchasing/NewTravelReq.pdf)
3. Email completed Facul-TE Application Form, Travel Requisition, and supporting documentation to FaculTE@potsdam.edu by the deadline listed in the table.

Should you have any questions about the new process or timelines, please contact Jill Pearon (pearonjr@potsdam.edu, x2079).

Reminder: Be sure to read all College purchasing and travel reimbursement procedures before completing your Facul-TE application, as these policies must be followed (http://www.potsdam.edu/offices/purchasing/travel). Questions regarding travel policies/procedures can be directed to Purchasing & Payables (315-267-2140).

Kudos

2017 President’s Awards. Please join me in congratulating the following awardees:

Academic Advising – Toby White
Adjunct Teaching – Danielle Johns
Clerical Service – Claudette Fefee
Clerical Service – Kathryn Pierce
College Service – Eric Duchscherer
Community Service and Outreach – Joe Timmerman
Operational Service – Wendy Horton
PACES – Rajendra Cahkranarayan
Professional Administrative – Lisa Murphy & Faye Lamar
Professional Service – Nancy Griffin
Scholarship and Creative Activities – Christina Knopf & Edwin Portugal
Teaching – Karen Wilson
Fostering a Welcoming and Inclusive Campus Climate – Jennifer Mitchell & Sharon House
**Provost’s Award for Outstanding Faculty Mentor:** Robert Hinckley, Associate Professor of Politics

**2017 Honors Professor of the Year:** Emmett O’Leary, Assistant Professor Music Education

**Chancellor’s Grant for Innovative Study:** Jessica Rogers, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, has been notified that she is a recipient of a Chancellor’s Grant for Innovative Study Abroad Programs for her proposal, “Kenya-Urban and Savannah Studies.”

---

*I hope you have a productive summer, and look forward to seeing you all “next year”!*