Welcome Back!

On behalf of the Office of the Provost and Division of Academic Affairs, I want to welcome everyone to the start of another semester. I especially want to welcome our new faculty and staff, and to thank you for choosing SUNY Potsdam as your new academic “home.” Please let us know what we can do to ensure your success and the success of your students!

It is my hope to provide regular avenues of communication with you throughout the year in order to share reminders, updates, news, and kudos as well as to seek your thoughts and input regarding the myriad of challenges and opportunities that we will be collaboratively addressing. The “Provost’s Corner” newsletter will be one venue for this communication. I also look forward to meeting each of you in person, and hearing directly from you regarding your thoughts, concerns, and ideas.

New Faces/New Positions

Please join me in congratulating the following for their new appointments in Academic Affairs:

- **Glenn Johnson** has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.
- **Kelly Bonnar** has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Institutional Review Board; she is also the incoming Director of Presidential Scholars and the Coordinator of Student Fellowships.
- **Alan Hersker** has assumed responsibilities as the Interim Assistant Provost. Alan will continue his leadership with the General Education Committee/Task Force and his ties with the Department of Anthropology.
- **Krista Medo** has been named the Assistant Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.
- **Stephanie Claxton** was appointed Interim Registrar on July 1st following Ramona Ralston’s retirement.
- **Susan Jones** has been appointed Interim Assistant Registrar. She joins the Registrar’s Office from our Financial Aid Office.
- **Sean Partridge** assumed the role of Interim Director of the Student Success Center on August 1st, replacing Tamara Durant.
- **Amy LaMay** has joined us as EOP’s Office Assistant 2.
• **Bethany Fobare** has been appointed as a Counselor in the Educational Opportunity Program. Bethany previously served as EOP’s Events Coordinator.
• **Linette Bracero** has joined us as a Counselor in the Educational Opportunity Program, replacing Kuukua Yomekpe.

**UPDATE: Dean Search**

The search has been initiated for the next Dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies! The Search Committee is chaired by Dr. Deborah Conrad. More information will be coming soon!

**Congratulations and Welcome to All New Faculty!**

**School of Arts & Sciences**

- Sara Bier, Geology
- Cynthia DuFault, Theatre & Dance
- Laura Grabowski, Computer Science
- Thomas Grabowski, Theatre & Dance
- Jessica Heffner, English & Communications
- Fathima Nazeer, Chemistry
- Tabb Prissell, Geology
- Charlotte Qin, Art
- Page Quinton, Geology
- Rivka Rocchio, Theatre & Dance
- Jessica Rogers, Biology
- Sarah Sirsat, Biology
- Annie Stoltie Sprague, English & Communications
- Joshua Vink, Theatre & Dance
- Scott Williams, Geology

**School of Education and Professional Studies**

- K. Chad Graham, Elementary Education
- Lisa Grenville, Inclusive & Special Education
- Savita Hanspal, Business Administration
- Tyler St. Clair, Secondary Education
- Christopher Torres, Community Health
Crane School of Music

- Erin Brooks, Music History
- Bethany Cencer, Music History
- Liesl Doty, Violin
- Miles DeCastro, Instrument Technician
- Peter Folliard, Orchestra, Conducting
- Casey Grev, Saxophone
- Nils Klykken, Choral Music Education
- Bridget Moriarty, Voice
- Paul Reynolds, Viola
- Phil Salathé, Music Theory
- Young-Ah Tak, Piano

Campus Updates

Open Forum. On Monday, September 12th, President Esterberg is holding an Open Forum from 4-6:00 in Knowles MPR. The primary topic of discussion will be the campus-wide strategic plan. As President Esterberg noted in her opening address, we are looking forward to engaging with faculty, staff, and students across campus over the fall semester to encourage feedback on the strategic plan, which builds from our campus’ unique strengths and past successes. I also look forward to working with you on the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan, which will be built from our campus-wide framework.

Music and Performing Arts. As part of the campus’ strategic planning process, I am excited to share with you plans for a yearlong consultative process to explore the full range of opportunities within the creative and performing arts at SUNY Potsdam. The ultimate aim of this process is to investigate the creation of new models of collaboration that more effectively bring together The Crane School of Music and the Department of Theatre and Dance, and enhance collaboration across all the arts programs at SUNY Potsdam. It is important to note that specific models for collaboration have not been determined, and that it will be critical to garner feedback, concerns, and creative input across affected areas during the upcoming consultative process. It is the goal of this initiative to build upon the exceptional collaborative efforts that already exist, while mindfully preserving our legacy of extraordinary programming in the creative and performing arts.
What are the benefits?

- Creating synergies and new opportunities for students, and better supporting students whose artistic interests and talents are multidisciplinary, in line with the changing and complex nature of the arts in the 21st century.
- Encouraging greater collaboration within and across disciplines, and removing barriers to collaboration and integrated arts programming.
- Encouraging innovative programming across all of the arts.
- Fostering philanthropic support for all of our programs.
- Providing stronger, more effective support to our programs.

What are the parameters of the discussion? Our creative and performing arts programs have distinctive histories, strengths, cultures, and philosophies. Therefore, within the upcoming consultative process, proposals for collaboration and any new organizational structures must take into account and preserve these differences as well as build upon our existing legacies of excellence.

What are the next steps? A consultative process will begin during the 2016-17 academic year, which I will lead in collaboration with Dean Sitton and Dean Marqusee. During fall 2016, groups of stakeholders including faculty, staff, students, and alumni will be brought together for input, discussion, feedback, and critical conversations surrounding a vision for the integrated arts at SUNY Potsdam. This feedback will serve to guide a representative task force, appointed in January 2017, which will propose a plan to create and implement models to guide the structure of our third century of creative and performing arts at SUNY Potsdam.

Space Allocation and Prioritization Committee. The Space Priority and Allocation Committee is charged with the responsibility and authority for reviewing all space requests and making recommendations regarding space assignments. Recommendations of the Space Priority and Allocation Committee are subject to review and approval by the President and the President’s Council. I have been asked to chair this reconstituted and expanded Committee, which has been meeting throughout the summer. Committee minutes, and its charge, are posted on the following website: http://www.potsdam.edu/about/physicalplant/space.

SoEPS Departmental Changes. Beginning with the 2016-17 academic year, the following education department name changes have been made:

- The "Curriculum and Instruction" department has been changed to the "Elementary Education" department. The new Elementary Education department includes the
following majors: Childhood/Early Childhood Education Major, Early Childhood Major, Childhood Education MST, and Childhood Instruction MST.

- The following advanced programs have been combined: Curriculum and Instruction, Literacy and Inclusive and Special Education. The name of the new department is "C&I, Literacy, and Special Ed." This new department includes the following majors: Special Education Major MSED, Inclusive and Special Education Advanced Certificate, Curriculum & Instruction MSED, Literacy MSED, and Literacy Educator (K-12) MSED.

The other three SOE&PS department names remain the same (Secondary Education, Business Administration, and Community Health).

**Police Academy.** Plans are underway to offer a Police Academy at SUNY Potsdam, developed through a partnership with the University Police Department, the Center for Applied Learning, and the Department of Sociology. The Academy will be accredited by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services (NYS DCJS), and will encompass the requirements of Phase 1 of Basic Police Training. The Academy will complement the Criminal Justice program housed in the Sociology Department, but will not be a requirement for that degree. Students will enroll in existing internship and field experience credits. It is anticipated that students’ Academy experiences will include a focus on community policing and anti-bias training. SUNY Potsdam’s Police Academy will offer first enrollment priority to students, which makes this program unique in our region. Pending approval by the NYS DCJS, the first class of students will be enrolled in the academy in Spring 2017.

**Scantrons.** We are currently in the process of identifying a Director for the Center for Creative Instruction. During this transitional period, exam and student evaluation “scantrons” will be facilitated through the Provost’s Office; please see Patty Stone if you have any questions. Ultimately, we hope to work with the faculty in identifying online solutions for exams and evaluations. If you are interested in this discussion, or have ideas for making this process more efficient and effective, don’t hesitate to let me know!

**Coming Due!**

**The Bob.** As we begin a new year, The Center for Applied Learning is pleased to invite applications for 2016’s award of The Bob, a new competitive faculty award endowed by Robert J. Hill ’77 to financially support faculty in developing and implementing applied learning experiences with a group of students. The inaugural award of The Bob in 2015 went to Drs. Robert Hinckley and Patrick Turbett, who expanded their ongoing work in public opinion polling in the North Country, working directly with students in their Survey Research Methods
course. More information about The Bob is available in the introduction to the application, available at: https://goo.gl/forms/derrVnvDzVebarFl1. Applications for The Bob are due October 19, 2016, via the above Google form.

Award decisions and feedback will be shared with all applicants by November 28, 2016. The Center for Applied Learning staff will offer process support to all faculty seeking to apply for The Bob. Please direct initial questions to Annie Butterfield, butterla@potsdam.edu, x2507.

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**Awards & Recognition**

The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation has named Dr. Fadi Bou-Abdallah a 2016 Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar. The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation announced the selection of seven recipients of the 2016 Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award, amongst them is Dr. Fadi Bou-Abdallah, a Chemistry Professor at SUNY Potsdam. The award provides an unrestricted research grant of $60,000 to faculty at primarily undergraduate institutions who are accomplished researchers and committed educators. One of Dr. Bou-Abdallah’s major research projects is to study how iron (Fe), an essential trace element required for most living organisms, is taken up and released by the major iron storage protein, ferritin. The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation is a leading non-profit organization devoted to the advancement of the chemical sciences.

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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.