Autumn Greetings!

I hope that you and your students have the opportunity to enjoy the North Country’s amazing autumn weather. I have heard of several classes that are taking advantage of our incredible location and are integrating our natural surroundings into course learning experiences and field study. We are so fortunate to have this “living laboratory” at our doorstep!

I want to thank those of you who were able to attend the Academic Affairs Strategic Planning Summit in September. Your energy, time, and input are invaluable as we move forward with our Division’s very robust strategic agenda for this academic year. Our current Academic Affairs Strategic Plan is available online; I welcome your input and feedback. This plan is intended to be fluid, and will undoubtedly be readjusted as we continually assess and refine our collective goals for Academic Affairs.

I also want to take this opportunity to extend my deepest condolences to everyone who has been impacted by this week’s horrific act of violence in Las Vegas. Whether or not we have loved ones who were present during this event, as a community we have all been affected in some way by this tragedy. I am particularly concerned about our students, who may not know to whom they can turn to discuss their fears or simply share their feelings. As appropriate, I would encourage faculty to discuss these current events in class and, more importantly, to watch for signs of stress in our students (and colleagues). For students who may need or ask for assistance, please direct them to our campus’ Counseling services: http://www.potsdam.edu/studentlife/counseling.

New Faces/New Positions

Please join me in welcoming the following new full-time professional staff in Academic Affairs:

- Karen Kus- Career Coach, Career Services/Center for Applied Learning
- Julie Johnson- Career Coach, Career Services/Center for Applied Learning
- Sarah Maneely, Associate Director of Graduate and International Recruitment/GrACE
I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Romeyn Prescott, who has recently been named as our campus’ Acting Chief Information Officer. I also want to wish Kyle Brown all the best as he assumes the full-time position as CIO at the SUNY Canton campus.

Congratulations, Romeyn!

Campus Updates

General Education. At the end of last semester, the Faculty Senate gave the General Education Steering Committee (Kelly Bonnar, David Curry, Sheila McIntyre, Gordon Plague, Jim Fryer with administrative support from Krista Medo and Alan Hersker) an endorsement to continue to explore the proposed Potsdam Pathways General Education Program. The Steering Committee has convened a cohort of faculty who will develop the proposed WAYS 101: Potsdam Seminar to be piloted in Fall 2018. Additionally, they have organized working groups of faculty representatives from across the College to refine descriptions and develop criteria and student learning outcomes for each of the proposed designators in the Ways of Beginning, Ways of Thinking, and Ways of Connecting. The Working Groups will submit their recommendations to the Steering Committee by the end of this semester. The campus community will then have multiple opportunities to comment on this work in January/February, prior to its presentation to the Faculty Senate in the Spring 2018 semester.

I’d like to thank the members of the Steering Committee, those who served on the GenEd Task Force, and the more than 60 faculty members who have agreed to participate in the Working Groups. As I’ve noted many times, revising a General Education program is arguably one of the most important initiatives that a college can undertake as it will impact all of our students while reflecting our academic priorities. I greatly appreciate each faculty member’s willingness to be part of the process. If you have any questions on this initiative, please reach out to Alan Hersker (herskeal@potsdam.edu) or Krista Medo (medokl@potsdam.edu).

Student Success Collaborative-Campus. Implementation of SSC-Campus is underway! The Student Success Collaborative (SSC-Campus) is a software platform that provides a more seamless way for faculty, advising, and student service areas to organize and share electronic communications regarding our SUNY Potsdam undergraduates. SSC-Campus is an important step forward in creating a coordinated care network for the entire undergraduate population. The platform combines technology, research, case management, and predictive analytics to help us positively influence degree completion outcomes for our students.
This tool has two main components. First, it provides 10 years of historical student data to assist the college, schools, departments, and individual faculty in identifying trends in enrollment, retention, and graduation. For example, it allows each department to set “Success Markers” to be able to assess whether students are effectively progressing within their major. The main goal of this element is to identify and address the needs of the “murky middle” population of students who typically fall through the cracks in our outreach efforts. By identifying these students earlier, we can more effectively connect them to the resources and support needed to ensure that they are academically successful.

The second aspect of SSC-Campus is the ability to take the insights we gain from the historical data and apply those to the current population, providing a wide range of functions to improve communication across academic “silos” and to track interventions. Starting this semester, for example, Early Alerts will be submitted via SSC-Campus. The system also facilitates easy and efficient scheduling and tracking of advising appointments. It also provides a useful platform for viewing essential information on a student that has in the past required multiple screens and several minutes to access through Banner or BearPaws.

For more information, including user guides and instructional videos, visit www.potsdam.edu/ssccampus. Login instructions are also available. If you have any questions or want to set up either a department demo or 1-1 tutorial, please contact ssc@potsdam.edu or call x2580.

Office for Student Research and Creativity. As part of the consolidation of the Honors Program, Presidential Scholars Program, and Kilmer Program into the new Office for Student Research and Creativity (SRC), we will soon be opening a new lounge for student researchers on Level B (aka the basement), Crumb Library. This space will feature a dedicated computer lab, lounge area, laptop-compatible TV, two bathrooms, and a giant Clarus whiteboard for students engaged in collaborative inquiry. The space will be open for study and relaxation to all student researchers in the programs listed above. It is hoped that Level B will also host lunchtime talks, video presentations, and informal gatherings between students and faculty members. More information is forthcoming regarding the lounge’s inaugural Open House.
**Student Survey Drop Box.** Effective this fall semester, students will be able to return completed Student Opinion of Faculty Instruction Forms in the new drop box located in Crumb Library by the front glassed-in entrance after 4:30 pm or on the weekends (during the Library’s open hours). Envelopes are still to be returned to the Provost’s Office in Raymond 712 during regular business hours (8:00am-4:30pm); however, the new drop box provides an option for those students in evening/weekend classes when business offices are typically closed. If you have any questions, please contact Patty Sone at stonepl@potsdam.edu.

**Schedule Template Guidelines.** Guidelines for using the course scheduling template have been updated and posted on the Registrar’s website. The goal of these guidelines is to provide departments and deans with consistent support in scheduling course sections in order to minimize conflicts, ensure that students are able to register for a full load (15 credits), and increase availability of courses required in the major. These goals are critical for student success, retention, and timely completion of the degree. The guidelines are based on previous practices, and have been updated with input from faculty leadership. Please don’t hesitate to let me know if you have any questions, or further suggestions for enhancing the scheduling process.

**Writer’s Block.** Each year, the Writer’s Block (formerly College Writing Center) works with over 550 students in 1,500 individual sessions. Tutoring is available for free for all SUNY Potsdam students and includes individualized sessions with student writers. The staff includes 14 trained and experienced tutors with diverse academic strengths, from English and Communication to Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Community Health, and more. Tutors do not edit for the student, but they facilitate revision and editing choices while providing instructional support.

Please encourage your students to plan ahead and book an appointment in order to meet the right tutor at the best time. The Writers’ Block offers sessions 45 hours per week in three locations (Carson 105/Writer’s Block, Sisson 106/Academic Support Lab, and the Crumb Library Research Center). Walk-in sessions might be available evenings and Sundays, as well as 3:00pm-5:00pm on Monday-Thursday. For more information on schedules, please visit the [Writer’s Block website](#). Please also encourage students to view the Self-Editing Guide, handouts on writing, and resources for citing sources. Contact Jennifer Mitchell (mitchejk@potsdam.edu) for more information or to discuss collaboration.
Coffee and Conversation

This fall’s Coffee and Conversations are underway! I hope that you will be able to join me for these informal dialogues.

This fall’s remaining Coffees are scheduled from 8:30am-9:30am in the Raymond 8th Floor Dining Room on the following dates:

- Thursday, November 2nd - Technology and the New Generation of Students
- Friday, December 8th - Budget & Campus Updates

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.

Open Educational Resources. SUNY has awarded funding to campuses, including SUNY Potsdam, to engage faculty with Open Educational Resources (OER). The use of OER directly aligns with our campus’ mission of access and student success, as well as innovative instructional practices. Alan Hersker is leading a campus Working Group to explore current faculty practices and support faculty who wish to use OER in their courses. An OER survey will be emailed in the next few weeks—and I would ask that you please respond if you are interested in or are currently using OER in your courses. The Working Group plans to expand its membership after reviewing the survey results. For more information about OER on our campus contact Alan Hersker (herskeal@potsdam.edu), Jim Hubbard (hubbarjl@potsdam.edu), or Esta Tovstiadi (tovstiem@potsdam.edu).

SUNY Potsdam MakerSpace. Crumb Library is thrilled to be opening the initial installation of our campus’ new MakerSpace, funded in part through a Northern New York Library Network technology grant. Featuring three 3D printers and two 3D scanners, the MakerSpace will be open to students, faculty, and staff. Projects do not have to be linked to academic work, but will need to be approved by Jim Hubbard, Crumb’s Assistant Director and manager of the MakerSpace. Prints made with PLA will be free. The Ultimaker printers can use additional materials, and the Library staff will assist in ordering Ultimaker-compatible stock for your project. Please watch the Libraries’ website or contact Jim at hubbarjl@potsdam.edu to learn more about how to reserve the MakerSpace or drop in for a workshop.

Law Enforcement Training Institute. SUNY Potsdam’s Law Enforcement Training Institute graduated its first cohort of cadets in May. The Institute graduated 20 cadets, nine of whom were also graduating seniors. Of the nine seniors, we are very proud to report that six were
hired within four months of graduating from our campus’ NYS-certified pre-employment police training course. Three of those agencies are in New York: the NYPD, Schenectady City PD, and Antwerp Village PD. Three graduates were hired out of state: Burlington City PD, VT; Gwinnett County Police, GA; and Raleigh City PD, North Carolina. Congratulations to all the faculty, staff, and students who have taken the lead on this unique and collaborative academic endeavor!

North Country Migrant Education Program. SUNY Potsdam is home to the North Country Migrant Education Program, which has been in existence for over 30 years. The program’s mission is to ensure that high quality, coordinated, efficient, and comprehensive educational and advocacy services are provided to all eligible school-aged migrant students. The program serves students and their families in St. Lawrence, Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties. The plight of the migrant worker and their families came into the spotlight on Thanksgiving Day 1960 when Edward R. Murrow presented a documentary entitled “Harvest of Shame.” This documentary highlighted the lack of consistent education for the workers’ children and was the impetus for action across the country.

The North Country program is currently one of the largest in the state. Our region has many agricultural migratory workers who move constantly due to their employment in agriculture. This lack of consistency and high mobility creates unique challenges for school-aged students. Migrant Education fills the gaps for these students and creates a level playing field educationally. The North Country Migrant Education Program offers a multitude of opportunities ranging from home-based pre-school/school readiness instruction to adolescent programs. The in-school programs include school-year tutoring as well as participation in summer experiences including STEM and ELA learning in a small-group atmosphere. The students also go on exciting field trips and the program sponsors several students to attend 4-H camp for a week. The adolescent programs include the annual St. Lawrence River Trek and CSI: North Country, an in-depth look at different facets of law enforcement. Congratulations to all the staff involved with the North Country Migrant Education program for serving this important population in our region.

International Updates. SUNY Potsdam’s recent acceptance into AASCU’s (Association of State Colleges and Universities) China 1+2+1 Program includes an opportunity for U.S. faculty to participate in short-term teaching in China. All major expenses of participants are covered – including international airfare, domestic transfer transportation, overnight accommodation, and sightseeing/orientation in Beijing. Also included are two stipends of 3000RMB and 4000RMB to be provided by the Chinese overseeing body, CCIEE, and the host university. These stipends are expected to cover any remaining personal expenses like dining, laundry, etc. during the stay.
in China. The Summer 2018 deadline to apply is **November 8th**. For more information, including application materials, please contact Krista LaVack – lavackkm@potsdam.edu.

Our campus also has the opportunity to host Chinese scholars during the 2018-19 academic year; the deadline is **October 15th**. The scholar’s stay will be either for the Fall 2018 or Spring 2019 semester; the total stay for any individual faculty member is six months. Our campus’ International Office will coordinate the immigration documentation, provide a pre-visit and arrival orientation, and will assist with logistical needs. The host academic department is expected to identify a faculty mentor, office space, and a computer. For more information, please contact Krista LaVack – lavackkm@potsdam.edu.

SUNY Potsdam students have many upcoming opportunities for international travel, including the following Travel Courses:

- Belize (January) – Tropical Ecology & Conservation – **Glenn Johnson**
- Mexico (January) – Mathematical Origins – **Cheryl Miller & Blair Madore**
- Cuba (March) – Literacy Campaign of Cuba – **Julie Reagan**
- Cuba (May) – Art in Cuba – **Iggy Beerbower**
- Cuba (May) – Public Health in Cuba – **Chris Torres**
- Finland/Sweden (May) – Literacy Education in Finland/Sweden – **Marta Albert & Carolyn Stone**
- Ireland (May) – Irish Ensemble Abroad – **Shelly Tramposh**
- Kenya (May/June) – Savannah Studies – **Jessica Rogers & Glenn Johnson**
- Portugal/Spain (May) – International Business Communications – **Greg Gardner**

Please encourage your students to participate in these life-changing global experiences!

---

**Around the State/System**

**Communities Against Hate.** The State University of New York (SUNY) Impact Foundation is pleased to announce the receipt of a Communities Against Hate grant from the Open Society Foundations. The grant enabled the SUNY Impact Foundation to fund diversity, equity, and inclusion training at the Student Assembly Conference this spring and will fund an additional training in the Fall of 2017. In addition, the grant has enabled the creation of an emergency fund, named the Communities Against Hate Fund, which can be used to compensate SUNY students in the wake of hate crimes or acts of discrimination. While it is our hope that SUNY students never become the victims of hate crimes, discrimination, or any acts of aggression, the
SUNY Impact Foundation is thankful to be in a position to provide financial assistance when and if such instances arise. Please feel free to reach out with any questions: ImpactFoundation@suny.edu or 212-364-5817.

**SUNY Diversity Conference.** The SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the University Faculty Senate will be hosting a conference entitled “Engaging Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity in the Classroom, Campus and Community: Celebrating a Decade of Transformational Diversity Leadership” on **November 29-December 1, 2017** at the Albany Marriott Hotel, located at 189 Wolf Road, Albany, New York. This conference explores best practices in recruitment and retention of students, faculty, and staff within the domain of higher education.

Estela M. Bensimon (Professor of Higher Education and Director of the Center for Urban Education at the University of Southern California), Samuel Museus (Associate Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs at Indiana University, Bloomington and Founding Director of the Culturally Engaging Campus Environments (CECE) Project), Benjamin Reese (Vice President for Institutional Equity at Duke University and Duke University Health System) and Daryl G. Smith (Professor of Education and Psychology at the Claremont Graduate University), are scheduled as the four keynote speakers for this conference. For more information on this event please visit [www.suny.edu/2017diversityconference](http://www.suny.edu/2017diversityconference).

**First Amendment Conference.** SUNY’s Office of General Counsel will be offering a two-day conference: Shall Make No Law: An Exploration of Current First Amendment Issues on College Campuses. The Conference will be held in Albany on **April 11-12, 2018**. More information will be made available soon.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Fall 2017 Days of Reflection.** Please save **Tuesday, October 17th** and **Wednesday, October 18th** from 3pm to 8pm, for the Fall 2017 Days of Reflection: Education for Racial Equity and Justice, sponsored by the SUNY Potsdam Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Eight events are planned to discuss racial equity and justice in the following areas: health insurance/care, food security, children’s books, classical music composers, activism and intersectional identities, and police killings of Black men. Campus community members may, if they wish, view online resources in advance of each event. Resources and program details will be posted soon at [http://www.potsdam.edu/about/administration/diversity/dayofreflection](http://www.potsdam.edu/about/administration/diversity/dayofreflection).
I encourage your participation, and the participation of your students, at these important events which focus on the very time-sensitive and critical issues of diversity, inclusion, and identification of bias. If these sessions conflict with your classes, I hope that you will consider either supporting your students’ attendance at the sessions or holding your class at the sessions. Thank you!

In addition, Cinema Ten and North Country Showing Up for Racial Justice will present *I Am Not Your Negro*, a powerful documentary about James Baldwin and his arguments against U.S. racism, on **Monday, October 16th** at 7:15pm at the Roxy Theatre.

---

**FACT² Corner**

*What is FACT²?*

FACT² stands for Faculty Advisory Council on Teaching and Technology. More information can be found [here](#). From the "About Us" page: "FACT² is an advisory body to the SUNY Provost, advocating and acting as a resource for University stakeholders at the nexus of technology, pedagogy and research." Each campus has one or two campus representatives appointed by the Provost of that campus. SUNY Potsdam’s FACT² representatives are Shalu Wunnava (Business Administration) and Romeyn Prescott (CTS). Both are members of our Center for Creative Instruction Advisory Board. Romeyn additionally serves on the SUNY CIT Planning Committee. They monitor information from SUNY relating to technology and instruction. This corner of the Newsletter will provide links to information and resources which may be of interest.

Here are links to some events and information:

- **Workshop:** [Enhancing Excellence in Assessment - Mapping Learning Outcomes](#)
- **EDUCAUSE Article on Open Educational Resources**
- **SUNY OER Services**
- **Accessibility:** [Designing and Teaching Courses for All Learners](#)
- Nominate a colleague or yourself for a [FACT² Excellence in Instruction or Excellence in Instructional Support](#) award.
**Student Success Workshop.** Please join me on **November 7**th for an interactive workshop on “Defining the Faculty’s Role in Student Success” to be held in Raymond Hall, 8th floor Dining Room. The workshop’s facilitator is Nina Bennett. The event will begin at 8:00am with a light continental breakfast followed by Nina’s presentation from 8:30am-10:30am. Session topics include removing barriers to students’ completion, redesigning academic policies through faculty governance, enhancing the learning experience, identifying students at risk, and mentoring rising-risk students. More information on this event will be announced soon.

**Disciplined Inquiry in Education Seminar.** The Fall 2017 Disciplined Inquiry Seminar series is well underway, offered through the School of Education and Professional Studies. All sessions are held in the Literacy Center Balcony from noon to 1:00pm.

- **10/18/17- The Courage to Teach- The Work of Parker Palmer**  
  Presenter: Peter Brouwer, Department of Secondary Education

- **11/1/17- Impact of Consumers’ Self-Image and Demographics on Preference for Healthy Labeled Products**  
  Presenter: Savita Hanspal, Department of Business Administration

- **11/15/17- The Funds of Knowledge Perspective: Integrating Diversity and Equity into Subject Area Methods Courses**  
  Presenter: Tyler St. Clair, Department of Secondary Education

Specific information about the series can be found at: [http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/SOEPS/education/seminar](http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/SOEPS/education/seminar).

**Bregman Lecture.** This semester’s Bregman Lecture, titled “Data is Not Objective: Radical Transparency and Do-it-yourself Digital Humanities” will be presented by Mathew Evan Davis on **Wednesday, October 18**th, **3:30pm-4:30pm** in Dunn Hall. Refreshments will be provided. This lecture promises to be of great interest to students engaged in digital projects, or those studying research methods more broadly. For more information, contact James Donahue at donahuijj@potsdam.edu.

**Business Intelligence Study Groups.** The Business Office will be offering weekly Oracle Business Intelligence (BI) Study Group sessions, held on **Fridays from 11-12:30pm** in Flagg 162. Sessions will be offered through December 8th, with the exception of October 13th and November 24th. The first half hour of each Study Group will focus on BI basics, followed by Q&A, advanced tips and tricks, and updates. Participants may bring their lunch, as long as it is self-contained.
Center for Creative Instruction (CCI). The following events are being offered through the Center for Creative Instruction:

- **Questions and Answers about Academic Assessment at SUNY Potsdam**; led by Carrie Bates  
  - October 3rd, 4:00PM in the CCI; no registration required

- **An Overview of the new Online Course Approval Process**; led by the DL Support Team  
  - Friday, October 6th at 12:10pm and Tuesday, October 17th at 12:10pm in the CCI; no registration required

- **Pedagogy & Technology of Online Learning (PTOL)**: An online course about teaching online; taught by Mike Phillips  
  - October 9th through November 17th; to register click here:  

- **Keeping the conversation alive: Using online forums to improve the quality of face-to-face discussions with your students**; led by Ray Bowdish  
  - November 9th in the CCI at ONE of these times: 12:00, 1:00, 2:00 or 3:00; to recommend a preferred time please click here:  
    [https://moodle.potsdam.edu/course/view.php?id=9208](https://moodle.potsdam.edu/course/view.php?id=9208) (the CCI will follow up by announcing what time has been chosen, opening up the registration link at the CCI website, and contacting interested registrants directly); registration required, 6 person minimum.

- **3D Printing Workshop**, led by Lily Linghong  
  - November 30th, 10:00AM–2:00PM in Timerman B021; registration required  
  - To register: [https://moodle.potsdam.edu/course/view.php?id=9208](https://moodle.potsdam.edu/course/view.php?id=9208)

For event information and access to event videos, visit the CCI website at: [www.potsdam.edu/faculty/CCI/](http://www.potsdam.edu/faculty/CCI/). Need support? Have ideas? Contact cci@potsdam.edu to set an appointment or share your ideas.

---

**Did You Know…**

Archived Provost’s Corner Newsletters can be accessed at:  
[http://www.potsdam.edu/about/administration/provost/cabinetmtgminutes/archives](http://www.potsdam.edu/about/administration/provost/cabinetmtgminutes/archives)
Coming Due…

**Spring/Winter Schedules.** The online version of the schedule will be available to faculty and staff on **Tuesday, October 10th**. On **Monday, October 16th**, the schedule will go live to students and advising will begin. Any edits that need to be made to the schedule at this point must be submitted on Banner Schedule Change Forms. All special topics courses (those ending in 95) must be submitted on the Banner Special Topics Form. If you have any questions regarding the Spring schedule, please feel free to contact Sarah Carr at X3092 or carrsl@potsdam.edu.

**LoKo Festival of the Arts.** This year’s LoKo Festival will be held from April 27 – May 6, 2018. The 2018 Festival schedule is beginning to take shape and new proposals are now being accepted until **November 1st** for those requesting $1,000 or less to fund an arts-related activity. Faculty, staff, and students are welcome to apply for funds. The proposal form and funding parameters can be accessed online. If you have questions about the Festival or the funding application, please contact Katie Deuel at deuelkj@potsdam.edu or ext.2102

**2018 Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence.** The Employee Awards Committee is pleased to announce it is accepting nominations for the 2017-2018 Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in the following five categories:

- Faculty Service
- Librarianship
- Professional Service
- Scholarship and Creative Activities
- Teaching

Additional information including policy and procedures, eligibility, and the nomination form are available on the Awards page of the Human Resources website. The nomination deadline is **November 2, 2017** at the close of business. Thank you for taking the time to nominate one of the many talented and deserving employees on campus!
Kudos

Cottrell Scholar. Congratulations to SUNY Potsdam Professor of Chemistry Fadi Bou-Abdallah, who was recently named a Cottrell Scholar by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement. The Cottrell Scholar Award develops outstanding teacher-scholars in the fields of chemistry, physics, and astronomy who are recognized by their scientific communities for the quality and innovation of their research programs and their academic leadership skills. Nurturing an interdisciplinary community of outstanding scientific/academic leaders, the CS program fosters synergy among faculty at major American research universities and primarily undergraduate institutions.

Congratulations, Dr. Bou-Abdallah, for the prestigious recognition!