Welcome to this special Summer 2018 edition of the Provost’s Corner! I hope that you are having an invigorating and productive summer. Our campus has been busy with summer Orientations (thanks to everyone who has participated in these important events!!), camps, and classes. The campus has also been busy with special events, including a highly successful Alumni Reunion Weekend. This year’s attendance was the second highest in Potsdam’s history (the largest being our Bicentennial year). Our campus is also busy with summer visitors, including prospective students and their families. Potsdam is known for the warm reception that visitors experience. A huge thank you to everyone for taking the time to make our future students feel so welcomed!

Welcome Weekend is almost here! I hope you can join the campus community on Friday, August 24th and Saturday, August 25th as we welcome our students to campus; more information can be found in this Newsletter. I also look forward to seeing you at our Faculty Scholarship and Creative Activity Fair on Wednesday, August 22nd, and at our campus’ Fall Opening Meeting on Thursday, August 23rd which begins at 8:30am in the Student Union Dining Court. Also, be sure to check out the information in the “Mark Your Calendars” section of this Newsletter regarding the upcoming two-day workshop on Inclusive Curriculum Design, scheduled to be held at SUNY Potsdam on either August 16/17 OR August 20/21. I hope you can attend one of these informative and timely two-day sessions!

New Faces/New Positions

Please join me in congratulating the following on their new positions and roles:

- Katie Agar - Program Assistant, DEI
- Priscilla Burke - Director, Student Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives, DEI
- Kate Caster - Clerk 1, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
- Bethany Cencer, Professional Development Coordinator, CCI
This year’s Department Chairs include the following “new” (and not-so-new) faces:

- Peter Brouwer- Secondary Education
- Caron Collins- Music Education
- David Curry- Philosophy
- Caroline Downing- Art
- Laura Grabowski- Computer Science
- Charles Guy- Music Performance
- Robert Hinckley- Politics
- Shiho Imai- History
- Kate Jeror- C&I, Literacy & Special Education
- Victoria Klawitter- Mathematics
- Hadley Kruczek-Aaron- Anthropology
- Kathleen O’Rourke- Public Health & Human Performance
- Jay Pecora- Theatre & Dance
- Julie Reagan- Elementary Education
- Michael Rygel- Geology, Physics
- Oscar Sarmiento- Modern Languages
- Kirk Severtson- Music Theory, History & Composition
- Liberty Stanavage- English & Communication
- Arlene Stillwell- Psychology
- Heather Sullivan-Catlin- Environmental Studies
- Joe Timmerman- Business Administration
- Jan Trybula- Biology
- Jeremy van Blommenstein- Sociology & Criminal Justice
- Martin Walker- Chemistry
- Lonel Woods- Music Performance

I also want to thank the following academic leaders for agreeing to serve on the executive board for the Chairs/Program Directors’ Council for AY2018/19:

- Hadley Kruczek-Aaron- Arts & Sciences
- Kate Jeror- SOEPS
- Lonel Woods- Crane
- Arlene Stillwell- Council Secretary
Saying Farewell

It is with great sadness that the campus learned of the passing of College Registrar Emerita, Ramona Ralston. Ramona passed away peacefully on Monday, June 11, 2018 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Ramona was hired at SUNY Potsdam in 1986 as a Technical Assistant in the Office of Special Programs. In 1993, Ramona was appointed Director of Academic Services and in 2002 became the College Registrar, the title she retired with in 2016. Through the many positions Ramona held on campus, she was consistently involved in ensuring the success of our students and in 1998, she was awarded the President’s Award for Excellence in Academic Service.

Please join me in extending our sincerest condolences to Ramona’s family, friends, and all who knew her, during this difficult time.

Campus Updates

Vice President for College Advancement. It is with great pleasure that the campus welcomes Salvatore Cania Jr., who joined SUNY Potsdam as Vice President for College Advancement and Executive Director of the Potsdam College Foundation, beginning on July 2nd.

Sal is not new to our campus community, as he completed both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at SUNY Potsdam’s Crane School of Music, and has held multiple positions at the College in the past. He was the Executive Director of the Community Performance Series from 1989 to 1999, before joining the Advancement team as the Director of Gift Planning and Donor Relations from 1996 to 1999, later continuing his development career at other local universities. Most recently, Sal was the Associate Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations at Clarkson University.

On behalf of Academic Affairs, I also want to thank Emily Hutchinson for her extraordinary service as Interim Vice President. Thank you, Emily!

New Academic Programs. At the May, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting, the following academic programs were approved:

- Minor in Graphic Design and New Media
- Minor in Disability Studies (Interdisciplinary)- first in the SUNY comprehensives
Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. On May 23rd, the President’s Council approved the proposal to create a new Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (INTD). Housed within the School of Arts and Sciences (A&S), INTD has been created to serve as an academic home to Exploratory/Undeclared students. In addition, the INTD department will house and promote the Student Initiated Interdepartmental Major (SIIM) and other already-established interdisciplinary programs including Women’s and Gender Studies and the new minor in Disabilities Studies. Future plans include the development of a Liberal Arts major and a Student Initiated Interdepartmental Minor. Logistics regarding the identification of primary and secondary affiliation for interdisciplinary faculty and the selection of a chair are still in process.

A huge “thank you” to all Task Force members for their tremendous work over the past semesters in developing this innovative academic department: Robin Col len (A&S), Caroline Downing (Art), Jessica Hefner (English & Communication), Hadley Kruczek-Aaron (Anthropology), Matt LaVine (Interdisciplinary Studies), Lily Li (Physics), Sergio Lopez (Modern Languages), and Jessica Rogers (Environmental Studies).

One-Stop Updates. Last semester, a Provost’s working group including Stephanie Claxton (Registrar), Sue Daggett (Registrar’s Office), Susan Godreau (Financial Aid), Sean Partridge (SSC), Jill Pearon (Associate Provost), and Beth Todd (Student Accounts) gathered extensive research related to the establishment of integrated offices for student services. As a result of this work, President’s Council has endorsed a plan to reorganize Student Administrative Services to enhance customer service for our students. This unit will include a new, outward-facing customer service office (name TBD, but currently called the Student Services Office) and the three back offices of the Registrar, Student Accounts, and Financial Aid.

The Student Services Office will combine online and in-person customer service functions in a single location to promote students’ ease of access and coordination among the Financial Aid, Registrar, and Student Accounts service areas. While the One-Stop’s most obvious benefit is
greater convenience for students through its enhanced integration of a broad array of services, its strategic benefit includes greater support for students’ retention, timely graduation, and overall success on campus.

The One-Stop model will provide automated and self-service options where possible, augmented by a team of front-line, cross-trained generalists who can satisfy a broad range of students’ most common needs. These Service Generalists will interact with students and families via e-mail, phone, and in-person. Subject-matter specialists in the previously existing offices (Financial Aid, Registrar, and Student Accounts) will support the work of the Generalists and address the most complex student needs through individualized interactions.

More details about the opening date of the Student Services Offices will be shared at the start of fall semester.

**Student Care Fund.** As our campus has become increasingly aware, many of our students walk a very fine financial line each semester. If an emergency arises, the effects can be devastating. Often, even a relatively small amount of financial assistance can mean the difference between staying enrolled and leaving school.

Through the generous donations of several alumni, the college has established a **Student Care Fund** to provide support to students dealing with one-time emergencies. Limited funds are available at this time, but it is hoped that additional donors (both on and off campus) will contribute to these important efforts to retain our students.

All campus employees can help by assisting in the identification of students who are in need. If you are working with a student you believe may benefit from emergency funding support, please refer them to the Student Success Center (128 Sisson Hall) to complete an application. For additional information, please contact Sean Partridge (partrisc@potsdam.edu).

Thanks very much for **all** that you do to support our students. Hopefully, this fund will provide another tool to foster student success.

**St. Lawrence Leadership Institute (SLLI).** The St. Lawrence Leadership Institute at SUNY Potsdam recognized the graduates of its Class of 2018 in a special ceremony earlier this month. The successful cohort of 11 students spent the past year gaining leadership experience, learning about pressing issues facing the North Country, and preparing final presentations relevant to their interests. The SLLI is facilitated through the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education, under the leadership of Josh LaFave.
The SLLI focuses on a range of professional growth and leadership development topics, as seen through the lens of an issue facing the county, including government, media, business, education, healthcare, justice, agriculture, environment, and quality of life. SLLI participants also complete a 360-degree feedback on their strengths and areas for growth, as well as exercises on the crucibles of leadership, emotional intelligence, team-building, strategic planning, organizational change, conflict resolution, negotiation, ethical leadership, inclusion and civic engagement, among other areas.

There are still openings for the class beginning in Fall 2018, and applications are now being accepted. To apply, visit www.potsdam.edu/slli. For more information about the St. Lawrence Leadership Institute, please contact SUNY Potsdam’s Division of Graduate and Continuing Education, at (315) 267-4722 or gradcon@potsdam.edu. You can also visit www.potsdam.edu/slli.

**Campus Voice Mail.** CTS has been hard at work implementing a new voice mail system for the campus, which went live on May 24th, 2018.

**Why do we need a new voice mail system?**
- Our existing system is very old and is no longer supported by the vendor. It cannot be upgraded and must be replaced.

**What will stay the same?**
- Every effort has been made to preserve existing functionality using familiar commands and options you are used to. Basic functionality of your desk phone will remain the same.

**What will be different?**
- Messages on the current system will not be transferred to the new system. Please see [this page](#) for instructions on how to access the old system and download any saved messages you have there. The old system has been decommissioned and was taken offline on July 1, 2018.
- When you first login to the new system you will need to initialize your mailbox. The system will guide you through this process. This will involve:
  - Setting your passcode/PIN
  - Recording your spoken name
  - Recording your personal greeting
Updated quick reference guides will be available for download from the Telcom section of the CTS web site.

**Open Educational Resources (OER).** The campus OER Task Force recently awarded grants to nine faculty members and one academic department. The grants were designed to encourage adoption and creation of Open Educational Resources, and will help contribute to over $135,000 in textbook savings to our students over the next academic year. We expect that the grant program will continue next year, so please contact Esta Tovstiadi (tovstiem@potsdam.edu) for more information on adopting OER in your courses and programs.

This summer’s awardees are: James Fryer (Psychology), Richard Henry (English), Azad Islam (Physics), Janelle Jacobson (Public Health & Human Performance), Shana Lessing (Anthropology), Lily Li (Physics), Kathy O’Rourke (Public Health & Human Performance), Martin Walker (Chemistry), and Lisa Wilson (English & Communication); the department was Business Administration.

**Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI).** SUNY Potsdam’s Law Enforcement Training Institute, which is directed by Sonny Duquette, hosted a *Career Exploration in Policing Seminar* this summer for BOCES high school students. Eighteen high school juniors from the Norwood and Ogdensburg BOCES Criminal Justice Programs spent a week on campus, learning about the LETI program including practice in using the program’s new simulator. A local newscast featuring this summer program can be accessed here.

**Banner 9.** Monday, August 6th is the go-live date for Banner 9 Admin Pages, currently known as Banner INB/Banner 8. Banner 9 is Ellucian’s next generation of Banner, which offers a more modern interface for the user experience. The new technologies will enable Ellucian to be quicker to respond to market and technology changes. SUNY Potsdam, with the help of ITEC and SICAS, has been modifying and implementing prerequisites to our Banner/BearPAWS environment for over two years.

**Research & Sponsored Programs Office (RSPO) Updates.** The Institutional Review Board (IRB) is happy to announce that all protocol submissions and communications are moving to a digital process effective August 1, 2018. If you are planning a study involving human subjects, please mark your calendar accordingly. The new platform - PACS IRB - will be accessible from Potsdam’s IRB webpage. This system will not only improve communication to investigators but will also increase transparency and efficiency. The RSPO is planning workshops for the fall to assist investigators with their protocol submissions and training videos are being posted to the
IRB webpage. Please contact Lydia Rodriguez, (rodrigl@potsdam.edu) IRB Chair, if you have questions.

On August 22nd, the RSPO will be hosting the Faculty Scholarship and Creativity Celebration! Join your colleagues from across the campus to celebrate the research and creativity being conducted at SUNY Potsdam. This one-day event begins at 9:00am and ends at 4:30pm. There are two morning and two afternoon sessions of short presentations with a lunch provided, courtesy of the Provost’s Office. Lunch is available for the first 100 people that RSVP to Jack McGuire in the RSPO; email today to reserve your spot (mcguirjp@potsdam.edu). There are still two available slots open for presenters and a need for session moderators. See the CCI webpage to sign up to present or contact Jack McGuire if you are willing to moderate one of the presentation sessions.

**Domestic & International Travel Courses.** The Office of International Education is currently working on revisions of the travel course approval process to adhere to upcoming SUNY policies with regards to health and safety, risk management, and financial procedures. In the time being, all faculty planning to lead a travel course in 2018-19 should contact Krista LaVack for information on proposal submissions (lavackkm@potsdam.edu).

**New Distance Learning Classroom.** Over the summer, renovations for the Distance Learning Seminar Room have been underway, with plans to have a new Distance Learning room in Satterlee 201 available beginning in the Fall 2018 semester. This room is equipped with the latest in Distance Learning technologies, and will enhance our ability to connect students from multiple locations who wish to attend a class. Specifically, this classroom will be instrumental in connecting students at our extension site at SUNY Jefferson in Watertown and will enable us to deliver new sections of classes, bringing students from both sites together synchronously. Be on the lookout for an invitation to visit the class and see how it works first-hand as we approach the start of the fall semester.

**Around the State/System**

**Teaching Effectiveness Conference.** The Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley is planning its next Teaching Effectiveness conference, “Tech Tools for Learning.” The conference is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 9:30-3:30. Location: TBD.
Coffee and Conversation

I want to thank all of you who were able to attend the “Coffee & Conversation” sessions this past year. I thoroughly enjoyed your insightful and productive feedback.

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! Possible topics:

- New budgeting process
- Updates on the campus’ strategic plans
- Faculty professional development

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

NY Stands with Puerto Rico. SUNY is proud to partner with Governor Andrew Cuomo to offer students a unique and rewarding service learning opportunity to support his NY Stands with Puerto Rico Recovery and Rebuilding Initiative. New York State is mobilizing students from SUNY and CUNY to work through non-profit organizations that are aiding in the reconstruction and revitalization efforts of communities across the island damaged by hurricanes Irma and Maria. SUNY volunteers will work with partner organizations identified by the Governor’s Office that are on the ground in Puerto Rican communities conducting recovery work, including debris removal, roof repair, and light construction.

SUNY Potsdam has been identified as one of the lead campuses for this initiative and will be supervising two deployments of volunteers this summer – one group of 10 students and one group of 29 students. Christopher Torres (Public Health & Human Performance) and Krista LaVack (International Education) will each lead a deployment. For more information, please contact Krista LaVack – lavackkm@potsdam.edu.

Conference facilitators are currently recruiting presenters with expertise in Educational Technology and/or using technology in the classroom to facilitate learning. More information about the conference and the proposal process can also be found at: http://www.associatedcolleges.org/conferences.htm. Please contact Kelly Bonnar (bonnarkk@potsdam.edu) if you have any questions about the conference or the proposal process.
Open SUNY. The 2018 Open SUNY Summit took place in late February 2018, bringing together the SUNY community with online learning experts from across the US. All sessions from the event were recorded and are available at Open SUNY Summit 2018 Sessions, including remarks from Chancellor Kristina Johnson talking about how Open SUNY is aligned to her four strategic themes.

Open SUNY is working with campuses on the implementation of Blackboard’s ALLY solution for improving the accessibility of online course content. Twenty campuses are planning to implement in 2018.

This spring, Open SUNY launched a new resource for faculty who want to learn more about what it means to teach an online course, located at http://commons.suny.edu/interested/. Open SUNY will also be delivering webinars to familiarize campus leaders with the resource and its potential use with faculty who may be considering teaching online.

SUNYConnect. All SUNY campuses are moving from separate library technology systems to a shared system to manage library resources. The unique infrastructure of SUNY’s new library services platform, Alma, will allow campuses to have separate systems while also connecting into a single shared system.

Over 100 librarians and staff are working in volunteer groups to manage the migration of library collections, financial information, and other library data. The library services platform will provide future opportunities to:

- Share resources between SUNY libraries;
- Analyze library resources and performance across all of SUNY; and
- Create deep collaborations between individual SUNYs, groups of SUNYs, and the entire SUNY system.
The Shared Library System is part of SUNY Libraries’ transition to the SUNY Libraries Consortium, which will provide SUNY libraries opportunities for innovative collaboration and to build capacity for system-wide initiatives.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**RESCHEDULED** Inclusive Classrooms Workshop. On behalf of the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Office of the Provost, I am excited to announce that the two-day workshop on “Inclusive Curriculum Design and Inclusive/Engaging Classrooms” has been rescheduled. Two sessions are being offered: August 16th & 17th OR August 20th & 21st. The workshop will be held on the SUNY Potsdam campus. This event is free to all SUNY Potsdam participants; lunch will also be provided.

The workshop will be facilitated by A. T. Miller, the Associate Provost for Academic Diversity at Cornell University. Day one of the workshop will focus on the understanding of biases, as well as how to manage these biases and create/promote inclusive pedagogy and classrooms. Day two will provide participants with the opportunity to bring inclusive practices into their own courses and to consult with colleagues on the implementation of best practices in inclusive pedagogy.

To register for the workshop, click here. For more information, contact Bernadette Tiapo (tiapobs@potsdam.edu).

Welcome Weekend 2018. I hope that you can join me and the campus community for Welcome Weekend 2018, which takes place from August 24th through August 26th. Faculty and staff are particularly encouraged to join in the following two activities:

- **First Year Funnel:** Friday, August 24th, 4:45pm, Meet outside Sisson Hall (Corner of Barrington Drive)
  The goal of this activity is to gather a large group of faculty, staff, and student leaders who will create a “receiving line” to officially welcome new students to campus as they walk to Hosmer Hall for their campus welcome program. There is no need to sign-up in advance, just come out and join us!

- **Welcome Weekend Carnival Sunday:** August 26th, 1-5pm, Maxcy Hall Field House
  The goal of this event is to bring the campus community together to kick off the academic year while welcoming both new and returning students to campus. Representatives from student clubs/organizations will staff a wide variety of carnival
activities throughout the day including inflatables, photo booth, make your own stuffed animal, tie dye T-shirts and much more! Additionally, open swim and open climbing wall hours will be available. All entertainment as well as refreshments will be provided free while supplies last. We would like to invite you and your families to join us for this fun-filled all campus event.

**Fall 2018 Days of Reflection.** The Days of Reflection: Education for Racial Equity and Justice planning committee is preparing the fall program, tentatively planned for **October 16th-19th, 2018.** Sessions currently slated for the fall address immigration, extremism, children's books, environmental justice, and more.

The Days of Reflection Planning Committee is also pleased to announce that, starting in the fall, Michael Popovic (International Studies) will serve as its coordinator. Additional members include Rachel Bayliss (Residence Life), Priscilla Burke (Office of Diversity), Libbie Freed (History), Matt LaVine (Interdisciplinary), Jennifer Mitchell (English & Communication), Sheryl Scales (C&I, Literacy & Special Education), Bernadette Tiapo (Chief Diversity Officer), and Nicole Wendel (Residence Life).

**5th Annual SUNY Applied Learning Conference.** SUNY’s annual Applied Learning Conference is scheduled for **November 1st and 2nd** in Tarrytown, NY. This year’s theme is “Thrive at Five: Amplifying the Learning in Applied Learning.” This conference will offer a range of interactive sessions and workshops for a variety of audiences including faculty, staff, students, administrators, and community and industry partners. Conference registration will be $150 for SUNY Faculty/Staff, $200 for non-SUNY partners, and $50 for Students. Registration and other details will be forthcoming.

SUNY’s Office of Applied Learning is currently accepting proposals for conference sessions. Presentation session options include 20-minute speed sessions, 60 minute presentations, or 90 minute workshops. New this year are proposals for student poster sessions that can be done independently or with a faculty member. To propose a workshop or presentation please complete the form in its entirety and submit through [this link](#) no later than **Close Of Business on Monday, July 23rd, 2018.** Please note: Incomplete submissions will not be considered. Presenters will be informed of the committee’s decision by the end of August.
**Kudos**

**2018 Chancellor’s and President’s Awards.** During the May Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony, the following were recognized for receiving 2018 Chancellor’s Awards:

- Excellence in Classified Service: Jessica Haggett (Payroll)
- Excellence in Faculty Service: Michael Rygel (Geology)
- Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities: Edwin Portugal (Business Administration)

The following employees were recognized for receiving the 2018 President’s Awards:

- Academic Advising: Donnita Firnstein (SSC/Bridges)
- Excellence in Auxiliary and College Educational Service: Benjamin Mitchell (PACES)
- Excellence in Clerical Service: Billie Jean Elliott (SOEPS)
- Excellence in College Service: Christine Doran (English & Communication/Women’s & Gender Studies)
- Excellence in Fostering a Welcoming and Inclusive Campus Climate: Louise Tyo (Student Success Center)
- Excellence in Fostering a Welcoming and Inclusive Classroom Environment: Anna Sorensen (Sociology)
- Excellence in Operational Service: David Thomas (Facilities)
- Excellence in Professional Service: Julie Dold (Residence Life)
- Excellence in Professional Administrative Service: Lt. Shane Ashley (University Police)
- Excellence in Professional Administrative Service: Mark Millward (TRiO)
- Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities: Joel Foisy (Mathematics)
- Excellence in Teaching: Timothy Murphy (Philosophy)

*Congratulations to all awardees on this prestigious and much-deserved recognition!!*

**Spring 2018 Honors Professors.** The SUNY Potsdam Honors Program thanks the following professors and staff members who taught honors courses (stand-alone, mixed cohort, or single-seat) in the academic year 2017-2018. The program could not exist without your expertise, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to student learning.

- Nancy Alzo (Libraries)
- Debbie Anderson (Elementary Education)
- Tom Baker (History)
- Iggy Beerbower (Art)
- Nancy Berbrich (English & Communication)
• *Kim Bouchard* (Theatre & Dance)
• *Ray Bowdish* (Biology)
• *Erin Brooks* (Crane)
• *Mylene Catel* (Modern Languages)
• *Geoffrey Clark* (History)
• *Walt Conley* (SOEPS/Biology)
• *David Curry* (Philosophy)
• *Stephanie DeGhett* (English & Communication)
• *Jim Donahue* (English & Communication)
• *James Fryer* (Psychology)
• *Savita Hanspal* (Business Administration)
• *Anna Hendrickson* (Crane)
• *Rick Henry* (English & Communication)
• *Rob Hinckley* (Politics)
• *Julie Hunter* (Crane)
• *Shiho Imai* (History)
• *Glenn Johnson* (Biology)
• *Shana Lessing* (Anthropology)
• *Laura Lunt* (Modern Languages)
• *Nasser Malit* (Anthropology)
• *Sheila McIntyre* (History)
• *Anjali Misra* (Special Education)
• *Jennifer Mitchell* (English & Communication)
• *Sue Novak* (English & Communication)
• *Emmett O’Leary* (Crane)
• *Laura Person* (Mathematics)
• *Page Quinton* (Geology)
• *Philip Salathé* (Crane)
• *Sheryl Scales* (Literacy Education)
• *Dave Smith* (Psychology)
• *Anna Sorensen* (Sociology)
• *Liliana Trevizan* (Modern Languages)
• *Jan Trybula* (Biology)
• *Sharmain van Blommestein* (English & Communication)
• *Toby White* (Internships/Applied Learning)
• *John Youngblood* (English & Communication)