

Provost's Corner

Bette S. Bergeron, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs

July 28, 2021

Summer Greetings!

Warmest greetings from the Office of the Provost! I hope that you are all having a productive, restful, and restorative summer. I certainly can't wait to see you (and our amazing students) on campus this fall.

While the past academic year has been an unprecedented one, the coming year promises to be one of transitions both for Academic Affairs and our campus. Employees are transitioning back to campus, many of whom have not been back since the start of the pandemic, and we are in the process of transitioning our academic programming for the fall to more fully engage with our students. And, of most significance, over the summer our campus will be transitioning its leadership. As we celebrate the seven years of President's Esterberg's leadership (be sure to watch your email for more information on an upcoming event to thank President Esterberg and Dr. Sue Bergmeier for their incredible service!), we also look forward to welcoming *Officer in Charge Dr. John Graham* to our campus in August.

Dr. Graham currently serves as SUNY's student advocate and senior advisor to Chancellor Malatras. He serves as a member of the Chancellor's executive leadership team and is the principal for SUNY initiatives and efforts related to student life including policy development, review and consultation with SUNY Administration partners, campus leaders, and chief student affairs officers. Dr. Graham also works closely with the Student Assembly and serves as the liaison on the Student Life Committee for the Board of Trustees. In the fall, our campus will be launching a national search, led by June O'Neill, chair of the SUNY Potsdam College Council. As we have more information about this process and the transition, we will share more details with the campus community.

In addition, the ERRG has been working over the summer to develop a comprehensive plan for our Fall, 2021 reopening that aligns with state/SUNY policies. While there is much that is still in process, we do know that the expectation will be that all SUNY (and CUNY) students will be required to be vaccinated once the FDA approves at least one of the COVID-19 vaccines for non-emergency use. Each SUNY campus has also been directed to develop their own reopening

plans, which will be submitted to—but not formally approved by—SUNY System. It is the expectation that each campus will be responsible for fully executing their own written plans. A series of Town Halls will be held soon to update the campus regarding our planning to date; be sure to watch your emails for more information. Updates regarding our proposed fall planning are also included in this Newsletter. However, it is important to note that planning can, and likely will, change as further guidance is provided by federal and state agencies particularly concerning the emergence of the Delta variant. Updates also continue to be provided through our [Potsdam Prepared website](#).

Thank you for your patience, and your feedback, through this exciting time of transition and reengagement with our entire campus community.

New Faces/New Positions

Crane School of Music Leadership. As was announced earlier in the summer, *David Heuser* has agreed to serve as Interim Dean of Crane, while we launch a national search for the position; the Crane Dean search committee is chaired by *Professor Emeritus Mark Hartman*. *Charles Guy* has joined the leadership team as Acting Associate Dean, and *William Lake* is serving as the Special Assistant to the Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives.

Please join me in thanking David, Mark, Charles, and William for their willingness to take on these responsibilities. The passing of Dean Emeritus Lonel Woods has been incredibly difficult for the Crane family, and for our campus. Please know that you are all in my thoughts.

Fall, 2021 COVID-19 Plans & Updates

Academic Planning. Specific details regarding academic planning are still being finalized, as we continue to seek clarification from SUNY and follow state/national guidance and best practices. I will continue to update the academic community as any changes/updates are made. At the current time, our campus planning includes the following expectations and guidance:

- *Course modality.* In most instances, instruction will be offered face-to-face, as we reengage with students in person in what we hope to be a full college experience.
- *Instructional accommodations.* Instructional modality has already been determined and published through the course schedule. It is important to note that faculty are not

required to offer individual students a remote/hybrid experience, unless that student has an approved medical accommodation through Student Health Services or an approved academic accommodation through the Office of Accommodative Services. All medical and religious exemptions related to the vaccination requirement are handled through Student Health Services.

- *Contact tracing.* It is important to note that the Office of Student Health Services will still need all faculty members who are teaching face-to-face to keep attendance and seating charts for contact tracing purposes, even if the entire class is vaccinated. If a vaccinated individual tests positive, those around them in the classroom—even if vaccinated—will need to be screened for symptoms. If they are symptomatic, they will need to be tested and, if positive, will be required to isolate.

In a recent communication to students ([Fall 2021 Guidance](#)), reminders were sent regarding the importance of full vaccination once at least one of the vaccines available is approved by the FDA for non-emergency use. While all students are welcome to return to campus in person, there will be restrictions for those students who have not chosen to be fully vaccinated. At the current time, Potsdam's fall reopening plan requires students to be fully vaccinated in order to participate in a range of activities including the following:

- Most classes, studios, and ensembles within The Crane School of Music
- Most performance-related classes and ensembles within the Department of Theatre and Dance
- Most classes with a lab or studio
- Any academically-related travel or field trips
- Law Enforcement Training Institute
- Intercollegiate athletics and club sports
- Fitness Center use
- Performance-based clubs and organizations
- Clubs or organizations with significant social or philanthropic functions that involve interacting in-person with non-SUNY Potsdam students and/or the local community
- Any student event/activity that includes travel from the campus
- Any student event/activity deemed to be high risk for COVID-19 transmission, due to close contact of participants and/or physical activity

Many applied learning experiences, including practica, student teaching, internships, and field experiences, may also require vaccinations. Students participating in these experiences will be required to follow the protocols of their host organization/school district.

It is expected that our specific fall plans will continue to evolve, as we better understand the potential impacts of the current surge in cases nationally and its regional implications. It is also understood that many questions remain regarding the specifics of our plan's implementation. However, we remain committed to providing students with a highly engaging—and safe—college experience on our campus this fall.

Updates from Human Resources. As has been recently communicated to campus, the following policies have been implemented:

- **Fully vaccinated employees are currently not required to wear a face covering in all settings on campus.** Fully vaccinated is defined as two weeks after the one dose vaccine or two weeks after the second dose of the two dose vaccines. Unvaccinated employees must still wear a face covering per the [Face Covering Policy](#).
- **Fully vaccinated employees are no longer required to maintain social distancing on campus.** Unvaccinated employees or employees who choose not to disclose their vaccination status are still required to maintain at least six feet of distance between themselves and others, both indoors and outdoors, whenever feasible.
- **Capacity limits indoors are no longer required for fully vaccinated employees.** If meetings include unvaccinated employees or those who choose not to disclose their vaccination status, capacity is limited by the ability for those individuals to maintain at least six feet of distance between themselves and others.
- **Daily health screening is no longer required for any employee.** It is important that all employees still exercise caution and not report to work if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Human Resources must still be contacted if an employee has tested positive for COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- **As a reminder, employees that show proof of full vaccination no longer need to participate in COVID-19 testing.** Unvaccinated employees or employees that choose not to show proof of vaccination must still participate in weekly COVID-19 testing. Employees may voluntarily upload the front and back of their vaccination card [here](#).

The updated Guide to Returning to the Workplace can be found [here](#).

Face Coverings. Face coverings have become a part of our everyday lives. While currently not required for vaccinated individuals, it is important to acknowledge that we may all have varying levels of comfort as it relates to the choice to get vaccinated, wear a face covering, and other precautionary measures. As we interact with others, and particularly with our students, please continue to respect and honor others' wishes to continue to wear face coverings. (De-stigmatizing the wearing of masks is also an important conversation to have with students at

the beginning of the semester.) I want to thank each of you for your patience and diligence as these important changes are made at the campus.

Given current health concerns posed by the surge in new COVID-19 cases, resulting in large part from the Delta variant and among unvaccinated communities, it is possible that there will be future changes in guidance around face coverings for all individuals regardless of vaccination status. Please continue to monitor your email for any potential updates.

International Travel. After careful deliberation, SUNY has made the determination that all University sponsored undergraduate international travel (study abroad and faculty led student activities) is cancelled for the Fall, 2021 semester due to the ongoing pandemic. This is a continuation of the current suspension of international undergraduate study/travel and is driven by our ongoing commitment to the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff.

As a reminder, after a very successful kick off in summer 2020, SUNY has launched this summer's *COIL Global Commons*. Details on last year's program are available here: <https://system.suny.edu/global/coil-global-commons/>. For more information, contact SUNY Potsdam's COIL coordinator, *Sharmain van Blommestein* (vanblos@potdam.edu).

Campus Updates

Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator and ADA Compliance Officer search committee is pleased to announce that our campus will host candidates this **Thursday, July 29th** and **Friday, July 30th**. This is a critical position for our campus, and we encourage faculty, staff, and students to attend the open forums. Due to the ongoing health pandemic, the open sessions will be held via zoom. The open forums are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 11:30am to 12:30pm | Open session for students |
| 1:15pm to 2:15pm | Open session for faculty and staff |

Information regarding the candidates' resumes, open session Zoom links, and evaluations can be found at: <https://www.potsdam.edu/about/safety/title-ix/title-ix-coordinator-candidate-search>.

First Year Funnel. All interested faculty/staff are invited to participate in the return of our *First Year Funnel* to welcome new students to Potsdam. 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. As in past years, pom-poms will be provided for participants (as supplies last). This event is outdoors, and all participants will be asked to socially distance to help us extend the receiving line from Sisson Hall to Hosmer. Participants should follow all COVID-19 guidelines requiring masking during participation.

2021/2022 Academic Calendar. In response to the Faculty Senate Resolution No. 404, and in careful deliberation with campus constituencies, President Esterberg announced earlier in the summer that she has approved the request to delay the pilot of the academic calendar's changes until the 2022/23 academic year. As noted by President Esterberg, "the pandemic has caused enormous stress for our entire campus community: faculty, staff, students, and administrators, alike. We recognize that because of the switch to remote learning and telecommuting, along with the significant additional work entailed to address the pandemic, that the campus has not had the opportunity to fully work through the changes involved in the approved pilot calendar and its addition of a May Session."

At the request of President Esterberg, the Calendar Committee revised the proposed calendar for the Spring, 2022 semester and developed an academic calendar proposal for AY2023/24; these calendars have been approved by the President's Council and are posted online at: <https://www.potsdam.edu/academics/academic-calendar>. While it is recognized that the details will need to be addressed, we look forward to the implementation of the campus' two-year pilot of May Session to begin in academic year 2022/23.

Updates from the Registrar. The 2021-2022 academic catalog has been published and can be found [here](#). Please note that departments can submit catalog changes to the Registrar on a rolling basis through the year to be stored until the next catalog publication (July 1, 2022).

I am also very pleased to share that *Stephanie Claxton*, Registrar, has assumed the new local title of *Assistant Provost for Academic Student Services*. In this capacity, Stephanie will supervise the SSC and EOP, responsibilities that she has held since the departure of Associate Provost Jill Pearson, as well as continue her collaborative facilitation of our One Stop. Both Stephanie and Assistant Provost Gordon Plague will be joining the Provost's Cabinet this fall.

One Stop. Please note that the One Stop will not be accepting any paper forms for Add/Drop (including late), WD, S/P/U beginning in fall, as we will continue the use of our Microsoft Flow forms. Please return or recycle any paper forms that you have. Students can use the computer in One Stop (or a mobile device) if they come in-person to request one of above.

B.F.A. in Art Education. We have recently been notified that our proposal for a new *B.F.A. in Art Education PreK-12* has been formally approved and registered by SUNY and the NYSED. This program replaces our joint B.A. in Art Education with St Lawrence University. If you would like more information on this program, you are encouraged to contact *Caroline Downing*, Chair of the Art Department at downincj@potsdam.edu. Congratulations to all faculty and staff who were involved with the development of this important academic major!

Reserves for Fall, 2021. The College Libraries are planning to open reserve collections for the Fall, 2021 semester. It is not too early to start thinking about the materials that you would like to place on reserve for the fall. The College Libraries will be sending out more detailed information soon about course reserve materials for the fall semester. Please contact *Jennifer Jeffery*, jefferja@potsdam.edu if you have any immediate questions.

SUNY Libraries DEI Task Force. *Lauren Jackson-Beck* (Director of College Libraries and Archives) is heading a *SUNY Libraries DEI Task Force* to evaluate and address DEI issues within the SUNY system's libraries. The Task Force includes 27 volunteers from across the SUNY libraries and will explore ways to address diversity, equity, and inclusion in five subgroups: library policies, library buildings and spaces, teaching and outreach, library collections, and professional development.

Internship Supervision Compensation Pilot. On behalf of the Provost's Cabinet and the Loughheed Applied Learning Center, I am very excited to announce a new *Internship Supervision Compensation* pilot program. The purpose of this new policy is to recognize the labor involved in creating and supervising internships, which are integral to our students' academic and professional success, and to encourage programs to intentionally expand their use of this successful high impact practice.

With this pilot program, faculty who are running internships that are integral to their program requirements have the flexibility to choose compensation either in the form of professional development funds or time (through course releases). It is important to note that this pilot program plan is intended to fill a gap in those instances where there are no existing mechanisms for supporting faculty who supervise internships (for example, this does *not* apply to Student Teaching supervisors, whose work is recognized in the assigned course load). This pilot program also does not include summer internships, for which faculty already receive compensation for internship supervision.

In this pilot program, a faculty member may choose from one of two options for each internship supervised:

1. *Banking towards course releases.* Once a faculty member has supervised 15 three-credit internships or a total of 45 credits of internship, that person is eligible for three credits of course release (60 credits of internship supervision would result in a four-credit course release). When a course release is selected, the timing of this release must be tied to departmental staffing needs and be scheduled in consultation with the chair and with final approval by the dean. Eligibility for course release will be calculated after each spring semester, for implementation the following academic year.
2. *Professional Development funding.* Faculty can opt to receive \$50 per credit hour of internship supervised in Foundation professional development funding provided through the Loughheed Center for Applied Learning. This total can be accumulated over multiple semesters, and spent when needed. Professional development funding will be calculated after each semester, and will be available for spending immediately upon completion of the semester.

If you have any questions regarding this program or the scope of your plans for your program's internships, please contact your dean.

CCI – Events and Workshops. Please visit the [CCI Events Calendar page](#) to register for upcoming CCI, SUNY, and SUNY CPD events and workshops. Also, review the Training Programs* section for various multi-day learning opportunities this summer.

- *Online Pedagogy: Design for Online Learning** – (TBA August)
- *Microsoft Teams: Presenting and Sharing in Meetings* – (week before semester)
- *Microsoft Teams: Using Webinars for Meetings* – (week before semester)
- *Moodle Gradebook* – (week before semester)
- *Enhance your Teaching Using Moodle* – (week before semester)
- *Engaging Students and Creating Community through Student-led Discussion Work Groups* – **Tuesday, August 24**, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- *Creating Diversity-Rich Courses* - **Wednesday Aug 18**, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

If you'd like to share a teaching approach or use of technology with your colleagues, please contact the CCI this summer. CCI staff can help you develop a presentation or workshop for the fall. We know you're doing great things and hope you'll share your expertise!

CCI – Website and Support. With several new webpages over the last year, the CCI is actively redesigning the CCI website to enhance and support teaching and learning (<https://www.potsdam.edu/faculty/center-creative-instruction>). CCI staff plan to communicate with you weekly using the *Featured* section and will continue to post about upcoming summer

CCI, SUNY, and CPD events. As always, the CCI staff is happy to meet with faculty and staff for one-on-one consultations, if you don't find what you're looking for on the website.

Important Changes: Textbook Services. As has been communicated over the past several months, significant changes are being introduced in the College Store's textbook services. Specifically, the College Store has partnered with the largest textbook supplier in the nation, BNC Services. The BNC Services program ensures course materials will be available when academic terms begin. This program provides convenient online ordering, accurate and timely fulfillment, and better overall services for our students.

As a result of this change, the College Store will no longer carry/stock textbooks here on campus. The only course materials that will be carried will be on-campus printing such as lab books, sheet music, etc. Textbooks must be ordered online from BNC Services and will be shipped directly to the student or to the College Store where the student can pick up their order.

At this time, credit card is the only form of payment accepted. The College Bookstore hopes to have Bear Express as a form of payment available in the near future. Please direct any questions to *Jan Robbins* at robbinjl@potdam.edu.

HEARTH Construction. The campus has started construction on HEARTH, a heritage-based laboratory for our campus and community. Once completed, the *SUNY Potsdam Handcrafted Experiential Archaeological Research and Teaching Hub* (HEARTH) will be a heritage-based living laboratory designed for use by both campus and community, dedicated to teaching traditional skills in hands-on workshops. The HEARTH project was envisioned by faculty from the Department of Anthropology, and has been funded entirely through the generosity of supportive donors. It is hoped that the HEARTH will be ready to welcome its first classes and workshops this fall.

HEARTH is the first initiative launched under the umbrella of the newly-established *Marqusee Center for Archaeology and Anthropology*, a publicly facing teaching and learning center focused on the preservation and revitalization of cultural heritage. The center is named in honor of Dean Emeritus Steven Marqusee. The Marqusee Center was established thanks to a generous leadership gift from Donald and Kathryn Kofoed Lougheed. Once open, HEARTH will sponsor a regular craftsperson-in-residence program throughout the year, where experts in a range of traditional heritage crafts will share their knowledge through workshops and presentations to SUNY Potsdam students, children from local schools, and the wider public.

Blueline. [Blueline: A Literary Magazine Dedicated to the Spirit of the Adirondacks](#) recently released its 42nd volume. Published annually by the Department of English and Communication, *Blueline* celebrates the Adirondacks by featuring the highest quality poetry, fiction and nonfiction centered on nature's shaping influence. Each volume of *Blueline* also promotes regional art by including exceptional painting and photography. *Blueline* is distributed internationally and is recognized for valuing the environmental imagination and its long tradition in the United States.

Blueline is leading a fundraising campaign to sustain the magazine's literary mission and to support its efforts to offer engaging applied learning experiences for students. To find out more and contribute, visit <https://www.givecampus.com/schools/SUNYPotsdam/blueline-42>. Contact *Blueline* at blueline@potsdam.edu to subscribe or purchase individual copies. For more information about *Blueline*, visit <http://www.bluelineadkmagazine.org>.

Resources

Included below are resources that maybe helpful as we prepare for the upcoming fall semester. If you have additional links or sources to share with your colleagues, please be sure to pass them along for a future edition of the Newsletter!

- For another take on what students want from technology-enhanced teaching, read Flower Darby's latest *Chronicle* advice column, "[7 Dos & Don'ts for Post-Pandemic Teaching With Technology](#)."
- A new [research paper](#) by two Cornell University biology instructors maps out the reasons students give for not turning on cameras in class, describes how they differ for students from underrepresented groups, and offers an "equitable and inclusive" plan to encourage camera use.
- In a *Chronicle* [advice](#) piece, Christine Siegel, provost of Fairfield University, encourages administrators to listen to the faculty as they prepare to reopen their campuses.
- A [recent survey](#) of more than 3,000 students by TopHat shows a correlation between instructors who care, provide timely feedback, and create a sense of community, and students who feel engaged and motivated in their coursework.



Around SUNY & the State



Mental Health Services. Chancellor Malatras recently announced a historic investment in student mental health services. Leveraging the institutional grants received through the federal American Rescue Plan, Chancellor Malatras has directed all SUNY colleges and universities to utilize five percent of their respective grants to expand and enhance student mental health services. It is anticipated that the funding will be used for expanding programs such as training additional student-facing residential staff to aid in identifying warning signs and how to refer students to services; expanding SUNY's Crisis Text Line, Peer-to-Peer hotlines, and campus student counseling networks; and creating safe spaces for students. For more information about SUNY's mental health resources please visit <https://www.suny.edu/mental-health/>.

SUNY New Faculty Peer Mentoring. The *SUNY New Faculty Peer Mentoring Community* is being offered at no cost to new tenure-track faculty on all 64 campuses. This program is open to faculty hired within the last two academic years (i.e., those starting in Fall, 2020 or after) and offers new faculty an opportunity to talk about vital issues as teachers, scholars, and advisors. This informal, group-oriented, and participant-directed program has two goals:

1. Build community and connection among new SUNY faculty; and
2. Provide peer support in navigating various aspects of the faculty role - teaching, mentoring/advising, service, scholarship.

The program will consist of a series of regular online meetings facilitated by CMLAI & CPD faculty and staff. For more details and to register for the program (**by September 13, 2021**) go to: <https://sunycpd.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/nfmp21/nfmp>. If you have questions about the program, contact *Chris Price* (chris.price@suny.edu).

In addition, please note that the SUNY Center for Professional Development has many other programs that are applicable for all faculty and staff members. More information on programming can be found at: <https://cpd.suny.edu/academicprograms.cfm>.

Mark Your Calendars



SOEPS Seminars. The *Disciplined Inquiry in Education Seminar Series* has announced its schedule for the Fall, 2021 semester. The Seminars are sponsored by SUNY Potsdam's School of Education and Professional Studies. Since its inception in 2007, the School has hosted

approximately 130 presentations as part of the series. All events are free and open to the public. In Fall 2021, all seminars will be offered on **Wednesdays from noon to 1:00pm** both face-to-face at the Literacy Center Balcony and via Zoom. For more information regarding access to the Zoom links, please contact [Billijean J. Elliott](#). More information about the Seminar series can be found online at: <https://www.potsdam.edu/academics/SOEPS/resources-faculty/disciplined-inquiry-education-seminar-series>.

Fall, 2021 Schedule:

- **September 8, 2021**
Allen C Grant (Dean of SOEPS)
Topic: *Exploring Community School Strategies*
[View Flier \(PDF\)](#)
- **September 29, 2021**
Karen Caldwell (Business Administration)
Janelle Jacobson (Public Health and Human Performance)
Jenica Rogers (Center for Applied Learning)
Topic: *Experiential Learning through Digital Literacy*
[View Flier \(PDF\)](#)
- **October 20, 2021**
Seon A Levius (Business Administration)
Topic: *The Pursuit of Purpose: Unleashing Your Highest Potential*
[View Flier \(PDF\)](#)
- **November 3, 2021**
Robert E. Vadas (Secondary Education)
Topic: *Interactive Discussion on Survey Results from Ten Area Schools Concerning EdTPA*
[View Flier \(PDF\)](#)
- **November 17, 2021**
Eudora A Watson (SOEPS)
Topic: *Translation Provided: 3 Steps to Effectively Communicating Expectations for Written Work*
[View Flier \(PDF\)](#)

Kudos

Excellence in Innovation Award. *Toby White* (Lougheed Center for Applied Learning) has recently received a SUNYCDO award for *Excellence in Innovation* for his work with SUNY Potsdam's CONNECT program. This award recognizes programming that demonstrates new, creative, and successful use of technology or other resources, particularly in response to the unprecedented changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

College Communications. SUNY Potsdam's College Communications swept the SUNYCUAD awards competition this year!

- *Excellence in Advertising, Best of Category* for [Fresh Air. Open Minds.](#) video - Team effort
- *Excellence in Photography, Judges' Citation, Photo series on Persevering through the Pandemic* - Jason Hunter
- *Excellence in Writing, Feature Writing, Best of Category, Lost and Found in the Adirondacks* - Bret Yager
- *Excellence in Writing, News Writing, Best of Category, Their Essential Nature* - Bret Yager

Congratulations to Toby and to the College Communications team!

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.