

# Provost's Corner

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

March 2, 2020

## *Greetings from Academic Affairs!*

How is it possible that Spring Break is nearly upon us? I hope that the first half of the semester has gone smoothly for you and your students, and I look forward to celebrating with you the many academic successes and talents of our students as we enter into the final months of our academic year.

This spring is also bringing challenges around the potential impacts of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Specific information on the campus' response, including the creation of a Task Force, was provided in a letter from the President on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. A summary of this information is also provided in this Newsletter. The campus is monitoring this situation carefully, and will be providing updates throughout the semester.

Our campus' focus on retention continues as a strategic priority, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to explore with you new avenues for engaging in dialogue around topics and issues related to students' academic experiences and strategies to enhance student retention. I have particularly appreciated the feedback that has been shared at the Open Forums around changes to the student opinion survey tool; an update on the status of proposed changes is provided in the Newsletter. In addition, I am working with the Faculty Senate to offer a follow-up Forum in April to explore best practices around the use of course evaluations, including how academic administrators use the course surveys as part of a holistic process in supporting an individual faculty member's professional goals in pedagogy.

I have also thoroughly enjoyed the conversations that have resulted from this spring's first *Book Chat* which focused on understanding our current GenZ student population. As part of our discussions, we explored best practices around group work and assignments that are effective for this generation of learners. A follow-up workshop is in the works; if you are interested in sharing your insight on best practices please let me know. In addition, there is still room for additional participants for our *April Book Chat*; be sure to look for more details included in this Newsletter. I would love to hear from you regarding ways in which we can continue to work together in increasing opportunities for conversation and dialogue across Academic Affairs.

## *New Faces/New Positions*

**Welcome!** Please join me in welcoming the newest members of our academic community:

- *MarySue Foster*- Applied Learning Counselor, Career Services
  - *Kailey Mahar*- Assistant Director, Potsdam Pathways
  - *Kristen Paquette*—Service Generalist, One Stop
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## *Campus Updates*

**Novel Coronavirus.** President Esterberg has convened a team of SUNY Potsdam faculty and staff representing critical areas of campus to monitor and respond to the international spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in keeping with our [Infectious Disease Plan](#). The College is in daily contact with the New York State Department of Health and SUNY System Administration, and our response group is meeting regularly to track the situation.

SUNY Potsdam's President's Council, in communication and consultation with SUNY, has made the decision to cancel all College-sponsored international travel courses and short-term programs for the Spring 2020 semester. As conditions are constantly changing, we felt that we must be cautious and that it would be most prudent to cancel these programs now, as in many cases making alternate arrangements either would not be possible, would increase costs to students, or would raise new risks. SUNY Potsdam is in close contact with all students who are currently studying abroad, both through our programs or through other campuses, regarding the need to make arrangements for return travel if required. More information on international travel will be shared in the coming days, as we follow guidance from SUNY, and federal and state health officials.

While it is highly unlikely that the spread of novel coronavirus will directly impact academic experiences on campus, the Task Force is considering ways in which instruction can continue uninterrupted if warranted by a widespread outbreak. Tools that are already available, including Moodle, Relay, Skype for Business, and Teams, are among the options that can be used by faculty. If you do not already have a Moodle course shell and wish to create one, instructions to create one can be found in [Moodle](#). In addition, the CCI website includes videos and resources related to a variety of pedagogical strategies including the use of Relay and Teams, which can connect to Skype for Business to allow for synchronous meetings from different locations. For more information about these resources, please contact the CCI ([cci@potdam.edu](mailto:cci@potdam.edu)).

Course attendance is another issue to consider related to the potential impact of the novel coronavirus on the academic experience of our students. If a student (or employee) has a fever, that individual should not be attending class. Doing so puts the students, and the campus in general, at risk. We ask that faculty be understanding and make accommodations for students who are experiencing flu symptoms, and encourage you to communicate with students via email or text to discuss making up any missed work. Given the uncertainty of this emerging situation and the highly contagious nature of this virus, I would ask that you err on the side of caution. Your flexibility and understanding during this time are most sincerely appreciated. To ensure instructional continuity in the case of an emergency, all faculty should be prepared to conduct their courses via alternative methods, such as through your Moodle course shell.

SUNY Potsdam will continue to update the campus about COVID-19 precautions in the coming days and weeks. The College is also expanding our outreach efforts to encourage good hygiene practices and raise awareness in the campus community about avoiding infection. We are also in close contact with our community partners, including the St. Lawrence County Department of Health and our fellow Associated Colleges, regarding local efforts.

A webpage has been developed on the SUNY Potsdam website that will be updated frequently, as more information becomes available. Please visit the page regularly to find more detailed information: <https://www.potsdam.edu/covid19>. To schedule an appointment or contact Student Health Services at SUNY Potsdam, visit [campus health services](#). For more information on COVID-19, visit: <http://cdc.gov/covid19>.

**Advanced Certificate in Educational Leadership.** The new *Advanced Certificate in Educational Leadership*, which prepares future school building and district leaders, has been completed and registered! This professional program was developed in collaboration with SUNY Plattsburgh, and includes coursework in their Certificate in Teacher Leadership. The first students in the Certificate's program are slated to begin classes in Fall of 2020. Congratulations to the faculty and staff in the School of Education and Professional Studies and Graduate Education for the approval of this new advanced certificate program!

**Minor in International Studies.** In February, the President approved the Faculty Senate resolution to endorse the new Minor in International Studies. Congratulations to all faculty who were involved with the development of this innovative new academic offering!

**Physical Education (PE)/Health & Wellness (HW) Task Force.** During the Fall, 2019 semester, the Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee (APCC) of the Faculty Senate met to discuss the current PE requirement and whether it still meets the needs of our current

generation of students, particularly given the increase in mental health challenges faced by students. The APCC recommended the creation of a *PE/HW Task Force* to be charged with recommending the curriculum and program for a College requirement to focus on wellness/healthy living.

The new Task Force will be led by *Tanya Hewitt* (Public Health & Human Performance) and membership includes *Bill Beauchamp* (Athletics), *Tony Betrus* (Business Administration), *Kelly Bonnar* (PHHP), *Bridget Bradish* (Health Center), *Robin Collen* (A&S Associate Dean, Theatre & Dance), *Gena Nelson* (Counseling Center), *Adam Parker* (Athletics), *Jason Scheer* (Biology), *Colleen Skull* (Crane), and *Adam Wheeler* (Wilderness Education). Students *Brandi Dupere* and *Caric Appleton* have also been selected by the SGA for representation on the Task Force.

**Preferred Name Policy.** SUNY Potsdam is implementing the College's new [Student Preferred/Chosen First Name Policy](#), which was approved by President's Council, effective this semester. Through this new policy, Potsdam will be able to recognize students' preferred or chosen first names, which may be different from their name of record, in many campus forms and processes. Consistent with federal Title IX protections barring discrimination based on gender identity and expression, this policy will particularly help to affirm and support our transgender and gender non-conforming students—although any student who uses a preferred/chosen first name on a daily basis is able to take part. Beginning this semester, students may now designate a preferred or chosen first name with the College through BearPAWS. These names will be reflected in class lists, advisors' reports, course summaries, department major reports, Navigate and Campus Labs software, among other uses. SUNY Potsdam student ID cards display both names of record and chosen/preferred first names.

The College is obligated to use students' names of record for many official documents and reports, such as for billing and financial aid, as well as for medical, student conduct, and police records. If you are aware of names of record, or must use them when required, please make every effort to use preferred names whenever possible, and especially in direct correspondence, advising, and instructional settings.

Thank you for respecting our students' wishes and affirming their identities by using their preferred or chosen first names and their preferred pronouns whenever possible. This is just one of many measures that will help all of our students feel welcome and included on our

## Looking for previous copies of the Provost's Corner?

Past editions of the Provost's Corner, as well as additional resources for faculty and staff, can be found at:

<http://www.potsdam.edu/about/administration/provost/>

campus. If you have any questions or want to refer a student for assistance, please contact the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at (315) 267-2184.

The campus is currently working on a process so that faculty and staff may also designate preferred or chosen first names; updates will be provided as this work progresses.

**Geology Program Designation.** The Department of Geology recently was notified that their B.S. in Geology is now designated as qualifying for licensure. This designation has the following implications:

- Systems can finally be updated to include this critical academic designation.
- Students can sit for the licensure exam once they get within 20 credits of graduation.
- Students from SUNY Potsdam who apply to take the licensure exam and eventually the license itself (after passing the tests, getting five years of experience, etc.) will now be fast-tracked through the Office of Professions because their transcripts will not have to be evaluated on a course-by-course basis.
- The Geology program can be marketed as licensure-compliant. It is anticipated that, within the next year, campuses that have not been approved for licensure will have to prominently advertise that they are non-compliant on all their promotional materials.

The process for applying for licensure-compliance was led by *Michael Rygel* (chair, Department of Geology). Congratulations to all of Geology's faculty for this important designation!

**Major Mapping.** Under the leadership of *Dean Gretchen Galbraith* (A&S), Potsdam has begun a new campus-wide retention initiative to support our efforts to integrate academic and career development and to support student degree planning. These **Major Maps** will help prospective and current students explore major and career options and create a year-by-year plan to integrate curricular, co-curricular, and non-curricular experiences. They will include program highlights, academic options, and opportunities to gain relevant experience. The maps will be available in print and on the website. Examples of Major Maps used at other campuses can be accessed at the [University of Utah](#) and [Queen's University](#).

Over the course of this initiative, department chairs and other campus leaders will be participating in the development of Major Maps by providing input and feedback as they work to develop the maps. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Dean Galbraith or members of the Core Team: *Heather Sullivan-Catlin* (Environmental Studies), *Robin Collen* (A&S Associate Dean/Theatre & Dance), *Krista Medo* (A&S Assistant Dean), and *Jenica Rogers* (Lougheed Center for Applied Learning).

**Student Outcome Tracking.** Academic Advisors—Please Take Note! *Student Outcome Tracking (SOT)* will be implemented this spring with advising and registration. SOT is a process that integrates with BearDeN to determine if the credits for which a student has registered count towards their degree program. **Students may only receive Federal and New York State aid for courses that count toward their *primary* bachelor's degree requirements.** These include major, general education, physical education, electives, as well as liberal arts and upper division requirements.

This year, as students register in BearPAWS for their Fall 2020 classes, SOT will notify them when course selections are not applicable to their degree and, therefore, are not eligible for financial aid. Students then may either select a new course(s) that is eligible for financial aid or remain in the ineligible course and potentially have their financial aid recalculated.

More information can be found in the following places:

- FAQs and other detailed information can be found on the [Credits That Count](#) webpage.
- Additional details about this process will be shared via email soon.

**Student Course Surveys.** Beginning in the Fall, 2020 semester, the student course opinion surveys provided through the Provost's Office will no longer be paper/pencil (Scantron), and instead an electronic platform will be adopted (EvaluationKit). However, with the exception of the gender question, which will be deleted, and a possible pilot of questions related to the campus' values around diversity, equity, and inclusion, the survey questions will for the first year of implementation be unchanged. As has always been the case, faculty can also choose to conduct an alternative method of course evaluation and, regardless of the platform or format used, the ownership of the evaluations will remain explicitly with the individual faculty member.

The primary rationale for making this change includes concerns around sustainability, confidentiality, anonymity, flexibility, ownership, and workload. Specifically, the current paper/pencil process produces over 20,000 pieces of paper and 1,000 envelopes annually. This waste clearly does not align with our campus' goals around sustainability. Most troubling, however, is the lack of security and confidentiality with paper/pencil modes, particularly considering the multiple times that the completed forms travel around campus and are stored in unsecured areas for lengthy periods of time. The current system also does not provide the faculty with easy flexibility in revising questions to reflect our campus' current pedagogical priorities or to reflect differences in modes of teaching (e.g., lecture, lab, studio). This flexibility will be integral to EvaluationKit. The adoption of EvaluationKIT is anticipated to save the campus at least \$5,000 annually as well as create a reduction in both faculty and staff workload.

One of the concerns that faculty have expressed relates to possible changes in response rates when transitioning from paper/pencil to electronic modes of evaluation. While this had been true with earlier platforms, which were used solely on computers, EvaluationKit allows students to use any device including phones, tablets, and computers. Therefore, faculty will have the option to ask students to complete surveys in class—as is done now with paper/pencil evaluations. It is therefore expected that the response rates will be equivalent.

I appreciate the work of the CCI Board in reviewing EvaluationKit and providing recommendations for its implementation; these recommendations have been reviewed and endorsed by the Provost's Cabinet. I also want to thank *Blair Madore*, the chair of the Faculty Senate, for working with me to schedule Forums in which to gather feedback on this implementation. The Senate is also working on an FAQ, which will be made available soon.

**Academic Calendar.** The Maymester Subcommittee of the Calendar Committee has been meeting throughout the past two academic years to provide recommendations to the campus on three potential changes to the academic calendar: shortening the winter break, eliminating Winter Term, and adding a two-week May Term. The rationale for any recommended changes include the declining enrollment and participation in Winter Term courses, the ability to end the spring semester earlier in May to allow students more opportunities for extended employment and/or internships over the summer, and allowing faculty extended time over the summer for scholarly and creative work. In addition, it is anticipated that a robust May Term would enable students who did not successfully complete graduation, financial aid, or scholarship requirements in the spring to potentially finish them in the post-Spring semester, before leaving Potsdam. This would be critical to students' retention and timely progression towards completion of their degree, and in some cases maintaining eligibility for Excelsior.

While it was hoped that an open campus presentation and Q&A could be held to share the recommendations of the Maymester Subcommittee, an untimely winter storm caused the cancellation of last week's Forum. In its place, *Stephanie Claxton*, College Registrar, and *Alan Hersker*, Director of Graduate and Continuing Education, have recorded a brief (less than 10 minutes) [presentation](#) on the Academic Calendar proposal. After viewing the presentation, members of the campus community are encouraged to complete a Qualtrics [survey](#) to offer their input. The deadline for providing input via the survey is **Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**, close of business.

While it is Stephanie Claxton and Alan Hersker presenting on the video, please keep in mind that this reflects the hard work of all the members of the Maymester Subcommittee over the past few semesters. The College is appreciative of their service: *Caroline Downing* (Art), *Dan Hayes* (PACES), *Kate Jeror* (Advanced Studies in Education), and *Krista LaVack* (International

Education and Programs). In addition, *Joshua LaFave* served on the subcommittee last year, while in the role of Director of Graduate Education.

**ISLO Update.** Good news! The campus is almost ready to roll out the *Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLOs)* that were approved last fall. Our adoption of the ISLOs is a positive step toward reviewing our assessment as part of our upcoming Middle States reaccreditation process. The Provost's Office and the Office of Academic Assessment have designed a new, streamlined assessment template that includes ISLOs and should make documenting the program assessment process much simpler. As soon as some minor platform issues are worked out, the new templates will be presented to the Council of Chairs and Program Directors, with the option for departments to schedule further individual meetings with *Carrie Bates*, the Academic Assessment Coordinator, if they so desire. Thanks to all who have contributed to this effort.

**Updates from the College Libraries.** Thanks to a donation from the Counseling Center, Crane and Crumb Libraries now each have six "*Happy Lights*" for students to check out. These lights can help to alleviate seasonal blues. Students at Crumb Library can check out a Happy Light (yes, this is their name) for a three-hour in-building use from the Circulation Desk. Crane students may check out a Happy Light for one day, allowing them to use a light in their practice rooms.

There are currently no new updates on the status of the SUNY-wide *Elsevier contract*. However, *Lauren Jackson-Beck* (Director of College Libraries and Archives) will send out any information to faculty as soon as there is news to share. It is expected that there will be updates forthcoming from SUNY in March. Please contact Lauren at [jacksola@potdam.edu](mailto:jacksola@potdam.edu) with any concerns or comments.

Just a reminder as we head to midterms and research paper season: *Melissa Netzbam* is our new *Information Literacy Librarian* and she is available to teach your class information literacy skills they may need to successfully complete their research assignments. Contact Melissa at [netzbame@potdam.edu](mailto:netzbame@potdam.edu) or at extension 2483.

**Student Involvement Record.** The Summit Leadership Program Committee is excited to continue the launch of the *Student Involvement Record (SIR)* program at SUNY Potsdam, which began this Spring. The SIR is an official listing of a student's campus-sponsored experiences and achievements. As such, all experiences included in the SIR are submitted by the sponsoring department. The SIR is designed to support student resume development, recognize student accomplishments, and motivate increased student engagement. Faculty/staff

can utilize this tool for reference letter writing, and departments can choose to utilize it for on-campus employment applications. Components included are: student organizations, leadership positions, applied learning experiences, on-campus employment, awards, and more. For more information about the goals and benefits of the SIR initiative as well as a sample document go to: <https://getinvolved.potsdam.edu/organization/summit/documents/view/1648102>.

You are invited to help make the SIR program successful by submitting information about student leadership experiences, involvements, and/or recognition in your areas. Department heads/program directors will be contacted soon with more information on how to submit the 2019/2020 student experiences. Please do not hesitate to contact *Ruth Policella* at [policera@potsdam.edu](mailto:policera@potsdam.edu) should you have any questions about this initiative.

**Campus Climate Survey.** The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has announced the results of the recent *Campus Climate Survey (CCS) for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*. The DEI Assessment Committee has scheduled a number of presentation sessions on the CCS for DEI. Please click on the following link and RSVP to attend one of the sessions: [https://sunypotsdam.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_a5ymvFCMwXVuGgt](https://sunypotsdam.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a5ymvFCMwXVuGgt).

**Ombuds Program.** The rollout of the [Ombuds Program](#) is now effective. Presentations have been scheduled to better inform the campus community. Please click on the following link and RSVP to attend one of the sessions: [https://sunypotsdam.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2rVCO9N1xNkxZ0p](https://sunypotsdam.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2rVCO9N1xNkxZ0p).

**Barrington Student Union Power Outage.** On **Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a planned power outage at the Barrington Student Union, scheduled to start at 6:00 a.m., with power expected to be restored by 10:00 a.m. This is a necessary planned outage as part of our ongoing renovations to the building. All equipment in the Barrington Student Union should be shut down by occupants prior to leaving on Monday, March 9, 2020.

In addition, this outage will disable the analog phones in Barrington, Sisson, Draime, and Van Housen. The elevator phones, fax machines, red phones, and blue light phones will not work in those buildings during this four-hour timeframe. If you will be in these buildings at that time, please remember to carry a cell phone in case of emergency.

A reminder notification will be sent on Monday, March 9. Please contact *Courtney Bloodough* at (315) 276-2107 if you have any questions or concerns with this outage.



## **Potsdam Pathways**

**Pathways Designator Approvals Process.** The Potsdam Pathways Curriculum Committee is now accepting applications for Pathways course designation. Please make every effort to get all courses seeking designation for the Fall 2020 semester submitted to the PPCC by **March 15<sup>th</sup>**. Information about the course approval process can be found [here](#).

**WAYS Incentives.** Implementing our new *Potsdam Pathways* General Education program is one of the most important Action Steps in our Academic Affairs Strategic Plan. In order to support this critically important initiative, I am very pleased to announce a package of incentives for faculty who participate in teaching WAYS courses. Beginning in Fall 2020, WAYS instructors (i.e., instructors of WAYS 101: Critical Thinking Seminar; WAYS 102: College Writing Seminar, or WAYS 103: Speaking about Diversity Seminar) will be supported for taking on the demanding work of developing and teaching WAYS courses in one of the following two ways:

- Full-time Faculty will be able to bank one credit reassignment time for each semester they deliver WAYS courses and complete the related obligations. Thus, after teaching three semesters of WAYS courses, faculty members will be eligible for one three-credit course release (four semesters for faculty teaching four-credit courses).
  - Note: Full-time Faculty who are unable to bank course releases should speak with their Dean and the Pathways leadership about other “ways” to get involved with the new program.
- Adjunct faculty will be compensated for their commitment to the *Pathways* program in two ways:
  - They will be compensated \$200 for participating in the mandatory three-part training series the semester before the course is offered (training is required every three years).
  - They will be compensated an additional \$1000 for each semester they deliver WAYS courses for completing the related obligations including participating in the required bi-weekly meeting of faculty.

To inquire about teaching WAYS courses, please contact the appropriate WAYS Coordinator (101 – Mike Rygel; 102 – Sheila McIntyre; 103 – Kelly Bonnar) or David Curry, *Pathways* Director. Thank you for your support of this exciting new program!

**Call for WAYS 102 and WAYS 103 Instructors.** Pathways leadership is actively seeking faculty to teach WAYS 102 and WAYS 103 for Spring 2021. If you are interested in learning more about

teaching these signature first-year courses, CCI Workshops are being offered to answer your questions (see below). You can also visit the *WAYS Getting Started* site, [here](#), and fill out the WAYS Intent to Design Worksheet, which will trigger the appropriate WAYS Coordinator to reach out to you with more information.

**Upcoming WAYS Getting Started CCI Sessions.** The Pathways leadership, in collaboration with the CCI, is offering workshops on the following dates:

- **March 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:00–5:00 p.m.** - *WAYS 103 – Getting Started* – facilitated by *Kelly Bonnar*, Associate Professor of Public Health/Human Performance and WAYS 103 Coordinator.
- **March 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:00 a.m. OR 2:00–3:00 p.m.** – *WAYS 102 – Getting Started* – facilitated by *Sheila McIntyre*, Associate Professor of History, and WAYS 102 Coordinator (a final date/time will be set by vote during registration – [register here](#)).

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## *Around the State/System*

**SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference.** The *SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC)* is a multidisciplinary spring semester event hosted each year by different SUNY institutions. It brings together undergraduate student researchers and faculty mentors from across the SUNY system for activities, including sessions devoted to student presentations—oral, performance, artistic displays, and posters presentations—in **ALL** academic disciplines.

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and SUNY Old Westbury will co-host SURC 2020.

- **Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**- - SURC 2020 Upstate - SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- **Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**- - SURC 2020 Downstate - SUNY Old Westbury

For information on how to submit a proposal or to register please go to [SURC2020](#). If you have any questions, please [contact the SURC team](#) at any time. SUNY Potsdam faculty or students interested in attending SURC should speak with *Tom Baker* in the Office of Student Research and Creativity, [bakertn@potsdam.edu](mailto:bakertn@potsdam.edu), to join in our campus' transportation arrangements.

**Conversations in the Disciplines.** The Request for Proposals for the *Conversations in the Disciplines (CID)* program for *Conversations* to be held during academic year 2020-2021 has been issued. This competitive grant program is designed to support campus efforts to bring together faculty within and outside of SUNY for the purposes of scholarly discourse—

examining new trends, addressing changes and challenges, reviewing promising research findings, and more. These *Conversations*, which take advantage of the breadth and depth of SUNY's faculty, faculty-at-large, and the opportunities that emerge when faculty come together, are important to advancing our shared goals and mission.

The program guidelines have been posted on [www.suny.edu/provost/cid/](http://www.suny.edu/provost/cid/). Proposals are due **Friday, March 27, 2020**. As in prior years, the University Faculty Senate's Committee on Programs and Awards will review and recommend proposals for consideration. For additional information, contact *Ann Hawkins*, Assistant Provost for Graduate Education and Research or *Yvette Roberts*, Special Assistant to the Vice Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Program Manager for Faculty and Staff Awards at [CID@suny.edu](mailto:CID@suny.edu) or (518) 320-1670.

**SUNY Professional Development.** SUNY Potsdam participates in the *SUNY CPD* programs, which focus on skill and knowledge development in various instructional technologies/software, and teaching and learning areas. The programs are usually held in the form of conferences, workshops, online events and trainings.

Points to be used towards participation are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Any additional fees required by the participant will be noted at registration. Before requesting to use CPD points, employees should seek funding from other sources including departmental funds, union grants, program scholarships, etc. Priority will be given to individuals who have not previously received points during the current academic year.

See SUNY Potsdam's [Office of Human Resources](#) for more information, or visit the [SUNY Center for Professional Development Calendar of Events](#) for a complete listing of professional development opportunities.

**Leaders Learning Live.** SUNY's *Leaders Learning Live* occurs every third Thursday of the month from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. This interview-style webinar series provides insights into a wide variety of higher education leadership topics and best practices. [Learn more and register](#) for any and all webinars of interest! Recordings of past webinars are also available on the webinars page. For more information, contact *Merissa McKasty*, Leadership Development Manager, at [Merissa.mckasty@suny.edu](mailto:Merissa.mckasty@suny.edu).

**Benjamin and David Scharps Memorial Award.** The *Benjamin and David Scharps Memorial Award* was established in the will of Hannah S. Hirschhorn in honor of her brothers, Benjamin and David Scharps who were attorneys. The gift for the award was accepted by the SUNY Board of Trustees in 1974. The funds have been used to award juniors or seniors who are prelaw

or have an interest in legal studies. As per the bequest, the prize is awarded to a student who writes the best legal essay on the subject determined by the Chancellor or designee. First Prize is \$1,500, Second Prize is \$1,000. Competition for the prize is open to SUNY students in their Junior or Senior year.

Award applicants will submit a 2,000 word essay that is responsive to the chosen topic. Submission is to be sent in standard essay format. Essays written by students are submitted to a campus point of contact, who may submit a maximum of three essays for their campus. The campus president appoints a single faculty or staff coordinator who will endorse each essay submitted indicating the he or she has read the essay and considers it of high quality and representative of the best of that campus. This is done by letter sent to SUNY University Life. The essay will be submitted to SUNY Office of University Life by the campus faculty or staff coordinator. Please send all to the attention of *Candi Griffin-Jenkins* at [Candi.Griffin-Jenkins@suny.edu](mailto:Candi.Griffin-Jenkins@suny.edu).

The SUNY Office of University Life in consultation with the Selection Committee will make final recommendation to the SUNY Provost for approval. The winner of the competition will be announced in early spring. Application information can be found at: <https://system.suny.edu/university-life/scharps-award/>.

**SUNY Open Access Repository.** The *SUNY Open Access Repository* will be a centrally managed online digital repository that stores, indexes, and makes available scholarly and creative works of SUNY faculty, students, and staff across SUNY campuses. The SUNY Open Access Repository will serve as an open access platform for those SUNY campuses that do not have their own open access repository environments.

This repository supplements rather than supplants local campus repositories maintained by the SUNY University Centers and some of the University Colleges for open access scholarly materials. In addition, the current centrally managed SUNY Digital Repository will be maintained with a focus on local campus archival and special collections while the SUNY Open Access Repository will focus on open access creative and scholarly content. More information about the SUNY Open Access Repository (SOAR) can be found online at: <https://soar.suny.edu>.

### *Did You Know...*

...SUNY Potsdam has been recognized for *Putting Economically Disadvantaged Students on Path to Success*. SUNY Potsdam ranked No. 52 among 1,458 institutions measured in the 2019 [Social Mobility Index](#) published by CollegeNET!





## Mark Your Calendars!

**Center for Creative Instruction.** Be sure to regularly check the Center for Creative Instruction (CCI) events page for a full list of upcoming events, to watch an event you might have missed, or to register online ([www.potsdam.edu/faculty/center-creative-instruction/events-calendar](http://www.potsdam.edu/faculty/center-creative-instruction/events-calendar)).

*March Events* (note that registration closes a week before events)

- 3/17 – **Microsoft Teams Training** – Alex Gomez
- 3/17 – **Bringing active learning to your classroom with Top Hat** – Dev Karan and Singh Maletia
- 3/18 – **Microsoft Teams Training** – Alex Gomez
- 3/24 – **WAYS 103 – Getting Started** – Kelly Bonnar
- 3/25 – **WAYS 102 – Getting Started** – Sheila McIntyre
- 3/27 – **Teaching Excellence Panel Presenters** – Steve Stannish, Tim Murphy, Tim Messner

The Center for Creative Instruction (CCI) is located in Suite 106, Loughheed Learning Commons; or contact staff through [cci@potsdam.edu](mailto:cci@potsdam.edu).

**Book Chats.** You are invited to participate in this April's upcoming *Book Chat*, which will focus on understanding (and retaining) our GenerationZ students:

- Book Chat 2: *iGen* by J. M. Twenge-- <http://www.jeantwenge.com/>
  - **April 7, 14, & 21** from 11-12:00noon (Raymond 8<sup>th</sup> floor lounge)

If you are interested in attending this Book Chat (and can commit to the dates above), please email me ([bergerbs@potsdam.edu](mailto:bergerbs@potsdam.edu)) to let me know. If you are able to participate, also let me know if you'd like a hard copy of the text—I have ordered a dozen and have them available. I am looking forward to continuing our campus-wide dialogue around best practices for supporting our GenZ students!

**Days of Reflection.** This semester's *Days of Reflection* will take place in the afternoons (most events are at 3:00, 5:00, or 7:00pm) of **March 23-26, 2020** in Knowles MPR. We are excited to have a variety of important topics, which include presentations and workshops on interrupting bias, our campus climate, immigration to the U.S., the environment, the N-word, and many others. We are also hosting the annual DIAC Alumni Panel and are planning a conversation for faculty members centered on teaching and talking about race.

A detailed schedule will be available in the coming weeks. As always, all information will be posted related to the events at <https://www.potsdam.edu/daysofreflection> once all events are finalized. Please encourage your students to attend—your participation is also encouraged! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to *Michael Popovic* (International Studies) at ([popovimj@potsdam.edu](mailto:popovimj@potsdam.edu)).

**Learning and Research Fair.** SUNY Potsdam’s annual *Learning and Research Fair* will be held on **April 29<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00am- 2:00pm in the Knowles Conference Center. Since its inception over two decades ago, the Learning and Research Fair has been a wonderful opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to share their research, teaching/learning innovations, creative efforts, and scholarly achievements. Student presenters at the Fair are eligible to compete for awards administered by the Loughheed Center for Applied Learning. Come to the Fair to get to know your colleagues and students better, to learn about and celebrate their scholarly contributions and accomplishments, to share your knowledge and expertise, and to suggest possible new projects and future collaborations.

We hope that you can join us to celebrate our students’ research projects! If you have questions, or would like to volunteer as a judge, please contact *Tom Baker* (Office for Student Research & Creativity) at [bakertn@potsdam.edu](mailto:bakertn@potsdam.edu).

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## *Coming Due*

**Reminders from the Registrar.** Faculty and staff are reminded that advising begins **March 16<sup>th</sup>**, and registration for Fall 2020 begins **April 7<sup>th</sup>**. The last day to Withdraw/Elect S/U is **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

The *2020-2021 SUNY Potsdam Academic Catalog* will be published **July 1, 2020**. Given the publication cycle, the Registrar’s Office is requiring that all changes to the next catalog (curricular, policy, and other content) be approved through required campus processes and submitted to the Registrar’s Office by **April 30<sup>th</sup>** for publication in next year’s academic catalog. For those responsible for editing the catalog, you will be receiving an email from the Registrar’s Office with additional information soon!

**Faculty Research and Scholarship Celebration.** Applications are being sought for the *2020 Faculty Research and Scholarship Celebration* which will be held **Friday, April 24, 2020**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Dunn Hall Theater (please note the change in date!). The Faculty

Research and Scholarship Celebration is a time when we can all come together to reconnect across our disciplines and learn what our colleagues are working on as scholars, artists, and dedicated teachers.

If you've been working on something you think is exciting and you wish to share it with your colleagues, please use the online registration located on the homepage for the Research and Sponsored Programs Office under the heading "2020 Research Celebration Registration" or use the [registration link](#). Because there is limited time for presentations, time spots are offered on a first come, first served basis. Please complete the digital form no later than **Thursday, March 26, 2020**.

For more information or assistance, contact *Kate Devito* ([casterke@potdam.edu](mailto:casterke@potdam.edu)) or *Jack McGuire* ([mcguirjp@potdam.edu](mailto:mcguirjp@potdam.edu)). We hope to see you at this year's celebration!

**2021 LoKo Funding.** Mark your calendars for the *2021 LoKo Arts Festival*, happening **April 30 - May 9, 2021**. Students, faculty and staff may now apply for funding for an arts-related event for the 2021 LoKo Arts Festival (or a future Festival if an artist needs significant advance booking). Requests for funding are **due by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, April 2, 2020**. A proposal form with detailed funding parameters can be found [online](#). Even if you've applied for funding in the past please read through all the guidelines carefully as some have recently changed.

If you have questions about the Festival this spring or the application process for 2021, please contact *Katie Deuel* (College Advancement) at [deuelkj@potdam.edu](mailto:deuelkj@potdam.edu).

**Domestic and International Travel Courses.** Faculty who are interested in leading a domestic or international travel course in Winterim 2021 or spring break 2021 should contact *Krista LaVack* (International Education) for proposal submission information. The proposal deadline for Winterim or spring break 2021 is **Wednesday April 1, 2020**. For more information, please contact: [lavackkm@potdam.edu](mailto:lavackkm@potdam.edu) or visit the [International Education website](#).

**Academic Internship Registration Deadlines.** Please note the following deadlines for academic internships:

- **Summer 2020: Friday, June 12, 2020 by 4:00pm**  
Special note for summer sessions: When students register for an academic internship after the first day of classes for the summer session and are not using Financial Aid to pay for tuition and fees, students will be required to pay total tuition/fees bill to Students Accounts before being registered for the summer academic internship.
- **Fall 2020: Friday, September 18, 2020 by 4:00pm**

Students who are requesting that an academic internship be registered after the deadlines must detail reasons and request late add permission via an [email](#) to the Director of Experiential Education, *Toby White*.

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## *In Case You Missed It*

**Navigate: Calendar Upgrade.** Navigate (our online retention tool) has upgraded its built-in calendar. This upgrade requires action from you to keep syncing with your Office 365/Outlook calendar. All faculty, staff, and students are urged to complete this quick, easy process.

- Visit <https://potsdam.campus.eab.com>.
- Log in using your SUNY Potsdam username and password.
- Once logged in, you may receive on-screen instructions for the calendar syncing upgrade or you can click on the Calendar icon on the left.
- There you will find a yellow banner at the top of the screen, with a blue 'Authorize' button.
- Click that button and follow the directions on the next screen (just two more clicks) to complete the upgrade.

For users who wish to sync their calendars for the first time, adding this useful upgrade will make appointment scheduling simpler:

- Visit <https://potsdam.campus.eab.com>.
- Log in using your SUNY Potsdam username and password.
- Once logged in, you may receive on-screen instructions for the calendar syncing upgrade or you can click on the Calendar icon on the left.
- Click the 'Settings and Sync' button in the upper right.
- Click 'Setup Sync...'
- Click 'Use Office 365.'
- Follow the directions on the next screen (just two more clicks) to complete the upgrade.

If you have any questions or concerns related to this process or Navigate in general, please contact *Tim Morse* (SSC) at [morsets@potsdam.edu](mailto:morsets@potsdam.edu).

**Lougheed Center for Applied Learning: Funding Opportunities.** The Lougheed Center for Applied Learning Advisory Board invites funding applications for activities, projects, or professional development directly related to applied learning. The Center's flexible donor funds

can support field trips and site visits, registration and travel expenses, equipment and supplies, curriculum development, workshops, guest speakers, and more. All funding requests will be reviewed by the Advisory Board on a rolling basis and within two weeks of submission when classes are in session. Timeframes may be extended during academic breaks. Information on funding sources, Advisory Board makeup and membership, and links to applications are listed on the [Applied Learning website](#).

**Fiber Arts Makerspace.** In the Spring, 2020 semester the Loughheed Learning Commons (LLC) opened its second makerspace, in support of fiber arts. This makerspace content was chosen by students in an informal poll in the LLC, and the “Sticks and String” gathering held every Tuesday afternoon in Fall, 2019 was a consistent draw for student and faculty crafters. Informal workshops will be offered throughout the Spring 2020 semester to either teach new skills or expand on students' understanding of their craft.

The College Makerspace in the LLC strives to connect students with resources that engage their creativity, both in academic and in personal pursuits, and to expand their access to ideas and skills. To support that goal, the *Fiber Arts Makerspace* is showcasing the connections between this popular craft and its historical uses, the cultural importance of fiber arts in many cultures, the counter-cultural and advocacy uses of traditional crafts, and the fascinating linkage between weaving and modern computing. For more information and the workshop schedule, check the [LLC website](#).

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## *Kudos*

**Distinctions.** Please join me in congratulating our faculty on the following:

- *Glenn Johnson* (Biology) has been awarded a \$477,326 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Grant focused on his work protecting threatened North Country turtle species.
- *Liliana Trevizán's A Museum of Memory and Democratic Performance in Chile* chapter was published in *The Presence of the Past: Essays on Memory, Conflict, and Reconciliation*; Liliana is a professor in the Department of Modern Languages.
- *Oscar Sarmiento* (Modern Languages) translated into Spanish all poems in Martin Espada's bilingual edition of *Crucifixion*, recently published in Mexico.
- The work of *Donald Borsh*, *Cynthia DuFault*, and *Kerri Canedy* (Theatre & Dance) was recently featured at the spring Faculty Dance Recital. Pieces were performed by SUNY Potsdam students. (Photos provided below)



*Celebration: Full Circle--Don Borsh (Photo by Tom Grabowski)*



*Myakudo/Premier--Kerri Canedy (Photo by Tom Grabowski)*



*Last Stop/Premier--Cynthia DuFault (Photo by Tom Grabowski)*

*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@potdam.edu](mailto:bergerbs@potdam.edu).*