

Provost's Corner

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

September 1, 2021

Welcome Back!

Warmest greetings from the Office of the Provost! It is so exciting to have our students back on campus, and to be able to engage together in the reopening of our academic year. I also want to officially welcome *Officer in Charge John Graham* to our campus! I am excited to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Graham as we plan for the amazing new possibilities for our campus.

For those who are new to our campus this fall—Welcome!! I am thrilled that you have chosen to become part of the SUNY Potsdam community. If there is anything that I can do to assist you in your transition, don't hesitate to let me know. The purpose of these (almost) monthly, informal Newsletters is to provide the campus with updates and reminders related specifically to the Division of Academic Affairs. I hope that you find the contents to be useful. (Past Newsletters are archived online: <https://www.potsdam.edu/about/leadership/provost-academic-affairs/provosts-corner-newsletter/archives>.)

While I never anticipated a year ago that we would still be immersed in a global pandemic, we have in many ways come a long way. Of most importance to our ability to return to “normal” has been the approval of highly successful COVID-19 vaccines. As has been widely communicated, with the full authorization of the Pfizer vaccine, [SUNY's COVID-19 Vaccination Policy](#) for students is now in effect. Additional updates regarding our campus' fall planning are included in this Newsletter. However, it is important to note that our plans can, and likely will, continue to evolve throughout the semester as further guidance is provided by federal and state agencies. 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. And Welcome Back!



New Faces/New Positions

Full-Time Instructional Faculty. Please join me in welcoming our new full-time instructional faculty members:

- *Bridget Amulike*, PRODiG Fellow (Biology)
- *Buddy Deshler*, Visiting Assistant Professor (Crane/Performance- Trumpet)
- *Michael Dudley*, Visiting Assistant Professor (Crane/Performance- Jazz)
- *Anthony Eversole*, Visiting Assistant Professor (Crane/Opera)
- *Christopher Hotaling*, Visiting Assistant Professor (Crane/Performance- Tuba & Euphonium)
- *Scott Ritner*, Visiting Assistant Professor (A&S/Politics)
- *Christopher Sargent*, Lecturer (SOEPS/PHP)
- *Christopher Sierra*, Visiting Assistant Professor (Crane/Performance- Voice)
- *Brock Tjosvold*, Visiting Assistant Professor (Crane/Performance- Piano & Accompanying)

Part-Time Instructional Faculty. Please join me in welcoming our new part-time instructional faculty:

- *Mindy Bixby* (SOEPS/Elementary Education)
- *Janine Boland* (A&S/Psychology)
- *Larry Covell* (SOEPS/Business)
- *Keilor Kastella* (Crane/Piano & Accompanying)
- *Michelle Kunz* (SOEPS/Literacy Center)
- *Richard Lauer* (A&S/Philosophy)
- *Sarah Maurer-Groth* (Crane/Voice)
- *Cynthia Moran* (SOEPS/PHP)
- *Liza Paige* (A&S/Art)
- *Ashley Penny* (SOEPS/Literacy Center)
- *Stewart Robert* (SOEPS/Advanced Studies in Education)
- *Taylor Scanlon* (SOEPS/Business/JCC)
- *Katie Schiler* (A&S/Art)
- *Joe Schaefer* (SOEPS/Student Teaching)
- *Benedict Tieniber* (SOEPS/Business)
- *James Uzzi* (Crane/Student Teaching)
- *Kerry Young* (SOEPS/Business)

Academic Staff. Please join me in welcoming the following new staff members:

- *Christine Campbell*, Director of TRIO
- *Mollie Graham-Crane*, Office Assistant 1

Chair of DIAC. It is my great pleasure to announce that the position of Chair of DIAC will be held by *Jeremy van Blommestein* (Sociology). Our campus is fortunate to have Dr. van Blommestein to lead us through the upcoming stages of the diversity, equity, inclusion and justice initiatives that are spearheaded through DIAC. I would also like to thank *Sharmain van Blommestein* (English & Communication) for leading DIAC through the last six months as the Interim Chair. DIAC is a critical office of accountability, innovation, service and inspiration to the Potsdam community.

Fall, 2021 COVID-19 Plans & Updates

Academic Planning. COVID-19 has taken some interesting shifts and turns which have necessitated continual “tweaks” to this year’s academic planning. I appreciate everyone’s patience as our plans are implemented, assessed, and revised based on ongoing data regarding vaccines and the virus, as well as guidance or mandates from SUNY. While I anticipate future updates, as of today the following guidance is offered:

- *Course modality.* In most instances, instruction is being offered face-to-face, as we reengage with students in person in what we hope to be a full college experience.
- *Instructional modality.* Instructional modality has already been determined and published through the course schedule. It is important to note that faculty are not required to provide students with a remote/hybrid experience if a student prefers to study remotely and a class is listed as face-to-face.
- *Contact tracing.* All faculty members who are teaching face-to-face must **keep attendance records and seating charts** for contact tracing purposes, even if the entire class is vaccinated. If an 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.
- *Face Coverings.* Appropriate face coverings are currently required indoors for everyone, regardless of vaccination status.
 - Because of the mask mandate, it is strongly recommended that eating and drinking in classrooms be discouraged.

- *Social Distancing.* While current health guidance does not specify that any social distancing is required indoors when everyone is appropriately masked, our campus is striving to aim for three feet distancing in classrooms when appropriate/possible (this is consistent with guidance for K-12 schools).
- *Student Vaccination Policy.* The state's vaccine requirement for students is now in effect, impacting all college students in SUNY or CUNY. Students will need to provide documentation of proof of vaccination status (or have an approved medical or religious exemption) by September 27th or they will likely be disenrolled from classes. (More information can be found in the [August 23rd Email to Students.](#))
 - Note: the vaccine requirement is for students who are accessing SUNY campuses or SUNY facilities for any classes, activities, etc. It does not apply to those students who are not on a SUNY campus (e.g., are participating in an off-site internship) or who are entirely online/hybrid.
 - Students participating in applied learning experiences, including internships and student teaching, must follow the vaccine requirements of their site.
- *Exemptions.* As with the MMR requirement, students can request a religious or medical exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine. With an approved exemption, the campus will honor "reasonable accommodations." Students with approved exemptions must be allowed to progress towards completion of their degree requirements. The academic deans/departments will work with the student to create a schedule that is as "similarly situated as possible" to their preferred schedule.
- Students are NOT to directly ask their faculty for exemptions. Students must use the campus process to formally request the exemption. (Submitting an exemption is no guarantee that it will be approved.)
- *Fall Breaks.* At the current time, it is expected that the fall semester will continue face-to-face, with all breaks as scheduled in the [Academic Calendar.](#)

It is expected that our fall plans will continue to evolve, as we better understand the potential impacts of the current surge in cases nationally and its regional implications. As a campus, we remain committed to providing students with a highly engaging—and safe—college experience this fall.

Academic FAQs/Fall 2021 Reopening. While the following guidance may change over the course of the semester, due to updated data/guidance/policy from the state or SUNY system, as of today the following FAQs are offered.

--What should an instructor do when a student refuses to wear a face covering (or improperly wears a face covering) in class?

- If a student refuses to wear their mask properly, they should be asked to correct the situation by the faculty member. If they refuse, they can be asked to leave class. If this becomes a repeated problem, the student can be referred to Student Conduct.

--If a student has a COVID-19 medical or religious exemption approved, how "permanent" is this exemption? For example, would the student reapply for the exemption next semester?

- We would follow the same process as with our current MMR exemption policy. Religious exemptions are valid for the period of time that the student is enrolled. However, if they take a Leave of Absence, they would be required to complete the religious exemption form again upon their return. Medical exemptions are required to be updated on a yearly basis.

--Will there be hand sanitizer stations in classrooms and/or nearby?

- Hand sanitizer stations will be located in the same locations they were last year. However, as was suggested last year, everyone is encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water (which is more effective than using hand sanitizer) whenever feasible to do so.

--When does our campus' current mask mandate expire; and at what point will it be reviewed, and a decision made about extending this policy?

- The current mandate is in place through the second week of classes (September 10th). A communication will be sent to employees prior to September 10th regarding the campus' decision to extend the mandate for everyone or to revert back to our previous face covering policy (required indoors only for those who are not vaccinated). The ERRG is working on a set of metrics that will be used to determine how long the indoor mask mandate will be in place, and when any additional precautions would need to be implemented. Metrics include infection rates in the county, number of positive COVID-19 cases on campus, and number of students in isolation/quarantine. Our metrics are being reviewed by County Health.

--What happens when a student who is supposed to be tested weekly fails to show up for a test?

- If a student misses testing, they will get an email from Eric Duchscerer. The student would then be expected to get a COVID test on their own and submit their negative test result. If they fail to do this, Eric will work with Student Conduct.

--If students get are sick and get quarantined, will the College alert faculty so that we can accommodate them, or will this be the student's responsibility this semester?

- It would be the student's responsibility to notify faculty. Student Health is not able to share that information with others and, in the event of an outbreak, would not have the capacity to do that notification. However, faculty would be contacted as part of the contact tracing process as appropriate. The campus plans to continue to post weekly testing data on the Potsdam Prepared Web page.

--If a student is in quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19, is the faculty member required to provide online instruction for that student?

- While the faculty member needs to accommodate for the student while they are in isolation/accommodation (as they would for any student who is hospitalized, etc.), the modality of that accommodation is not specified. So, no—an online accommodation is not required. Students should contact their faculty members directly to determine what kind of accommodation may be needed.

--Will there be a standard statement regarding COVID-19 for inclusion in course syllabi?

- Given the fluidity of the current situation in terms of the pandemic, and the likelihood that guidance could change throughout the semester, it would be best simply to include a link to the Potsdam Prepared website (<https://www.potsdam.edu/about/potsdam-prepared>) in syllabi and to remind students to refer often to this site.

--Are last year's SUNY-wide Uniform Sanctions to COVID-19 Violations still in effect?

- No; SUNY's system-wide policy related to sanctions was sunsetted over the summer. Each campus has been directed to create their own policies regarding sanctions and students' code of conduct as it relates to COVID-19 violations. Our policy is being drafted, and will be available on the Potsdam Prepared website. [Note: The policy found here is ***no longer*** valid: <https://www.potsdam.edu/about/potsdam-prepared/campus-updates/new-suny-uniform-sanctions-covid-19-violations>.]

--What is our policy this fall regarding course auditing?

- Anyone who wants to audit any course must be fully vaccinated; this applies to students, staff, and community members. Auditors must provide proof of vaccination to the Office of Graduate & Continuing Education.

What about Vaccine-Designated Courses? As part of our original Fall 2021 Reopening Plan, which was submitted to SUNY in July, SUNY Potsdam intended to identify those classes, labs, or studios that were considered high risk to unvaccinated individuals, and therefore restrict registration in those classes to those students who were fully vaccinated by the start of classes. However, we have recently received updated guidance from SUNY Legal that strongly

discourages this practice. Therefore, deans are working directly with those faculty members who are scheduled to teach classes that had been identified as “vaccine-only,” and who have a significant number of unvaccinated students still enrolled, to plan how best (and most safely) to begin the semester. It is important to note that all students (except those with approved exemptions) will need to have had their final COVID-19 vaccine by September 27th, or they will likely be disenrolled from the campus (per SUNY/state policy).

PPE Available. A limited number of clear face masks are available for instructional faculty from Environmental Health and Safety. If you are interested, complete the [PPE Order Form](#) and email your request to ppe@potsgdam.edu. In addition, the campus is trying out face mask inserts to assist faculty in speaking while wearing a face covering. If you are interested, email ppe@potsgdam.edu to request an insert.

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

- **All employees, students, and visitors must wear appropriate face coverings indoors,** including those who are fully vaccinated. This requirement is in effect at least through the second week of classes, and any extensions of this policy will be communicated to the campus soon. Details of the requirement can be reviewed in the addendum to the campus [Face Covering Policy](#).
- **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 has 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** (however, fully vaccinated employees can still participate in weekly testing, if they choose to do so). Unvaccinated employees or employees that choose not to show proof of vaccination ***must*** still participate in weekly COVID-19 testing. If you have not done so already to demonstrate vaccination status, employees may voluntarily upload the front and back of their vaccination card [here](#).

Pfizer Vaccine Clinic. Public Health will be hosting a Pfizer vaccine clinic on campus for all students and employees. The clinic will be held on **September 3rd** from 10:00am to 3:00pm in the Barrington Student Union MPR. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity you must pre-register [here](#). The second dose Pfizer vaccine clinic will be held on **September 24th** from 10:00am to 3:00pm in the Barrington Student Union MPR. For questions regarding the

vaccination clinic please contact the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department at (315)229-3452.

Request for Volunteers. As we begin the fall semester, the campus community is reminded that we will once again be testing students on Mondays. Unvaccinated students will be required to be tested weekly. In addition, there are three Mondays during the semester that we will be testing ALL students regardless of vaccination status. These scheduled dates are **September 6th, October 18th, and November 29th**. We will need lots of help on these days in order to test all of our 2400 students. We are particularly in need of help on Monday, 9/6 as this is Labor Day.

If you are able to assist as a volunteer, you are encouraged to complete the Doodle poll, included below. Testing will be in the MPR in the Student Union as it was last year. Feel free to share this poll with others, including student leaders/groups/teams:

<https://doodle.com/poll/gabegh2y66ybks2m>

Campus Updates

Reserves for Fall, 2021. The College Libraries are planning to open reserve collections for the Fall, 2021 semester. Please contact *Jennifer Jeffery*, jefferja@potsdam.edu if you have any questions.

Crane Library. Crane Library reopened on Monday, August 30th. However, during the first two weeks of the semester (August 30 through September 12) Crane Library will be open **Monday – Friday 1-4 pm, weekends closed**. Faculty may make appointments with *Edward Komara* (Komaram@potsdam.edu) for morning visits. Hours will be expanded once current staffing shortages are addressed. Some brief reminders:

- Beginning **Monday September 13th**, it is anticipated that the Crane Library's hours will be extended to at least 8:00pm on weeknights (Monday to Thursday). Later closings may be scheduled according to student use, need, and the hiring and training of a full undergraduate student assistant roster. (Likewise for the lab monitors for the Crane midi lab.)
- Supervisors of ensemble libraries should coordinate access for their student librarians during library facility off-hours with *Matt Gatti* and *Ed Komara*.
- The central lobby and the east (computer lab) side will be available.

- The west side (books/scores stacks) will be closed off for the month of September, for post-renovation cleanup. Students may request items through the LaMP service (<https://library.potsdam.edu/LaMP>) to be pulled and provided for them at the library circulation desk. Faculty may do likewise, or make appointments with Ed to enter the stacks area.
- Reserves will proceed as normal.

Lougheed Center for Applied Learning. The Lougheed Center for Applied Learning is open and excited to welcome students back to the Lougheed Commons! If faculty and staff are interested in becoming involved with any of the initiatives below, or need assistance with any of the following, do not hesitate to contact Dorf Endowed Director *Jenica Rogers* (rogersjp@potsdam.edu).

- The Lougheed Center for Applied Learning is **open for appointments** with faculty and students, and staff will gladly come do class presentations on any of their services.
- The Center is working hard to **connect students and alumni** - so if you have alumni or students who could benefit from networking, please let the staff know. The Center hopes to launch a networking platform in the spring, and this fall they are hosting an Alumni Networking event in the PAC over the Alumni Board weekend.
- **2021 Diversity in Careers Series** - in partnership with the CFD, the Center is continuing this successful series that provides students, faculty, and alumni a chance to hear and share their stories and advice.
- The Center continues to **support faculty working on Pathways** - any faculty member or department looking to integrate experiential learning into their courses should reach out! The staff are ready to support this important academic program.
- The Center is implementing the Provost's new **faculty compensation plan for internships** – see the “In Case You Missed It” section of this Newsletter, or reach out to *Annette Kelley*, LoCAL Administrative Assistant, kelleyar@potsdam.edu to learn how you may be impacted.
- The Center is launching a **new Virtual International Internship program**, with the goal of having 20 students complete full-time online international internships in Spring, 2021. Reach out to *Toby White*, Director of Experiential Education, whitetj@potsdam.edu for details on how your students can participate.
- The Center is thrilled to welcome *Sharmain van Blommestein* (English and Communication), as **our new COIL Coordinator**, helping to integrate Coordinated Online International Learning into more of our courses. Additionally, *Dave Bugg* (Sociology and Criminal Justice) is **continuing as our Service Learning Coordinator**. Please reach out to either Sharmain or Dave for more information on how to get started with these incredibly engaging applied opportunities in your classes or department.

- We are offering our highly successful **Police Academy** this fall, in collaboration with the Criminal Justice program and under the direction of *Sonny Duquette*, with *David Bugg* as academic mentor to the cadets.
- **Study Abroad may be reopening in Spring of 2022.** If you are hoping to run a travel course during calendar year 2022, please reach out to *Jenica Rogers*, Dorf Endowed Director for Applied Learning, rogersjp@potsgdam.edu for details on how we are proceeding this year. If you let Jenica know of your interest, she will share updates with you on the status of study abroad as the campus learns more.
- **All student campus jobs should be posted in Handshake.** This makes sure that all students have equal access to all jobs, and prevents discrimination caused by lack of access. If you have questions about using Handshake, please reach out to *Patti Senecal*, LoCAL Office Assistant, senecapa@potsgdam.edu, x2507.

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 the above.

Add/Drop. Requests for adding classes or dropping sections that are linked will come to faculty via an electronic form in your email again this semester. Please be sure to check your email regularly in order to approve or deny the requests from students to add your class. Please do not leave any requests unanswered in your inbox.

Electronic Check-In. SUNY Potsdam's Electronic Check-In process for all registered students is now activated. Students are asked to confirm their contact information and whether or not they plan to attend for the Fall, 2021 semester when they sign in to BearPAWS. The purpose of the Check-In is to confirm student attendance as well as to remind students of their financial responsibility and the proper procedures to take if they decide to leave the College. It also frees up more class seats for students who may need those specific classes. Please note that all students registered for a class at the College need to check in, including those who are student teaching, participating in off-campus internships, taking an online course, participating in a Consortium agreement, or attending at a remote site such as Watertown. This process also includes staff members taking a SUNY Potsdam course.

The deadline for registered students to complete the Check-In process will be **September 10th**. Registered students who have not checked in by the deadline will have an All-Services Hold placed on their records, which can only be removed by the office responsible for their student type. Failure to check in also prevents disbursement of a student's financial aid. If you have

questions about the Electronic Check-In process, please contact one of the following offices: Registrar's Office (315) 267-2154 registrar@potsgdam.edu, Graduate & Continuing Education Office (315) 267-2165 gradcon@potsgdam.edu, or Student Success Center (315) 267-2580 SSC@potsgdam.edu.

Important Note about Instructor Drops. At the start of each semester and in accordance with College policy, faculty are asked to notify the Registrar of any student who does not attend the first meeting of a class, and does not notify faculty of the reason for this absence within 48 hours of the first class meeting. These are called *Instructor Drops*. (You cannot drop any student who has attended your class even one time.) **It is essential that faculty initiate Instructor Drops for all applicable students in accordance with this policy.** While students are required to complete an electronic check-in, we have learned from the NY State Attorney General and recent court rulings, that the electronic check-in does not necessarily make students obligated to pay tuition and fees. Therefore, timely Instructor Drops of all impacted students will allow Student Accounts to remove charges from the bill rather than forward a student to collections with the Attorney General. (**Please note:** If you are teaching a F2F class, you may have students who are unable to physically attend class at the beginning of the Fall, 2021 semester if they are in mandatory quarantine/isolation. If you have students missing from your first class session, it is recommended that you reach out to your students to ascertain their status.)

2023 Pellicciotti Opera Finalists. Four finalists have been selected for the 2023 [Domenic J. Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize](#) at [SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music](#). The prize was founded by Dr. Gary C. Jaquay '67 to honor his life partner Domenic J. Pellicciotti, an ardent fan of opera. The award seeks to encourage and acknowledge the creation of new opera works that explore themes related to social justice, diversity, equity and/or inclusion.

The finalists will create a 15-minute excerpt of their proposed opera, which will be workshopped at The Crane School of Music in the Spring of 2022. One winner will be awarded a \$25,000 commission to complete the work, which will premiere in November 2023, in a production by the award-winning Crane Opera Ensemble and Orchestra. The finalists for the 2023 Domenic J. Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize are:

- **"A Nearer Mother,"** inspired by the life of Ruth Coker Burks, is the story of one woman's quest to help early victims of the AIDS epidemic end their lives in peace. Ruth must negotiate hateful intolerance, an unpredictable virus, and her young child's future to fulfill her calling. *Evan Mack, composer; Joshua McGuire, librettist.*
- **"Computing Venus"** provides a fascinating glimpse into the life of astronomer Maria Mitchell, one of the earliest champions of women in STEM. The opera follows Mitchell's efforts to cultivate the next generation of women astronomers, even as growing

movements threatened to close the world of science to women forever. *Timothy Takach, composer; Caitlin Vincent, librettist.*

- **"I Was Shot by a Cop"** tells the stories of 18 people fatally shot by police officers in the USA. Each story is based on true events which should have sparked drastic policy change but did not. This new opera tells human stories, aiming to enact change through collective empathy. *Anthony R. Green, composer and librettist.*
- **"The Strangers"**: In 19th-century New Orleans, a police chief is assassinated. With little evidence, Sicilian immigrants are tried, acquitted, but then lynched by an angry mob directed by the city's elite. Innuendo, politics and xenophobia serve as a backdrop to a parable of immigrants coming face to face with native pride. *Frank Pesci, composer; Andrew Altenbach, librettist.*

For more information about the Pellicciotti Prize, visit

<https://www.potsdam.edu/academics/crane-school-music/about-crane-school-music/conferences-special-events/pellicciotti>.

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 semester.

- Grants and Proposals: If you write it, they will fund! **(08/31 – 11/22)**
- OSCQR and Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI) – **09/22**
- Level UP! ASU Project Management Summit – **09/29**
- SUNY Online Teaching Community Engagement & Resources – **10/13**
- Checklist for Remote Teaching – **10/26**
- Supporting Online Student Success – **11/16**
- Interested in Teaching Online – **12/8**

If you'd like to share a teaching approach or use of technology with your colleagues, please contact the CCI and staff will 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. CCI is actively updating and redesigning CCI webpages to enhance and support teaching and learning (<https://www.potsdam.edu/faculty/center-creative-instruction>). The *Featured* section, where staff communicate with you weekly, contains highlighted videos on technology, tools for instruction, and general tips on organization and efficiency. The new *Base Camp site* is designed for new users to technology. Users will find step-by-step guidance on what to learn first when using a computer, browser, email, and files.

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 our website.

Zoom Integration with Knowmia. As Zoom and Knowmia will remain available for the coming year, please be aware of the following integration. When a user selects the "Cloud recording" option in Zoom, the following happens:

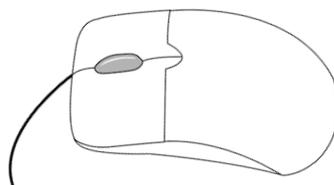
- The video is recorded to the Zoom Cloud
- A copy is sent to the user's Zoom folder in Knowmia
- Zoom sends an email notification (**IGNORE this email and don't use the Zoom-Cloud link)
- Knowmia sends an email notification with a link (check your Clutter folder)

Zoom cloud recordings are auto-deleted after seven days. Only share the Knowmia video-link for your recordings and remember to go to your Knowmia account to generate auto-captions for your videos. Visit the Knowmia section on the [Tech Tools](#) website for tutorials and resources.

Course Surveys (a.k.a. Course Evaluations). Course surveys, delivered through the EvaluationKit (EK) online system, must be requested through BearPaws and are due three weeks before the last day of classes. EK surveys have replaced Scantron and Moodle course evaluations. For complete guidelines, please visit the [Course Surveys](#) webpage.

- Survey requests are made in [BearPAWS](#).
- Requests are due three weeks before the last day of classes (11/19).
 - For courses that conclude before semester's end, also submit the [Mid-Semester Course Survey form](#).
- Surveys are available to students a week before the last day of classes.
- Faculty may add "custom" questions a week before the survey is active (optional).
- Student survey notifications are made in Moodle and by email.

Note: Carefully follow the request form instructions (don't skip step 2). When successful, instructors will receive a confirmation email. For training tutorials, please visit the EvaluationKit section of [Tech Tools](#) Tech Tools.



Resources

Included below are resources that may be helpful as we begin the 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!

- [SUNY Online Events](#) - lists upcoming events facilitated through SUNY Online
- [SUNY's COVID-19 Resource Site](#) – please note: webinars and recordings have been moved to the [SUNY Online website](#)
- [SUNY Online Teaching Gazette](#) - a curated monthly publication for those interested in keeping current with and continuously improving online teaching and learning practices



Potsdam Pathways

New Home for Pathways. Potsdam Pathway's new office has officially opened in Flagg 204. Everyone is welcome to stop by during walk-in hours of Monday through Wednesday, 3:00 to 4:00 or by appointment. *Christine Doran* (Pathways Director) and *Kailey Mahar* (Senior Staff Assistant) can also be reached by email at pathways@potdam.edu or by phone at 315-267-3424. For more information about Potsdam Pathways, check out the website at: <https://www.potsdam.edu/academics/programs-study/potsdam-pathways-general-education>.

Around SUNY & the State

PRODiG Fellows. Developed by the provosts at SUNY's 13 comprehensive campuses, the PRODiG Fellows program is now in its second year. Through the PRODiG Fellows program, SUNY provides funding for advanced graduate students and post-doctoral students interested in exploring academic careers at comprehensive colleges. Each Fellow is supported through webinars, mentoring, and grants to foster their success and continued advancement. Fellows meet SUNY's diversity criteria as



defined in the system-wide [PRODiG](#) (Promoting, Recruiting Opportunity, Diversity, Inclusion and Growth) program.

At SUNY Potsdam, *Bridget Amulike* (Biology) joins *Kathryn Allen* (Anthropology) as our second PRODiG Fellow. More information about the PRODiG Fellow program can be found at: <https://www.potsdam.edu/about/leadership/provost-academic-affairs/suny-prodig-fellowship-consortia>.

SUNY Online Teaching Assets Webinar Series. The SUNY Online team has announced its Fall, 2021 webinar series, which is scheduled from 12:00-12:30 on the dates below. Further information and the link to register are available at: <https://sunycpd.eventsair.com/sot/>.

- **September 22, 2021:** OSCQR Regular & Substantive Interaction (RSI)
- **October 13, 2021:** Community Engagement & Resources
- **October 26, 2021:** Checklist for Remote Teaching
- **November 16, 2021:** Supporting Online Student Success
- **December 8, 2021:** Interested in Teaching Online Resource



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>. The SOEPS Seminar Series is facilitated by *Sergei Abramovich* (Elementary Education).

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 \(PDF\)](#)

Coming Due!

2022 Barry Goldwater Scholarship- Call for Nominations. The Barry Goldwater Scholarship is a national, highly competitive, and prestigious award designed to attract outstanding students into careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. Goldwater scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit to students who are sophomores or juniors during the current academic year, and who intend to pursue higher education and a career in the STEM fields. The scholarship covers eligible expenses for tuition, fees, books, and room and board to a maximum of \$7,500 per academic year.

SUNY Potsdam may nominate up to four students to compete for this national scholarship. Faculty and/or research mentors are encouraged to nominate students who have a strong

academic and research background. The deadline for a pre-application is **September 30, 2021**. For questions, please contact our Goldwater Campus Representative, *Fadi Bou-Abdallah* (Chemistry), or visit the Barry Goldwater Scholarship website to register and read the website's scholarship information and nomination procedure: <https://goldwaterscholarship.gov/>.

In Case You Missed It

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 had 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.

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 Lougheed 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.

Kudos

RUI NSF Grant. *Page Quinton* (Geology) and *Michael Rygel* (Geology) have received an **RUI NSF Grant** for \$370,000 entitled, "A sedimentological and sequence stratigraphic framework for carbon isotopic sampling and interpretation" to work with undergraduates on their exploration of Earth's carbon cycle across history. The funding will support up to 10 Geology majors in completing their research.

NSF Grant. *Fadi Bou-Abdallah* (Chemistry) was awarded a \$64,016 **NSF Grant** to support and train a post-baccalaureate student in the biological sciences research. This funding from the National Science Foundation is earmarked for students who were unable to engage in a research experience due to the COVID-19 pandemic and aims at developing the student's

competency as a research scholar. Bou-Abdallah will offer the post-baccalaureate student an independent but guided research experience, and a professional development opportunity that will prepare them for graduate studies in STEM.

Lougheed Applied Learning Grants. Congratulations to the Summer 2021 recipients of the Lougheed Applied Learning Grants:

- *Kathryn Allen* (Anthropology): Forensic Analysis through Applied Anthropological Learning
- *Fadi Bou-Abdallah* (Chemistry): Acquisition of a Digital Chemiluminescent Imaging System
- *Evan Campbell* (Crane): Sound Recording Technology for Transformative Music Education
- *Marie-Elaine Gagnon* (Crane): Teaching Music through Mindful Mindset and Neuro-Associative Conditioning
- *Tim Messner* (Anthropology): HEARTH Equipment
- *Page Quinton, Adam Pearson, and Michael Rygel* (Geology): Stream Table for Applied Learning in the Natural Sciences
- *Sarah Solley and Julie Johnson* (SOEPS): Cleartouch Interactive Whiteboard and Google Educator Coach Certification

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.