

3-1-2017

Academic Deans' Report March 2017

Cynthia Vascak

Gail Mears

Robyn Parker

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.plymouth.edu/plymouthclusters>

Recommended Citation

Vascak, Cynthia; Mears, Gail; and Parker, Robyn, "Academic Deans' Report March 2017" (2017). *Clusters*. 271.
<http://digitalcommons.plymouth.edu/plymouthclusters/271>

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Plymouth State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Clusters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Plymouth State. For more information, please contact ajpearman@plymouth.edu, chwixson@plymouth.edu.

Academic Deans' Report | March 2017

Office of Academic Affairs

Wed 3/1/2017 9:28 AM

To: Campus Communication <campus-communication@plymouth.edu>;

Academic Deans' Report March 1, 2017

We are making exciting progress in launching integrated cluster projects. There are more than 3,000 students participating in dozens of projects, many of which have an open lab component. Project funding continues into next year as an investment to get projects started. We encourage you to submit project proposals now; the next two project proposal submittal deadlines are March 15th and April 14th. [Ross Humer](#) is a resource for the proposal process and [Stephanie Oleson](#) can answer questions related to budgets. [Click here](#) for project proposal and completion forms. We have begun showcasing projects such as the [Eco-Friendly Eating Festival](#) from the Health & Human Enrichment cluster. Look for final project reports on the [integrated clusters website](#).

The New Hampshire Business Review wrote an article on the Lancaster project from the Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Arts & Technologies, and Health & Human Enrichment clusters. This multi-faceted initiative is aimed at evaluating challenges and opportunities in attracting young people and small, entrepreneurial businesses to Lancaster. The four-course initiative includes students from 10 different academic disciplines, including the arts, communications, adventure education, health promotion, design, and a range of business majors. Led by PSU faculty members Roy Stever and Pamela Anneser as well as Eric Spieth of the Enterprise Center at Plymouth, the students travel to Lancaster regularly throughout the semester for field-based research and activities. [Read the full NHBR article](#).

Esther Zirbel, PhD joins us as Director of the Center for Transformation through Teaching, Leadership, and Lifelong Learning (CFT) on March 13th. This enhanced approach to the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning integrates instructional resources to offer programming in support of faculty, staff, and community partners. Dr. Zirbel will operate across traditional, disciplinary, and cross-functional boundaries to facilitate programming that will enhance faculty and staff abilities to engage students in a robust learning environment that includes interdisciplinary integrated clusters, open labs, partnerships, entrepreneurial innovation, and experiential learning.

Cathie LeBlanc, Annette Holba, Hilary Swank, Annemarie Conlon, and Sandra Van Gundy attended the recent February 2017 Association of American Colleges & Universities national conference. The conference focused on how educators throughout all sectors of higher education can address an array of issues by designing, implementing, and evaluating high-quality general education pathways that are effective for all students. Sessions explored a design thinking framework to reform or re-envision a general education program. Design thinking principles are valuable in that there's no single way to deliver the framework which promotes flexibility, interaction, and provokes thought in an abstract manner. We encourage you to reach out to faculty that attended to learn about how some of these takeaways can be applied at PSU.

A First Year Seminar (FYS) panel comprised of administration, cluster guides, faculty, and the Gen Ed committee is in the process of reviewing applications for the FYS Fellows Program and meeting with candidates. The panel is made up of Mark Fischler, Robyn Parker, Annette Holba, Laura Dykstra, and Holly Oliver. Seventeen full time faculty have applied; new applications are still being accepted. Announcements of the inaugural fellows will be made mid-March.

Over 65 faculty and staff attended the first campus forum on Friday, February 24th. Cluster Guides facilitated an energizing session on the "why" of integrated clusters and active-learning. Using a structured brainstorming technique, Guides helped

participants explore desired student outcomes that clusters/open labs can facilitate. Participants considered the question “what do we want our students to be when they leave PSU?” through the lens of three overarching outcomes: capable, contributing, and connected. The ideas generated were captured; Guides will explore themes to be explored and considered for future forums and put in action to continue our campus transformation to integrated clusters. Notes will be published to the integrated clusters website with an analysis from brainstorming to inform future forums.

At the next Campus Forum, we will explore a transitional structure as we move from 24 departments and three colleges to seven integrated clusters. The deans are holding this forum on Wednesday, March 15th from 3:30-5pm in Heritage Commons to continue exploring a transitional structure and implementation timeline. The guides will follow up with additional forums and topics soon.

We hope you’ll join as many of these conversations as you are able. They aid us in building community and a shared vision for our future. Please hold the following dates on your calendar to actively participate in Campus Forums:

- Wednesday, March 15, 3:30-5:00pm (Transitional Structure)
- Wednesday, March 29, 2:00-3:30pm
- Tuesday, April 18, 2:00-3:30pm
- Friday, April 28, 9:30-11:00am
- Friday, May 12, 2:00-3:30pm

There are some exciting and productive accomplishments that have been made by faculty, staff, and students. Please take a moment to look at what your colleagues have been doing.

Atmospheric Science & Chemistry

- **Stephen R. Cantor**, Teaching Lecture in Physical Science in the Department of Atmospheric Science and Chemistry, conducted 2 off-site interactive presentations: On January 8, 2017, he presented an interactive learning session on: "The Possibility of Extra-Terrestrial Life in Our Solar System and on Exoplanets (Planets Orbiting Other Stars)" at the Jacksonville Jewish Center in Jacksonville, FL as part of their Adult Education Program. On January 22, 2017, he presents an interactive learning session on: "The Atomic Nucleus, Fission and Fusion, and Uranium Enrichment" at Congregation Bnai Israel in St.Petersburg, FL as part of their biannual Sunday Morning University Series.
- On Thursday 2/23, **Dennis Machnik** traveled to Nute Middle High School in Milton, NH with the portable planetarium. He did 10 programs during the school day, 3 after school, and a night star observing session.

Biological Sciences

- **Chris Chabot** coauthored an article with Stephen Simpson (MS Biology Student), Win Watson, and Jordan Ramsdell (both UNH) published in the *International Journal of Genomics* entitled “The Draft Genome and Transcriptome of the Atlantic Horseshoe Crab, *Limulus polyphemus*. 2017, Article ID 7636513, 14 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2017/7636513>.
- **Fred Prince’s** article “Dreaming Spring with Trout on Ice” is in the current (Jan/Feb 2017) issue of NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE JOURNAL. It is also featured on the NH Wildlife Journal Website.
- **Len Reitsma** was the featured speaker on February 7 in the “Suds and Science” series sponsored by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies held at the Norwich Inn in Norwich, VT. His talk was entitled: “30 Years of Avian Studies: a birder becomes an avian population ecologist.” Len also gave a talk on birds earlier that day to the upper level grade schoolers at the Mountain Village Charter School in Plymouth, NH. On Feb 16, Len gave an invited talk on Community-based conservation in East Africa to the residents of Harvest Hill in Lebanon, NH, his fourth at that venue in two years. The talk was based upon the rich experiences of faculty and PSU students in 2002 and 2004 when Kate Donahue and Len co-taught a course called “Natural history and cultural ecology of East Africa.”

Center for Business and Community Partnerships

- **CBCP by the Numbers:** As of this writing, 280 Plymouth State students are involved in some aspect of high impact partnership, either through internships, service learning, volunteering and work-study programs. Currently, The

Center for Business and Community Partnerships is overseeing approximately 100 active partnerships with organizations from multiple sectors of New Hampshire's economy.

- On February 7, The CBCP hosted the inaugural **PSU Partner Fair**. More than 30 different organizations attended and valuable connections were made for faculty partnerships and internship opportunities for students. The fair will be a twice-annual event, next occurring in September of 2017.
- **Rachelle Lyons** presented to her work on watershed scale infrastructure assessment at the annual meeting of the NH Regional Planning Commission Executive Directors. Connecting the RPCC to this watershed research will help ensure that data is put to use in a strategic and collaborative effort that improves infrastructure resilience and environmental stewardship.
- **Rachelle Lyons** met with the Randolph Community Forest Commission to explore ways CBCP and PSU could assist with the research needs of the Forest and provide experiential learning and internship opportunities for PSU students.
- **Rachelle Lyons** was also appointed to the New Hampshire Food Alliance Action Team to assist with the implementation of the Farm, Fish and Food Enterprise Viability Initiative. Rachelle's work will focus on equitable access and market development.
- **Jessica Morel** recently facilitated the participation of 22 high school students in the North Country Workplace Education Program. The students, who were from the Lisbon, Littleton and Profile high schools, came to visit Plymouth State University where they took a tour, had dinner in the dining hall and attended a hockey game at the ice arena. These students are currently in internships through their high schools, which Plymouth State will accept for credit. The visit was a great opportunity to attract these students to attend Plymouth State and see all that the school has to offer, while also bringing attention to Plymouth State's position in the local community.
- **Jessica Morel** has also been working on customized internship workshops for student athletes at Plymouth State University. One workshop took place in January when the athletes are on campus. The workshop was a great addition to their January schedule and allowed Jessica to meet the needs of the student athlete in a customized setting.
- **Jessica Dutille** advised an interdisciplinary team of six students who engaged in an international service trip to Jamaica during January 8th-15th. Two of the students who participated are applying their experience to the "Mentoring and Empowering Youth" service learning course that Jess teaches. The service trip was planned through Amizade, which is an organization that facilitates fair trade service learning trips and partners with the Association of Clubs of Petersfield and Galloway Jamaica. Jess was recognized by the Association of Clubs for her dedication to the community and for bringing the third group of students to engage in Jamaica.
- **Casey Krafton** facilitated three different alternative spring break programs, which Plymouth State is offering this year. One trip is to Alabama where students will be working with Habitat for Humanity, another group will be heading to Baltimore where the students will be focused on homeless issues, and a third group will be going to Florida to restore manatee habitats and help fundraise and bring awareness to programs that are working to save manatees in Florida. **Casey** also co-hosted the PSU campus blood drive, which was held in Center Lodge on February 23 and February 24th.
- **Jess Dutille** and **Casey Krafton** hosted a partner development workshop on February 21st. Site supervisors representing the Circle Program, the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Spere Memorial Hospital, Campton Parks and Recreation, Plymouth Parks and Recreation, the Pemi Youth Center, the Whole Village Family Resource Center, and Campus Ministry engaged in the workshop which focused on best practices for student engagement, site and student preparation, and mutual goals for meaningful high impact learning experiences.
- **Ben Amsden** was re-elected Chair of the North Country CEDS (comprehensive economic development strategy) Committee. The primary role of the CEDS Committee is to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of a strategic roadmap for regional economic development. CEDS committees are federally funded and federally sanctioned by the US Department of Commerce/EDA. Membership in the group represents nearly every sector of northern New Hampshire's economy.
- **Ben Amsden** (with **Geoff Sewake** of UNH Cooperative Extension) facilitated two community meetings in Lincoln as part of a research project focused on workforce housing funded by the Western White Mountain Chamber of Commerce and AHEAD.

Center for the Environment

- **CFE's Spring Colloquium** offers talks related to environmental topics on selected Wed at 4 pm in Boyd 001. The schedule of talks is available at <https://www.plymouth.edu/center-for-the-environment/5018/spring-2017->

[environmental-science-colloquium/](#). For more information, contact colloquium organizer **June Hammond Rowan (ESP)**.

- The **New Hampshire Water and Watershed Conference** is rapidly approaching on March 24 at PSU. The conference agenda is available at <https://www.plymouth.edu/center-for-the-environment/2017-nh-water-watershed-conference/agenda-2017-nhwwc/> and registration is open. Please contact **June Hammond Rowan** for more information.
- **Len Reitsma (BIO)** Forest Habitat Guidelines for Wildlife at Risk - High Branch Conservation Services has partnered with Plymouth State University and several other organizations to develop habitat guidelines for six species of high conservation concern in the northeastern and mid-Atlantic regions: Bicknell's Thrush, Wood Thrush, Canada Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, Scarlet Tanager, and American Marten. This is the culmination of a two-year effort involving a collaborator, Dan Lambert, and four **PSU Environmental Biology interns Charlotte Harding, Brendan Leonardi, Zac Curran, and Gabe Winant**. Due to the thoughtful and iterative request for comments from agencies and practitioners in the forestry industry by Lambert and Reitsma, these guidelines have a high potential to be implemented across hundreds of thousands of acres of timberland. The guidelines can be accessed at <http://highbranchconservation.com/rsgcnhabitat/>
- **Amy Villamagna (ESP)** with **Brigid O'Donnell (BIO)**, and **Tyson Morrill (BIO MS student)** initiated a long-term wildlife monitoring program, in collaboration with The Conservation Fund, within the Beebe River watershed.
- **Jason Cordeira (ASC)** is currently on TDY to CW3E @ UCSD in La Jolla, CA. Actively involved in making weather forecasts for the California Department of Water Resources regarding water forecasts for the Feather River Basin above the Oroville Reservoir (California's second largest reservoir). After earlier deluge, a sink hole developed in the Oroville Dam's spillway that regulates outflow from the reservoir which destroyed the lower half of the 3000' long spillway and caused massive amounts of erosion. The Oroville Reservoir peaked at its highest elevation on record, over-topping the emergency auxiliary spillway for the first time in its history. Because it is earthen, an even greater amount of sediment entered the Feather River. This atmospheric river event prompted the evacuation of more than 180,000 people living downstream.
- **Joe Boyer (ESP)** (after seeing what everyone else is doing, my deeds are small potatoes) helped coordinate and participated in Forest Stakeholder Collaboration Summit, sponsored by WMNF at AMC Highland Center. Boyer participated in Friends of the Pemi: Livermore Falls Chapter meeting with Commissioner of DRED and DHR report on last summer's archeological findings. He successfully passed FAA exam for Part 107 Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (commercial drone pilot).
- **Laura Getts (ESP MS student)** and **Amy Villamagna** presented preliminary results on the "Active Transportation Accounting" statewide bikeability assessment to NH Dept. of Transportation's Research Advisory Committee.
- **Mark Green (ESP)** received funding from USDA/USFS/NRS - JVA 3 Modification 2 to continue his forest hydrology research at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, \$60,000.
- **Harding*, C., L. Reitsma**, and J. D. Lambert. 2017. Guidelines for managing Canada warbler habitat in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. High Branch Conservation Services, Hartland, VT.
- Lambert, J. D., **Z. J. Curran***, and **L. Reitsma**. 2017. Guidelines for managing American marten habitat in New York and Northern New England. High Branch Conservation Services, Hartland, VT
- Lambert, J. D., **B. Leonardi***, **G. Winant***, **C. Harding***, and **L. Reitsma**. 2017. Guidelines for managing wood thrush and scarlet tanager habitat in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. High Branch Conservation Services, Hartland, VT.
- **Cordeira, J. M.**, F. M. Ralph, A. Martin, N. Gaggini, J. R. Spackman, P. J. Neiman, J. Rutz, and R. Pierce, 2016: Forecasting atmospheric rivers during CalWater 2015. *Bull. Amer. Met. Soc.*, 1827-1837.

* BIO Environmental Biology interns

College of Business Administration

- Enactus has been busy working on many new initiatives. Here are a few listed below:
 - Members volunteered at the Pond Hockey Classic in Meredith NH on February 3-5, raising \$1800 that will be used towards team development.
 - Tickets have been booked, and members are preparing for the Enactus Regional Competition in Chicago on March 27.

- Members are continuing to work on labeling and packaging for the Common Man Caring Scoops ice cream. It is their hopes to have this ready for market later this spring.
- Students are busy working to organize and promote the 1st Annual PSU Panther Pitch. The Panther Pitch will provide PSU students across the campus the opportunity to pitch their idea for a business or social venture to a panel of PSU alumni and community partners. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners to help launch their ventures. This event will take place on Monday, March 13th and applications are due by Monday, March 6th.
- MAPS is busy working to organize the 4th Annual Jib Free or Die Rail Jam, which students are hoping to reschedule as soon as the weather cooperates. This event requires huge efforts from student members, physical plant, and other campus entities to organize. Students are working with sponsors, such as; NextGen Climate, Waterville Valley Resort, Elan Skis, Ski Fanatics, Icelantic Skis, Eastern Boarder, POC, Monster Energy, Coke, Oakley, and LaHoots, in order to obtain funding for the event prizes.
- The Investment Club hosted a guest speaker on Tuesday, February 21. Brandon LaBelle, Financial Advisor for Northwestern Mutual visited with students and provided valuable feedback and information to those interested in the finance field. Students were engaged and used the entire hour to ask Brandon questions.
- Professor Nadeau's sales students traveled to the University of Toledo to compete in a national collegiate competition. Students Jake Becker and Lea Kendall played the role of an Industrial Sales Specialist for 3M.
- Mark Aiello, President of Cyber360 presented to Professor Nadeau's Professional Selling Skills class on Tuesday, February 21st.

Representatives from EdgeRock will be visiting campus on Tuesday, February 28th and Wednesday, March 1st to participate in a Sales Competition. Representatives will also present to Professor Nadeau's Professional Selling Skills class on both days.

Criminal Justice

- **Stephanie Halter** received approval from the Justice and Security Strategic Cluster to host a training titled "The Face of Human Trafficking from Victim to Enforcement" on March 8th, 2017 from 5-7 pm in Heritage Commons and develop an interdisciplinary working group titled "Live Free" that will work to stop human trafficking locally and globally. Guest speakers include Jasmine Marino, Survivor, Ministry Associate, The Abolitionist Network, Mike Posanka, Resident Agent in Charge, ICE, Homeland Security Investigations, Manchester NH and Nicole Ledoux, Det Lt Manchester Police Department. Event is open to the public, all are welcome.

Early Childhood Studies

- On February 23, the Education, Democracy, and Social Change Cluster hosted a training on Trauma Informed Early Childhood Services. The training was attended by 35 students from Early Childhood Studies and Social Work, as well as faculty from both departments and from the Center for Young Children and Families. The 2 ½ hour training focused on how traumatic experiences affect young children and what teachers and family support professionals can do to mitigate the effects of trauma and help children deal with adverse experiences. After the training, faculty from Early Childhood Studies and Social Work met with the presenters to discuss ways in which the core competencies related to Trauma Informed Early Childhood Services can be integrated into programs of study, as well as opportunities to collaborate across programs and with community partners to support children and families affected by trauma.
- At the Association of Teacher Educator's Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL, **Elisabeth Johnston**
 - Facilitated a round table about course revisions included in ATI project (*Successes and challenges of using open education resources and open pedagogy to support interns' knowledge of science, social studies, and technology instruction for primary grade students*),
 - Shared preliminary literature review with other colleagues from the President's Commission (*Effects of language on children's conceptual understanding of mathematics: Implications for teacher education*),
 - Presented with a colleague from TX about on-going data collection related to teachers' self-efficacy (*Findings from the validation study of the Elementary Teacher Efficacy Beliefs Instrument-Math*), and
 - Participated in the meeting for the Legislative and Governmental Relations Committee.
- Filming took place at the Center for Young Children and Families on February 3 for a video being produced by the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) of New Hampshire and Vermont. The video, which is intended for early childhood teachers and parents of young children, will focus on the importance of reading to young children. Filming

took place in all four of the Center classrooms, featuring the Center teachers and the PSU Early Childhood Studies majors who work in the Center classrooms. The video will show teachers and college students reading to children and talking about books. The filmmaker reported that the children's enthusiasm for books and the emphasis on early literacy at the Center made filming easy! The video will also feature brief interviews with **Dr. Patricia Cantor** of the Early Childhood Studies Dept., about tips and strategies for selecting books for children of different ages and reading aloud, and with Dr. Michele Tine of Dartmouth about how reading to children benefits their literacy development. The video is still in production and will be available soon.

Elementary Education & Childhood Studies

- **Susan Shapiro** completed the CAST Professional Learning Institute: "Universal Design for Learning: Addressing the Variability of All Learners" on November 3 & 4th, 2016, in Wakefield, Massachusetts.

Educational Leadership, Learning and Curriculum

- **Linda Carrier's** first book, *Keeping the leadership in instructional leadership: Developing your practice* will be released by Routledge Publishing on March 16th. Based on original research on the instructional leadership practice of principals, the text facilitates personal reflection and conversation about leadership practices. Through the stories of principals that have been identified as effective instructional leaders, Dr. Carrier discusses how a narrow focus on day-to-day operations and management can limit the potential for effective instructional leadership by drawing attention away from the behaviors and interpersonal skills that enable school administrators to succeed.
- The Rural Educational Leaders Network (RELN) was launched October 26th and 27th here on campus. Made possible through a private donation, the mission of RELN is to support New Hampshire's rural educational leaders in developing the transformational leadership skills and practices necessary to develop authentic and mutually beneficial partnerships with communities. Guided by network facilitator, **Linda Carrier** the network began its work together guided by the overarching idea of college and career readiness, developing the school and community partnership. During the meeting, educational leaders explored their own perception of college and career readiness and then entered into dialogue with partners from the business community about their perception. The conversation continued during the January meeting, hosted by North Country Educational Services, with a partner from the real estate community who shared community perceptions of schools in the North Country and the educational concerns of potential homebuyers in the area. As a result of the work to date, network members are refining their operational definitions of college and career ready, revising their external communication pathways in order to more effectively communicate with the community outside of the school, and creating innovative opportunities to foster community engagement with schools. RELN's March meeting will be hosted by New England Wire in Lisbon, NH. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Christina Flanders from the Counselor Education program. Dr. Flanders will be discussing the idea of work study skills and practices with the group.

English

- A film by Trevor Thalin, based on **Joe Monninger's** novel, *Baby*, won for best feature film at the SoCal film festival.
- **Paul Rogalus'** micro story, "The Giant," has just been published in the "Full of Crow" Winter 2017 Issue. Also, Rogalus' micro piece, "Grateful Black Denim," previously published in the online "Flash Fiction Magazine," will be re-published in the annual "Flash Fiction Magazine" best-of print anthology, available March 13.

Environmental Science & Policy

- **Amy Villamagna** (ESP) presented final results from the "Spatial Analysis of Fishing License Holders" to the NH Fish and Game Dept. This project was conducted by students in the GE 4140/ESP 5500 Environmental GIS course.

Global Education Office

- **Jane Bjerklie-Barry** is the "International Student Advisor of the Month" for internationalstudent.com, answering questions from prospective international students all over the world interested in studying in the US. Link to that page is [here](#). Jane is also selected to the NAFSA trainer corps team, a three-year term helping with professional

development and training in international education. GEO has had 9 Incoming Spring F-1 international students (8 UG and 1 GR) hailing from, Australia, China, Nepal and Saudi Arabia.

- **Tom Janis** (GEO Coordinator) and student leaders held “A Welcome Back” session for students that returned from studying away (over 100 in the past year!), a trip to *Lessons From Abroad: Study Abroad Returnee Conference* in Bridgewater State University, was also undertaken.
- **Deb Regan** (Study Away Adviser) continues to advise PSU students for IEP study away programs ([her bio is here](#)) and is helping with short term faculty-led programs. Here is Deb’s [recent IEP blog post](#) on the cluster model at PSU.

Health & Human Performance

- **Linda Levy, Liesl Lindley and Julie Bernier** attended the 2017 Athletic Training Educators Conference in Dallas.
- **Brianna Ferullo** represented Plymouth State and the New Hampshire Athletic Trainers’ Association at the iLead Conference in Dallas.
- **Linda Levy** presented “Ankle Sprains” to the Elliot Hospital Medical Explorers in Manchester.

History, Philosophy & Social Studies Education

- The Organization of American Historians named **Rebecca Noel** to its 2017-2018 selection committee for the Mary Jurich Nickliss Prize in U.S. Women’s and/or Gender History.
- The steering committee of the New England Medieval Consortium named **Christine Axen** to its steering committee for a three-year term.
- In February **John Krueckeberg** presented in Piermont, NH, a history of US immigration vs. refugee policy; and facilitated a discussion for the non-profit organization, New Hampshire Humanities, concerning its documentary on refugees in the Granite State, “Uprooted: Heartache and Hope in New Hampshire.”
- **Rebecca Noel** gave a presentation, “Plymouth’s Defiant Legacy: Nathaniel Peabody Rogers and the Anti-Slavery Movement,” to Mr. Craig Willey’s Advanced Placement United States History Class at Plymouth Regional High School on December 7.
- In November, **Christine Axen** presented "The Outsider's Advantage of Bishop Zoen of Avignon," a paper on medieval episcopal power for a panel sponsored by EPISCOPUS at the Haskins Society Annual Meeting in Northfield, MN.
- **John Krueckeberg** presented at the Tillotson Center in Colebrook, NH, a history of the ways Alexander Hamilton has been remembered in American culture, introducing the October 10 special screening of “Hamilton’s America,” the PBS Great Performances documentary on Lin-Manuel Miranda's Broadway musical, “Hamilton.”
- **Christine Axen** arranged student visits to the exhibit "Beyond Words," which displayed Renaissance art collections from a consortium of Boston archives, libraries, and museums in October.

Interdisciplinary Studies

- **Robin DeRosa** presented a keynote address at Muhlenberg College, “Open Education: Ownership, Access, and the Place of Pedagogy,” followed by a faculty workshop on tools and techniques for high-impact open teaching. She also presented an address at Seminole State College, “Pedagogy in Public: Open Education for Transformational Teaching.”
- Four Interdisciplinary Studies students, **Janet Currier, Colby Downes, Lyndsey Bradley, and Ayla Steere**, were invited to participate in a roundtable discussion at Keene State College focused on “Trust, Power, and Agency: Student Perspectives on Open Pedagogy,” part of the KSC Open Pedagogy Faculty Learning Community’s Spring program; the roundtable included students from KSC, PSU, Georgetown, and Davidson College.

Languages and Linguistics

- **Emma Van Ness** contributed to the first critical volume of essays dedicated to the works of acclaimed Italian author Elena Ferrante. The collection is entitled "The Works of Elena Ferrante: Reconfiguring the Margins," and is edited by Grace Bullaro and Stephanie Love and published by Palgrave MacMillan. Her essay, "Dixit Mater: The Significance of the Maternal Voice in Ferrante's Neapolitan Novels" discusses the psychological and theoretical implications of Ferrante's use of motherhood as narrative trope.
- **James Whiting** presented a paper, “Teaching and Evaluating Advocacy in TESOL Teacher Education Programs: Engaging and Empowering Teacher Candidates” at the Tenth International Conference on Language Teacher

Education hosted by the National Heritage Language Research Center & the Center for World Languages at the University of California, Los Angeles in early February.

Music, Theatre & Dance

- **Professor Beth Daily** (Theatre) directed PSU's production of *Oedipus the King*, which was part of USNH's *Oedipus Cycle* during which UNH, Keene, and Plymouth toured their productions to one another's campuses. *Oedipus the King*, which was choreographed by Robin Marcotte (Theatre), opened at UNH on February 24 and will then play at Keene on March 4. All three productions will be presented at Plymouth with *Oedipus the King* running March 10-12, *Oedipus at Colonus* (UNH) on March 9 and *Antigone* (Keene) on March 8. Professor Matt Kizer (Design and Technical Theatre) designed the set for the productions and the lighting for *Oedipus the King*.
- **Business Services Coordinator Melissa Furbish** (Music, Theatre, and Dance) appeared in ETC's production of *Fiddler on the Roof* this January. Melissa played Fruma Sarah, the ghostly presence conjured by Tevye's imagination. Also in the production were faculty member Fran Page, and MTD student's Paige MacDonald, Robbie Chubbuck, Sharleigh Thomson, Nicholas Cochran, and JeanMarie Lapointe. Theatre majors Kendra Fry and Robbie Chubbuck assisted in costume design while Saige Granger served as Assistant Stage Manager.
- **Professor Carleen Graff** (Music) hosted the Music Federation and the Gold Cup Festival for young students in New Hampshire at PSU on Feb. 11. PSU college piano students worked at the event and gained valuable insight to the process. Carleen will now judge the Vermont Festival in April.
- **Professor Matt Kizer** (Theatre) designed the scenery and projections for the national tour of *A Christmas Carol*, syndicated through CMI Entertainment Inc. Performances were presented across the United States, as far as Colorado, Texas, and Florida.

He produced a scenic design that has been built by Plymouth State, The University of New Hampshire, and Keene State College each, in their mainstage performance spaces, as a universal playing space for *The Oedipus Cycle*, a joint project between the institutions. He also designed a repertory lighting plot for each of the three institutions, which is being used as the basis for the lighting for the project in each of the three spaces.

He is currently working on a cluster project with community partners, multiple faculty, and many PSU students. The project is called *Stormy Weather*, which will combine meteorology, educational theatre, projections, and dance.

In addition to the above, Matt authored a comprehensive online tool for the theatre students at the beginning of this year. It is a virtual Theatrical Callboard. Theatre calendars, cast lists, rehearsal schedules, program bios, photo archives, and much more are all maintained in an accessible manner using a friendly graphic user interface.

- **Fran Page** (Theatre) directed a staged reading of Terrance McNally's *Master Class*, a play about the life, love, and passions of opera star Maria Callas, which was performed at the Silver Center on February 10 and 11. The reading included four PSU Music faculty: Eva Nagorka (Maria Callas), Daniel Perkins (Manny), Emily Jaworski (Sharon) and Brendan P. Buckley (Tony). PSU graduate Emily Thorner (Music: Voice Performance and Pedagogy) played the role of Sophie. The production featured a talkback with the director and cast. All proceeds from the event went to the Kathleen Arcchi Scholarship Fund.
- **Professor Dan Perkins** (Music) planned and led the 17-member PSU Chamber Singers on a two-week performance/study tour in South Korea in January 2017. Workshops and performances were held at three international schools, including the Dalton School in Cheongna where two PSU alumni are currently teaching. The ensemble also performed at the invitation of the U.S. Embassy at the American Center in Seoul. In preparation for the tour, the students studied Korean language and history and sang four pieces in the Korean language. Upon the group's return, they presented a public concert with visual and spoken anecdotes from the tour.

Perkins and the PSU Chamber Singers presented a formal concert for the residents and friends of the Taylor Community in February 2017.

He also accompanied four members of the PSU student chapter of the American Choral Directors Association to the national convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul. PSU was invited to represent the state of New Hampshire by sending a quartet to sing in the Collegiate Honor Choir

- **Professor Rik Pfenninger** (Music) composed and arranged the music soundtrack for the movie *The Trap* by Las Vegas Director Destiny Faith. Rik recently released his 16th CD on Apple iTunes titled *The Invincible*, which is a soundtrack for a video game of the same name to be released in the fall of 2017. Rik also judged and selected the saxophone sections for New Hampshire Jazz All State. Rik is currently working on a series of Broadway orchestral tracks for Prolific Arts, a production company located in Denton, Texas.
- **Professor Jonathan Santore** (Music) and Professor Dan Perkins (Music) will have their CD *There Are Many Other Legends* released later this month by Navona Records, a label of NH-based PARMA Recordings. This CD, which features works written by Santore and conducted by Perkins with the New Hampshire Master Chorale and Manchester Choral Society, and performances by Music Division faculty members Emily Jaworski and Rik Pfenninger, will be distributed internationally by Naxos.
- **Assistant Professor Mark Stickney** (Music) was invited to conduct two high school honor festivals in Maine during the month of January. From January 20-21 he conducted the Maine District 2 Honor Band at Oxford Hills High School, and from January 27-28 he conducted the Maine District 5 Honor Band at Foxcroft Academy. As part of Mark's continued outreach for recruiting for PSU and helping public school teachers with professional development, he visited a number of high school band programs in RI, Maine, and NH, including the first visit to his high school in Portsmouth, RI. Mark began his second season as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Seacoast Wind Ensemble, based in Kittery, ME. The ensemble is busy preparing for our first concert on Saturday, March 4 at the Star Theater in Kittery, ME and a packed summer of performances throughout northern New England.
- **Sharliegh Thomson** (Theatre Major, Dramatic Writing & Music Theatre Performance) was one of three finalists whose one-act play was selected for a public staged reading by the 30 Pages in 30 Days Playwriting Competition sponsored by the Prescott Park Arts Festival. Her play, *When the Tide Comes In*, which was developed in the Theatre Playwrights Lab, was read on February 24 in Portsmouth, NH.
- **Director of Dance Amanda Whitworth** is serving a 3-year term as President of the New Hampshire Dance Alliance. Whitworth completed two successful cluster projects in Fall 2016. *From Refugee Camp to Stage* supported by the Education Democracy and Social Change Cluster re-established a fruitful relationship between the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire and the dance division.

Dance, Visual Art, and Theatre Production Project with support from the Arts and Technologies Cluster and collaboration with Phil Longergan (Sculpture) and Bob Bruemmer (Theater Tech) brought together students across disciplines to create and produce a 30 minute integrated performance happening as part of the Contemporary Dance Ensemble Performance.

Whitworth curated, produced and facilitated the annual *Dance Premiere* in February that brought approximately 200 dancers to campus for a day of dance workshops in collaboration with BoSoma Dance Company (Boston). The culminating Gala Performance sold out Hanaway Theater. Whitworth recently set a work on the dancers of Neoteric Dance Collaborative (Seacoast, NH) for the One Billion Rising event at the Music Hall in Portsmouth NH. Additionally, Whitworth will be collaborating with Boston-based choreographer Lorraine Chapman and the philanthropic, activist group ArtsFront to curate arts pop-up events in Manchester, NH in spring 2017.

Social Science

- **Joan Turley and Zak Brohinsky (Geography)** worked collaboratively with undergraduate GIS student **Andrea Lamper** to develop and present a webinar on February 9 for the Land Trust Alliance – the national body for all accredited land trusts. Their webinar, titled *Planes, Drones and Satellites: Using Technology for Smart Monitoring*, informed participants from around the country about ways their land trusts could integrate the latest technology into their annual activities. Topics included the use of drones to capture aerial imagery and more advanced spatial analyses that use drone images. Lamper (2018) presented her research for the NH Division of Historical Resources that uses LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data to identify cultural features such as stone walls and cellar holes. The topics and examples presented in the webinar were for conservation practitioners to advance the efficiency and capabilities of their annual conservation monitoring.
- In February, **David Starbuck (Anthropology)** reviewed the book *Archaeology of the War of 1812* (published by Routledge) for the journal *Historical Archaeology*, and on February 17, David was also re-elected President of the Adirondack Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association.