SVPR’s Corner

Spring break provided an opportunity to make progress on some issues of broad impact to UNH. I participated in a Provost’s Council retreat about University Advancement, focused on providing input for the UNH Capital Campaign. Governor Lynch and President Huddleston formally announced the $20 million, 5-year NH NSF EPSCoR award, which we received last October.

With advice from UNH’s federal relations firm, Van Scoyoc and Associates, and from the NH Business and Industry Association, I am working with Dean Mukasa to support the UNH College of Engineering & Physical Sciences initiative to work towards an Advanced Manufacturing Center for the State of NH.

To help provide solutions to UNH faculty and other researchers who need storage space, access, and security for data generated from research projects, I kicked off a series of planning meetings to develop these resources. Related to this, we are looking towards creating user-friendly guides to help faculty prepare agency-required data management plans for proposals, with some standard UNH language about our policies, procedures, and practices.

I continue to work with the Marine faculty on a proposal for a UNH Marine School. They are very dedicated and have worked very hard for some time to leverage UNH Marine assets and resources to position UNH as a leader in the fields of Marine Sciences and Ocean Engineering.

I also want to acknowledge how impressed I have been with our team during difficult budget conditions. Positions have been frozen, external searches canceled, and everyone is being asked to do more. Everyone deserves a very big thank-you for maintaining a positive attitude and pitching in.

Jan Nisbet

OEHS Activities Make UNH Safer .... and Help Save $350,000

(Report provided by Brad Manning)

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) works to assure safe and healthful environments for all segments of the campus population through programs of information and education, review and monitoring, technical consultation and provision of direct services.

In 2011, the OEHS management team concentrated on reducing UNH’s campus loss frequency numbers – the number of accidents (frequency) and the cost associated with each injury (severity). OEHS works with UNH Human Resources and Maine Employee Mutual Insurance Company (UNH’s workers compensation insurer) to monitor monthly trends and costs. OEHS focused its efforts on addressing those areas where a higher frequency and/or severity of accidents are occurring.

(Cont. on p. 2)
In 2011, UNH experienced a 20% reduction in frequency and a 50% reduction in losses, with a cost savings of $350,000 for the campus (287 incidents in 2011, yielding approximately $356,300 in financial losses, compared with 355 incidents in 2010 that resulted in approximately $706,500 in financial losses).

In addition to fewer funds being paid out directly as a result of injury claims, the reduction in incidents and losses also saved the University money through a decrease in the annual premium paid by UNH for its workers compensation insurance.

During 2012, OEHS will continue its proactive programs and activities so that we can continue to minimize costs and maximize safety campus-wide.

OSVPR Insider Readership Survey Results

Thanks to all who completed the survey on UNH OSVPR Insider readership. With over 40% of Research Office staff responding, we have a solid basis for shaping the future of our division-wide newsletter.

Here is a summary of the results:

- Nearly 92% of respondents read the OSVPR Insider at least occasionally and 60% read every issue.
- Readers’ favorite section is Comings/Goings/Goings On, followed closely by Office Profiles, SVPR Corner, and the main feature stories.
- The overall consensus on favorite sections is that they are informative, provide information unlikely to be found in other sources, and help readers understand more about what other offices in the division are doing.
- When asked for input on what newsletter features should be discontinued, fewer than 1% answered the question. Those who did answer suggested that Office Profiles be discontinued when all of the division offices have been covered.

Suggestions about new, ongoing, or occasional features included:

- More about the people in our division
- More about the SVPR’s activities
- Feature on 2011 outstanding division staff recognized by SVPR (Done in Jan-Feb issue)
- Individual profiles
- Highlight various research projects across campus (We are trying to do this via the Research Office web site.)
- More information about division directors’ key activities and unit accomplishments

As for frequency of publication, most respondents suggested quarterly, rather than the current monthly newsletters. The SVPR Management Team agrees. After the remaining 3 offices have been profiled, we will move to quarterly publication. Thus, June will be the final monthly issue, to be circulated in early July. The first quarterly issue will come out in early October and cover July – September activities.

The OSVPR Insider was intended to be a newsletter for, about, and by the staff of the division, so that we can work towards becoming a more cohesive unit. It appears from your comments that we are achieving this to a great extent. This newsletter, in conjunction with the Research Office web site and planned publications about faculty research activities, helps to address the communication needs of our division.

If you have additional comments or suggestions about any of the communication vehicles we use, please contact Kathy Cataneo.
Office Profile: Coastal and Ocean Technology Programs - The National Estuarine Research Reserve Science Collaborative

Contributed by Rich Langan

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) Science Collaborative puts Research Reserve-based science to work for coastal communities coping with the impacts of land use change, stormwater, nonpoint source pollution, and habitat degradation, all in the context of a changing climate. The program operates through a cooperative agreement between the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

We have a threefold approach to connecting science to decision making:

Funding: The Science Collaborative’s competitive grants program awards an average of $4 million annually to projects that incorporate collaboration and applied science to address a coastal management problem identified as a priority for a NERRS Reserve and a community that it serves.

Transfer of knowledge: The Science Collaborative is committed to sharing the knowledge generated by the place-based research we fund. We customize traditional methods of sharing information in ways that make sense for the project at hand and those wanting to learn more about it.

Graduate education: TIDES (Training for the Integration of Decision-Making and Ecosystem Science) provides the skills needed to effectively link science to coastal decision-making. Hosted by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment at UNH, TIDES combines course work with a field-based internship at a Reserve. The Science Collaborative supports two, fully-funded TIDES assistantships each year.

Why this program?

Few coastal management problems are purely “environmental” in nature. They impact economies and businesses, infra-structure and property, human health and wellbeing. Science may be essential to addressing a problem, but when it does not account for the economic, regulatory, and social aspects of a problem, it often gets ignored.

For science to be applied to coastal management problems, the people who need to use the science must be involved in its generation. The projects we fund bring the intended users of the science into the research process so their perspective can inform problem definition, research design and implementation, and, ultimately, the practical application of the project’s results to a particular problem. This is what we mean by “collaboration,” and it is our goal to use this process to ensure that the good science that happens in and around Reserves gets put to good use.

Find out more about UNH’s role in the NERRS Science Collaborative at: Managing Nonpoint Nitrogen Pollution in New Hampshire’s Great Bay
Comings, Goings, & Goings-on

Cheryl Moore has joined SPA as a Senior Grant and Contract Administrator (GCA) in Research Administration. She holds an MBA from Plymouth State University, has been with UNH for 10 years, and comes to SPA with a vast experience in the field of grant administration. Most recently, she served as Assistant Business Director of the Central Administration BSC and as Assistant Director of the Complex Systems Research Center at the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space (EOS). Cheryl will be the lead GCA on the InfoEd Proposal Development Implementation Project.

Erin Jenkins has joined the Sponsored Programs Administration Financial Management Group as an Accountant I. Erin comes to SPA from the Academic Affairs BSC. (Before consolidation, she was in the Research BSC.) Previous to that, Erin was a program support assistant for almost 7 years in the Family Research Lab, and a research assistant and research intern while an undergraduate at The College of William and Mary. She has been an active member of NCURA (National Council of University Research Administrators).

On March 29th, Kathy Cataneo (RDC) and Patrick Messer (RCI) traveled to Washington, DC, with a group of 6 UNH faculty to spend the day at the National Science Foundation (NSF). The faculty, who were interested primarily in submitting NSF Early Career proposals in July, met with their discipline-specific program officers (POs). Patrick met with POs in the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) while Kathy met with POs in the Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science (TUES) and the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) programs. Kathy and Patrick met together with the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) PO. Not only are these agency visits educational in their own right, they raise the visibility of UNH at the federal level.

Do you have news to share? Send it to lynnette.hentges@unh.edu.

www.unh.edu/research