Entering the new year, we have a lot of progress to reflect on from 2013 and much to look forward to in 2014.

Among many things, this past quarter was focused on several marine-related activities, including the search for a Shoals Marine Laboratory director. (UNH’s Jon Pennock has been serving as interim director.) I am excited to make an offer to a qualified candidate in January. In addition, we attended a change-of-command ceremony for the NOAA hydrographic vessel, the Ferdinand R. Hassler, and look forward to a strong working relationship with the new commander, a UNH graduate. We also dedicated much time to planning for the new School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering, and the School’s team is coming together nicely. A retreat with all UNH marine-related faculty was held to discuss activities for 2014, including the development of research agendas and new graduate programs. A meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held in February.

We launched the new Faculty Excellence Research Seminars this past year and hosted three successful events. The first focused on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Nancy Kinner, Larry Mayer, Larry Hamilton, and Kelley Thomas discussed their involvement and studies in the Gulf of Mexico. The second seminar addressed STEM education with keynote speaker Ann Rivet of Columbia University, while Eleanor Abrams and Jade Caines of UNH and Jon Bromley of Oyster River High School shared their experiences and insights. Our third seminar honed in on research in the media and included Gretyl McAllister from the NH Union Leader, Sam Evans-Brown from NH Public Radio, and UNH’s Andy Smith (UNH Survey Center), Ken Johnson (Carsey Institute), and Dante Scala (political science). These seminars were a big success, attracting large internal and external audiences, and we are enthusiastically planning two or three more for this spring.

We said goodbye to Tammy Goldberg, who sends us frequent updates from sunny Florida. She has been interviewing for positions at the University of South ….
Behind the Scenes at Research Integrity Services

At the helm of Research Integrity Services is Julie Simpson, who describes the responsibilities of her unit as “eclectic.” A quick survey of the various responsibilities of this RO unit reveals just that.

For Simpson and her colleagues, a day at work involves ensuring the ethical conduct of research and scholarly activities in a variety of areas, including use of human subjects and of vertebrate animals, and financial conflict of interest in research, as well as compliance with regulations such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

UNH is home to two herds of cows and a herd of horses as well as millions of fish. A subunit within RIS, the Animal Resources Office (ARO), ensures that these animals are cared for and used in an appropriate and humane manner. Dean Elder, D.V.M., is UNH’s Attending Veterinarian and the ARO Director. Elder, assisted by Liz Skoglund, the ARO’s technician, oversees the care and use of all vertebrate animals housed and/or used in instruction or scholarly activities at UNH. Before a researcher may use any vertebrate animal in an activity, the use must be reviewed and approved by the UNH Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC), a formal group of scientists, staff, and community members. RIS administers the IACUC.

RIS also serves as a resource for UNH faculty, staff, and students who want to use human subjects in their research activities. RIS administers UNH’s program of protecting human subjects in research, including the operations of the UNH Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research (IRB). This board is comprised primarily of faculty and staff, joined by a representative from the community.

Other programs that RIS administers include financial conflict of interest in research, and responsible conduct of research and scholarly activity. As part of the latter, Simpson co-teaches an interdisciplinary graduate seminar, GRAD 930: Ethics in Research and Scholarship, each fall semester.

Most recently, RIS welcomed its newest member, Compliance Officer Melissa McGee. McGee is profiled on page 3.

The activities and resources of RIS are as diverse as the talents of the staff, and it is clear that this unit will be essential to UNH’s growth and development as a research university, assisting the University and its researchers as they continue to adapt to the ever-changing research regulatory environment.
RIS Profile: Mellissa McGee, Compliance Officer

Mellissa McGee has been a member of the UNH community for several years, but her new position as a Compliance Officer for Research Integrity Services has given her an exciting perspective on the many different facets of the University. McGee worked in SPA’s Research Administration group for nearly six years before accepting her current job with RIS. Her initial project is to ensure UNH’s compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). McGee is working to ensure the organization of resources on the subject of HIPAA, acting as a reference for those with questions, and raising awareness of the new requirements.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, her career in law began at UNH’s School of Law in Concord, where she originally studied with the intent of becoming a prosecutor. After taking a course in health law, however, McGee realized her passion for her current work. She practiced law for several years in the private sector, focusing on compliance and day-to-day operational issues for hospitals and other healthcare providers. She also worked for the Veterans’ Health Administration on a National Institutes of Health-funded study at the National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). These combined experiences surely will contribute to McGee’s success in her new position with RIS.

A typical day for McGee involves coordinating communication with various groups across campus to reach shared goals on compliance issues. While a university’s academics are often at the forefront of public consciousness, McGee works with administration at an organizational level. “There’s a lot going on behind the scenes,” she explained.

In her first months, McGee focused her attention on meeting various individuals and groups around campus to learn their relationship to HIPAA and health law. “Unlike hospitals, university systems are involved in a wide range of diverse activities that are of interest to us,” McGee explained. She is working to establish in-person connections while developing the content of web-based training for HIPAA compliance. In the future, McGee will turn her attention to projects focused on export controls and financial conflict of interest in research.

Away from work, McGee dedicates her time to her family. Her office is decorated with the artwork of her nine-year-old son, a passionate ice hockey player. McGee is also the proud owner of a beagle.

McGee is an avid reader and enjoys discussing literature with her colleagues. Most recently, she’s enjoyed keeping up with her son’s school literature curriculum, and she looks forward to reading Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

SVPR Corner (continued from page 1)

Florida in Tampa and already has a job offer. I was called for a reference and said they would be very, very lucky to have her as a member of their team. We are in the throes of a search for her replacement and have several qualified candidates to bring to campus toward the end of January for interviews. I am hoping to hire by the beginning of February.

To wrap the year up, an all-division wide meeting was held in December to honor many individual unit achievements during 2013. Having everyone present at once reminds me of all the wonderful accomplishments, from acquiring a CRAY computer and a new scanning electron microscope, to completing a building for environmental health and safety and having a successful radiation containment site visit, being awarded two additional EPSCoR grants, finalizing a Financial Conflict of Interest Policy, launching UNHInnovation, redesigning our sponsored research processes and piloting electronic proposal routing, and supporting 34 graduate students to submit Graduate Research Fellowship Program applications to the National Science Foundation.

I look forward to reaching all of our goals set forth in 2014 – and there are many. Our “wildly important goal,” or “WIG,” is to increase the number of proposals UNH submits to external sponsors to a steady state level of 1000 annually by 2017. All Research Office units are encouraged to consider how they can contribute to this goal, whether it be contributing to writing proposals to support infrastructure needs, promoting new opportunities for external support, removing perceived roadblocks to proposal submissions, or finding ways to help UNH faculty become more successful with the proposals they submit.

Finally, I know that office space continues to be a problem and I am working with Doug Bencks and David Clark in the UNH Facilities Division to develop some potential solutions. In the meantime, I appreciate everyone’s patience.

With gratitude for your excellent contributions last year and anticipation of what we will accomplish together in 2014, Jan Nisbet
In October, Ben Powers joined the Research IT group located in the Service Building. Ben comes to us a recent graduate of Southern New Hampshire University and is working on several projects with Scott Troy and members of Sponsored Programs Administration and Research Integrity Services.

Erin Dame comes to RCI as a Drupal programmer and is partnering with the Software Development Group on the NH Institute for Health Policy and Practice’s Medicaid Quality Information System project.

Tammy Goldberg, Director of Finance and Administration, has left UNH to head to warmer climes. Karen Maria, a Senior Financial Research Administrator, has been on leave from her position since last May and will not be returning. SPA expects to start a search for an Accountant II position in January.

Just in from Steve Marchand: In September, UNHI (formerly the Office for Research Partnerships and Commercialization, ORPC) continued its work to integrate UNH into southeastern New Hampshire’s economy by working with the New Hampshire Seacoast's six Chambers of Commerce to host the Seacoast Business Expo. Hundreds of local business leaders and Governor Maggie Hassan came to campus for the Expo which was underwritten by UNH and Great Bay Community College.

“We are very excited about this new partnership with two of the state’s premier educational institutions. Through their generous support, the [Seacoast Chamber] Alliance is able to expand the event and UNH and Great Bay are able to educate the greater Seacoast business community about the valuable resources they bring to our community,” said Doug Bates, President of the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce.

In November, Lynnette Hentges and Michael Thompson each led a “Preparing Future Faculty/Professionals” session for UNH graduate students. Lynnette presented “How to Fund It, Find It, & Get It - Strategies and Tools for Finding Funding for Graduate School.” Michael’s session, “Strategies for Writing a Successful Grant,” provided students with tips and tools they need to read and deconstruct solicitations, work out a reasonable timeline, and write clearly to create more successful proposals. These sessions generated new grad student clients for RDC, with three proposals already submitted with RDC assistance as a result.

The UNH-IOL has received the 2013 IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) Corporate Award, recognizing the IOL’s outstanding corporate leadership and contribution to IEEE-SA. IEEE-SA Awards distinguish recipients for their leading participation in standards development. The IEEE is a global technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. Through its highly cited publications, conferences, technology standards, and professional and educational activities, IEEE is the trusted voice on a wide variety of areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics.

UNHI celebrated the success of faculty and staff members whose research resulted in nine patents and 65 licenses in the last year with an evening event in October. The RO was well-represented, with 7 first-time disclosures for software and 5 licenses by the UNH-IOL and one license by RCC in 2013. In addition, Dot Sheehan, senior associate athletic director for external affairs, was awarded the University’s Innovator of the Year Award for her efforts to found and grow Operation Hat Trick.
Brad Manning and Marty McCrone attended the 2013 New Hampshire Waste Management Seminar in Manchester. Sponsored by the Business and Industry Association and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, in partnership with the New Hampshire Municipal Association, the all-day seminar was devoted to waste issues and regulation in New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Waste Management Seminar is a unique conference that brings consultants, engineers and key business leaders together with regulators.

Michele Arista attended the Laser Safety Officer With Hazard Analysis Training in Miami, FL. The class is designed to teach the knowledge required to perform the duties of Laser Safety Officer as described in the ANSI Z136.1 Safe Use of Lasers standard. Information on lasers and optics, applications, bioeffects, beam and non-beam hazards, hazard analysis, control measures, and training on laser safety program development and administration is included in this course that meets all Laser Safety Officer training requirements outlined by ANSI, OSHA and ACGIH.

Marty McCrone, Jeff Anderson, Andy Glode, and Brad Manning attended New Hampshire Hazardous Waste Coordinator recertification training. The role of the hazardous waste coordinator is to ensure that the generating facility is aware of the relevant hazardous waste rules, providing the knowledge to ensure that the facility is in compliance. The individual acquires certification through attending training provided by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and proving their capability with the material by passing a comprehensive exam. Every business producing more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste in a calendar month is required to have on staff at the generating facility an employee who is certified as a New Hampshire Hazardous Waste Coordinator.

Andy Glode successfully completed recertification training for International Air Shipping of Dangerous Goods. He also completed United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) recertification training for ground transportation of hazardous materials.

Brian Cournoyer completed an 8-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) refresher training course with the Scott Lawson Group in Concord, NH. This course is designed for general site workers who remove hazardous waste or who are exposed or potentially exposed to hazardous substances or health hazards.

Dianne Hall, Karen Jensen, and Susan Sosa (supported by a staff professional development grant) attended the Society for Research Administrators (SRA) International Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA in October 2013. The meeting covered all forms of research administration, with more than 200 speakers, 135 sessions and 26 workshops addressing topics of interest to all attendees – including representatives from government, industry, academic and nonprofit institutions.

In November, Melissa McGee attended the annual NACUA (National Association for College and University Attorneys) Compliance Symposium and CLE Workshop in Washington, DC. Topic highlights included the regulators’ perspective on higher education compliance initiatives, how various institutions approach bringing compliance policies into practice, updates on data privacy/security and export control regulations, and risk management strategies. Attendance at the workshop also provided an opportunity for Melissa to network with other higher ed compliance personnel, and to meet with Michelle Gluck, Special Counsel for USNH.

Marilyn Qua and Erin Selner (both supported by staff professional development grants) attended the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) Financial Research Administration Workshop in Charleston, SC in December. The workshop is a two-and-one-half-day conference focusing primarily on the financial aspects of research administration. It provides an in-depth look at financial compliance issues through a combination of lecture, case studies, review of federal audit reports, and discussion of best practices.

Also in December, Michael Thompson attended a five-day Grantsmanship Training Program hosted by The Grantsmanship Center in Providence, RI. 15 other trainees, mostly from smaller non-profits around New England, were in attendance. This intensive program focused on grant writing from start to finish, from the proposal planning process through panel review and project reporting. Feel free to contact Michael for more information if you are considering participating in this program.