

Plymouth

MAGAZINE

THE MAGAZINE OF PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY | WINTER 2020

PSU GOES TECH

PSU's New High-Tech Makerspace Expands Possibilities





What we're **EXCITED ABOUT!**

As the year began, faculty, staff, and students shared a few of their visions of the future, from new pedagogical approaches and more engaged student life to athletic competitions, environmental goals, and reaching out to the wider world. Watch videos on these and other topics at plymouth.edu/magazine.



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On the cover:

Michaila Sheehan '20, an art education (K-12) major, at the controls of the University's new plasma cutter. By working with high-tech manufacturing tools, PSU artists explore how art can be amplified or altered by technology, and how creativity intersects with an industrial world. Bret Kulakovich photo.

New Career and Mentoring Features and Applications for Alumni and Students



Premier Alumni & Student Networking & Mentoring Platform

psunite.plymouth.edu



Online Hub for Student & Employer Connections
One Stop for Career & Internships

go.plymouth.edu/handshake

New “CESLife” Group Is All About Students

Creating the finest collegiate learning experience for students is a true collaborative partnership between all PSU stakeholders, and the University has combined several key functions in a new arrangement that strengthens the student focus. The Communications, Enrollment & Student Life (CESLife) group has connected internal and external communications, allowing it to recruit and retain PSU students and provide diverse opportunities for student engagement.

CESLife is led by Interim Vice President Marlin Collingwood, who joined PSU in 2017 as director of Marketing, Communications & Creative Services. He brings over 30 years of marketing, advertising, public relations, and political expertise to his work. Collingwood’s extensive background includes leadership of marketing agencies in Boston, New York, and the UK and the handling of reputation management, strategy and implementation, public affairs, crisis management, political affairs, health care, travel and tourism, and large-scale events.

“PSU is a very student-centered institution, and this new configuration keeps students squarely in focus from when they first express interest in attending all the way through to graduation,” explains Collingwood. “Though CESLife may be new, the logic behind it is part of a long Plymouth State tradition of putting students’ needs first and foremost. We’ve also formed a Parent & Family Resources Team because we know that college today is truly a family affair.”

Visit plymouth.edu/ceslife to learn more about CESLife’s programs and areas of focus. ■



Marlin Collingwood. John Tully photo.



Kadie Dickson and Tevis Bryant during Move-In Day 2019. Morgan Navarro photo.

New Student Life Leadership, Programming

“Plymouth After Dark” evening programs, new field trip experiences, and an enhanced Greek life program are among the highlights of PSU’s renewed Student Life Office. Director of Student Life Tevis Bryant and Assistant Director Kadie Dickson have instituted many new ideas since taking the reins this summer.

Greek life has become more visible on campus, with new office space in the HUB and coordination by a new Inter Greek Council, and Bryant is leading PSU’s locally based organizations through national affiliation. “I founded Psi Sigma Phi, Rowan University’s first multicultural fraternity, and I’ve been through the process and know the benefits,” he says. “Our Greek community is changing, and we’re providing current students with additional support, and by aligning with national organizations, PSU students are networked to a bigger world.”

Increased late-night and weekend events have earned strong followings, and off-campus trips to Boston and New Hampshire

destinations are popular. Collaborations with Residential Life, the Educational Theatre Cooperative, the Counseling Center, and Academic Affairs have resulted in a great diversity of programs, and students are kept informed through increased outreach, including social media posts, which have increased by 100 percent.

Student Life is also forging a new connection with the National Society of Leadership and Success, the nation’s largest leadership honor society. Students with exceptional academic standing or leadership potential will be nominated for membership. ■

JED Campus Initiative: A Proactive Approach to Mental Health

Transitioning into adulthood can bring big changes and intense challenges, and Plymouth State University is acting proactively to better serve students. PSU is partnering with The Jed Foundation (JED), a national nonprofit that protects emotional health and prevents suicide for our nation’s teens and young adults, in a collaboration now underway.

In November, undergraduates participated in JED’s Healthy Minds Study, which provided a baseline on the University’s programs, systems, and challenges related to mental health. A JED consultant subsequently visited campus, met with student leaders, and reviewed the survey results with a dedicated task force.

“This is the beginning of a comprehensive process,” says Interim Vice President Marlin Collingwood. “A leadership team that involves every aspect of campus is working with JED to craft specific recommendations that we plan to implement.”

The program is specifically designed for higher education and pays particular attention to the emotional needs of this population. “PSU is part of a complex, national trend of increased use of mental health services, and we’re responding to that need,” says Dean of Students Jeff Furlone. “Our ‘Stamping Out Stigma’ student group is one of many ways that awareness is being raised, and we’re making students and staff more aware of what to watch for when a peer may need help.”

A JED update will be shared with the campus community early in the spring semester. The collaboration will continue for the next three years and is provided via a generous grant from the JED Foundation. When completed, PSU will be only the second certified JED Campus in New Hampshire. ■

Cote's Impact on Nursing Program Acknowledged



Annie Cote. Bruce Lyndes photo.

The legacy of Annie Cote's passion for nursing lives on at Plymouth State University. Though now retired from educating future nurses after close to a decade of teaching, the impact of her hard work and dedication in laying the groundwork for the University's nursing program continues to be acknowledged and appreciated.

Geographically speaking, Cote's personal nursing journey has been tied to Plymouth since the early days of her career. Before joining the very newly formed Nursing Department in 2011, Cote worked in the emergency room at Speare Memorial Hospital, both educating others in the ER and furthering her own studies through a master's program.

Cote credits Mary Ellen Fleege, former USNH associate vice chancellor, for her involvement in the PSU program's creation from the ground up. After touring Speare Memorial, Fleege encouraged Cote to apply to become the first faculty member in the department. Cote joined the PSU team and jumped head-first into the complex process of building courses and curriculum.

After Cote worked around the clock for six months, Plymouth State's nursing program was fully formed and functioning. Despite running into a variety of

situational challenges, due in part to rules and requirements of the profession, the program excitedly welcomed its first cohort in 2012. This first class, made up mostly of nontraditional students, went out into the world and put its skills and strengths to use the following year.

Cote has also experienced nursing from the patient's perspective. In 2013, while working toward her doctorate, she sustained a neck fracture and came face-to-face with the gravity of her situation and how nursing factors into the equation. "The support I got while I was in the hospital and during my recovery was amazing," she says.

More recently, Cote encountered former students who were treating a friend at Concord Hospital. These PSU alumni were praised by doctors and their fellow nurses, and Cote was delighted to see the caring and empathetic nature that she had nurtured in them.

"Annie is an authentic nurse with knowledge and skills unparalleled by her peers," said Jean Coffey, PSU director of nursing. "Her contributions, from the bedside to the classroom, are truly lasting and we are so grateful for the wisdom she has instilled in our faculty and students."

Cote's impact on nursing at Plymouth State endures beyond the program itself, as she established the Lillian Frances Morrissey Annual Scholarship to assist nursing students every year in achieving their academic goals. Named for Cote's mother, the scholarship honors an extraordinary career that spanned decades. A critical care nurse (just like her daughter would go on to be), Mrs. Morrissey saved lives on the

scene of the 1944 Hartford, CT, circus fire, one of the nation's worst fire disasters.

Cote retired from PSU last year but remains involved as a member of the PSU Nursing Department Advisory Council, which explores ways to improve and complement nursing education in the North Country. She also volunteers with hospice patients, a cause that she is wholly dedicated to, as she pursues an End-of-Life Doula Professional Certificate. ■

Coffey Honored by American Academy of Nursing

Jean Coffey, PhD, APRN, CPNP, director of the PSU nursing program, has been inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing. She is the only nurse leader from New Hampshire to be so honored in the 2019 class, and the action recognizes her extraordinary commitment to the promotion of public health through evidence and innovation. ■ *Read the full story online at plymouth.edu/magazine.*

Summer Ascent Program Helps Students Overcome Challenges

Heather DiPiano '23 is the kind of student people believe in.

A police officer she knew in high school recommended her for a job at a local deli, and Heather worked after school and 10-hour weekend shifts to earn college money. She heard good things about PSU, but her college dream began to fade due to an unstable situation. She left home to pursue her dream, and rather than dip into precious college funds, she stopped eating lunch.

The deli owner intervened with meat, cheese, and rolls. "If you work here, you're family," he told her. This crucial support helped Heather get over a very rough patch, and she eventually returned home.

More than half of all PSU students are either first generation or low income, and nine out of ten count on donor support for scholarship and financial aid assistance.

Higher education should be more than just a dream.

The officer and owner both believed in Heather, and so does Plymouth State. She benefited from the University's Summer Ascent Program, which helps bright students who face great challenges acclimate to college life. Programs like this can be the difference between college success or failure.

More than half of all PSU students are either first generation or low income, and nine out of ten count on donor support for scholarship and financial aid assistance. Please visit plymouth.edu/give to learn how you can help our many deserving students. ■

Heather DiPiano '23. Mackenzie Fullerton '17 photo.





Shannon Griffiths '17 and her former professor, Associate Provost Ann McClellan. Mackenzie Fullerton '17 photo.

Profile: Associate Provost Ann McClellan

Every so often, during a moment of contemplation in between meetings, Associate Provost Ann McClellan reflects on her days of leading classroom discussions, usually one in Rounds Hall. Now an inhabitant of the Speare Administration Building, her new position takes full advantage of her intimate knowledge of teaching, the learning process, and the intricacies of student life.

After a much-deserved yearlong sabbatical filled to the brim with copious amounts of research, travel, and online jaunts through virtual stacks of scholarly books, McClellan made the leap from English professor to academic leader. A veteran member of the faculty, she received the Theo Kalikow Award in 2010, the Distinguished Academic Advising Award in 2015, and both the Distinguished Scholarship Award and Excellence in Faculty Service Award in 2016. She also

served as English department chair for six years and has been significantly involved in the adoption of the Integrated Clusters learning model.

When I first heard the news that McClellan would be transitioning from teaching to academic affairs, I couldn't think of a better fit for the job. Her passion for knowledge is palpable, a fact that quickly became clear to me as her student. McClellan is perfectly poised to continue making the great academic strides that she's always prioritized for PSU students.

My bachelor's is in English, and McClellan molded me into the critical, detail-oriented, and analytical individual that I am today. We're bound together by the skills, strengths, and persistent curiosity that we share, and I'm grateful for the guidance and knowledge she bestowed.

Not to mention, we both love to read.

McClellan has stepped boldly into her new role, collaborating with colleagues on topics such as faculty development, community partnerships, program development, and faculty support.

McClellan has stepped boldly into her new role, collaborating with colleagues on topics such as faculty development, community partnerships, program development, and faculty support. One key responsibility is navigating the ebb and flow of class enrollment, making sure that courses have enough seats and sections.

Effective communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, and assessing an audience are just some of the necessary skills that McClellan taught undergrads and that she utilizes in her current work.

She reaches across disciplines daily to ensure that Plymouth State is continually working toward its vision of experiential

learning and providing the most beneficial academic experience, and she bridges the gap between English professor and associate provost with genuine human connection. Chats over coffee and department-wide get-togethers afford her the opportunity to keep up to date on programs and personalities across campus.

An acclaimed Sherlock Holmes scholar, McClellan is currently mapping out her latest book, a deep dive into African American adaptations of the topic. Ever learning and teaching in a multitude of capacities, she intently presses on, advancing her field and the University as a whole. ■ Shannon Griffiths '17

Jacob Scheinman '19: Dreaming of a Professional Sports Career

Jacob Scheinman '19 has been around sports his entire life. Some of his happiest early memories are set within the PE Center or on the Plymouth State Men's Basketball Team bus with his father, John Scheinman, the Panthers' head coach from 1999 to 2007 and 2008 to 2010 and currently PSU's director of development.

"I would play behind the bleachers—run around while my dad was leading practice," he says. "Sometimes I would shoot around or hang out in his office. I just loved being here."

The affinity for sports stuck, and Scheinman played football, soccer, basketball, and baseball, focusing on the latter two at Plymouth Regional High School. He enjoyed and was good at math, but in the back of his mind he knew that sports was his passion.

After more than a year in PSU's mathematics program, Scheinman discovered he didn't have the same fondness for the subject as he did for athletics. The decision to change majors was obvious.

"Even before high school I

always thought I would end up as a sports management major," says Scheinman. "I ended up exactly where I thought I would be."

Scheinman's dream to work at the professional level came about shortly after making the change, though deep down he knew he always wanted to pursue that path. "As a sports management major, I wanted to work in athletics at the highest level I could."

Scheinman took a first step in that direction as a summer intern at Celtics Camps, a youth basketball camp directly affiliated with the Boston Celtics. Joe Amoroso '62, a 2004 inductee into the Plymouth State Athletics Hall of Fame, is the program's director and general manager. Amoroso was on campus for the 2018 Hall of Fame induction ceremony, and when he heard that Scheinman was looking to get into professional sports, he was more than happy to offer an internship opportunity.

"I was really excited," says Scheinman. "I knew it could help my dream of getting into professional sports. My job was

basically to follow Joe and absorb as much as I could from him."

Scheinman was charged with a multitude of tasks, including taking inventory, distributing gear to staff members, coordinating camper evaluations with the multiple camp directors, and distributing camper medals. The day-to-day work was fun, but the summer's highlights include life-time memories acquired in the brand-new, 160,000-square-foot Auerbach Center, a training facility for both the Celtics and the Boston Bruins and headquarters of New Balance.

He saw Celtics star Gordon Hayward working out daily, met head coach Brad Stevens, sat through press conferences for free agents Kemba Walker and Enes Kanter, and got a close look at the Larry O'Brien Trophy from the team's 1984 and 1986 championships.

In a world where who you know can make the difference, Scheinman hopes his connections will prove useful as he pursues his professional sports career dream. ■ **Chris Kilmer '99**



Plymouth State Hall of Famer Joe Amoroso '62 with Jacob Scheinman '19 and the 1984 NBA championship trophy at Celtics Camps—a youth basketball camp affiliated with the Boston Celtics.



A MEMORABLE HOMECOMING

Official Boston Bruins Anthem Singer Todd Angilly '99 wows Panther Nation. Visit plymouth.edu/magazine for videos detailing the down-to-earth music major's love for PSU and his star-spangled Homecoming rendition.

John Tully photo.

PSU GOES TECH

Is the North Country fertile ground for the next Silicon Valley? Visionaries see potential, with PSU playing the pivotal role of academic hub. Dreams of the future are supported by today's high-tech realities, including the University's new robotics and applied mathematics disciplines, and a new, state-of-the-industry facility comparable to those of the nation's top technology institutions.

STORIES BY PETER LEE MILLER.
MACKENZIE FULLERTON '17 PHOTOS.

New High-Tech “Makerspace” Expands Possibilities

Plymouth State’s new “makerspace” in the Draper & Maynard building boasts state-of-the-industry equipment that has students dreaming big: self-driving snowmobiles, a “mesh network” (or meshnet) to boost and extend Wi-Fi sensors, electronic car motors, and large mammal prosthetics are among the early ideas. Faculty, staff, and students of all disciplines are welcomed to the facility after attending general safety workshops and specific sessions on 3D printing and laser cutting. The makerspace is a regional resource, and plans call for public access, including opening it to local industries over the next year.

The facility’s capabilities represent a paradigm shift in manufacturing, according to Bret Kulakovich, PSU’s coordinator for academic spaces and open lab design. Kulakovich designed the makerspace and has led the University’s conceptualization through work with campus constituencies. “Methods for supplying consumer goods are on the cusp of great change, as more and more fabricating can now take place closer to the end user,” he says. “Our new makerspace brings these exciting capabilities to PSU.”

Kulakovich illustrates his point by using a common household item as an example. When a Tupperware top needs replacing, under the current system, thousands and thousands of replacements must be produced at factory scale, and ships, planes, railcars, and tractor-trailers then make deliveries of finished goods worldwide in a logistical symphony.

An alternative manufacturing strategy would be to produce a single top at a location nearby, or perhaps even in the end user’s

home. Such is the premise of a plasma table, one of several high-tech makerspace machines.

“We’ve got a manufacturing-based culture that’s over 100 years old, where we mass produce things,” says Kulakovich. “The production line did a huge amount for absolutely everyone, knocking out cars and insulin and other drugs, but we’re getting to the point where that strategy doesn’t work so well anymore. We make lots of products that people never buy and that wind up in landfills.”

The plasma table is part of an impressive equipment array that is giving students many new opportunities. Between substantial, essential renovation of the historic Draper & Maynard Building’s first floor and purchase of new equipment, the makerspace represents a \$1 million upgrade. As PSU’s newest Open Laboratory, it’s a place for learning, experimenting, and collaborating with other majors, businesses and nonprofits, and other community partners. The facility provides an extraordinary opportunity for students to work in cutting-edge technology across the entire spectrum of additive manufacturing and design.

The space accounts for over 2,000 square feet on D&M’s first floor, including an area devoted to PSU’s new Electromechanical Technology and Robotics (EMTR) discipline. Plans call for dedicated classrooms, computer labs, and additional fabrication space on D&M’s fourth floor.

“We’ve brought to bear a wide variety of equipment, and there really isn’t anything else like this,” says Kulakovich. “It’s a unique and broad facility comparable to those of leading institutions such as Harvard and MIT.”

Jess Sullivan ’20 is the makerspace’s student fellow. The interdisciplinary studies major has many PSU activities to his credit, including founding the University’s Creation Technology & Hacking Club and printing 3D topographic reliefs for the geography department, which he presented with other members of the PSU community at the American Association of Geographers 2019 annual meeting.



Bret Kulakovich, Digital Creation Technologist Erika Rydberg, and Jess Sullivan ’20 have been instrumental in launching the makerspace.

Sullivan sees the phenomenon of a makerspace as a brick-and-mortar extension of the now very refined Open Source Software (OSS) world, in which individuals can modify and share publicly accessible resources. “The potential value of the D&M makerspace as a scholarly and financial asset to Plymouth State is both large and sensitive enough that my Senior Seminar focus is entirely on forming a proper white paper detailing means to its success,” he says.

Along with EMTR students, the makerspace will be busy with students from other Clusters working on a variety of projects, including physical computing, health care, theatrical automation, environmental sciences, and hydroponics, among many other areas of interest.

“The makerspace is really going to provide the technology to let our students expand the scope of what’s possible in our theatre productions,” says Bob Bruemmer, PSU’s interim manager of theatre operations. “The tools will allow us to generate scenery more quickly and accurately and add a level of complexity that we haven’t had before. For example, the Shop-Bot lets us accurately generate

multiple pieces in a short amount of time, the iron worker will help us quickly build scenery pieces and curved railings, and 3D printers will be great for custom and specialized props. We are very excited about what the makerspace will allow us to do.”

From computer-controlled cutting of wood, plastic, and metal to laser-sharp detailing, 3D printing, and bending and shaping of steel plate and piping, the makerspace will endow PSU students with experience and knowledge that may lead to many high-tech career options. Visit *Plymouth Magazine* online at plymouth.edu/magazine for a full list of the facility’s equipment and capabilities, or makerspace.plymouth.edu for more information. ■

"CAMS" Is a New Option for Mathematicians

The federal government hires more mathematicians than any other employer, so wouldn't it make sense for undergraduate math students to study ethics? Or for the legions of number-crunchers involved in psychological research to learn about Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs?

Insights like these have prompted a new option for PSU students who previously may have considered double-majoring or minoring with math and another subject. The value of interdisciplinary studies, coupled with résumé-building opportunities for experimental design and data gathering, are at the core of Plymouth State's new Computational and Applied Mathematical Sciences (CAMS) discipline.

While applied math is becoming more popular at the graduate level, the vast majority of undergraduate math programs take a traditional route that prepares students for graduate work. Programs at Brigham Young University and the University of Chicago are among a handful nationwide that are similar to Plymouth State's new offering in their opportunities for applied work, though their curricular requirements are made up entirely of computer science and math courses. The University's new program is unique in that it more evenly distributes its coursework across other fields.

"This is what a 'Cluster major' can be; a partnership with other disciplines within the Cluster," explains Professor Emma Norbrothen Wright, who chairs the

new discipline. Math courses account for half of the CAMS requirements, and computer science courses for a quarter. Students can choose their remaining enrichment options from other Exploration and Discovery Cluster disciplines, including biology, chemistry, meteorology, and psychology, as well as from criminal justice of the Justice and Security Cluster.

These other disciplines provide students with experience in particular fields where mathematics and computer science can be applied. CAMS graduates will be equipped with the background to properly implement a wide range of highly applicable skills, which will enable them to serve in a variety of jobs in an evolving economy.

"Math applies to everything, and CAMS will help employers see it applies to their industries," says Professor Justin Wright, who teaches several discipline courses. "CAMS combines mathematical and computer science skills with other, specialized knowledge, which we hope will help students land jobs faster.

"The goal is to produce graduates that can immediately begin working in government and industry jobs or pursue a graduate degree," he continues. "These graduates will be ideally suited for analyst positions in any industry and be particularly strong candidates for positions related to their enrichment option. Students at other institutions in similar programs have gone on to work for companies such as Amazon, Apple, Disney,



Professor Emma Norbrothen Wright chairs the new discipline.

Microsoft, Oracle, and Raytheon or with government agencies like the IRS and NSA."

PSU's two math modeling courses, inspired by the Mathematical Association of America's "PIC Math" (Preparation for Industrial Careers in Mathematical Sciences) program, demonstrate the interdisciplinary appeal of CAMS. Both have attracted students from other majors, and the current spring course features a partnership with the New Hampshire Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, through which students will analyze a potential correlation between geographical location and incidence of respiratory disease.

True to Plymouth State's Cluster vision, the collaboration illustrates the potential of CAMS to involve students in projects with interdisciplinary colleagues and outside entities in meaningful work that goes beyond the classroom and has impact in the real world.

"CAMS is a multidisciplinary experience similar to what students might receive from an engineering school, except that it's taking place within Plymouth State's small-school environment," says Wright. "It's currently taking place within the Exploration and Discovery and Justice and Security Clusters, but we can imagine it to eventually include just about every discipline on campus." ■

CAMS TARGETS FAST-GROWING JOBS

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall average job growth is 5.2 percent with median annual wages of \$38,000. CAMS majors will enjoy the following options:

- *Mathematicians, 36% growth, \$102,000 median annual wage*
- *Operations research analysts, 25%, \$83,000*
- *Statisticians, 30.7%, \$87,000*

Related fields, including information security analysts, market research analysts, and software developers, are also on the fast-growing list.

Q&A

WITH MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR EMMA NORBROTHEN WRIGHT

Professor Emma Norbrothen Wright chairs the new Computational and Applied Mathematical Sciences (CAMS) discipline. An algebraist, Wright is a pure mathematician who, as she explains, “does math that serves other math.” She completed her PhD in mathematics at North Carolina State University after earning her bachelor’s degree at Gettysburg College. Through PSU and the Mathematical Association of America, she became a Project NExT fellow and explored advanced pedagogy. She received the Theo Kalikow award in 2017 for her efforts in strengthening women in STEM, is an ambassador for the University System of New Hampshire’s Academic Technology Institute, and develops open resources for the mathematical community. Wright was the 2018 Wixson Professor of Mathematics.

What’s the biggest misperception about your field?

People think you have to teach, or go to grad school, or be an actuary. Students who aren’t math majors often believe there’s only one right answer and only one right way to get there, and if you don’t understand it, too bad for you; memorize it. Math is really about creative problem-solving, and working with limitations and structures, to get to where you need to go. That’s what “wicked problems” and modeling are trying to address: that there are messy problems, and math can analyze them and tell you what influences the issues. Math can conclude that solutions don’t exist or that multiple solutions might exist.

What are the key skills college math students need today?

They need mathematical skills, and they also need to be able to communicate and work with others in multiple capacities, whether that’s in group work, peer work, or informal or formal presentations. CAMS is great

because it gives mathematicians the ability to speak the language of other disciplines. For example, a CAMS major can take biology courses and learn the language of that field.

What issues do math graduates face?

Mathematician is not a common job title, but there are lots of people with degrees in mathematics in other jobs that don’t necessarily scream math. If you graduate with a math bachelor’s, you can have a hard time figuring out what to do next because you can’t just search for math jobs. Most employers assume that mathematicians are smart and good problem-solvers and want to at least interview them. I can see putting mathematicians into any field of interest so they can model, problem-solve, and analyze complex scenarios.

What do you see as the future of your field?

Any field that has messy questions will always involve math. Certainly the sciences but also

the social sciences. Health, science and technology, climate change—the “wicked problems.” Math doesn’t give you one-word answers like yes or no, do this or do that. What math can do is help you understand the connections and make choices based on conditionals.

What’s special about the PSU math community?

PSU math does a really great job preparing students to learn how to learn, work with others, and have the confidence and skills to express themselves articulately. We focus a lot on workshops and giving your peers constructive feedback, and on presentations, posters, and conferences. There’s a perception that a mathematician is someone who just sits at their desk and computes numbers, like a real Dilbert. We’re not necessarily preparing that student; we’re preparing someone who can jump into another industry feet first and say, “I’m a mathematician and can help you analyze this.”

What do you say to prospective math students?

In most undergraduate programs, math students start in many different classes, and it can take a while for the majors to get to know each other. At Plymouth State, we have small classes, including Introduction to Formal Mathematics that’s for all new majors regardless of where they start in the calculus sequence. It’s where we set expectations about communal learning, workshops, peer feedback, and culture points, and it forms a cohort that can stay together for all four years.

If you’re interested in math, you should come to PSU! The Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences, in a 2019 report, affirmed that we’re delivering the right kinds of courses. (See <https://tinyurl.com/r65f4bz>.)

As long as you’re open minded and want to work with others and have a general curiosity, that’s enough to get your foot in the door with us. We produce students who are capable of great work. ■

PSU's New Robotics Program Aims for the "Big Picture"

The rise of the University's new makerspace is paralleled by a new PSU discipline that takes full advantage of its capabilities. Electromechanical Technology and Robotics (EMTR) is a bachelor's program in robotics unlike any previously offered in New Hampshire.

"We're going to build really cool stuff!" says Professor Martin Hellwig, who came to PSU this year specifically for the EMTR program. Hellwig began teaching robotics in 2009 and holds a PhD in computer science and master's degrees in computer science, aviation, and business, and sees applications for all of these disciplines within EMTR.

The four-year program will feature hands-on, kinesthetic learning with courses in electronics, mechanics, microcontrollers, manufacturing technologies, and programming. Students will be able to choose from several electives that allow them to tailor their studies to career interests.

The four-year program will feature hands-on, kinesthetic learning with courses in electronics, mechanics, microcontrollers, manufacturing technologies, and programming. Students will be able to choose from several electives that allow them to tailor their studies to career interests.

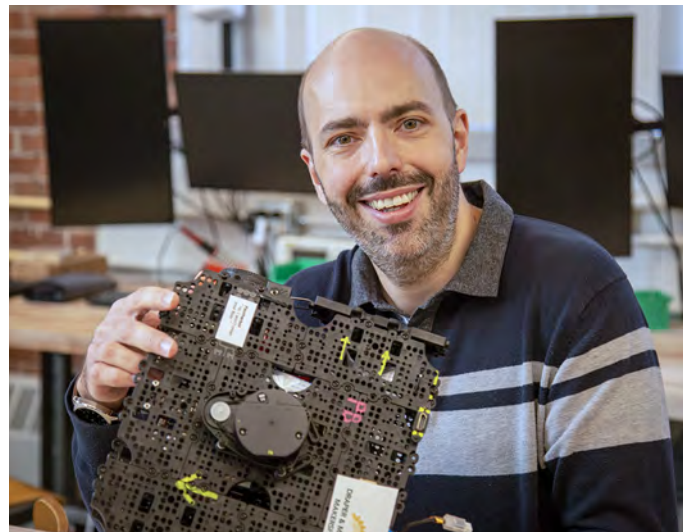
Computer science, electronics, and manufacturing will provide the program's base, upon which more specialized studies can be built through electives on industrial robotics, scientific robotics, aviation, national security, environmental robotics, and perhaps medical robotics. "Certainly, robotics in aviation and space

flight," says Hellwig, who anticipates that future PSU students may have access to an industrial unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) airframe and might even build one as part of their lab work.

Traditionally, robotics programs were conceived of as largely mechanical endeavors that taught students how to build machines or programming studies that enabled students to operate the machines. In line with the University's Cluster philosophy of preparing students for a rapidly evolving marketplace, the EMTR program is aiming for the sweet spot between those two career orientations.

"There is a lot of automated industry everywhere, and we need people to understand how these robots work," explains Hellwig. "We are going to say, 'This is how robots work on the mechanical level, on the electronic level, and on the programming level.' For potential employers, that means that our graduates will not only be able to operate a robot, but if something goes wrong, they'll have a general idea of why."

He continues, "We're not going to produce programmers who you can hire to write code for this 'thing' being developed, and we're not going to produce manufacturers who build the thing you want to have. Instead,



Robotics Professor Martin Hellwig.

EMTR program graduates should be people who actually understand the big picture and who might ultimately be in project management positions."

For example, a new UAV might be needed to detect invasive species entering the White Mountains due to climate change. PSU's future graduates would have enough understanding of the aviation world's technology, and will have developed sufficient programming aptitude, so that when they talk with the engineers and the programmers, they'll understand enough of the two areas to bring the overall concept together.

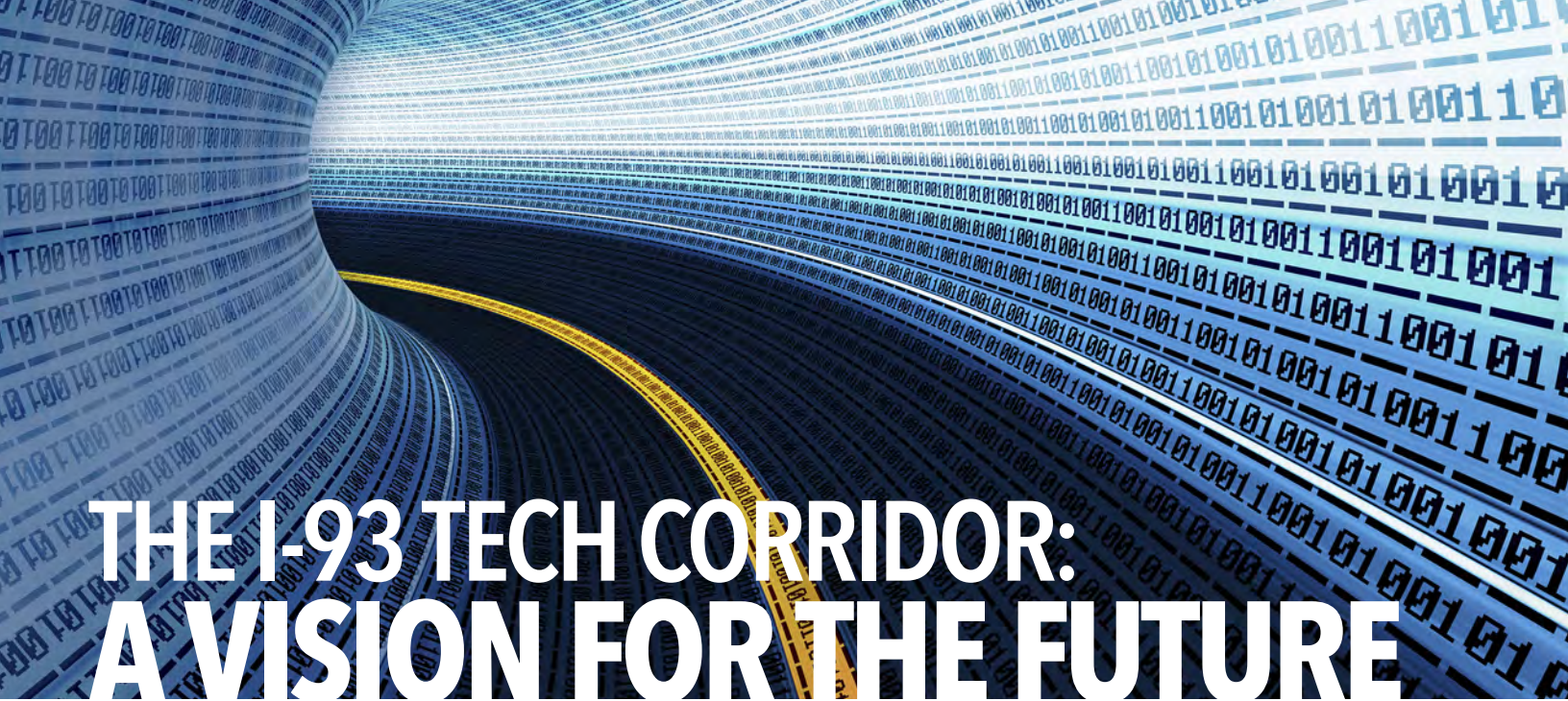
Additional examples with regional applications include search and rescue operations. UAVs might be used to find missing hikers, and other robots could retrieve individuals from dangerous locations, such as on thin ice.

Robotics 1 is now underway and is being fully taught in the new makerspace. The course features a non-traditional curriculum that combines short lectures, guided hands-on learning, and field visits to industrial sites, as well as the Plymouth Municipal Airport. Students will

be designing their own circuits, laser-etching their own circuit boards, and soldering electronic components onto them. They will identify one or more practical problems that they want to solve and build robots from scratch to address those problems. For just one example, students might design a robot with the capability to climb trees in order to trim its branches.

The makerspace's laser-cutter will be used to build circuit boards and to cut materials. Depending on the needs of individual projects, the plasma cutter may be used as well. Students will bend and weld metals and make extensive use of 3D printing.

This semester will culminate in a campus robot show, when multiple sections of Robotics 1 will present their creations to the campus community and beyond. Depending on what types of robots are built, the event may take place outdoors "rain or shine" or, if not, most likely in the D&M makerspace from whence they sprang. Either way, look to *Plymouth Magazine* online for details and event coverage. ■



THE I-93 TECH CORRIDOR: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

New Hampshire Business and Economic Development Commissioner Taylor Caswell, on a recent visit to the University, observed that an “I-93 Tech Corridor” already exists in the southern part of the state. “We just have to bring it further north,” he said.

The commercial juggernaut to Plymouth’s south is a result of firms moving up from Massachusetts, foreign investment (*see FDI story on p. 13*), and homegrown entrepreneurs. The vision now being formulated by Plymouth State and other regional entities imagines extending the corridor to the White Mountains and beyond, with the state’s North Country beginning a new chapter as a dynamic, high-tech node.

“It might not be too great a dream to think we could, over time, build something akin to the next Silicon Valley,” says President Donald Birx.

Lining up our ducks

Plymouth State University is convening discussions with regional stakeholders to begin the process of fleshing out a unified proposal that aims to

transform the North Country’s economic prospects. The vision represents a confluence of natural assets, technological advances, and timing.

The goal is to proactively assess the region’s assets and growth priorities, putting its proverbial ducks in a row for future grant applications. The beauty of the region and its highly desirable way of life, its proximity to technology-rich regions to the south, and a high-speed transportation corridor (I-93) right through the state are solid building blocks already in place. Missing elements have included a pathway to create the workforce and educational programs that draw technology companies and enable them to thrive in the state, an interface between education and business that could be further enhanced, and high-speed internet in some areas. These barriers to growth, however, are beginning to fall.

Meeting the demands of industry

New Hampshire currently has one of the nation’s highest percentages of elderly residents, but

many more young professionals would consider making the Granite State their home if they could find suitable employment. Bill Dowey, an economic development consultant based in Bristol, NH, maintains that the region’s many selling points, together with the anticipated technological advancements, will induce skilled workers. “We want to bring young people in and tell them, ‘You can recreate here, and you can work here.’”

“The improved infrastructure can merge the North Country’s fantastic way of life with high-tech opportunities and, in turn, create an exciting future for many,” observes Jon Freeman, president of Northern Community Investment Corporation. “The collaborative efforts of the state, PSU, and our partners to support this development is moving the potential ever closer.”

There is already great demand in New Hampshire for high-tech industry workers. Plymouth State can help meet that demand by equipping young people with tools sought by employers.

The University has a clear role to play in educating the

workforce needed to handle the new technologies. The tech corridor vision has already been part of the rationale for developing Plymouth State programs like Electromechanical Technology and Robotics (*see p. 10*) and the new bachelor’s and certificate programs in Transformative Innovation and Design Entrepreneurship (TIDE). “We’ve developed Clusters that do everything from Exploration and Discovery to Innovation and Entrepreneurship,” says Birx. “We’ve set our educational process in place to support an approach that is regionally transformative.”

“Another approach being actively pursued is to provide certificate programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials,” says Joe Boyer, director of PSU’s Center for Research & Innovation. “Much like lawyers need to pass a bar exam, employees in the high-tech areas of cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, health information systems, etc. must pass industry-recognized exams to further their careers. PSU has begun matching those business needs with academic curricula in

order to provide new pathways to success, and both business employees and PSU students will benefit from this model, while the University will realize new funding sources.”

Making the high-speed connection

The drive to extend broadband access to rural communities has strong momentum, notes Professor Marcia Schmidt Blaine. “I’m a member of the New Hampshire Commission on Rural Affairs, which sees it as a major priority,” she says.

Bristol, a few miles south of Plymouth, is currently putting in high-speed fiber that will enable 10-millisecond latency response, which will minimize electrical service fluctuations. “We want to be that first corridor town,” says Bill Dowey, the economic development consultant who, after a career in tech, now chairs Bristol’s Economic Development Committee and formerly chaired the town’s Energy Committee. “Robotics and telemedicine need

it, and we want industries to choose Bristol for expansion.”

5G, the latest iteration of wireless service that is currently being rolled out, is another crucial step in the spread of the robotics industry and tech in general. 5G’s relatively instant, interactive communications will result in robots being able to incorporate instructions in real time, allowing medical professionals, for example, to examine patients remotely and address health issues immediately.

Higher education’s essential role

Birx notes the essential role of higher education in advancing the concept. “It has always been one leg of every successful transformation that’s occurred within a community, whether it’s out west in Silicon Valley, down in the North Carolina’s Research Triangle, or along Boston’s Route 128. All of them have had, at the core, universities working with industry and government.”

A key factor uniting the three above-mentioned regions is the tremendous opportunity for

companies to find research associates and long-term employees. These similar concentrations of talent are largely due to the area universities, which serve as powerful magnets.

Birx has a strong track record of brainstorming executable proposals with regional partners. “We’ve done this so many times in the universities I’ve been a part of,” he says. As chancellor of Penn State Behrend, Birx led the development of its Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Center. The large-scale open laboratory revitalized a previously money-losing industrial park into a successful private-public partnership, which turned a profit with full capacity. In his previous post at the University of Houston, Birx founded the Center for Industrial Partnerships, which increased interaction between the business community and the university’s research faculty.

If you build it, “they” will come

The *Field of Dreams* mantra playing out in northern New

Hampshire has two parts. The first “they” refers to the high-tech businesses and workers the state hopes to attract, and the second to the New Hampshire college graduates it hopes to retain; “they” are already here but might be forced to leave if high-skills employment is lacking.

The need and the opportunity are clear for those with vision, believes Birx.

“We’ve got a visionary governor (Chris Sununu) and a visionary commissioner (Taylor Caswell), and it seems like the time might be right to start really thinking about extending the I-93 corridor and build this vision of what could happen in the North Country,” he says.

“Planning doesn’t demand a lot of funds, but it does require an inclusive strategy to guide and pull together a vision and commitment from all of the communities involved so we can make this a reality over the coming decades.” ■



Governor’s Cup Competition Welcomes High School Robotics Enthusiasts to PSU

Plymouth State’s reputation as a high-tech hub is growing among the state’s secondary schools due to the University’s sponsorship and hosting of the annual Governor’s Cup FIRST Robotics Competition. Hundreds of high school robotics enthusiasts and their families have competed in fall competitions held over the last two years in the University’s Bank of New Hampshire Field House.

In the inaugural competition, Gov. Chris Sununu snaps a selfie with inventor and entrepreneur Dean Kamen, founder of FIRST.

See full story online at plymouth.edu/magazine.

Isidro Rodriguez photo.

Foreign Direct Investment

Strengthening New Hampshire's Economy



Foreign direct investment (FDI) is a term that evokes thoughts of long-distance stock plays in far-flung locales, but in reality, FDI plays an outsized role in New Hampshire's economy. Approximately 190 foreign companies in 46 industries operate in the state, supporting approximately 8 percent of the state's overall private-sector employment—compared with a national average of 5.4 percent—which translates to over 43,000 residents finding employment as a result of international investment.

State officials and the Granite State business community would like to see those numbers grow even larger, and researchers at Plymouth State University are helping. Representatives from all three cohorts gathered at Plymouth State in October for a dedicated forum—The Future of Foreign Direct Investment in New Hampshire—to share ideas and map out next steps.

The day's keynote address was tendered by Commissioner Taylor Caswell, head of New Hampshire's

Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) and an enthusiastic supporter of FDI around the state. "We want to continue to grow access to markets for New Hampshire companies and grow jobs for our residents, and FDI represents an exciting way to do this," he observes.

The opportunities for cultivating FDI came into sharp focus for Caswell in March 2018 when he read the *New Hampshire Foreign Direct Investment Report: Presence and Contributions to State and County Economies*, the work of Plymouth State professors Roxana Wright '01MBA and Chen Wu. "The specific issues around FDI in New Hampshire hadn't been the subject of a study of this scale before, and it opened a lot of eyes in the state," says Caswell.

Professor Wright's follow-up report in May 2019—*Foreign Investment and Business Activity Patterns and Trends in New Hampshire, 2001–2018*—elicited further interest. It revealed that New Hampshire business activity involving foreign

companies has been on the increase, with foreign business activity almost doubling in 2017 as compared to the past years with highest activity. So when conversations began about this year's forum, Caswell was all in. "This is a good moment in time to have this conversation," he asserts.

Caswell was especially enthusiastic about the chance to bring together practitioners from the worlds of government, academia, and the business community to brainstorm on strengthening FDI in the state. "It's a big strategy of mine to advance cooperation within this triangle of resources, and studies such as these help to guide conversations on how we can move forward as a state," he says. Given New Hampshire's small size, these types of collaborative relationships are already baked into the state's economy, Caswell maintains, but the results are often underestimated. "Strong working relationships between government and business benefit all parties, and drawing on the knowledge base within

APPROXIMATELY
190 FOREIGN
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PRIVATE-SECTOR
EMPLOYMENT.





"Students bring fresh eyes and ideas to the process. They can do quality research and come up with creative ways to move companies, economies, and sectors forward."—ROXANA WRIGHT

Panelists discussed opportunities for record-breaking FDI development that was highly relevant to business professionals.

Mackenzie Fullerton '17 photo.

our universities, which are training the next generation of workers, can only help. Research like that done by Drs. Wright and Wu is very helpful in guiding our thinking about policy."

Study coauthor Chen Wu is equally enthusiastic about working collaboratively to advance the state's economy. "I would like to see bridges built between foreign investors, economic development professionals, and university researchers," says Professor Wu. "In geometry, the most stable relationship is the triangle, and I think the same concept holds true in this situation. If we can facilitate a strong collaborative relationship between these three parties in New Hampshire, everyone in the state will benefit."

A public policy researcher, Wu says he sees tremendous opportunities for advancing FDI in the state through a holistic approach. "I believe we can facilitate an increase in overall FDI by strengthening the structure between state and county economic development professionals," he explains. "We want to encourage a system in which state economic development staff have the information and tools to attract foreign investors to New Hampshire, and county officials have the tools to close the deal."

Rigorous academic research like that presented by Plymouth State in its recent FDI forum offers excellent insight into burgeoning opportunities

for foreign investment, Wu notes. For example, he says, studies show that two-thirds of New Hampshire's FDI is located on the state's southern border with Massachusetts, in Hillsborough and Rockingham counties. The research and tech support available to foreign companies, together with the skilled labor force in the area, make the region a natural choice for developing a high-tech cluster to attract more foreign businesses to the state.

"There's a concept known as 'FDI agglomeration,'" says Wu. "It means that foreign businesses like to be around other foreign businesses, particularly those from their own country. The proximity to one another allows them to share a labor force and strengthens their bargaining power with local governments. This concept is something that our state can leverage to great advantage." The same is true on New Hampshire's northern border, Wu continues, where Canadian companies are a natural target for outreach.

Study coauthor Roxana Wright is pleased that her research into FDI has resonated with those in the business development community. "Our partnership with BEA provides a very good example of how PSU integrates with majority stakeholders in New Hampshire and works with different entities to develop the state," she observes. "Once we started working with members of the state's economic

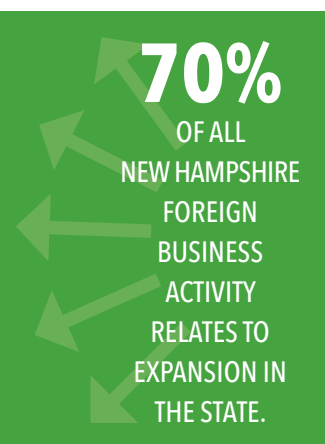
development team, we became an integral part of important conversations, such as those surrounding the 10-year strategic plan and the role of FDI in New Hampshire's economic future."

Wright and fellow faculty members are now taking their research to the next step. "Now we're looking at questions like, How do we make this information more actionable for economic development professionals? and How can we make New Hampshire a more inviting place for foreign businesses to relocate and/or grow?" says Wright. "As researchers, it's important to feel like we're part of something bigger in the state, so this work is quite rewarding."

Professors Wu and Wright, together with PSU colleague Professor Jonathan Dapra, co-organized the October forum. The three also coauthored two studies that were released at the event: "FDI 101 | An Overview of Foreign Direct Investment" and "NH FDI Data Commentary | Fall 2019."

"FDI is a somewhat wonky term," says Professor Dapra, "but we want to make it more actionable and accessible. At the heart of things what it really means is, if you're a foreign company, we want you to come to New Hampshire and establish a presence."

Unlike many other states, New Hampshire does not currently have a formalized office of FDI, Dapra explains, so identifying ways that



researchers' findings can be used to assist economic development professionals and government agents in attracting foreign businesses to the state is doubly important. "Our goal is to take FDI out of the clouds and make it actionable and meaningful," says Dapra.

Dapra's words delight Marc Jacques, senior political and economic affairs officer at the Consulate General of Canada in Boston. "We're always happy to have any opportunity to help people understand how to trade with Canada," says Jacques, who spoke at the forum. "Canada and the US work together incredibly well—we share similar political and economic philosophies, and we're on the same page with respect to regulation. We enjoy doing business with people we know and like, and Quebec and Eastern Canada know New England well." New Hampshire is historically Canada's largest overall trading partner in both imports and exports, Jacques notes, so efforts to facilitate Canadian investment in the state make sense.

During the forum, PSU researchers gathered valuable feedback on ways in which they can make their studies more actionable for economic development professionals moving forward. They also collected data that will inform further development of MaiaGrowth©—a new FDI planning tool currently under development at Plymouth State, which was previewed at the forum.

Dapra hopes that the forum is just the first of many forays into bolstering the state's pursuit of FDI. "I'd like to see a continuing dialogue in New Hampshire and then expand the conversation into other states," he observes. "The forum was a great first step toward increasing recognition of FDI and moving the concept from economic speak to business speak."

FDI is essentially about a particular type of client with specific needs, Dapra continues. "When we started to talk about foreign-owned subsidiaries, forum attendees quickly grasped how they could become a part of developing FDI in the state."

HOME COUNTRY OF FOREIGN COMPANIES INVOLVED IN BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

[In relative order.]

Canada
UK

France

Japan

Switzerland

Spain

Ireland

Australia

Belgium

Taiwan

South Korea

Germany

Denmark

New Zealand

Sweden

India

Netherlands

Israel

Singapore

Norway



The picture coalesced for forum attendees with the day's final panel, a conversation with an executive from Revision Military, a Canadian company with a New Hampshire subsidiary. The executive and two New Hampshire economic development professionals joined Dapra on stage to discuss the company's experience in setting up shop in the state. "After the panel, most of our guests said, 'This made everything come to light,'" observes Dapra. "I think the real story, highlighting the impediments and milestones, was truly inspirational. Attendees realized that they, too, could be part of such a journey."

Dapra and Wright also see exciting opportunities to leverage exploration of FDI for mutual benefit to potential foreign investors and Plymouth State students. "Dr. Wright and I run a student consulting class where students research and prepare feasibility studies for companies here in New Hampshire," says Dapra. "We're getting great results with clients, and I can easily imagine reaching out to foreign companies to say, 'Would you be interested in a feasibility study for opening a subsidiary here?' It's a win-win. The company gets valuable information, and our students are afforded a powerful experiential learning experience."

"Students bring fresh eyes and ideas to the process," says Wright. "They



can do quality research and come up with creative ways to move companies, economies, and sectors forward."

Dapra is enthusiastic about the long-term potential of the relationships being forged through exploration into FDI for both the University community and the state and is eager for alumni to understand the importance of the research and education taking place at their alma mater. "I want our graduates to know that this is a school that's growing and innovating, a place where students can come, learn, and leave with distinct skills and values that they can use out in the world."

■ **Lori Ferguson**

*Editor's note:
The FDI studies
referenced in
this article are
available online at
[go.plymouth.edu/
FDIforum](http://go.plymouth.edu/FDIforum).*

Professors
Jonathan Dapra,
Roxana Wright, and
Chen Wu.

Mackenzie
Fullerton '17 photo.



A Dream Come True



with Professor Matthew Kizer, *Brilliant Being's* Lighting Director

Photos by Richard Finkelstein

Last summer, Professor Matthew Kizer and a team of PSU faculty and students performed *Brilliant Being*, a stunning original work, at the Prague Quadrennial in the Czech Republic. Questions by Doran Dal Pra '07.

Brilliant Being looks absolutely fascinating and doesn't appear to be your average performance—how did the show come about?

It goes back to 2015 when Director of Dance Amanda Whitworth and I did a workshop called *Shaping Space*. We had been talking about wanting to track performers' movements on stage, but we didn't have access to the technology that we wanted at that time.

I showed her something I had done long ago with the BASIC computer language that I had first learned in high school. I created screen-capture demonstrations of concepts for her, and we made some performance pieces using new procedures and presented them in a workshop.

A projection technology upgrade enabled us soon after to create *Brilliant Being*. Professor Jonathan Santore was the composer; Amanda Whitworth choreographed; Paul Mroczka was the playwright and director; and I did all the visuals. It was a wonderful combination of some old-school and a lot of cutting-edge technology that was initially staged at PSU.

How did you adjust the performance for such a unique venue?

The Quadrennial includes performances, an exhibition, a conference, and much more, with roughly 100,000 attendees. I was inspired to submit *Brilliant Being* for special exhibition on behalf of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, as well as to the organizing body in Prague for performance as a part of the festival. It was accepted by both organizations. The visual design was displayed in the exhibition of nations, and our team also presented the complete performance in Prague.

The original set had a three-dimensional, almost M. C. Escher-esque cubist layout with crazy angles. I reengineered it to fit the Quadrennial space, which had stained cement walls, cement floor, and wraparound balconies. It was really kind of cool.

The show's visual effects have a dream-like quality. As visual designer, your role must have been key. Where did you gather your inspiration?

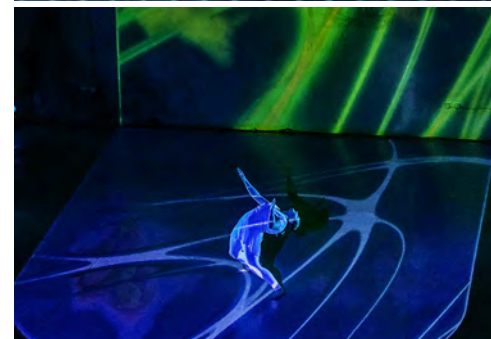
Much of this is coming from the original script. The show is very abstract: our world is destroyed, and we're starting over. It starts off pitch black for almost five minutes as Dr. Santore's music begins. No two people I talk to have the same response to it.

How did your manual control of visuals and effects, instead of just running a computer program, add to the show?

It makes the media another performer. The actors know they don't have to do the same thing every time, that there is some room for them to adjust and adapt and improvise a little, and I know that too. The reality is, when you work in performing arts long enough, you come to understand that's what makes shows vibrant and alive. There's this edge to the show—you don't feel like everybody's just going through the motions yet again.

What did the students take away from the experience that can help them in future careers inside or outside theatre? How did they benefit from the opportunity?

Here in the United States, we have a very clear formula for shows, but other cultures do things differently. At the Prague Quadrennial, there are massive rooms filled with documented theatre work, strange performance techniques, and performances going on all around you. You learn to question how you do things and think about new ways to innovate. Students discovered that sometimes throwing that formula out is one of the strongest things that you can do. ■



Classes ending in 5 and 0, celebrate reunions
at **Homecoming & Reunion Weekend—**
September 25-27, 2020!

Class of '80 and prior classes, please
also join us at the **Summer Reunion—**
July 30-31, 2020!

Thomas Riesenbergs '75 with his extended family.



Left: Joseph Gray '80 carved *Basalt Beauty* from volcanic lava columns formed in the Pacific Ocean.

Below: Mark Sanderson '79.



Left: A gathering of Alpha Theta fraternity brothers and their spouses at Not Your Average Joes. Seated (l-r): Richard Archambault '81, Steve Demarais '80, Terry Reddington '80, Donna O'Brien '83, and Betsy Bowen '83. Standing (l-r): Dave Bowen '84, Jim Murray, Scott Fallavollita '80, Gary Heckman '81, Mike O'Brien '80, Katherine Hall '81, and Steve St. Lawrence.

1960 & 1965 Reunions

1960s

Congratulations to Pat and **Jim Goss '68**, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this summer.

1970 & 1975 Reunions

1970s

Christine Johnson '71 retired from Special Olympics New Hampshire on March 9, 2016. She says, "It was the best job I ever had!" Christine and her husband, Tom, recently moved back to Manchester, NH, into a downtown high rise. They enjoy spending time with their nine nieces and nephews and eight grandnieces and grandnephews.

Mark Haynes '72 successfully sought a second term on Laconia's City Council.

Lee Richman Nelson '72 and her two daughters recently launched a foundation in memory of her husband, **Dana Nelson '69**. "We're incredibly passionate about finding a cure for

MS, about funding the research to get to that cure," said Heather Nelson, foundation vice president. More info. at dananelsonfoundation.com.

Usha Valerie Vailey '73 is happily married to Vijay Mehta and thoroughly enjoying retirement in South Florida. Usha writes, "I have enjoyed a long career teaching in middle school. Being educated at Plymouth State University was a wonderful preparation for tackling life challenges."

Peter Cofran '74, '88G has retired as director of athletics at Newfound Regional High School after 12 years, where he was recently inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame. Previously, he had worked at the PE Center for 23 years. He was recently recognized with the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's Distinguished Service Award for New Hampshire at the national convention in December in National Harbor, MD.

Thomas Riesenbergs '75 (pictured above) retired from Penn Medicine in December, after 43 years in health-care IT. He writes, "This was a fabulous career field. I chose Plymouth State because it was a good school with a small NH town atmosphere and provided me with a solid business foundation." Thomas plans to visit with his three children, their spouses, and eight grandchildren.

Dr. Susan C. Robins '75 of Windsor, NH, has retired from teaching.

Deacon Paul Gaucher '75 has relocated his church ministry to St. Mary of the Lakes Catholic Church in Eustis, FL. He continues to operate his sporting goods sales agency.

Deborah A. Pack '79 has completed 10 years of service at the University of New Hampshire.

Mark Sanderson '79 (pictured above) enjoys tennis, pickleball, photography, and time with his family, which now includes grandchildren.

1980 & 1985 Reunions

1980s

Joseph W. Gray '80 built a tribute to the child victims of the Holocaust for the New Hampshire Holocaust Memorial in Nashua, NH. "I carved a small girl walking out of an arch of fire from a six-ton piece of NH granite," he writes. "The tears running down her face tell the story." Another of his sculptures, *Basalt Beauty* (pictured above), a tribute to his Native American ancestry, is on display at Alnoba in Kensington, NH.

Gary Heckman '81 retired in 2017 from Aetna Insurance Company after 35 years in Information Technology. Since retiring, he has volunteered at The World Rowing Championships event in Sarasota, FL, and has a part-time job with the Pittsburgh Pirates as a driver in Bradenton, FL. When he is not volunteering or working, he is usually out riding one of his Harley motorcycles.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE GREAT 2020 EVENTS!

January 14

American Meteorological Society
Alumni Gathering at AMS
100th Anniversary Conference
Boston, MA

March 2-7

Alumni in Florida

March 13-15

Alumni-Women's Leadership Summit
Winter Adventure Weekend
Pinkham Notch, NH

March 27-28

Ski Hooky Weekend
Friday-Cannon Mountain, NH
Saturday-Loon Mountain, NH

May 21

Raymond S. Burton '62 and
Robert Frost Annual Awards Dinner
Plymouth, NH

June 26-28

Plymouth State Greek Alumni Reunion Weekend
"No Matter the Letters, Greeks Stand Together"
Plymouth State University

July 25-26

Women's Leadership Summit
Plymouth State University

July 30-31

Summer Reunion with a Special
Plymouth Players Reunion
Plymouth State University

September 25-27

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend
Plymouth State University

For details about these and other events, please visit
go.plymouth.edu/AlumniEvents.



2019 Homecoming & Family Celebration

Alumni Recognition Awards

**Gene '58 and Joan '56 Savage Welcome Center, PSU Ice Arena
Saturday, October 5, 2019**

2019 Graduating Senior Award of Excellence
Janet Currier '19

2019 Recent Alumni Award of Excellence
Alex Herbst '15 (awarded posthumously)

2019 Distinguished Alumni Service Award
Sean Parah '91

2019 Alumni Achievement Award
Keith Noyes '00, '08G

2019 Outstanding Graduate Alumni Award
Christine Brennan '08G, '12CAGS

2019 Faculty/Staff Award of Excellence
Lourdes B. Avilés, PhD

2019 Ut Prosim Award
Ken Moulton '73



E. Lloyd Soucie '87MED was recently elected to the position of Lions Clubs International District N1 Governor for 2019–2020. District N1 encompasses the provinces of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and three border clubs in Maine: Fort Kent, Fort Fairfield, and Calais. Soucie resides in Fort Kent, ME, with his wife, **Leonette Soucie '87MED**. Both have been retired from education since June 2001. They have a son, daughter, and five grandkids. The oldest grandchild is a graduate of Maine Maritime Academy, and the youngest is in 3rd grade.

1990 & 1995 Reunions

1990s

Dr. Megan J. Foley '90 finished her dissertation, “Patriarchal Killjoys: The Experiences of Three (Women) University Band Directors,” and will be awarded her DMA in Music Education from Boston University in May. She thanks Dr. Robert Swift (emeritus faculty), Dr. William Dougherty (former music theory and composition faculty), and the late Bill Gibson (percussion teacher) for their influence, encouragement, and planting of the seed long ago!

Elisa (Pascucci) Burns '90 will be retiring in June from Lynnfield Public Schools in Lynnfield, MA, after 29 years of service in public education. Upon graduation from PSC, she received a distinguished award within her physical education major. Burns spent her entire career in Lynnfield instilling the importance of movement education. She firmly believes that educating the whole child is an essential piece of a child's educational journey. She will be recognized by Lynnfield Middle School on June 5, 2020, and by Lynnfield Public Schools Administration and School Committee on June 11. Her husband, **Craig Burns '89**, and son, **Jake Burns '19**, are fellow proud alumni of Plymouth State.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Plymouth State alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who have passed away.

Helen S. (Chase) Daniels '41
June 19, 2019, Lisbon, NH

Elizabeth M. (Millar) Howard '42
May 23, 2019, Laconia, NH

Reta M. (Ordway) Bigelow '43
March 1, 2019, Tampa, FL

F. Barbara (Jones) Woodward '43
June 7, 2019, Meredith, NH

Fernande Stanford '44
August 28, 2019, Richmond, VT

David O. Wade '50
April 16, 2019, Phillipston, MA

Marie M. (Flanagan) Mongan '54
June 16, 2019, Chichester, NH

Janet I. (Burnham) Bickford '55
April 28, 2019, South Tamworth, NH

Vivian M. (Samaha) Farley '56
May 17, 2019, Barnegat, NJ

Ralph E. Murphy '56
April 27, 2019, Kirkwood, MO

Reginald C. LaCasse '57
September 12, 2019, Old Lyme, CT

Carol A. (Willis) Aldrich '58
March 23, 2019, Penacook, NH

Beverly A. (Richard) Ashnault '58
March 28, 2019, Williamsburg, VA

Kenneth J. Beaupre '60
July 21, 2019, Sanbornville, NH

Judith S. (Fuller) Davis '61
July 17, 2019, Weare, NH

Alice R. (Fishlock) Brooks '62
April 17, 2019, Wilton Manors, FL

David A. Schurman '63
September 22, 2019, Trumansburg, NY

Paul E. Grigas '64
May 24, 2019, Nashua, NH

Gerald Oleson '64
July 20, 2019, Bangor, ME

Elaine (Keeler) Barker '65
August 14, 2019, Exeter, NH

Lorraine E. (Currier) McBride '65
August 5, 2019, Farmington, NH

Andrea J. (Dame) Albert '69
April 29, 2019, Penacook, NH

Garvase N. White '69
July 8, 2019, Portland, OR

Richard B. Alexander '71
March 20, 2019, Hendersonville, NC

Paul R. Guilman '71
July 20, 2019, Nashua, NH

Judith (Cutler) Rayno '71, '79G
April 1, 2019, Wilmot, NH

Jeanne C. Thwing '71
August 25, 2019, West Boylston, MA

Susan C. (Crowley) Healy '72
May 25, 2019, Hopkinton, NH

Michael J. Lee '76
June 20, 2019, Boston, MA

Stephen E. Reid '78
April 29, 2019, Beaverton, OR

Jane C. Chandler '79
December 3, 2018

Bruce A. Mogayzel '81G
July 10, 2019, Vero Beach, FL

Nancy L. Powers-Daniels '81
September 4, 2019, Danville, NH

Joy S. Sailer-Gross '81
April 1, 2019, Brownsville, VT

Margaret (Seery) M. Croissant '82
August 1, 2019, Mont Vernon, NH

Joan A. Goodrich '88
August 29, 2019, Milton, NH

Jonathan S. Entin '90
April 2, 2019, Goodyear, AZ

David C. Talbot '94G
November 1, 2019, Woodstock, NH

Daniel P. Duguay '99
March 31, 2019, Franklin, NH

Carin J. Plante '99
September 27, 2019, Concord, NH

Alex R. Herbst '15
September 11, 2019, Harlingen, TX

Faculty, Staff, and Friends

The Honorable William Batchelder
May 7, 2019, Plymouth, NH

Margaret M. Cornell
August 3, 2019, Nesconset, NY

Mary T. Hanlon
March 7, 2019, Hull, MA

Elizabeth S. Kelsey
May 27, 2019, Exeter, NH

Betty Killen
November 16, 2018

John R. Martin
May 6, 2019, Forest Hill, MD

Patricia B. (Best) Morten
August 14, 2019, Meredith, NH

Ashton G. Peyrefitte Jr.
September 5, 2019, Metairie, LA

Donald A. Tennyson
May 9, 2019, Niles, MI

Scott Lemek '91 has been cancer-free for 13 years!

Diane M. Paillet '91 (pictured pg. 21) writes, “My degree was in management with a minor in math. I honestly had no idea what I wanted to do at that time, but the degree allowed me to understand the many aspects of the business world. I used that knowledge to become VP of sales for an executive recruiting firm for 15 years. I have since left that profession after completing my master's in secondary education. I am now a middle school science teacher and love what I do!”



Class of 1984 Annual No Excuses PSC Weekend in Saco, ME

Gerald Perreault '84, Laurie (Lund) Chandler '84, Rosemary (Blattenberger) Cerri '84, Karen (Cote) Thompson '84, Michelle (Fournier) Leever '85, Jennifer (Blakeman) Barlow '84, Elizabeth (Chase) Sargent '84, Laurie (Brodeur) Perreault '84, Karen (Anderson) Hall '84, and Susan (Guptill) Moccia '84.



Diane M. Paillet '91



Paul T. Flaherty '98 and Smokey Bear during NOAA's 2019 East Coast Hurricane Awareness Tour, Roanoke, VA.

Paul T. Flaherty '98 (pictured above) is a recipient of the 2019 Mister Car Wash, Inspiring Futures "Teachers Who Shine" award. Mister Car Wash recognizes teachers who go above and beyond to inspire their students. In 2019, just 36 teachers nationwide were recognized out of almost 2,000 nominations. Flaherty is flight meteorologist/flight director and science chief at NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center in Lakeland, FL, in addition to serving as physics adjunct at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, FL. He writes, "Traveling around the world for work, flying into hurricanes, teaching meteorology at night... my most important job is being the best dad I can be to my beautiful four-year-old (boy/girl) twins. Sometimes I get to sleep."

2000 & 2005 Reunions

2000s

Sarah Morin '00 (formerly known as Brian) became the first openly transgender educator in the history of the Muhlenberg School District, where she serves as a social studies teacher and grade-level leader. She was recently named to the board of directors of the LGBT Center of Greater Reading, PA.

Dr. Todd A. Shawver '00G has been named the dean of the Zeigler College of Business at Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, PA. Shawver has served as interim dean of the college

since August 2018. Previously, he served as chairperson and associate professor of accounting and was assistant professor in the department. Prior to joining the faculty at Bloomsburg University, Shawver served as a learning and development manager for the Institute of Management Accountants, instructor of accounting at Lafayette College, assistant professor of accounting and finance at Lock Haven University, visiting professor of finance at Bloomsburg University, and adjunct professor of accounting at both Wilkes University and King's College.

Andrew M. Tuccio '00 is principal of Raymond E. Shaw Elementary School in Millbury, MA.

Chet F. Bowen '02 is the state director for Community Integrated Services, which received the Compass Award from Community Crossroads for excellent service to the community. He is also a selectman for Goffstown, NH, and in 2017 he became chair of the board of UpReach, a nonprofit equestrian therapeutic riding center. His son, Cameron Thomas Bowen, was born February 26, 2016. He writes, Plymouth State "provided a network of human beings that I could connect with, while simultaneously providing a thorough education. I was allowed to make mistakes, learn from them and grow as a person. ... I strive to ensure my employees are allowed the same, and I love to help them grow as not just professionals but also as people."

NO MATTER THE LETTERS GREEKS STAND TOGETHER

ALUMNI REUNION 2020

JUNE 26-28

PLYMOUTH STATE GREEKS

plymouth.edu/GreekReunion



Gathering of Omega Omicron brothers in Portsmouth, NH, this spring 2019, celebrating the 45th year of the fraternity.

Angie Miller '02, '11G (pictured right) taught middle school for 12 years before being certified for library sciences and working as a school librarian for five years. From there, she spent a year teaching English in Costa Rica and then returned to teach high school English and history. She says about her adventures, "I've had the opportunity to work nationwide with classroom teachers and librarians, transforming what writing,



continued on page 23



4



6



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3



5

Left (l-r): Zac Carr '16, Nicole Littlefield '16, Joseph DiTommaso '14, Matt Cloutier '13, Chris Merrill '15, Cynthia MacGregor '15, Patrick Carr '14, Elizabeth (Chalmers) Fabbri '14, Mark MacGregor '14, Jake Wright '13, Nick Fabbri '13, '14G, Jaime Pellerin, David Munn '13, Nolan McCoy '16, Meghan McCarthy '16, Annie McCarthy '16.

Below (l-r): John Scheinman P'19, Chris Wilkinson '08, Mike Walcek '07, '08G, Devin Ruocco '07 and Mike Romps '94



We want to hear from you!

Got married? New job? New baby? Send us your updates and photos: plymouth.edu/alumni/connect.

EXCHANGING VOWS

1. **Mike Walcek '07, '08G** and Raina Martinec were married on May 18, 2019.
 2. **Jake Fox '11** and **Kelly (Bergeron) Fox '13** were married on November 17, 2018, at the Atkinson, NH, Country Club. In pure New Hampshire fashion, there was a blizzard the night before, and a planned fall wedding turned into a winter wonderland.
 3. **Kelly Sauvageau '12** and **Mike Spiak '12** were married on July 20, 2019, at Castleton in Windham, NH.
 4. **Katie Lozano '12** and **Tim Visich '13** were married in Portland, ME, on June 15, 2019.
 5. **Nick Fabbri '13, '14G** and **Elizabeth (Chalmers) Fabbri '14** were married on June 1, 2019, in Gloucester, MA. They met as freshman and sophomore at Plymouth State in 2010.
 6. **Kevin Lupo '14, '16G** and **Liana Haddad '15, '17G** were married on June 21, 2019.
- Marissa (Davis) Blake '17** was married in the summer of 2019.

ARRIVALS

Leah (Very) Wolcott '00 and **Matt Wolcott '00** welcomed their fourth child, Maeve Lucille, on November 12, 2019.

Beth (Hutchins) '05, '14MED and **Kevin Carpenter '07MED, '10CAGS** welcomed baby boy Griffin on April 22, 2019. Griffin joins siblings Wesley, Vivian, and Kherry.

Future PSU Panther, Jackson Metcalfe—expected class of 2036—was born on October 26, 2018, to **Riane (Herlihy) '08** and **Clifford Metcalfe '07**.

Catherine (Wilson) '08 and **Nicholas Tortola '12** welcomed their son, Matthew Thomas Tortola, on July 9, 2018.

Shawn Manfredo '09 and his wife, Katelyn, welcomed their first child, Emerson, on April 5, 2019.

Chantal LaPlante '12, '14 and **Ian Sindlinger '09, '14G** welcomed their son, Albee Wilder Sindlinger, on June 22, 2019.

Allison (Blais) '10 and **Zack Stone** welcomed their second child on September 4, 2019. Big brother Duke couldn't be more excited about his little sister Lily Rose!

Emerson

Jackson

Matthew

Right: Allison Stone '10, Zack, Duke, and Lily at Lake Winnepesaukee to celebrate the wedding of PSU classmate Lauren (Joyce) Miele '10.

research, and teacher leadership looks like in our public schools.” She has won many awards, including the 2011 NH Teacher of the Year award and was a 2015 National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellow. She is the author of *It's a Matter of Fact: Teaching Students Research Skills in Today's InformationPacked World*.

Sandy J. Pouliot '02G is leaving the classroom after 21-and-a-half years to become the assistant principal at Berlin Elementary School.

Mary C. March '04G received her second master's degree—an MFA in new genres—from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2014. Recently, her work has been shown in several museums, including at Intel's annual conference in Portland, OR (where she was a guest speaker), and the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (MOT), Tokyo, Japan. Her artwork is online at marymarch.com.

Beth (Hutchins) Carpenter '05, '14MED started a new job at MaineHealth as talent acquisition partner for Memorial Hospital in North Conway, NH.

Jessica A. Richardson '05, '14G has been named principal of Chichester Central School. “Teaching is in my blood,” she says. “I’m the fifth generation of educators in my family and the fifth generation who went to Plymouth State.” Previously, she was a principal at Henry Wilson Memorial School in Farmington. She is the chairwoman of the New Hampshire Educational Excellence Awards, a program to promote excellence in public education.

Dan Fife '06 (pictured right) still lives in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, pursuing his passion for marketing, especially in regard to big-box store retailers. His website, GoGetFifed.com, promotes local businesses and organizations that support autism.

Angela Dill '07 studied new frontiers in community-driven education while codeveloping an eco-leadership program with Para La Tierra, a local conservation organization in Paraguay last summer. (Read more at earthexpeditions.miamioh.edu.)

Kevin Carpenter '07MED, '10CAGS started a new job as principal of Kennett High School in Conway, NH.

Alejandro Marin '08 (pictured below) is a claims representative with the Social Security Administration. He writes, “Plymouth State taught me discipline, helping people less fortunate, and that it takes dedication and hard work to achieve your goals.”

Alejandro Marin '08 with relatives in the Florida Everglades.



Dan Fife '06, sporting a classic alumni sweatshirt, visits with alumni director Rodney Ekstrom '09G on campus.

Dustin Siggins '08 launched a nationally syndicated column through his publicity firm Proven Media Solutions. The monthly column showcases key business principles and commentary from celebrities and industry leaders. "I'm very excited about what this column offers business owners, media outlets, and business groups," said Siggins. Proven Media Solutions evolved from his time as a business student and *Clock* columnist, reporter, and editor. Siggins established himself as a political and policy journalist in the Washington, DC, area and has been placed in publications including *USA TODAY*, the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Washington Post*, and numerous NPR stations.

Brian C. Mahoney '09 was recently promoted to senior tax manager at PwC, PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP.

2010 & 2015 Reunions

2010s

Joshua Brennick '10 (pictured above) received the *Nashua Telegraph's* 40 Under Forty award for his success as the owner of JBrand Media, a digital marketing agency, as well as his contributions to the community.

Kyle Worth '11, '18G received the *Nashua Telegraph's* 40 under Forty award, honoring individuals for their success with their companies and contributions to their community.

Nicole Woods '12 obtained her Juris Doctor degree in 2017. The JD is the highest education available in the legal profession in the United States and is considered a professional degree.

Ericha L. Fahrner '12 is a mental health clinician and case manager at The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester on its Mobile Community Support Team, one of two umbrella teams under its Assertive Community Treatment Team.

Joshua Brennick '10



Stephen T. Quinn '13G is a scientific programmer III, one of the highest levels offered to contractors within his branch of NOAA/NESDIS/OSPO. "The meteorology program and satellite classes offered at Plymouth State prepared me well for my current job of science programming for weather satellite applications and products," he writes.

Michael Farkas '14 was voted onto the board of directors of the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association.

Rachel E. Grzejka '15 joined Residential Life at Plymouth State as a community director in July 2018, after completing her master's in social work at the University of New Hampshire.

Davis R. Dodge '16 is pursuing a PsyD in clinical psychology at Carlos Albizu University in Miami. He received an MA in clinical psychology from Rivier University in 2018. He writes, "PSU helped me get into a master's program. I love skiing, hiking, and spending time with friends—Plymouth fostered an excellent community for all of these."

Bethany L. Morin '16G is the director of alumni relations at Keene State College.

Kate Burgess '17 is the trip and internship coordinator for Mowglis School of the Open, an all-boys camp in Hebron, NH. She started her master's at Colorado State University in conservation leadership.



A gathering for the classes of 1980 and prior, with a special Plymouth Players Reunion!

This two-day event is for our alumni and their spouses or guests.

PLYMOUTH STATE
ALUMNI SUMMER
Association REUNION
July 30–31, 2020 –

More information at go.plymouth.edu/SummerReunion

Save the Date!



2020
Homecoming
and Reunion Weekend
Sept 25–27

go.plymouth.edu/Homecoming

Rebecca Hanson '17G is the new executive director and trustee of the Newfound Lake Region Association (newfoundlake.org/executivedirector). She will have a leadership role in the watershed protection organization.

Spencer L. White '17 is working as a paraprofessional at Preble High School in Green Bay, WI.

Caitlin Florentino '18 is the operations assistant at Madison Resources. She writes, "Plymouth State's Alumni Association was able to link me with alumni in my area to find a job and make professional connections."

Moenique Parris '18G has joined Guilford College in Greensboro, NC, as an assistant athletic trainer, providing care

to 24 intercollegiate teams. Previously, Parris was an assistant athletic trainer at Montana State University and California State University San Marcos, and a lead athletic training intern at PSU, Plymouth Regional High School, and Palomar College. She holds an American Red Cross CPR/AED for the professional rescuer certification, is a board-certified athletic trainer, and is a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

Eric W. Perry '19 is a user support analyst at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. He writes, "Every morning I drink my coffee from my Plymouth State alumni mug, and think of ... everyone at Plymouth State and the Student Support Foundation who helped me succeed." ■



Professor David Talbot '94G

The PSU community was saddened by the loss of Professor David Talbot '94G on November 1, 2019. He taught finance and economics for 15 years and contributed to all areas of campus life.

Prior to teaching at Plymouth State, Talbot enjoyed a long career in banking. He founded Granite Bank in Milford, where he served as president and CEO. He later served as treasurer for Booth Creek Ski Holdings; chief financial officer at Loon Mountain and Stratton Mountain; and CEO of Bolton Valley Ski Resort. In 2002, Talbot found his true passion teaching finance and economics at PSU, where he brought his wealth of industry knowledge and experience into the classroom for the benefit of his students.

Talbot was recognized in 2005 as an honored business faculty member and was inducted into Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in Business. He was particularly fond of his time as faculty leader of study-abroad experiences: two semesters at the University of Limerick in Ireland in 2011 and 2013, and one at Sant'Anna Institute in Sorrento, Italy, in 2015, and was a devoted PSU Ice Hockey fan.

Drew Bedard '08 is among many former students who recall Talbot with fondness. "Throughout the years, Dave was one of my greatest confidants—he offered sound advice on career moves, getting the courage to propose to my now wife, and helping me prepare for the arrival of my baby girl. He was easy to talk to and always offered a listening ear and thoughtful and profound advice."

The Talbot family welcomes contributions to The David '94G and Martha Talbot Endowed Scholarship in Finance or Accounting at Plymouth State University. Contributions may be made online at go.plymouth.edu/Talbot.

Learn more about giving to the David '94G and Martha Talbot Endowed Scholarship in Finance or Accounting through a philanthropic investment or bequest by contacting Director of Planned Giving Ann E. Thurston '80, '00G, '07CAGS, (603) 535-2291, athurston@plymouth.edu.

Professor Talbot, (second row, on the far right in green shirt) traveled to Cuba in 2016 with a PSU travel-study group.

Photo courtesy of Filiz Ruhm.

