

Plymouth

MAGAZINE

THE MAGAZINE OF PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY | FALL 2016

Redefining the Educational Landscape

A full-page background image of a person with long brown hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a red backpack, climbing a steep, reddish-brown rock face. The climber is positioned vertically, with their head near the top of the frame and their feet lower down. They are using their hands to grip the rock. In the background, a dirt path winds through a desert landscape with sparse green and grey shrubs. Other people can be seen at the base of the cliff.

Immeasurable Impact

ALLWell North's Outdoor Center was featured on Homecoming weekend with the formal dedication of the Brennan C. Hart '85 Outdoor Education Planning Room. The ceremony highlighted the outside impact on PSU students that the John and Elizabeth Hart family has made, both through their capital gift to ALLWell North and the endowed scholarship fund they established in 1987 to memorialize their son and brother Brennan Hart '85, who died in a bicycle accident a week before graduation. The Hart family, past recipients of the Brennan Hart '85 Scholarship, and many Class of '85 alumni attended the dedication.

The Harts' initial \$10,000 gift has grown to be one of PSU's largest lump-sum scholarships. For Brennan's twin brother David Hart '85, the fund's target is especially rewarding: "We specifically wanted the scholarships to help people who aren't 'A' students. It's important to my family to enable leaders and achievers who aren't at the top of their class to pursue what they love."

Of the 50+ scholarships awarded since 1987, the impact on lives is immeasurable.

■ Orna Feldman

Several past recipients responded with photos and updates for a new Hart Scholarship display adjacent to the Brennan Hart Planning Room in the Outdoor Center. See more online at plymouth.edu/magazine.

Embodying a passion for the outdoors is recent recipient Brent Flaherty '14, seen here "following his compass" climbing in Snow Canyon, St. George, UT. Charlie Kessner photo.

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Cover: Kent Dayton photo.



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PSU alumni share memories of mentors who are retiring this year.




Barbara (Whittemore) Millar '37 celebrated her 100th birthday in June. Her first job after graduating from Plymouth Normal School was teaching grades 1-8 in a one-room schoolhouse in Lisbon, ME. It marked the beginning of a long and fulfilling teaching career. She now lives in Kittery, ME, is active in her church, and enjoys visits from her 11 nieces and nephews, and 27 grand-nieces and great-grand nieces and nephews!

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A scenic photograph of a lake. On the left, a large, leafy green tree dominates the foreground. In the middle ground, a green canoe is pulled up onto a grassy shore. Further out in the water, a person in a red kayak is visible, holding a paddle. The background shows a calm lake reflecting the sky and distant, hazy mountains under a soft, overcast sky.

Redefining the Educational Landscape

■ Lori Ferguson



Kayakers on Squam Lake in nearby Holderness, NH. Kent Dayton photo.

“CHANGE IS THE LAW OF LIFE. AND THOSE WHO LOOK ONLY TO THE PAST OR PRESENT ARE CERTAIN TO MISS THE FUTURE,” former president John F. Kennedy once commented. This trenchant observation could easily be the rallying cry for Plymouth State President Donald Birx, who is currently leading the University through a wholesale transformation that meets the future with open arms.



"The faculty and administration have always had a remarkable ability to look to the future and envision the possibilities that lie ahead, and we're once more on the cusp of something new."

Under President Donald Birx's leadership, Plymouth State is making a dramatic shift in administration and pedagogy, moving from a traditional university model to an integrated, interdisciplinary, cluster-based model that Birx believes will give students the combination of education and engaged scholarship necessary to compete successfully in an increasingly complex and interdisciplinary world.

Building on our strengths

Birx acknowledges that the undertaking is immense, encompassing both the academic and administrative aspects of the University, but he's confident that Plymouth State is up to the challenge. "The move to integrated clusters builds on the things that Plymouth State and this region have always been good at—an interdisciplinary and integrated approach to education." The institution has built a reputation for responding astutely to changing times and needs throughout its history, he points out. It started as a teachers college, became a training ground for business, and then morphed again into a regional, comprehensive university. "The faculty and administration have always had a remarkable ability to look to the future and envision the possibilities that lie ahead, and we're once more on the cusp of something new. We will be on the forefront of higher education, leveraging our strengths both institutionally and regionally, and doing something really impactful by giving our students an educational experience that's different than one they can get anywhere else."

To understand how this wholesale transformation will take place, says Birx, think of putting together a puzzle. "I don't start in the middle, because I don't yet understand the framework in which pieces fit together into a coherent image. Instead, I frame the outline and build clusters of pieces that look like they go together, and lastly add the connecting pieces that draw the whole image together."

Birx initiated the framing process a little over a year ago, shortly after he entered the president's office in July of 2015. Now, after numerous conversations among faculty, staff, alumni, and donors, the University has identified seven academic clusters within which all degree programs will be organized: Arts & Technologies; Education, Democracy & Social Change; Exploration & Discovery; Health & Human Enrichment; Innovation & Entrepreneurship; Justice & Security; and Tourism, Environment & Sustainable Development. "These integrated clusters were picked very carefully to build on the strengths of the University as well as the region," Birx notes. "They also recreate an integrated perspective of a liberal arts education that features engaged scholars and promotes transdisciplinary project-based learning, something I believe was lost to some extent during the last two centuries of increasing specialization and focus on discipline-based skills."

An ideal environment

Fundamental conceptually, Birx continues, are the ideas of "Exploration & Discovery" through to "Innovation &

Entrepreneurship”—the quest to explore ideas and then apply them. These concepts, which arguably are a part of each of the clusters, are highlighted here to bring together the STEM and business disciplines into the fold of a strong liberal arts education. In this context, he explains, entrepreneurship is not really a business concept, but a call to action. Those who learn to think entrepreneurially are more comfortable with risk and ambiguity and more willing to learn as they go. “It has been noted that entrepreneurs innovate because they see problems as opportunities,” Birx observes, “and there’s an openness to exploring, creating, discovering, and leading at Plymouth State that make it an ideal environment for this approach to learning.”

University environments are naturally rich settings in which to create and explore, says Birx, and Plymouth State has the added benefit of being situated in a region of abundant resources, with numerous assets available within a two-hour radius of the University. “We have individuals who have brought their expertise to this region from all over the world; they’re drawn by the natural beauty and the proximity to resources up and down the Eastern seaboard,” he notes. Many of the University’s faculty comes from richly varied backgrounds including business, industry, education, government, et cetera, making them natural proponents for the real-world learning integrated clusters entail. “We are ideally positioned to turn Plymouth State into a hotbed of activity for creative ideas and concepts,” Birx enthuses.

The University’s size also makes it well suited to the integrated clusters model. With approximately 4,100 undergraduates and 2,000 graduate students, Plymouth State is large enough to support such an integrated approach to learning, while at the same time small enough to make the structural changes necessary to facilitate the interconnected nature of the enterprise. Organizing the institution around integrated clusters will not only encourage exchanges across academic disciplines, but also streamline administrative processes and empower those closest to the points where decisions need to be made.

To guide students through the new integrated cluster approach to education, we are

discussing four tools: a first-year seminar, open laboratories, themed general education, and an integrative capstone project. The first-year seminar would engage incoming students with an introduction to the cluster learning process by posing a ‘challenge’ that must be solved through cross-disciplinary work with students in other disciplines and possibly with individuals from the community, including those in business, industry, and non-profits. Project-based learning can take place in open laboratories, spaces that encourage interactions among students, faculty, and staff as well as practitioners and those interested in the application of entrepreneurial ideas to real-world challenges.

Additionally, first-year students are being assigned success coaches who will guide them in mapping out a program of study within their chosen discipline as well as hopefully identifying four to five cluster areas that will provide breadth and key skills to help them along their chosen career path. For example, a freshman might enter the University seeking an arts degree and over the course of four years take a series of general education courses that span the Arts & Technologies

itself struggling in the wake of international competition. In 1961, the community countered the downturn by launching a university with a novel twist: students were required to develop a mini-business plan during their course of study and were schooled in a major, integrative business skills, and the interdisciplinary collaborations that are common to the real world. “Each time a student started a company, a tree was planted,” says Birx, “and, just 50 years later, there’s both a forest and a thriving business community. The richness of the environment is inspiring and the effects on the community have been transformational, socially and economically.”

The creative fermentation at the University of Cambridge has been similarly profound, Birx notes. “Cambridge students from a host of disciplines live, eat, and sleep together—you can have a political scientist living next to an engineer—and the opportunities for the cross-pollination of ideas are legion. In fact, Trinity College of the University of Cambridge has had 32 Nobel laureates and integrative thinkers such as Isaac Newton, Alfred Lord Tennyson, and Charles Babbage,” he observes in a rush of enthusiasm.

“It has been noted that entrepreneurs innovate because they see problems as opportunities, and there’s an openness to exploring, creating, discovering, and leading at Plymouth State that make it an ideal environment for this approach to learning.”—Donald Birx

cluster such as writing, digital media, gaming, or graphic design; or a course sequence in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and/or sustainability and resiliency. At the end of four years, the student would complete a capstone project to solve a challenge and demonstrate what has been learned over the past four years. “Our goal is for students to find their passion while at the same time discovering how their interests fit in with the challenges and needs of the twenty-first century global economy,” Birx explains.

For those who may wonder if such an approach works as well in practice as in theory, Birx offers up two examples: The University of Twente in the Netherlands and Great Britain’s University of Cambridge. Twente is located in the community of Enschede, a former mill community that by the late 1950s found



Enthusiastic support

Although Plymouth State's transformation to integrated clusters is in its nascent stages—the marketing campaign officially got underway in November—initial responses have been good. The University System of New Hampshire (USNH) Board of Trustees offered a full-throated endorsement, voting unanimously to support Birx's strategic vision. Parents and prospective students have also voiced support for the change. "I've had the chance to meet visiting students and their parents, explain the integrated clusters concept, and preview a couple of our new open labs, and they've been incredibly excited," says Birx. "Parents and students have told me 'This makes so much sense—this is how the world works. This is what we've been looking for!'"

Alumni, too, have voiced their approval for the integrated cluster model. Nick Vailas '76, a wellness and healthcare consultant and former director of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, lauds the interdisciplinary nature of the concept and is particularly enthusiastic about the 'Health & Human Enrichment' cluster. "Breaking down academic silos through integrated clusters and open labs provides allied health students greater interaction with healthcare professionals and a better understanding of the continuity of patient care," he says. "This will increase efficiencies, save time and money and, most importantly, ensure better outcomes for patients."

"In order to succeed as a nation, we must champion creativity and innovation, and as a university, we must foster an environment that facilitates those qualities and allows people to synthesize information across disciplines."—Donald Birx

Current PSU students have also had the opportunity to experience the power of the integrated cluster approach. In November of 2015, the University hosted a collaborative project based on a work of art by Christine Destremes, founder and director of Art & Dialogue, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness and promoting dialogue around the shrinking availability of clean water as a result of climate change, access, and commercial exploitation. Working with faculty and students, Destremes installed *10,000 Steps: Exploring Our Footprint and Her Long Walk for Water*—a piece designed to create awareness of the struggle for access to water that affects nearly 800 million people around the world—on Plymouth State's campus. In the months leading up to the installation, students from the departments of art, environmental science and policy, and philosophy worked alongside a group of international students to formulate activities, align curricula, and develop marketing materials related to the project and to global water issues.

The results were immediate and profound. Working side by side with art students, philosophy and history major Courtney Smith '17 discovered that adding a visual element to the learning process amplified understanding in ways she hadn't anticipated. Working across disciplines also increased Smith's appreciation for collaborative learning. "I'm applying to graduate schools now and have been looking for programs that are more interdisciplinary in nature than those I had previously considered," she says.

Philosophy major Joshua Butler '17 was similarly impacted. "It was a great experience. I found it extraordinarily beneficial to say, 'OK, here's what I've learned in the classroom, and here's how I can apply that knowledge.'" Butler says he learned how to interact with those

in other fields of study and, perhaps more importantly, realized that it was okay to ask for help, a takeaway that he characterizes as one of the most important lessons to come out of academia. "I know now that when I enter a debate, it's not helpful to shut people down—if you listen to others and communicate in a way that's beneficial to both parties, it's a lot easier to resolve conflicts, a lesson I think is especially relevant in today's society." Butler says he also took great pride in contributing to such a massive project. "I felt as though I helped by heightening people's awareness of water issues. I'm pursuing the study of philosophy in order to help people, and I feel as though this experience validated my choice."

"As the project progressed and the students saw their products in relation to other students' work, the effect of the interdisciplinary approach became clearer and energy, enthusiasm and support increased," observes Drerup Gallery Director Cynthia Robinson. "What we learned through 10,000 Steps was that together we can assemble a deep, rich, innovative, engaging, and powerful learning experience for students."

Experiences such as these are precisely what Birx is hoping the integrated clusters model will foster. Coming from the research world, Birx says he encountered many people who were deeply engrossed in their areas of specialization and often unaware of the interplay of extradisciplinary ideas. Consequently, they were prone to making more incremental changes rather than the integrative leaps that the challenges of our increasingly complex world demand. "In order to succeed as a nation, we must champion creativity and innovation, and as a university, we must foster an environment that facilitates those qualities and allows people to synthesize information across disciplines."



10,000 Steps:

Exploring Our Footprint and Her Long Walk for Water



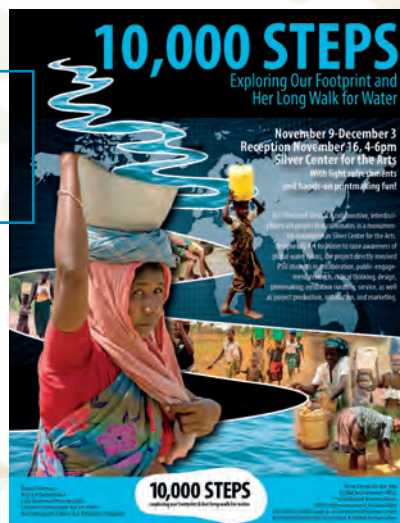
10,000

is the average number of steps women and girls in many developing countries have to walk each day to access clean water.

A MEANINGFUL INTEGRATION OF IDEAS AND DISCIPLINES

alumni
art
artists
business
collaboration
color & design
community
connections
design
engineering
environmental science & policy
exploration
faculty
global awareness
hands-on
installation
interdisciplinary
international
mathematics
partnerships
philosophy
printmaking
research
staff
storytelling
students
technology
videography
writing

The average US resident uses between 100 and 175 gallons of water per day.



783

million people worldwide do not have access to safe and clean water



"What we learned through 10,000 Steps was that together we can assemble a deep, rich, innovative, engaging, and powerful learning experience for students."—Cynthia Robinson



Above: Students perform a Brook Trout assessment in the Ammonoosuc watershed as part of an initiative to help protect small streams, preserve wildlife habitat, and cultivate a strong stewardship ethic in the region. The project, which gave students valuable hands-on learning experience, was a joint initiative among PSU's Center for Business and Community Partnerships, the Ammonoosuc Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and New Hampshire Fish and Game.

Photo courtesy of Art Greene of Ammonoosuc Trout Unlimited.

Birx acknowledges that the undertaking is large, but he is certain that the students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and community members who comprise PSU and its environs will rise to the occasion. In fact, he's so confident of the collective community's abilities to meet the challenges ahead that he has committed the University to the Climate Reality Project's '100% Committed' Campaign, pledging that by 2030, Plymouth State will be powered by 100% renewable electricity. "It's an impossible mission, yet it's a great cluster project for precisely that reason. These types of challenges create an incubating environment where great things can happen. The task will draw together individuals from across the University community and force us to ask, 'How can we synthesize ideas in order to innovate successfully?' 100% Committed offers a perfect vehicle for creating and engendering the type of thinking that the integrated clusters model is predicated upon."

Birx is eager to get both this challenge and his bigger mission underway. "Once the concept starts to coalesce and the integrated clusters start self-reinforcing, we'll really begin to pick up speed," he concludes. "Witnessing the transformation to this new learning model here at Plymouth State will be like witnessing a phase change. When water changes from a liquid to a solid, crystals begin to form and then exponential growth leads to a sheet of ice—a solid, cohesive unit. It's a perfect metaphor for the holistic, synergistic change we're striving for in the integrated clusters approach to learning here at Plymouth State—where what each of us does reinforces everything else and where each of us has a role in the final result." ■



The Center for Business and Community Partnerships

Fostering collaboration with regional partners

A cornerstone of the clusters initiative is the drive to create an integrated learning environment in which PSU students can collaborate with community members to solve real-world challenges. From the time they enter the University, students will have the opportunity to work side-by-side in open laboratories with practitioners in business, industry, government, and non-profit agencies, seeking solutions that benefit both the University and the region.

At Plymouth State, these interactions are facilitated by the Center for Business and Community Partnerships (CBCP), which supports collaborative and reciprocal relationships among students, faculty, and an off-campus network of industry partners from both the commercial and not-for-profit sectors. By linking PSU faculty and students with external partners, the CBCP fosters initiatives that have significant intellectual, social, cultural, scientific, and economic outcomes.

According to CBCP Director Ben Amsden, community enthusiasm for the clusters initiative is high. "This semester the center has received 70 external inquiries and is currently facilitating active partnerships involving 103 organizations, 190 students, and 22 faculty/staff." Organizations that are currently partnering with PSU include the Appalachian Mountain Club, the New Hampshire Electric Co-op, the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, and the White Mountain National Forest.

"The clusters initiative is incredibly exciting," says Grafton Regional Development Corporation CEO Chris Wellington. "We welcome the opportunity to get Plymouth State students more engaged with the business community. Not only do we feel that hands-on experiences will prove beneficial to them, but we also believe the clusters and open laboratories have the potential to improve the workforce issues this region is currently facing. Attracting and maintaining a young workforce is one of the largest issues facing central and northern New Hampshire at the moment, so making connections between students and members of our business community is critical. I can't wait to see new collaborative projects get underway."

Want more information and to get involved? Contact:

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Rodney Ekstrom '09G: (603) 535-2217 or raekstrom@plymouth.edu

Re-imagining a University Education

IN THE LAST YEAR

I've heard many things about clusters. Across campus there have been public discussions and private conversations. I've heard that clusters involve just research, or they are limited to industry, or they are simply just another fad in higher education these days.

There are research clusters at top research institutions where various disciplines come together and conduct research to find solutions to problems or to invent new things. However, I wasn't sure what clusters would mean to Plymouth State since our tradition has focused primarily on teaching and service to the community. Not only have clusters come to organize academic affairs at PSU but also our institution is being reorganized in an integrative fashion across departments. At this point, I know that we're evolving as an organization and we're embarking on something very different from practices at other institutions. **This is no fad.**

A guiding force

Institutions that have research clusters are still organized within and by a traditional academic framework that has been colloquially described as academic silos that tend to isolate rather than integrate. This is where we are different. Integrated clusters are now the guiding force for Plymouth State University. We define a cluster as an organizational unit comprised of faculty, staff, and students who come together to engage in

collaborative, interdisciplinary work that transcends individual disciplines and thus, breaks down those silos. Integrated clusters are academic homes for faculty, students, staff, programs, curricula, research, and projects. Through these clusters, we will engage with partners from the community and beyond. Our partners will benefit from our integrative infrastructure. We are modeling integrative thinking between disciplines and across clusters both on and off campus.

By organizing academic affairs in this way, we envision possibilities for collaboration across disciplines and across clusters. What we imagine might involve research, evolving our curricula to meet the needs of the future, developing specific projects, finding innovative ways to partner with external publics, and getting students out of the classroom to be involved with ideas in action, multiple disciplines, and solving real-world problems. Through this integrative experience, students see how working with others leads to broader understanding of how to solve problems collaboratively.

By situating integrated clusters as the primary organizing structure in academic affairs, we break down silos, enabling students and faculty to see the interface between disciplines. Additionally, by having an integrative organizational infrastructure, we can work more effectively and efficiently across all facets of the institution.

Some new features of this vision involve developing open lab spaces, a physical or virtual

space that supports integrated clusters engagement. We believe these kinds of experiences better prepare our students to be engaged citizens when they graduate. PSU students will be integrative thinkers who are able to collaborate and be responsible active agents in their chosen fields.

Leading the way

Plymouth is distinguishing itself from other institutions. We are the first institution to take this path of re-imagining all of the work of our institution, and I believe we will be successful in at least two fundamental ways. First, integrated clusters will make us stand out among higher education institutions, which will cultivate our economic sustainability. Second, and more importantly, we are changing the higher education landscape one integrated cluster idea at a time.

In a few years, other institutions will come to us and say, "How can you help us do what you are doing?"

In a few years, other institutions will come to us and say, "How can you help us do what you are doing?" But the proof is in the pudding. Our students will be the best evidence of our successes. They will be leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators, protectors, inventors, and inclusive moral agents making a difference in the world. ■ **Annette Holba**



Kaleb Hart '11 photo.

Annette Holba is professor of rhetoric at Plymouth State University.



Jason Moran Named Dean of Enrollment Management

Plymouth State University has named Jason Moran as its new dean of enrollment management. Moran brings more than a decade of experience in higher education admissions to PSU, having launched his career with Lycoming College in 2004 as an admissions counselor, then as assistant director of admissions before being named director of admissions in 2011. While at Lycoming, Moran helped to lead recruitment and enrollment efforts for the two largest new student classes in the college's history and participated in strategic efforts that led the college to enroll the most diverse class in the college's history.

"My family and I are thrilled to join the PSU community. I'm especially excited to join an enrollment team and a university community that has experienced two straight years of record enrollments and I look forward to working to meet and exceed future enrollment goals."

Kaleb Hart '11 photo.

PSU's MBA in Health Care Administration Ranked Second Nationally



Plymouth State University's online MBA in Healthcare Management has been named by Healthcare Administration Degree Programs (HADP) as one of the top 10 in the nation for affordability and for students' ability to complete the program in one year. HADP provides resources to help prospective students find the best values in both undergraduate and graduate degree programs in healthcare administration.

Tracy L. Claybaugh Named Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration

Plymouth State University has appointed Tracy L. Claybaugh as interim vice president for finance and administration. Claybaugh, who started at PSU in late July, was most recently the financial officer at Penn State University's Behrend Campus in Erie, Pennsylvania.

In her role as financial officer at Penn State University, the Behrend Campus, Claybaugh was responsible for the college's \$52 million budget, finance and administration, compensation program and various special projects associated with new construction, buildings and general operations.

"I am so honored and excited to join an institution as beloved as PSU," said Claybaugh. "I was captivated by how much PSU has to offer the students and the community. I am also particularly enthusiastic about working with a dedicated group of higher education professionals who are so devoted to the University's mission and the students."

Tim Cameron photo.



Professor Ann McClellan Honored with Two PSU Awards

Professor of English Ann McClellan was recognized for her commitment to research and scholarly pursuits, as well as for her service to campus and beyond at the President's Autumn Gathering on Monday, August 22.

The Award for Distinguished Scholarship is presented annually to a member of the faculty whose body of creative and scholarly works is recognized for its rigor, originality and expressiveness, both within and beyond the Plymouth State community.

The Award for Excellence in Faculty Service is presented annually to the faculty member who best exemplifies the goal of balanced and sustained service that has had a quality impact on the campus, the faculty member's profession or the broader community. The recipient of this award exemplifies dedication and sustained service, as suggested in PSU's motto, *Ut prosim* (That I may serve).

"I am incredibly humbled and honored to receive both the distinguished scholarship award and outstanding service award this year," said McClellan. "I'm grateful every day to work with such amazing thinkers, compassionate and innovative teachers and dedicated university colleagues who are invested in bettering the lives of our students."

Kaleb Hart '11 photo.



Danielle Eddy, Class of 2020

Making a home away from home

Ian Halter photo.

Danielle Eddy had a clear vision when it came to what she wanted in a college. Coming from the small town of Brandon, VT, she knew she wanted a place that was “like home, but not home.” Eight college applications and five campus tours later, she found what she was looking for at Plymouth State.

When she first visited Plymouth State in the fall of 2015, she came to visit friends from high school who were enrolled here. “They showed me around their dorm rooms, the academic buildings, and some of the classrooms,” recalls Danielle. “I really liked the laid-back atmosphere at Plymouth State. It made me feel comfortable. The campus itself was so welcoming.”

Danielle came back for an official campus tour where she learned more about the Plymouth State experience, academics, and checked out the rest of campus. She knew this is where she wanted to be.

But as sure as she was that Plymouth State was the right fit, Danielle was not immune to the freshman jitters so many college students experience. On Move-In Day, when the University welcomed Danielle and the rest of the Class of 2020—the second-largest incoming class in PSU’s history—she felt a bit overwhelmed in the sea of new faces and places.

Panther Days

To help first-year students better adjust to college life, Plymouth State launched Panther Days this year. It’s a weekend of events that acquaints students with living and learning at PSU, and helps them connect with each other. It was at a Panther Day event, a barbecue

on Mary Lyon lawn, that Danielle met two of her newest friends. “I’m not usually so bold,” insists Danielle, “but I saw two girls sitting together at a table and went over and sat with them.” She quickly became friends with fellow first-year students Jaimie and Daria, and the three have been inseparable ever since, whether they’re skating at Hanaway Rink, shopping on Main Street, or just hanging out playing board games in Mary Lyon Hall.

With her first semester of college under way and two great new friends, Danielle is starting to truly feel at home at PSU. “I’m really liking it here. I have a routine with my classes, lunch and dinner with my friends, studying, and then a little down time in the evenings. I’m in a good place.”

Now that she feels she’s got her feet under her, Danielle is excited to make her mark on campus through intramural sports, the Student Activities Office, and especially the Community Service Center. “In high school I received a citizenship award,” she says. “It is who I am and want to continue to be. I want to be a part of what’s going on, be a voice for my fellow students, and give feedback. I also want to get to know the Plymouth community. I hope I can make a positive impact on a few people and be remembered for making a difference.”

Without a doubt Danielle is well on her way to living up to the Plymouth State motto *Ut prosim* (That I may serve), and will definitely be one to watch as the Class of 2020 progresses through the years. But for now, this first-year student is making herself at home at Plymouth State University.

■ Michele Barney Hutchins ’07G



Who’s that girl?

Danielle Eddy is **one of 1,222 students enrolled in the class of 2020**, the second-largest incoming class in Plymouth State’s history.

Where does Danielle fit in the class of 2020?

As a **business** major, she’s enrolled in one of the **top five majors** including **criminal justice, psychology, elementary education, and athletic training**.

3.0
average high
school GPA



Academically, she is in good company as the **average high school GPA for the class of 2020 was 3.0**.

As a Vermonter, she is among the **628 non-resident students** enrolled. There are 594 resident students.

As a **female**, she accounts for **52.4 percent** of first-year population, while **males** make up **47.5 percent**.

Danielle represents one of **22 states** from which students are enrolled, in addition to **12 countries**.

22 states  **12 countries**

Michele Barney Hutchins ’07G, a long-time resident of Plymouth, NH, was very involved with community building in Plymouth. She now resides in St. Simons Island, GA, with her husband and daughter, but always looks forward to “coming home” to Plymouth.

Q&A :

KENDAL LARIVIERE '17

Kendal Lariviere '17 has been playing field hockey since she was 12 years old. She loves the game so much that she's kept every stick she has ever played with. Her oldest, the one she's had since her senior year of high school, is the only one she's ever given a name: Lolita.

Lauren Lavigne '94, '96G, assistant director of athletics for enrollment management and advancement, recently talked with the senior English major about PSU field hockey and all that it has given to her.

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU WANTED TO PLAY FIELD HOCKEY WHEN YOU CAME TO PSU?

No. This is my 10th season playing field hockey, and I played throughout high school, but I didn't plan on playing in college. But that all changed when I came to Accepted Students Day at PSU and met with Coach [Bonnie] Lord. The way she talked about the Plymouth State field hockey program really spoke to me. She talked about how, besides being a very successful team, they were a family, too. That was what I wanted and needed in a team, even more than winning games.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT BEING A STUDENT-ATHLETE?

It immediately gets you involved on campus. You're part of a team. It can be hard leaving home, being on your own for the first time, and entering a school where you might not know anybody. Being a student-athlete makes that process easier. You immediately step on the field or go into the locker room on the first day of meetings, and you know people and have a support group to turn to. I love just being able to be with my team—my family—every day.

RIGHT BEFORE YOU GO ONTO THE FIELD, WHAT DOES COACH SAY TO MOTIVATE YOU?

Before we go on the field, before every game, Coach says the same thing: "Play hard, play fair, play to win, but most of all, play together." Those words have come to mean so much for me. We all need each other on the field, and we play our best when we're working as a unit. There's plenty of talent on the team, but when we're all playing as talented individuals, it never comes together. It's always about togetherness and it's always about us.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES THE TEAM HAS FACED?

The biggest challenge we've probably faced in the last couple of years is not being able to practice or play home games on campus.

For my first two years of field hockey, I was fortunate to be able to practice and play on Arold Field, here on campus. The downside was that it was grass. For the past two years, we've had to practice and play off campus, but that's given us access to turf fields. Field hockey is a completely different game on turf than it is on grass. We're a better team on turf, but we do miss being on campus because we'd get some great crowds.

My hope for the team going forward is that they get the best of both worlds: a turf field right here on campus with great crowds to cheer them on!

YOU'RE A SENIOR, GRADUATING IN MAY. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE, WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GIVE BACK TO PLYMOUTH STATE?

I hope to give the same thing that Plymouth State field hockey alumni have given to me: support, encouragement, and reminders to hold onto every moment.

My coach is very involved with her alumni and on game days, we get Facebook messages, e-mails, and texts from field hockey alumni from over the decades.

Before this season started, Coach shared an e-mail specifically addressed to the seniors, from an alumna sharing memories from her senior season and encouraging us to remember all of those last moments we're going to have as the PSU field hockey team. ■



Ian Halter photo.



PLYMOUTH STATE ATHLETICS™

A Home Field Advantage

For Plymouth State student-athletes, home turf would mean more fan support, no need to travel, and a top-quality playing surface on which to practice, compete, and win.

BY THE NUMBERS:

17

Average hours per day a lighted turf field would be available to PSU student body

80

Percent of the student body that could benefit from a lighted turf facility through intramural leagues, club sports, varsity athletics, athletic training programs, HHP courses, & other academic focuses

1

PSU is the only university in the LEC & the MASCAC without an artificial turf surface

12

Months of availability, providing an additional year-round athletic & recreational surface

THE BENEFITS:

Expands our community partnerships by having another facility for PSU to share with the community.

Enhances student recruitment & retention.

Provides opportunities for athletic teams to further their skills in an advanced facility.



Karel Hayes illustration.

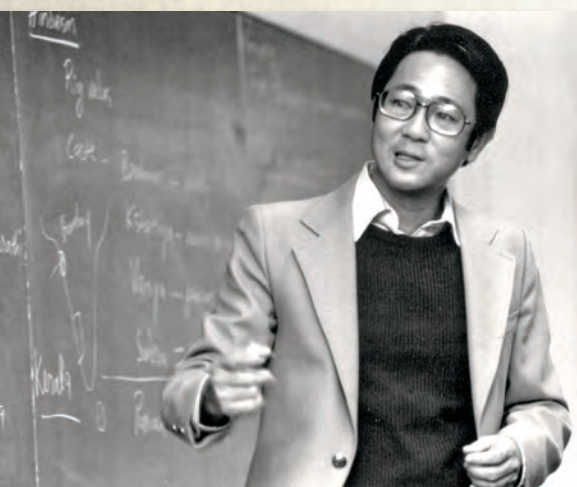
A Sentimental Journey

PSU alumni share memories of mentors who are retiring this year

FOR PLYMOUTH STATE ALUMNI, THEIR COLLEGE YEARS WERE THE BEST YEARS OF THEIR LIVES IN SO MANY WAYS: the first taste of independence; the lifelong friendships forged in the res halls, on the field, or in the dining hall; the all-night study sessions, concerts, and sporting events.

During their college years, one special person made the difference. A mentor who believed in them, who opened their eyes to new ideas and perspectives, set them on a path to a great career, and whose impact on them is still appreciated years later.

Alumni and students share with *Plymouth Magazine* memories of their most beloved mentors, all of whom have served Plymouth State for decades and have recently chosen to retire.



Peng-Khuan Chong

Peng-Khuan Chong

Professor of Political Science
50 years of teaching at Plymouth State

Consummate instructor, educational role model

I was fortunate to have Dr. Chong for multiple political science and government courses. He inspired me to challenge myself academically. I went on from Plymouth to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and attend law school. I attribute my motivation to attend law school in part to the courses I took with Dr. Chong.

47 years after we met, I came back onto campus as a faculty member teaching a course in the Criminal Justice Department and stopped by Dr. Chong's office. As we were talking, he suddenly stopped and said to me "What is your name again?" I replied, "Rick Hubbard." He then exclaimed: "I remember you! You were a good student and a great soccer player."

Not only was I impressed with his memory, but I was also touched. It demonstrated why Dr. Chong is fondly remembered by so many.
—Rick Hubbard '73

A great source of inspiration

Professor Chong was one of those professors who I will always remember. He really made a difference in my life. More than 30 years later, I still remember him taking the time to get to know me as a person, and we spent many hours in his classroom and in the coffee shop discussing the world, career ideas, and different paths and different cultures. He lit a fire inside of me and helped me create a future that has served me well.

When I switched careers many years later to go into education, we were soon talking again, discussing my new career. He is, and always has been, a great source of inspiration for me. I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement. —Carol Sussman-Ghatak '81

Michael Fischler



Michael Fischler

Professor of Education
46 years of teaching at Plymouth State

Made class fun

In the fall of my senior year at PSC I was lucky enough to have a young, new professor, Mike Fischler, for one of my education classes. Although his class was at 8 a.m., I don't think any of us ever missed it! Dr. Fischler made class fun with his guitar and great teaching methods. It was great to grow with him over the course of that year. I was also lucky enough to babysit for him and his wife Reine and get to know their family. Although I graduated many years ago, I have always kept in touch with Mike. He has remained supportive of my family and me over the years. Congrats to Mike on his retirement! I hope he loved his years at Plymouth State as much as I loved mine.

—Lee Richman Nelson '72

Life-changing teaching and mentoring

I had the great fortune of crossing paths with Michael Fischler early in my graduate education. He has been a source of wisdom and support for me for two decades. His teaching and long-term mentoring have been nothing short of life-changing.

A part of me is saddened to realize that Plymouth State students will soon no longer be as able to interact with and learn from Mike, but I find his interest in exploring a new life stage apropos. As the Tao Te Ching, one of the many catalytic works Mike introduced me to, instructs: "The world belongs to those who let go." —Matthew Curtis '00G



John Clark

John P. Clark '71, '73G

Founding manager of ALLWell North;
longtime athletic director
43 years of serving Plymouth State

Lifelong friend and mentor

I have been very fortunate to have a lifelong friend and mentor in John P. Clark. From my early days as a college freshman at Plymouth State, John has been a trusted leader that I have leaned on for guidance with every day and lifelong decisions.

A simple phone call with John, saying "hello buddy" has created a lifelong bond that will always be cherished. And when you meet John in person, he welcomes you with his infectious warm smile and a handshake or hug. I have been lucky, like so many others, to have John as a trusted friend and mentor.

—Paul Hogan '85

Guidance with humor and wisdom

I was lost my first year at Plymouth. I had no plan or idea where I was going. I struggled my first three semesters ending up on academic probation. I loved Plymouth State—physical education, my friends, and the work with student activities—and I was determined not to fail.

John gave me what I needed most, a hand on my back supporting me. He asked me the right questions, and guided me in the right direction with humor and wisdom. Thanks to him, I learned how to lead, organize, and make things happen.

That was a long time ago but to this day John P. Clark is my mentor and the person who set my life on course. I am grateful for the time I spent in John's office. For me John is Plymouth State University.—Sheila Harding '80

Gene Fahey



Gene Fahey

Former men's basketball coach and senior
associate director of Admissions
41 years of serving Plymouth State

A source of positivity and support

During my time at Plymouth, each morning consisted of walking into the Admissions Office for work and being greeted with a joyous welcome from the front office. It never mattered how busy the day was, Gene Fahey had a genuine ability to create space for you. He was enthusiastically invested in the lives of others. Despite all he had going on, I always felt seen by Gene; he had a knack for paying attention, asking thoughtful questions, and listening to those he cared about. He was an incredible source of positivity and support in my time as a student employee in the Admissions Office and as a member of the PSU community. Gene was the first to give generously to the fundraisers my peers and I were running on campus, as well as the one who kept track of our progress. When I think of the values that the Plymouth community embodies I think of Gene. He is woven into the fabric. With a deep love for people, Gene's compass points true north. His many years of dedicated service are felt and continue to ripple outward.—Bryan Funk '11

Soft-spoken and impactful

At a time when I may not have been meeting my full athletic potential, Coach Fahey once suggested to me that I was performing "within" myself. Knowing Gene, I realized this message might only be the envelope, and the real content was enclosed. Leave it to Gene

to wrap a kick in the pants in what might be considered a compliment, and to deliver the message in a way that required thought and investment to derive the desired result. Also, leave it to Gene to provide words, albeit delivered in his usual soft spoken manner, that were impactful to the point that I have remembered them periodically over the last 35 years. Knowing Gene Fahey as a leader, a colleague, and as a friend has been and remains an honor and a privilege. Thank you Gene and best of luck in your retirement! —Darryll White '82

Top to bottom: Mark Okrant, Louise McCormack, and Warren Mason



Mark Okrant

Professor Emeritus of Tourism Management
37 years of teaching at Plymouth State

Supportive and encouraging

Dr. O ... made me want to be the best student possible, not just in the classroom but outside the classroom. One of the memories that will always stick with me is the night of the Evening of Connections dinner last October. I was the student speaker and after my speech, Dr. O came up to me and said that he was very proud of me. It felt great to make my advisor proud! —Anna Brown '16

Quick wit and committed teacher

At the end of my freshman year at PSU I still had not declared a major, so I went through the entire course catalog and selected a handful of majors I thought might be appropriate for me. I decided to talk to a few advisors regarding those degree paths, and Mark Okrant was the first and only advisor I ended up speaking to. It was evident from our first conversation how much he cared about his students and wanted to see them succeed. His quick wit and kind sense of humor were always appreciated. —Sean McGlynn '15

Louise Samaha McCormack '72

Professor of Health and Human Performance
36 years of teaching at Plymouth State

Making students better than they ever thought they could be

It's challenging to put into words what Dr. McCormack means to me. She was my professor and advisor, but most of all she was and remains my role model. She inspired all of her students, including myself, to be the best professionals, advocates, and human beings they can be. Dr. McCormack has taught me to constantly strive for perfection and to never stop learning. With every failure and success I experience, I always reflect on how to do it better—how to be better. I hope 40 years from now I can say that I inspired one person the way she has inspired so many of us.

Thank you Dr. McCormack, for having

the strength to push students past what they thought they would be and making them better than what they ever thought they could be.

—Tricia Twomey '08

Most influential role model

Dr. McCormack was my most influential professor at Plymouth State. Her intelligence, kindness, and passion for our chosen field made me proud to be a physical educator, and to demand equality and respect for the important work that we do. She continued to work tirelessly with people of all ages in making physical education an integral part of every child's education. When I'm asked about my life's most influential role model, I say "Dr. McCormack. She's the reason I present myself as an education professional, and she's the reason I understand the importance in giving my all every day."

Thank you for preparing me for the most rewarding job in the world, which has filled my life with daily joy for the past 26 years.

—Mary O'Sullivan '82

Warren Mason

Professor of Business and Communication Studies
34 years of teaching at Plymouth State

A touchstone for his students

I had two classes with Warren, Organizational Communications—which was phenomenal—and Intro to Public Relations, which I signed up for because he was such a great instructor. But it wasn't until after I started my career that I truly developed an appreciation for his teaching. I realized that everything he taught me was exactly what I needed to know for working as a PR professional in the real world. I was able to take what he taught me and carry it with me as a guide.

Since then, he has been instrumental in my career. He's been encouraging, someone I can talk shop with—he's been a touchstone for me all these years, and I hope he knows that. I've never had a professor like him before.

—Amanda Bacon '04

The man, the myth, the legend

I first became aware of the man, the myth, the legend of Warren Mason during my first year

at Plymouth. As a tutor in the Writing Center during my time at PSU, many students came in for assistance for his marketing communications course. When I enrolled in his writing course (and the subsequent public relations course) I found out first-hand that he held his students to a high standard of work.

Warren gave me the opportunity to help teach a section of his Introduction to the Academic Community. This first experience of being a teaching assistant started me on a path for future graduate school programs in marketing and communications with teaching opportunities at Syracuse, Indiana, and Emory Universities. It's probably no surprise that today I'm a marketing professor, and he played a consequential part of that.

Many thanks for making my Plymouth experience so profound, Warren.
—Anthony Koschmann '02

Stacey Yap

Professor of Anthropology-Sociology
28 years of teaching at Plymouth State

Warm, welcoming, and unforgettable
Stacey Yap is one of those unforgettable people who moves into your life and her story completely changes your perspective from that point forward. I met Stacey in my first week as a PSU student. I hadn't declared a major and she had been assigned as my advisor. She was immediately warm and welcoming, asking me about my interests while she shared her own passions throughout our discussion. I'd learn a little more about her in each advising session: her daughter the dancer and hospitality professional; her corporate career in consumer research; her love of the nearby garden oasis—every time I left her office I would have some new and interesting topic to investigate. Her desire to learn more was just contagious!

Thank you Stacey, you truly are an inspiration for all of us! —Ava Tyler '14

Passionate and inspirational

When I first met Professor Yap I realized she was a very special person. Her passion for the subjects she taught are what inspired me to continue to sign up for many of the courses she taught. In her classroom, I was able to visualize the issues and conflicts she discussed

in class, which inspired me to dig deeper.

Professor Yap understands and connects with people, which allowed me learn and develop new perspectives on issues that I would have never imagined myself contemplating before. Her love for people served as her platform to teach and bring awareness to social inequality, racial discrimination, and women's issues around the world. It's hard to believe that she never envisioned teaching would be her career, but I feel blessed knowing she was able to teach and inspire students like me to care about people around the world. Stacey Yap has made my education experience at PSU a very special one. —Zach Ziemba '17

Bryon Middlekauff

Professor Emeritus of Geography and Environmental Planning
27 years of teaching at Plymouth State

A gifted educator and a good friend

I met Bryon in spring of 2001 when I took my first geography class called Physical Environment. At the time I was a meteorology major; after only a few weeks I quickly realized I was in the wrong major. Bryon taught with such passion and enthusiasm that it made me confident in my decision to become a geography major with a focus on terrain analysis. Bryon became my advisor as well as a mentor and friend to me over the last few years of college.

Bryon encouraged me to pursue graduate school and we remained in touch after I graduated. During my graduate program at Plymouth State, he was a mentor for my thesis project, and provided me with encouragement and guidance during that difficult process. I remain in touch with Bryon today and consider him a good friend. I will miss him; the Plymouth State Geography Department won't be the same without him! —Linda Burbank '04

A man of great wisdom and a lifelong mentor

I remember the first time I met Bryon Middlekauff. It was in Environmental Geography, one of the first physical geography courses I took at PSU. He pulled out his old-school overhead projector and had these surprisingly well-drawn diagrams of geological features and processes. His face lit up as he began his lecture. You wouldn't think overhead projector

slides would be so exciting, but he knew how to turn any physical geography topic into an exciting one! I always found his lectures captivating and inspiring and thought to myself, "Now there's a guy who loves his job!"

He was dedicated to his students and to making higher education a worthwhile experience. He became a lifelong mentor to many of his former students, including me. To this day, I sometimes find myself asking him for advice.
—Meghan Rodier '09



Photo courtesy of Stacey Yap



Bryon Middlekauff

Photos courtesy of Spinelli Archives
except where noted.

Join your fellow alumni on this sentimental journey and then let us know: Who was your mentor at Plymouth State, and why? Send your stories to psu-mccs@plymouth.edu



THE GREEN | PLYMOUTH STATE ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Mark your calendars for these great alumni events!

PSU-AMC WINTER ADVENTURE WEEKEND

March 3-5, 2017

Highland Center, Crawford Notch

The majestic beauty of NH's snow-capped mountains beckons!

GRADUATES DAY

March 3, 2017

HUB Courtroom

Welcoming graduates to the alumni association!

3RD ANNUAL SKI HOOKY DAY

March 31, 2017

Cannon Mountain

COMMENCEMENT

May 20, 2017

SEACOAST SOCIAL

June 6, 2017

Portsmouth Brewery

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

June 23-25, 2017

Celebrate landmark reunions for the classes of '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, and friends! Help us by volunteering and make your reunion weekend the best yet.

TAU OMEGA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

July 14-16, 2017

Lakeshore Farm Inn, Northwood, NH

HOMEcoming & FAMILY CELEBRATION AND REUNION WEEKEND

September 22-24, 2017

Celebrate landmark reunions for '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07, and friends! Volunteer and help make it a weekend to remember! Plan to tailgate, compete in the corn-hole tournament, and celebrate into the evening at the alumni awards.

37TH ANNUAL PLYMOUTH STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BARBARA DEARBORN '60 GOLF CLASSIC

September 24, 2017

Waukegan Golf Course in Center Harbor, NH

9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. shotgun start

Find more info on these and other great alumni events at plymouth.edu/alumni.



Congrats to our 2016 Alumni Recognition Award Recipients!

Recently, the Plymouth State community gathered to honor the 2016 Alumni Recognition Award recipients at Homecoming & Family Celebration and Reunion Weekend. Each year, the PSU Alumni Association recognizes alumni, faculty, and staff for outstanding service to the University, their communities, and the alumni association.

Know someone who deserves recognition? Submit a nomination today at go.plymouth.edu/alumni-awards.

Above: Left to right, Chris Nadeau '01, Debra Manus Love '90, Kelsie Eckert '13G, Brett Lucas '11, Paul Castonia, Ann Marie Vaillancourt '16, Steve Kelley '83. Ian Hart photo.



You don't always have to come to campus to be a part of the action—PSU alumni get together at restaurants and pubs, at baseball games, and businesses. Don't miss out on these great opportunities to meet alumni in your area. Go to the Panther Alumni Events page at plymouth.edu/alumni/events for details!

CLASS NOTES μ

μ Classes of 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, and 1967:

Celebrate your landmark reunions this summer at Alumni Reunion Weekend, June 23–25, 2017! Find out more at go.plymouth.edu/reunion

μ Classes of 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007:

Celebrate your landmark reunions at Homecoming and Family Celebration and Reunion Weekend, September 22–24, 2017!

1940s

Class agent **Patricia (Dubeau) Harlow** writes: PSU Class of '44 recently had its 72nd reunion at the Covered Bridge Restaurant in Campton. Present were: **Lucille (Nutting) Gilman, Leah Gray, Pat Harlow, and Ferdy Sanford.**

Diane Tiffany '76 represented the alumni office. They were joined by a group of family and friends. A brief time was spent remembering the eight members of the class who have passed in the last year. Following a delicious lunch and lively discussion we decided to get together again in 2017—why not?

1950s

William Hagner '59 (top right) has used his retirement years to publish a memoir chronicling his time as an educator in Europe as well as his service during the Korean War. His book, *A Moving Story: Memoirs of an Overseas Educator*, is available at billhagner.com and in local NH bookstores.

Norma (Woodard) Green '59 recently celebrated her fiftieth anniversary with husband David Green. She reports her career as a teacher and editor has taken her from Kentucky and Michigan to far-flung spots such as Ethiopia and Malawi. She taught in Wales from 1986 until her retirement in 1998, and she continues to offer private tutoring in English and writing. She says of her experience at PSU, "We had the opportunity to be in

the classroom from year one, which was the ideal way to learn about child development. I have worked more recently with teenage dyslexic people and find it so satisfying to see their self-confidence grow as they proceed toward fulfilling their potential."

1970s

Bruce Ritchie '71 recently retired from teaching at PSU and Northeastern University, and he and his wife LeAnne have relocated to a seaside community in North Carolina. They look forward to getting settled in their home and "working at things we want to do, including photography, writing, and keeping our cats and dog happy."

Larry Kontos '77 hosted a "39th year" gathering for PSU music majors and musicians at his family home in Campton, NH, over Labor Day Weekend. He notes, "After 39 years, we still get together and have a festive time with friends and family!"



Alumni author William Hagner '59

DICK CHANDLER '63 | A PROUD PANTHER GIVES BACK

If you're a proud Plymouth State Panther, you have Dick Chandler and his classmates in the Class of 1963 to thank. While other mascots were being proposed and considered back in 1959—including the Plymouth Stallions!—it was the Plymouth Teachers College Class of 1963 who suggested the Plymouth Panthers. The rest, as they say, is history.

Dick and his classmates have given Plymouth State much more than its legendary mascot, though. On the occasion of their 50th reunion in 2013, they established the Plymouth Teachers College Class of 1963 Panther Scholarship in Education. Dick, George Davis (for whom the George E. Davis '63 Track in ALLWell North was named), Charles Hunnewell, and Malcolm Murray were founding donors. Each year, the scholarship is given to an outstanding education major from New Hampshire who is in need of assistance.

Recently, Dick, who followed up his Panther basketball glory days with a long and distinguished career in physical education as a teacher and athletic director, upped his game with a generous bequest intention to the Panther Scholarship. **"Plymouth gave me so much while I was a student here that I wanted to do something for the University, and for the students. I hope my gift will inspire others to do the same."**—Dick Chandler

To learn more about making a gift to the Plymouth Teachers College Class of 1963 Panther Scholarship in Education, or to learn how to establish your own scholarship, contact Director of Development John Scheinman P '19 at jscheinman@plymouth.edu or (603) 535-2805. Ian Halter photo.



IN MEMORIAM

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

Ethel E. (Mack) Lee '35,
July 21, 2016, Middleton, MA

Ruth W. (Locke) Hubbard '38,
April 1, 2016, Winter Haven, FL

Julouise Paulsen '42,
July 19, 2016, Montpelier, VT

Shirley Sullivan Finnigan '44,
October 17, 2015, Melbourne, FL

Jean Bolton Landroche '44,
November 22, 2015, Laconia, NH

Marion Richardson Pounder '44,
January 13, 2016, Derry, NH

Barbara Thurston Simpson '44,
October 21, 2015, Oldsmar, FL

Ruth E. (Matthews) O'Leary '45,
July 12, 2016, Dover, NH

Elizabeth (Rowland) Tennyson '46,
May 7, 2016, Niles, MI

Henry E. Vittum '48,
June 8, 2016, Laconia, NH

Timothy B. Connell '50,
August 30, 2016, North Haven, CT

Ida M. (Jones) Wheeler '52,
July 15, 2016, Danville, VT

Gwendoline (Hiler) Jagger '54,
June 11, 2016, Wolfeboro, NH

Maurice S. Bickford '58,
June 8, 2016, Elburn, IL

Leona (Reny) Hill '59,
February 28, 2016, North Conway, NH

George L. Paul '61,
June 7, 2016, Hampton, NH

Edward R. Aldrich '62,
July 7, 2016, Berlin, NH

Gene F. Stearns '62,
August 31, 2016, Northwood, NH

J. Philip Boucher '63,
March 27, 2016, Manchester, NH

Andrea J. (Woronka) Enos '63,
July 12, 2016, East Sandwich, MA

Velma (Urban) Smith '67,
April 12, 2016, Cabot, VT

Alan E. Blakeman '67,
May 7, 2016, Montpelier, VT

Michel G. Thibault '68,
August 26, 2016, Burlington, VT

Brian A. Knight '69,
April 9, 2016, Ringwood, IL

Steven P. Steckevicz '69,
August 5, 2016, Nashua, NH

Dennis A. Knowles '70,
April 1, 2016, Franklin, NH

John D. Osborne '73,
April 9, 2016, White River Junction, VT

Susan (Taylor) Hureau '74,
May 8, 2016, Manchester, NH

Sandra J. (Dewitt) Wilson '74,
June 26, 2016, Littleton, NH

Dana N. Gould '78,
April 1, 2016, Andover, MA

Daniel E. Kenny '78,
August 26, 2016, South Portland, ME

Laura J. Tucker '79,
May 20, 2016, Bow, NH

Daniel J. Carberry Jr. '79,
June 4, 2016, Tiverton, RI

Philip A. Meader '79,
June 6, 2016, Rochester, NH

Stephen C. Bisson '79,
March 15, 2016, Crestwood, KY

Sheila J. LaBrie '81,
May 30, 2016, Laconia, NH

Christine M. (O'Neil) Holbrook '82,
March 22, 2016, Aurora, IL

Kenneth R. Morrell '83,
April 12, 2016, Campton, NH

Mark Younger '83,
November 1, 2016, Plymouth, NH

Debra E. Gaudet '86,
July 28, 2016, Hollywood, FL

Rosemonde L. Roy '88,
July 19, 2016, Exeter, NH

Robert K. Morine '90,
June 3, 2016, Crossville, TN

Marilyn L. Chandler '91,
May 18, 2016, Contoocook, NH

Rachel A. (Petz) Dowd '91,
June 12, 2016, Auburn, NH

John S. Bechard '96,
March 20, 2016, Manchester, NH

Christa Q. (Quenneville) Little '98,
July 21, 2016, Sudbury, VT

Paul W. McIntyre '00,
June 9, 2016, Saint Johnsbury, VT

John Eliopoulos '05,
April 11, 2016, Haverhill, MA

Heather L. Nicholson '06,
May 17, 2016, Blackstone, MA

Emily G. Holland '11,
May 1, 2016, Jamestown, RI

Bryant A. Lausberg '12,
May 29, 2016, Somersworth, NH

Faculty, Staff, and Friends

Linda Tuscano,
March 26, 2016, Bomoseen, VT

John H. Lawson,
March 30, 2016, Amesbury, MA

Hayward W. Gray,
March 31, 2016, The Villages, FL

Marlene Santoro,
June 4, 2016, Dorchester, NH

Eleanor J. Slagle,
June 17, 2016, Holderness, NH

Harry H. Briggs,
June 25, 2016, Leesville, LA

Walter P. Smith,
June 28, 2016, Springdale, AR

Van McLeod,
July 17, 2016, Concord, NH

Michael Vermouth,
August 1, 2016, Hebron, NH

Christopher N. Kressy,
August 13, 2016, Campton, NH

Samuel M. Robbins,
August 22, 2016, West Newton, MA





Plymouth State Homecoming & Family Celebration & Reunion Weekend 2016



1980s

Susan (Christiansen) Roberts '80 is box office manager for Boston Children's Theater. She says, "This is ideal for me. My son has been involved with the Boston Children's Theater Company for 4 years, and I ran box office for Black Nativity in Boston for 15 years."

Michael Goldenberg '84, athletic trainer at the Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, NJ, was welcomed into the National Athletic Trainers' Association's Hall of Fame during the National Athletic Training Convention, held in Baltimore in early August. Induction into the hall of fame, the association's highest honor, recognizes athletic trainers who exemplify the mission of NATA and advance the profession.



Matteo Filippi '90

μShawn O'Brien '86 Promoted to Brigadier General

Congratulations to Shawn O'Brien '86, who was recently promoted to brigadier general in the New Hampshire Army National Guard. He will be serving as director of the Joint Staff, preparing senior staff members to execute domestic operations.

"The opportunity to serve at this level is a very humbling experience," O'Brien says. "The young generation of service members that I work with drives me to become the best leader I can be and set an example of being a military professional."



O'Brien carries with him years of service and experience. He was deployed for 15 months in Afghanistan from March 2005 to June 2006. In June 2010, he earned a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

While at PSU, O'Brien majored in exercise physiology, with a minor in political science. One of O'Brien's biggest influences at Plymouth was Dr. Thomas Schlesinger, a professor of political science and WWII US Army veteran, who made a lasting impression on O'Brien and his decision to join the military.

"Dr. S shared numerous stories with our class," recalls O'Brien. "I respected that this man didn't just talk about history, he was involved in historical events."

O'Brien still looks back fondly on his days at Plymouth State, and his fraternity Alpha Theta, which consisted of several Army Reservists. He credits his four years at Plymouth State as the foundation for a successful career as a US Army infantry officer.

"I believe motivation is a fire from within," O'Brien says. "If someone else tries to light that fire under you, chances are it will burn out quickly. I was very fortunate to have been influenced by professors, staff, and other students at Plymouth. Thirty years later the motivation and fire burns strong."

In addition to his new position, O'Brien is also a full-time account manager with Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. He lives in Fremont, NH, with his wife Kimberley Steadman O'Brien '88. They have two daughters, Heather and Kelly, who are both away at college studying journalism.

Thank you, Brigadier General O'Brien. PSU salutes you! ■ Emmett Warren '16

Brian Gallagher '86 ran for state senate in NH's District 2, which includes Plymouth and Campton, bowing to former NH representative Bob Giuda of Warren in a close primary race.

Jim Herlihy '89 has been appointed senior associate athletic director for finance and administration at UMass Amherst. Herlihy, who spent much of his career at Auburn University, has over 25 years' experience as an athletics administrator and served as director of athletics at the University of Montevallo from 2008-2014.

Ed Rawson '89G has been named senior vice president of sales and retail development by Associate Grocers of New England, Inc. Rawson spent nearly 35 years with Supervalu and started his career in Keene, NH, with Weterrau. Most recently he served as senior VP of sales and operations for Supervalu's Western region, based in Minneapolis, MN.

Ralph Cunha '91 has been appointed vice president of finance/chief financial officer of Indiana Fiber Network, the leading statewide network service provider in Indiana. Cunha, a CPA and certified global management accountant, has 20 years of experience in the telecommunications industry and previously held positions with Endeavor Communications, KLP, and the Indiana Exchange Carrier Association.

Rick Brenner '94 has been named president of Michigan International Speedway after 23 seasons as a sports executive with Minor League Baseball. Brenner most recently served as president of DSF Sports and Entertainment, the company that owns the NH Fisher Cats.

Leigh Poirier '95 has been appointed director of the UCI+One Program with the Division of Continuing Education at the University of California-Irvine. She writes, "I'm grateful for the experiences and exposure I gained during my four years at Plymouth State. From exposure to the classroom during my first semester through student teaching, I developed a spectrum of transferable skills including public speaking, organization, project management, and more. Over the past 20 years my career has meandered in different aspects of education, from working in the classroom with middle school students and community college students to more than a decade of residential education

1990s

Matteo Filippi '90 (top) puts his BA in music theory and composition to good use writing music, often on commission. Samples, including jingles, love songs, and spiritual music, can be streamed at his website <https://soundcloud.com/matteomusicservice>. Read Matteo's touching tribute to the late Bob Ulrich, a former PSU employee, online at plymouth.edu/magazine.

and more. The skills and lessons I learned at Plymouth State contributed in some way with every new chapter of my career.”

Kristin Wilson '95, '07G, '11G is director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment for Fall Mountain Regional School District, which has 11 schools across the towns of Acworth, Alstead, Charlestown, Langdon, and Walpole, NH.

Beth (Resch) Mullen '96 has been promoted to math instructional coach for Franklin County Schools in Franklin County, NC.

Kristie Ruppe '96 (top right) was elected county judge in Hernando County, FL. She is the first female judge in the county's history.

Bethany (Souther) Zell '96 is program director of Healthy You, a community wellness program of Cary Medical Center in Caribou, Maine, and Pink Aroostook, her county's breast cancer wellness and support program. In addition, she is in her second year of service as president of the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition and is Maine's field coordinator/team leader for the National Breast Cancer Coalition. She writes, “My degree in marketing created a foundation for the work that I currently do in public relations. I love that my current positions enable

me to help educate people on health and wellness and provide them with the support that they need to make improvements in their lives. I also love that I get to learn right along with the people that I serve. As I discover health issues that are important to our local communities, I get to provide them with resources and educational opportunities and programming that will positively impact the wellness of our community members!”

Michael Boudreau '97 is executive director of Compas de Nicaragua (Friends of Nicaragua, photo below). Boudreau first visited Nicaragua as a member of PSU's Nicaragua Club, and this year his organization will be celebrating the Nicaragua Club's 20th anniversary by inviting PSU club alumni to join the service trip. More information about the anniversary trip is available at compas1.org.



PSU's Nicaragua Club with Compas de Nicaragua.

2000s

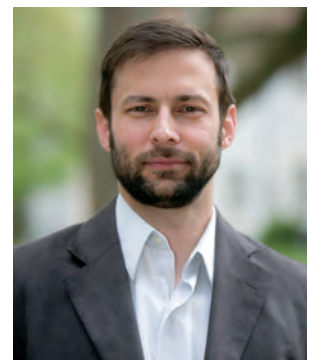
Anthony Koschmann '02 (bottom right) has joined Eastern Michigan University as a marketing professor. Read what Anthony had to say about his favorite PSU professor, Warren Mason, on page 10.

Kelly Beebee '03 has joined Meredith Village Savings as a mortgage loan originator. She was previously branch and business development manager for the bank's Plymouth office and is currently located at the office in Center Harbor, NH. She joined Meredith Village Savings in 2006 as head teller at the bank's main office in Meredith, NH and became branch manager in 2012.

Bethan (Gordon) Gentry '04, '09G has been promoted to legal compliance officer at Benefit Strategies, LLC in Manchester, NH.



Kristie Ruppe '96



Anthony Koschmann '02

Anna DeVyllder '06 joined Hampton Academy in July as assistant principal. DeVyllder, who enjoys working with adolescents, previously taught middle school math in Penacook, NH.

LeAnne A. Morris '07G narrowly missed election during her run for one of four open seats on the town council of Snowflake, AZ.

Jennifer Cooper '08 has been appointed music director for Acton Community Chorus, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing choral music to the Acton, MA, area since 1984. Cooper, who is director of music at Lawrence Academy, served as director of the PSU Chamber Singers in spring 2013 and has sung with the New Hampshire Master Chorale since 2008.



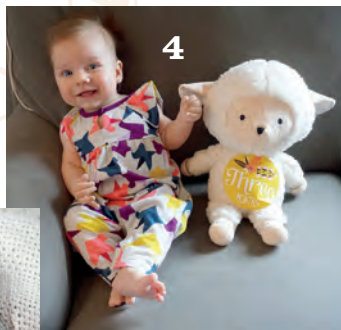
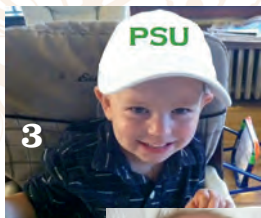
Laurel (Kupillas) Ostiguy '97 recently published her first novel, *Last Goodbye*, which draws upon her experiences at PSU. She says, “When I wrote about the fictitious campus, I envisioned Plymouth and the entire town. I even used some names of places and locations that I visited when I was a student in New Hampshire, and some of the characters are named for friends from college. More importantly, the split wall in the dorm room was an homage to my room in Smith Hall—best room ever! I lived in it for two years with my roommate Melissa. Even though I work in finance in Boston, my dream has always been to publish a book and now thanks to those interested in the book, I am in the process of writing a spin-off to *Last Goodbye*. I'm so excited to begin this new journey in my life as a published author!”

EXCHANGING VOWS

- 1** **Chris Gloninger '06** married Catherine Danko in Milwaukee, WI, on April 22, 2016. Those attending (left to right) **Justin Culligan '06**, **Heather Flader '05**, **Matt Flader '06**, **Chris Gloninger '06**, Cathy Danko-Gloninger, **Chris Winters '06**, Vanessa Winters, **Eddie Sheerr '07**.
- 2** **Leslie Kingsley Blakney '07** married Noah Blakney on Saturday, September 10, 2016 at Mt. Snow, VT. Attending (left to right) **Gene Martin '09**, **Stephen Blakney '17G**, Noah Blakney, **Leslie Kingsley Blakney '07**, **Andrew McLean '07**, **Brooke (Thornton) DeLong '07**, **Trisha Marcoux '08**, **Andrea (Thoman) Gill '08**, **Chris DiVeglio '08**, **Nicole Constantino '07**, '09G, **Phil Atkinson '95**, '99G, **Sonya (Grabauskas) Desmond '07** and **Kevin Desmond '04**.

ARRIVALS

- 3** **Jessica (Brown) Cawley '95** and **Matthew Cawley '91** adopted a baby boy, Isaac Newton Cawley, May 6, 2016.
- 4** **Ashley (Hull-Guy) Luurtsema '08**, '10G and **Christopher Luurtsema '07**, '12G welcomed Madeline Jane Luurtsema on March 11, 2016.
- 5** **Ann Widger '99** and **Bill Redding** welcomed William Kevin and Kate Elizabeth Redding on November 18, 2015



2010s

Mitchell Shortell '12 has been promoted to assistant project manager with Zubatkin Owner Representation.

Blake McGurty '12G is the new principal of St. Mary Academy in Dover, NH. McGurty previously served as math and computer teacher and IT coordinator at the school and has experience as a behavior management professional in Conway and Barrington, NH.

Colin Murphy '13 is a solutions consultant for QuickBase, Inc. in Cambridge, MA.

Taylor (Dillingham) Lafortune '15 was promoted to manager with Sodexo at Plymouth State University.

Alex Herbst '15 is pursuing a master's degree in geosciences with a focus in broadcast meteorology at Mississippi State University.

Whitney Roberts '16, a former member of the PSU softball team, works at the Concord (NH) Sports Center and coaches the 18U Concord Cannons girls' softball team while studying for a master's degree in athletic administration at PSU. She has also found time in her busy schedule to offer a series of multi-day softball clinics for girls throughout the state.

Jessica Savage '16 is a children's case manager at Riverbend Community Health, Inc. in Franklin, NH.

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Ian Halter photo.

Touching All Bases

The top spot in the heart of Carleton Parish '71 goes unequivocally to his late wife Sharon. After her firm hold on the position, two passions run neck and neck: baseball and Plymouth State University. "PSU gave me the polish I didn't have. My professors completed me as a gentleman," says Parish, a retired United States Marshal. "The University is where I learned for the first time in my life."

In close contention for his affections with PSU are the Red Sox. He gets to indulge both passions—the game and the University—during spring training at Fort Myers, where he lives and both the Sox and Panthers train. "Some of PSU's players can't afford to go to Fort Myers. But if you're a team, you need to be a team," says Parish, explaining why he supports the Panthers' annual training trip to Florida.

Parish's philanthropy goes well beyond the diamonds. He has made a sizeable bequest to PSU—"You never see a U-Haul at a funeral procession," he jokes—created two endowed scholarships; made a major capital gift to the ALLWell North building, contributed to the Fund for Plymouth State; and supported numerous projects and students in need. "Like my beloved wife of 36 years," he says, "I want to pay it forward." ■ Orna Feldman

**"Like my
beloved wife
of 36 years,
I want to pay
it forward."**

—Carleton Parish



To learn how you can support Plymouth State University, contact John Scheinman at jscheinman@plymouth.edu or (603) 535-2805.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

36th PSUAA Barbara Dearborn '60 Golf Classic

Sunday, September 25, 2016 at the Waukegan Golf Club in Center Harbor, NH. See the list of winners and photos at go.plymouth.edu/dearborn.

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