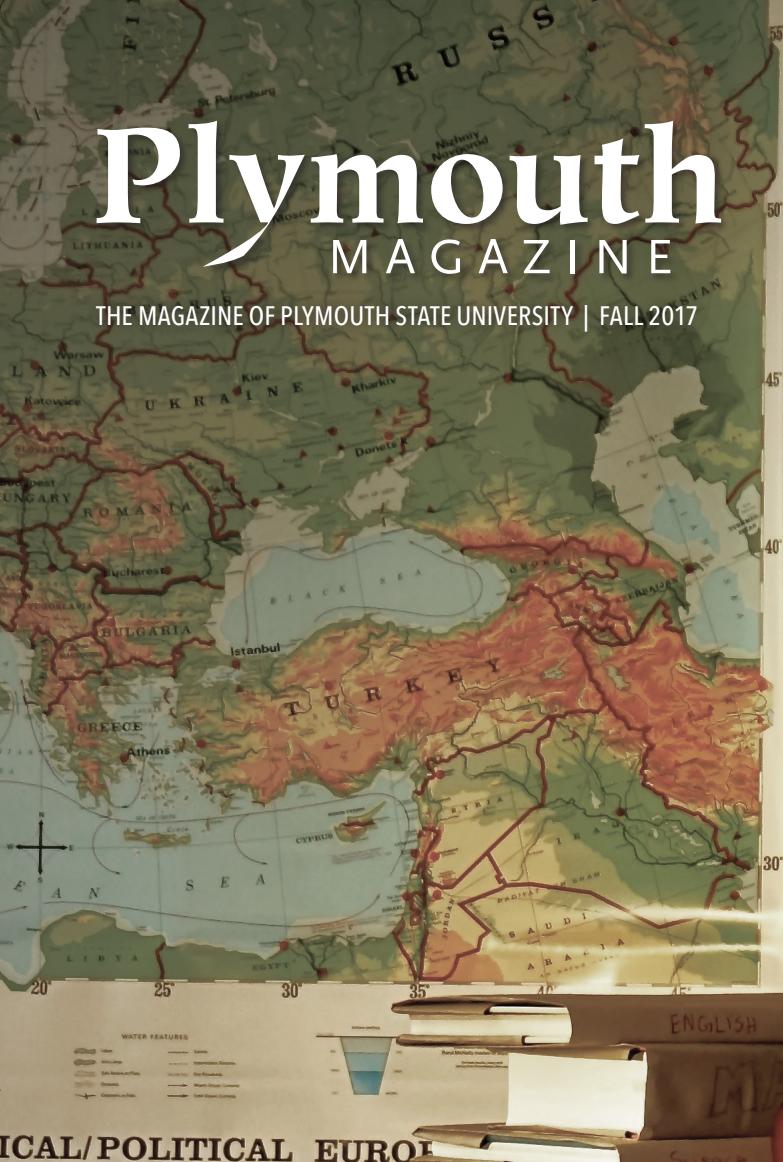


# Plymouth MAGAZINE

THE MAGAZINE OF PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY | FALL 2017



## Excellence in Educational Leadership

BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY OF INNOVATION  
TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION  
OF EDUCATORS AND THEIR STUDENTS



Tom and Liz Kelsey are not New Hampshire natives, and neither attended Plymouth State. But their roots in the Lakes Region run deep: As a boy, Tom spent summers on Squam Lake with his family and he later attended Dartmouth College. Those experiences made New Hampshire a part of his being.

Tom and Liz met, married, settled in New Jersey, and soon started a family. Wanting their three children to experience life beyond the surroundings of their New Jersey home, the Kelseys took them to Squam. Ten summers at the Rockywold-Deephaven Camps in Holderness led to the 1980 purchase of a small lakeshore property followed by more than three decades of wonderful, summer memories.

Several years ago Tom and Liz retired and are now full-time NH residents. They spend summers on Squam in a new home they built while their grown children and their families come and go, staying at the original cottage; through that New Hampshire has become an important part of the lives of the next two generations.

The Kelseys care deeply about their adopted state. After a 1997 visit to Gorham where they learned about the socio-economic challenges of the North Country, they knew they wanted to help. They began supporting organizations that provide resources and education to North Country families. "We feel blessed by what we've been given, by what we have, and we wanted to give back," says Liz. "And the North Country needed help."

The Kelseys became acquainted with Plymouth State through their connection to Squam Lake. They attended events on campus, met members of the PSU community, and came to appreciate PSU's important role in the region. "Plymouth State has a strong legacy, but has not rested on its laurels," says Tom. "It offers programs that are oriented to careers that are viable in the North Country; it has an incubator that helps create business opportunities, outstanding facilities, athletics, and more. PSU offers much to students at a reasonable price; however, we recognize that it may be beyond the means of some, and affording college is a real barrier for those students."

This connection between PSU and the North Country and the Kelsey's commitment to the region, led them to create the **Thomas & Elizabeth Kelsey North Country Scholarship in 2016**. The Scholarship supports undergraduate students from New Hampshire, with preference given to students from the North Country. In September 2016 the first two scholarship recipients, both of whom hail from the North Country, began their collegiate careers at PSU. "Being NH residents is a wonderful way to spend our retirement years," say Liz and Tom. "We are very pleased to have the opportunity to support PSU and hope that others may be inspired to do the same."

Photo Courtesy of Gill Talbot '76

# Plymouth

MAGAZINE

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On the cover:  
Classroom Setting. Ian Halter photo.



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# Excellence in Educational Leadership

## A Plymouth State University Tradition

Talk to anyone affiliated with Plymouth State University and you're likely to hear a common refrain: "At Plymouth, you're a face, not a number." Nowhere is this truer than in the University's undergraduate and graduate degree programs in education. "If you want to be anonymous, you can be for about two weeks and then you are part of the family," says Cheryl Baker '97MED, '05CAGS, '11EdD, a graduate teaching lecturer and interim director for the Holmes Center for School Partnerships and Educator Preparation at the University.

Plymouth State is justly proud of the strong sense of community shared by its education alumni, an attitude that springs in part from the University's rich heritage in the field. The institution's commitment to the teaching of teachers dates back to its founding in 1808 as Holmes Plymouth Academy, a pioneer institution for teacher training. In 1927, the American Council of Teacher Colleges evaluated Plymouth Normal School and granted it a Grade A rating as a teachers college. Nearly a century later, that rating still stands.

"You can't ignore our history," says Gail Mears, Dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Services. "We began as a laboratory school for teaching—the town's school was on our campus. From the outset, we embraced a hands-on approach to educating our educators, with great attention to pedagogy, and that attitude has been a hallmark of Plymouth State ever since." This student-centered approach is what makes Plymouth such a remarkable institution for educating educators, Mears notes, and in many respects, the introduction of Integrated Clusters is more aptly described as a natural progression in the University's proud legacy than a new way of teaching.

### A Commitment to Excellence

Because of its strong commitment to teaching, Plymouth State has made, and continues to make, an indelible mark on the state's educational landscape. The numbers say it all; in any given year, over 40 percent of all school administrators in New Hampshire are Plymouth State graduates. And for those currently enrolled in the College of Education, 36 percent of the graduate students and 12 percent of the undergraduates are in a program that leads to certification.

These students enjoy access to a diverse education preparatory unit that encompasses bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees as well as a certificate of advanced graduate study (CAGS); a multiplicity of programs from early childhood to higher education; and numerous multi-disciplinary contacts with community partners around the state. With the introduction of Integrated Clusters, asserts Mears, these relationships will only become more robust. "Integrated clusters will put us in version 2.0," she observes.

Through Integrated Clusters, continues Mears, faculty will not only be able to explore education issues across the region in greater depth, but also consider ways that the University can partner with schools around the state to meet the demands placed on educational institutions. "New Hampshire's education system is facing challenges—particularly in economically strapped areas—so it's exciting to explore ways in which Plymouth State can assist these communities. It's incumbent on us to think about how we prepare our students, and by extension K-12 students, to look beyond the four walls of the classroom when addressing the real-world issues they're likely to confront." Faculty are constantly seeking ways to link concepts and practical applications, Mears notes, and the Integrated Clusters model will only make this process stronger. "The forthcoming opportunities for enhanced bi-directional relationships between the University, surrounding communities, and our school partners are incredibly exciting."

THIS TABLET MARKS THE SITE OF  
**HOLMES PLYMOUTH ACADEMY**  
ESTABLISHED IN 1808 THROUGH  
THE LIBERALITY AND PUBLIC SPIRIT OF  
COLONEL SAMUEL HOLMES  
OF CAMPTON, N. H.  
A REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER  
THE FIRST TRAINING FOR TEACHERS  
IN NEW HAMPSHIRE WAS GIVEN HERE IN 1837  
THE ACADEMY BUILDINGS WERE PRESENTED  
TO THE STATE FOR A NORMAL SCHOOL IN 1871

ERECTED BY  
ASQUAMCHUMAUKE CHAPTER, D.A.R.  
JULY 15, 1913

## A Marriage of Theory and Application

Such collaborative relationships are a powerful tool for experiential learning, and a benefit that is amplified by Plymouth State's size. With a combined undergraduate and graduate student body of just 927, education faculty and students get to know one another well, thereby ensuring that students are able to obtain an education that speaks to their needs and interests. "Our programs are distinguished in no small measure by the caring and thoughtfulness demonstrated by everyone involved," says Baker. One example of the college's commitment to students, she adds was the creation of a student chapter of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). "Plymouth's ASCD student chapter was the first in the state, and it's incredibly important because it allows students to start networking with people who are doing what they aspire to do."

Mike Whaland '06, '08G, '13CAGS is one of many alumni who feels strongly that he has benefited from the education and networking opportunities afforded him at the University. "Plymouth State does a great job of fostering connections while also offering students a valuable sense of autonomy," notes Whaland. "During my time as a student, I built close bonds with the faculty and with other students, which enhanced my knowledge of the educational environment here in New Hampshire and made me more effective as an administrator. The University offers students a nice marriage of best practices and educational philosophy coupled with practical experience."

Currently the Assistant Principal at Lancaster Elementary School in Lancaster, NH, Whaland is the perfect example of the engaged, life-long

learner commonly found within the education department's alumni body. He is presently pursuing his doctorate in education at Plymouth; is a teaching lecturer at the University; and, together with Lancaster Principal Todd Lamarque, was recently awarded a grant by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund to design and build a living laboratory on Lancaster's school grounds to "increase science content knowledge to existing educators through collaboration with Plymouth State University."

Whaland and Lamarque's project offers a prime example of Integrated Clusters at work, uniting Lancaster K-8 educators with faculty from Plymouth State and personnel from Squam Lakes Natural Science Center to develop innovative methods for teaching the more abstract principles of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Lancaster teachers will be trained to teach STEM topics with the principles of permaculture—agricultural ecosystems designed to be sustainable and self-sufficient. Their efforts will culminate in the design of a bio shelter greenhouse at the Lancaster School that will serve as open laboratory for teaching STEM topics.

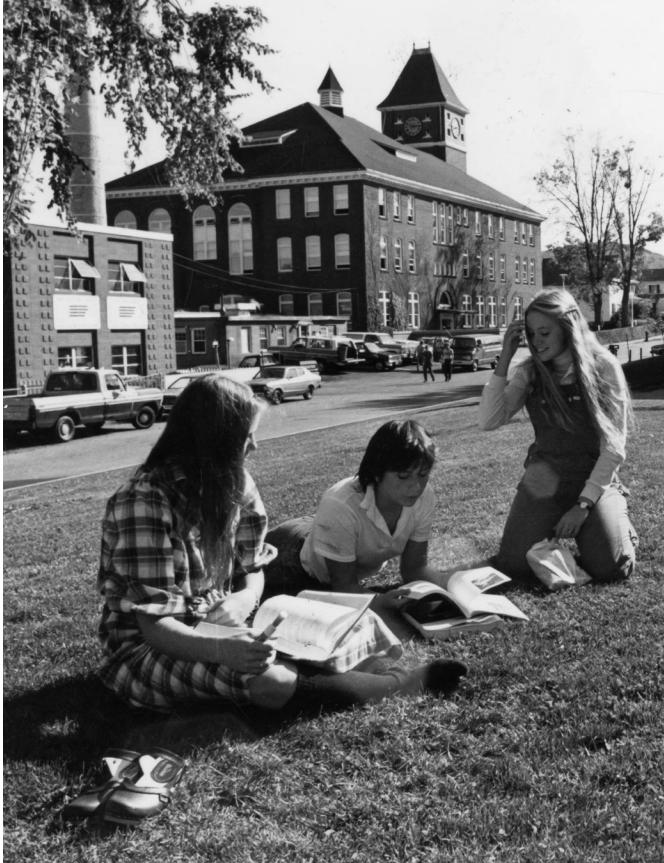
Another example of Integrated Clusters in action is Plymouth State's nascent Lancaster Initiative, a project that brings together faculty and more than 60 PSU students from 10 different disciplines—adventure education, art, business, communications, graphic design, health promotion, languages, marketing, travel, and tourism—with Lancaster, NH business leaders and community groups to address community sustainability. Working in a series of seven client-based teams, students are exploring ways to stimulate



STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, PLYMOUTH, N. H.

**"We began as a laboratory school for teaching—the town's school was on our campus. From the outset, we embraced a hands-on approach to educating our educators, with great attention to pedagogy, and that attitude has been a hallmark of Plymouth State ever since."**

**- Gail Mears, Dean of College of Education, Health, and Human Services**



Students studying in front of Rounds Hall  
Archival photo

entrepreneurial ventures and attract young professionals to this small North Country community, with a specific focus on multi-use planning for the historical Lancaster National Bank Building. Simply put, the initiative offers students a valuable opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the classroom to real-world problems.

The University focuses on teaching students to network and integrate into different domains, says Whaland, something he believes is very wise. "Learning isn't done in isolation—as an educator, you always need to be thinking about how learning relates to the wider world and how to translate your skills outside the classroom. Plymouth State does a great job of fostering connections and giving students the autonomy they need to grow. I got a job right out of my master's program and I felt very prepared to walk into my role in a public school."

Now on the other side of the table, Whaland says he continues to be impressed with the level of preparation he sees in new Plymouth State education graduates. "When I encounter teachers who have trained at PSU, I know before we even begin talking that they will possess a strong foundation in the fundamentals and be on top of best practices in areas such as common core and assessment. I'm also confident that they will walk into their classrooms with practical experience under their belts. PSU grads are very good at hitting the ground running." Based on information received from school administrators working with Plymouth State College of Education graduates, says Cheryl Baker, the University's graduates are very knowledgeable. "They're content driven, they're well versed in the standards, they know how to develop curriculum, and they know how to take direction."

## A Seamless Continuum of Learning

"Plymouth State is a wonderful place to learn," observes Whaland. "The professors are very close to their students. They get to know them as individuals, so they know how to support them, as well as how far and how hard to push them, and when to apply that pressure. You don't get lost in the weeds. You have so many people looking out for you—your professors, your advisors—that you can't hide, and that's a good thing!"

"In the graduate school, coordinators go out of their way to make sure that students get what they need," agrees Baker. "We create programs that meet the rigorous standards that education follows while also honoring the needs of the individual." The University's CAGS program is a perfect example. Some students complete the certificate in a couple of years, while others take four to five years to work through the program.

And to ensure that education graduates stay up-to-date with ongoing opportunities after leaving Plymouth, faculty make it a point to stay in touch, offering support and advice as needed. "Even though I graduated in 2013, I'm still in touch with a number of my professors and know that I can reach out to them any time I'm in need of guidance," says Whaland. "As educators, we use the term 'educational community' quite a bit, but Plymouth State really has created a network of peers and mentors in which everyone strives to be the best. The University fosters an ongoing sense of community among its graduates that is second to none."

In the end, it is that sense of community that has brought Plymouth State full circle, from its earliest days as a laboratory school—one in which students carried classroom knowledge into real-world situations—to its current iteration as an institution comprised of Integrated Clusters and open laboratories. Students continue to join theory with application, building on individual strengths to create unique paths to learning and perpetuate the school's founding motto, *Ut prosim* "That I may serve."

■ Lori Ferguson



2017 Rural Educational Leaders Network Annual Summit  
Ian Halter photo

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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## Wall Street Journal Article:

### Plymouth State Ranked Top in the Nation for Critical-Thinking Improvement

On June 6, 2017, The Wall Street Journal named Plymouth State University among the top schools in America for students to learn critical-thinking skills that prepare them to enter their careers as leaders in their chosen fields.

The front-page story detailed how few U.S. colleges teach their students how to think. According to the article and the statistics cited in the story, PSU ranked number one for critical-thinking improvement.

PSU ranked first among public colleges and universities across the country for its ability to improve the critical-thinking ability of students. The June 6 report showed that PSU far outpaced well-known public institutions including, University of Kentucky, University of Texas, Ohio State University, Keene State, and The Citadel.

The full story can be found at [www.unionleader.com/article/20170608/NEWS04/170609456](http://www.unionleader.com/article/20170608/NEWS04/170609456)

"We were delighted to receive validation that our focus on critical thinking and attention to student development was reflected in these national rankings," said Gail Mears, dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Services. "The results suggest that our students' critical-thinking skills develop significantly over their time here. These results are not surprising given our unprecedented engagement with students, high-quality teaching, and a curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking."

As PSU continues the move to the Integrated Clusters model of education, administrators are confident these critical-thinking skills combined with real-world experience will serve students well as they enter the world as PSU alumni.



## Merrill Place Conference Center & Residences

### Welcome First Students

Plymouth State's continued move toward full implementation of the Integrated Clusters and open labs model took a leap forward as the first students moved into the Merrill Place Conference Center & Residences on August 30, 2017.

The seven-story, 95,000 square foot building allows PSU to further integrate our academic cluster model into the living-learning experience for students. Offering 288 beds, Merrill Place offers students a state-of-the-art place to live and experience the clusters learning model outside the traditional classroom.

In addition to being the premier residence hall on campus, Merrill Place also serves as the centerpiece to PSU's growing conference and events department. With full-service conference facilities and on-site, hotel-style housing, Merrill Place will assist Plymouth State in growing our summer conference business and have a direct, positive impact on the regional tourism and economic development.

The official ribbon cutting for the new facility will take place at the start of Homecoming Weekend 2017 on Friday, September 24 at 4:30 p.m. at Merrill Street.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kayleigh Bennett '18

# Why Choose When You Can Create?

Crediting PSU's learning environment

and community spirit, Bennett says,

**"I would not be the student or person I am today had I not transferred. PSU brought out qualities that maybe otherwise wouldn't have shined so brightly - I love it here!"**

Kayleigh Bennett was ready to fly her small-town coop of Meredith, NH and follow her dreams to the big city in pursuit of her education. She enrolled in the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, because she was determined to become an artist with an eye for business. But, like any great story, Bennett's included an early plot twist. Disappointed with the direction of her program and feeling somewhat marginalized, Bennett transferred to PSU in the spring of 2015, her sophomore year, after learning about the possibility of creating her own major.

Now a rising senior, Bennett is set to graduate in 2018 from Plymouth's Interdisciplinary Studies Program with a focus in marketing and creative services. Bennett counts her decision to transfer as one of the best she's ever made. What Bennett lacked early in her collegiate adventure, she found in spades at Plymouth State. "As a transfer student, I quickly became part of the community," says Bennett. "People at PSU take time to know the students and make it easy to find a home."

Home indeed. Bennett is a community advisor, orientation leader, member of the Interdisciplinary Studies honor society, and was recently tapped to serve as PSU's student representative to the University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees.

■ Lisa Cramb

Photo Credit: Ian Halter



# The Bird in the Hotel Room

Jason Zube '97 is sitting in the lobby of the Samuel O'Reilly Bed and Breakfast, scrolling through his iPhone while waiting for a shipment of curtains to arrive. At 6 feet and 230 pounds, tattooed from the neck down, Zube isn't a button-down business owner. But in two months, he's made his newly renovated bed and breakfast one of the highest rated in the North Conway region. He credits his success in hospitality to his early success as a tattoo artist.

Although a successful and in-demand tattoo artist in Massachusetts, Zube struggled to find funding to launch his own tattoo studio space. Being turned down numerous times and feeling judged for having tattoos, Zube was reminded of an old book he read in high school, *The Painted Bird* by Jerzy Kosinski.

The title of the book is drawn from a moment in its story in which the protagonist, a young boy living in the midst of World War II, watches as a bird keeper takes one of his birds, paints it a different color, and releases it back in search of its flock, only for the bird to be viciously attacked by its kind. "It was an analogy to people being judged for what they look like rather than who they are," Zube says. "It left an impression on me. Being heavily tattooed, I am used to people having an impression of me before they actually know me."

After months of searching for a loan, Zube decided to visit one more bank. As he walked in, one of the bankers happened to recognize Zube from his early professional wrestling days, and agreed to meet with him. The meeting went well, and the business was launched. Zube opened his new tattoo shop in North Conway, and he named it The Painted Bird. Over the years, traveling tattoo artists from around the world were invited to The Painted Bird tattoo studio to feature their work and then stay the night in the renovated basement of Zube's house. It wasn't until a customer left one night that Zube had what he calls his 'aha' moment.

"My customers had to drive home often very far after a late night session, and they were totally exhausted," Zube says. He decided to extend his basement offer to the customer that night, and later began conceiving ways he could incorporate this into a new business.

With the flood of customers Zube had at The Painted Bird, he opened a new location. He used the second location as an opportunity to rebrand his business: The Boston Tattoo Company. After fourteen years, the two locations were fully staffed, which gave Zube a chance to return to the bank.

"They saw that I had paid off the initial loan years before it was due," says Zube, "And when I came to them with a new idea, they partnered with a New Hampshire bank in order to get it done."

Twenty years ago, Zube never thought he would own a bed and breakfast. "I never thought a lot of things would happen," he says. "But sometimes you need to get to one place in order to see the other." Today, Zube's unique bed and breakfast and tattoo parlor combination, christened The Samuel O'Reilly House, which he co-owns with his Plymouth State fraternity brothers, is the only one of its kind in the area. And despite its niche market, business has been booming ever since its doors opened in May 2017.

"The hotel is finally open and is starting to pay for itself," Zube says. While reflecting on moments that made the years of struggle worth it



Photo Credit: Ian Halter

**"My printmaking classes helped me the most. I remember Terry Downs and David Haust as being really cool teachers who made it really fun to learn. If either of them saw you doing something different from the assignment, they would let you run with it." –Jason Zube '97**

for him, Zube was reminded of the Fourth of July weekend in 2017.

"I had my entire tattoo staff up here for my birthday," shares Zube. "Many of them would see the hotel for the first time. We had perfect weather kayaking down the Socko, and it was the first time both worlds collided. Everyone got to see a different side of me and had nothing but nice things to say."

In the last 15 years, Zube has purchased two houses and opened three businesses. But the most rewarding part of it all was finding those who were willing to accept him, tattoos and all. Zube notes that it took sacrifice to get to where he is, and it often meant personal sacrifices.

"I sacrificed a lot of my relationships for my career," Zube says, noting his gratitude for his current girlfriend's support. "It's hard to find someone who understands that sometimes work comes first when it's all on you." But despite any void he may be left with, Zube has no desire to settle down yet.

"I don't like the word settle. It always sounds like you're not getting what you want," Zube adds. "I am really happy where I'm at in life. For every big peak, there's been a valley."

Jason Zube would like to thank Plymouth State and his fellow alumni for the memories he made here. "It was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I cherish all the good people I've met and the good times that I had there," Zube states. "If you're reading this and happen to be in the area, please stop by and say hello. The doors are always open."

■ Emmett Warren '16

# Building the Heart of The Health and Human Enrichment Cluster

PSU's visionary approach to education is tearing down academic silos and creating seven interdisciplinary academic clusters that promote an integrated educational experience. The Integrated Cluster approach prepares students to be 21st century marketplace standouts and builds real-world collaborations between the University, industry, and communities.

At the core—the heart—of each cluster is the critical need for Open Laboratories: transformational spaces for students and faculty to engage with businesses and communities and apply their classroom experiences to solve challenging problems. For the Health and Human Enrichment (HHE) cluster, the Open Lab is the AllWell Complex on the Holderness Campus. The University plans to build new and upgrade current facilities at ALLWell to integrate academics, athletics, and outreach.

"This exciting strategic initiative lets us maximize the benefit of PSU's splendid natural resources," says Don Birx, president of Plymouth State University. "The new, world-class facilities will enable students to develop their academic and athletic prowess, while linking outdoors, indoors, tourism, health care, sports, hands-on learning, and regional economic growth. Thanks to the New Hampshire State Legislature, Plymouth State will receive \$3 million toward the construction of this Open Lab."

## Upgrades of the AllWell Complex feature:

- Two artificial turf playing fields to extend outdoor activities year-round
- Stadium seating and lighting to expand outdoor operational hours
- Six tennis courts to replace courts that were eliminated with the construction of ALLWell North
- Grass field enhancements to improve the fields' longevity
- Strength & Conditioning Open Lab to be co-located with the stadium and turf fields

## Recruitment and Retention

Among PSU's high-level priorities are recruiting and retaining top students, particularly those who are committed to active lifestyles. PSU's lack of turf fields is a huge challenge in attracting first-class student athletes in all sports.



## Benefits of artificial turf fields:

- The University estimates that 90% of all students will use the stadium and turf field for academic instruction as well as recreational, intramural, and club sports.
- PSU's construction of facilities supporting ice hockey and track and field, for example, ushered in large enrollment increases. PSU projects similar increased enrollment with the new facilities and upgrades of the ALLWell Complex.
- The turf fields will serve as Open Laboratories for academic programs and will be located immediately adjacent to the Strength and Conditioning Open Lab.
- Turf fields offer top-quality playing surfaces year-round.
- One-third of student athletes enrolling at PSU graduated from high schools with turf fields. To competitively recruit these potential PSU students, the University needs similar facilities at the collegiate level.
- Without a turf field, PSU is unable to host NCAA playoff games. Field hockey teams practice and compete off-campus because they cannot play on grass. Similarly, the lack of a turf field rarely allows spring teams to host home games.



### Academic and Regional Transformations

The Strength and Conditioning Open Lab offers transformational opportunities to students, the community, and the region. It will be an academic hub, integrating knowledge gained in the classroom with hands-on expertise refined in the Open Lab.

"This new Open Lab will encourage real-world teamwork," says Gail Mears, dean College of Education, Health and Human Services. "It will incorporate multiple perspectives and solutions, create partnerships with industries, organizations and communities, and address gaps in the region's economy."

- Students enrolled in athletic training, physical education, outdoor recreation, physical therapy, exercise and sports physiology and other allied health fields will use top-notch equipment and work in state-of-the-art facilities.
- The facilities will attract high quality student athletes, faculty and coaches who will enhance the academic rigor of programs and performance of athletic teams.
- The interdisciplinary perspectives gained by the Strength and Conditioning Open Lab will aid in making PSU a renown center of excellence in New Hampshire and beyond.
- New and upgraded facilities enable new training grounds and programmatic opportunities for faculty and students to serve special populations, such as Special Olympic athletes, Wounded Warriors, and other under-served groups.
- Enlarging students' cache of real-world skills, complemented by gaining a network of strong professional connections, addresses local employers' needs for a highly-qualified workforce. It also enables New Hampshire natives to stay and live in New Hampshire—a benefit both for students and regional economic development.

For additional information about supporting this new initiative through a philanthropic investment or bequest, please contact Vice President of University Advancement Paula Lee Hobson or Director of Development John Scheinman.

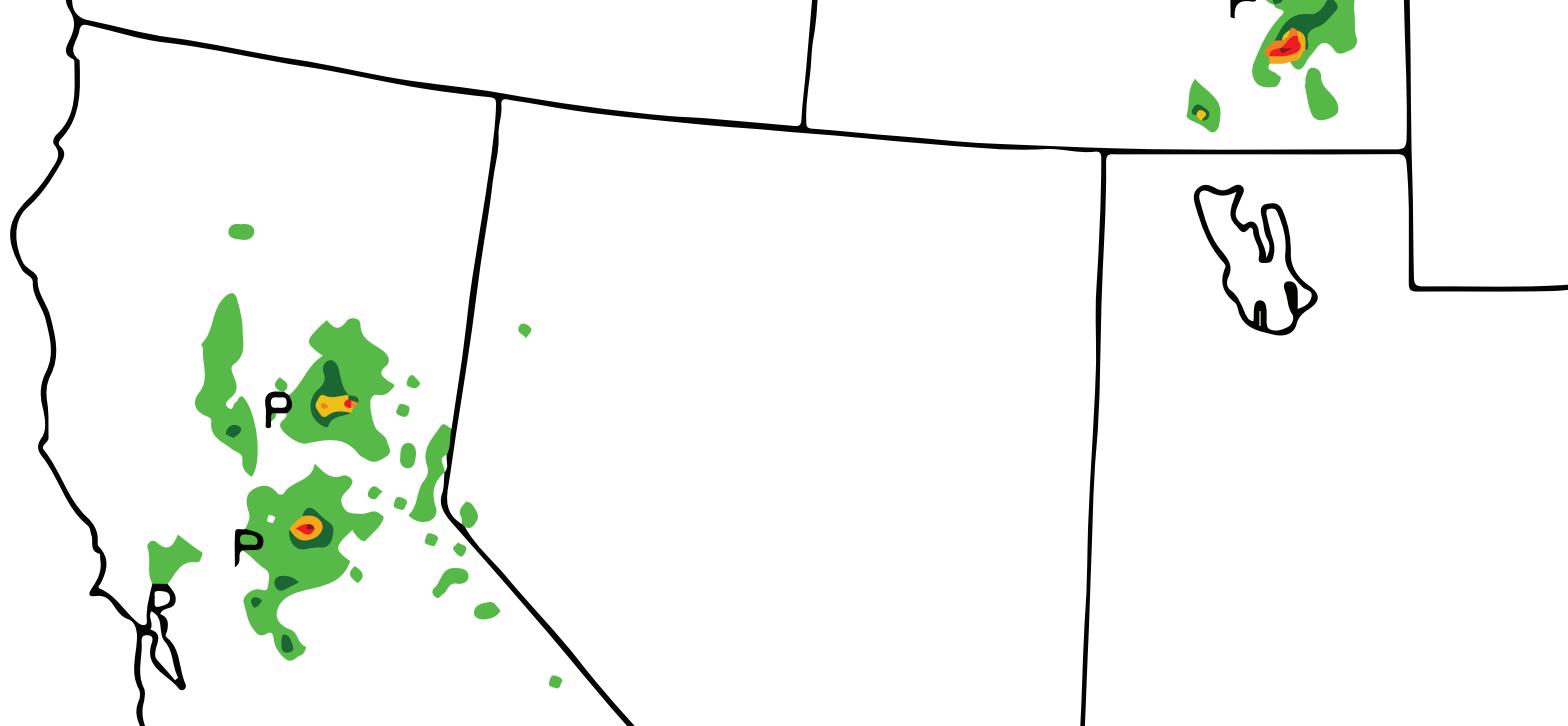
■ Orna Feldman



## University Advancement Shatters Fundraising Record for Fiscal Year ending in June

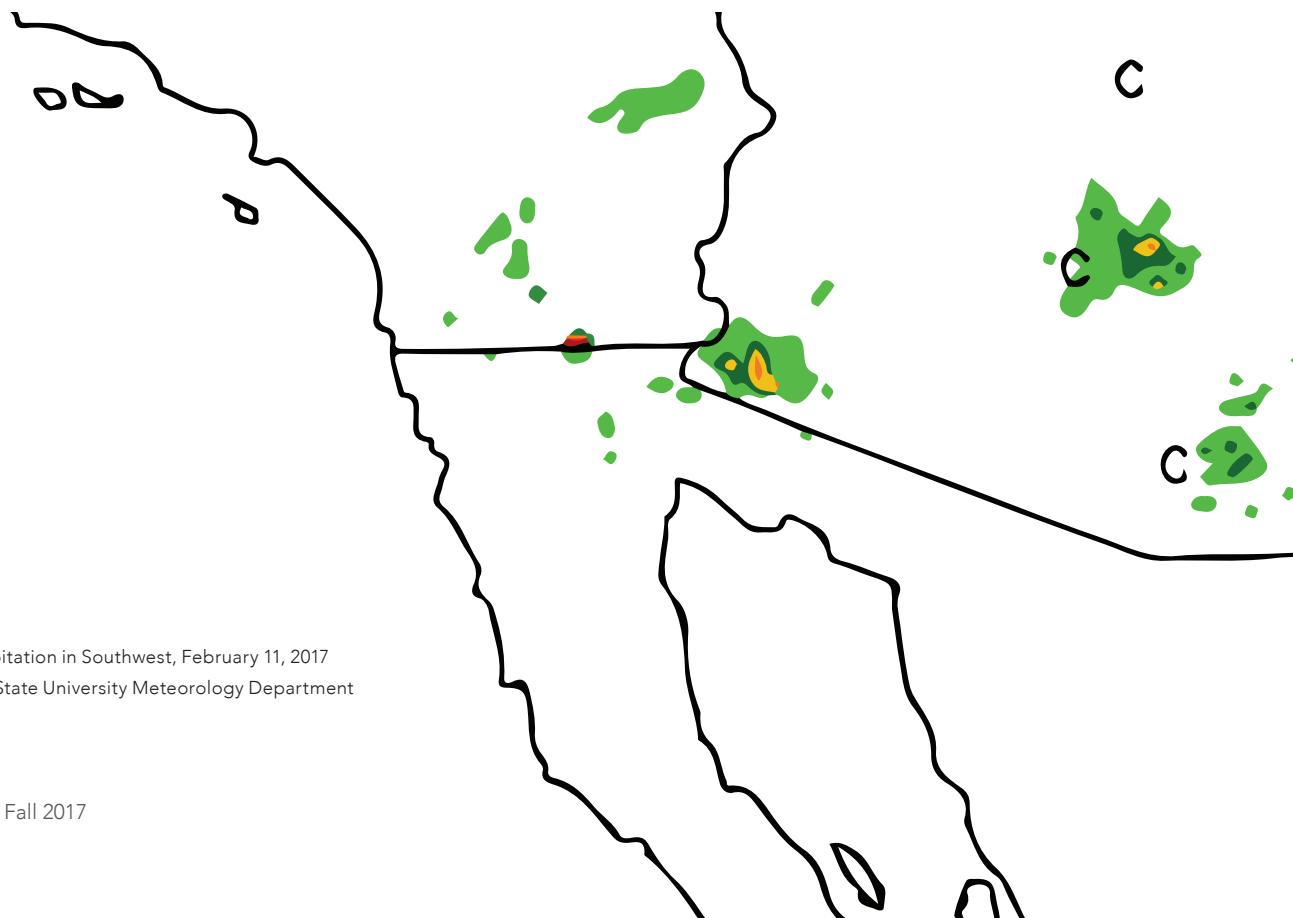
Plymouth State University Advancement raised a record \$5.17 million during the past fiscal year ending on June 30, 2017. Highlights of the fiscal year were the announcement of a \$1.5 million bequest gift from Ann Haggart, corporate funding from The Bank of New Hampshire, a scholarship fund set up by friends of PSU, Thomas and Elizabeth Kelsey, bequest funding for a new Integrated Clusters project from an anonymous donor in Haverhill, NH, and a significant bequest pledge from PSU Alumnus and President's Council member Carleton Parish '71.

"This record-breaking fundraising year was made possible by generous PSU alumni, friends, faculty and staff donors," said Paula Lee Hobson, vice president for University Advancement. "I believe this year was a turning point in our fundraising efforts: more and more donors are embracing PSU's Integrated Clusters model and supporting that vision through their philanthropy."



# Atmospheric Rivers

PSU Meteorology Students Integrated Skills  
Across Disciplines to Address Water Extremes in the West



Radar summary of Precipitation in Southwest, February 11, 2017  
Photo Credit: Plymouth State University Meteorology Department

PLYMOUTH, N.H.—Undergraduate and graduate meteorology students are acquiring and applying new skills that will improve forecasting for extreme precipitation caused by atmospheric rivers (ARs). This research project reflects PSU's move from a traditional academic model to Integrated Clusters, giving students the combination of interdisciplinary learning, collaboration, and hands-on opportunities they need to compete in an increasingly complex and interdisciplinary world.

Atmospheric rivers are corridors in the atmosphere where water vapor is channeled from one location to another in large-scale weather systems. Depending on the climate, ARs can result in deadly flash flooding, landslides, and blizzards. Although atmospheric rivers develop in New Hampshire and all over the globe, California is a prime location for the research study, because ARs account for nearly half of the Golden State's total rainfall, and cause about 80 percent of its major floods. In 2017, the state has already weathered a number of major storms triggered by ARs that produced record-setting Sierra Nevada mountain range snowpack, rainfall, and flooded coastal riverbanks and rural towns.

Effectively managing all that water during the dry months as well as the extremely wet ones has been challenging for the state, which employs hundreds of reservoirs to regulate water supply.

The PSU meteorology student-researchers, led by Assistant Professor of Meteorology Dr. Jason Cordeira '05, an expert in forecasting precipitation extremes, and Assistant Professor of Environmental Science Dr. Amy Villamagna, who specializes in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), aim to develop tools to better forecast the timing, duration, and intensity of extreme precipitation events to inform California's reservoir operations. GIS is a mapping system that helps users analyze data to understand relationships, patterns, and trends.

"The idea of forecast-informed reservoir operation is, if you can trust that it will not rain during the next two weeks you should not release water from the reservoir. If you're expecting several inches of rain during the next two weeks, you could release water so the reservoir isn't overwhelmed," explains Cordeira.

The research is being conducted on the PSU campus in the state-of-the-art Judd Gregg Meteorology Institute in the Boyd Science Center.

According to Villamagna, GIS adds a new dimension to the research, allowing students to gather a broader range of information. "Our students are learning more than just how much rain is going to fall and where, but also what will happen once the water hits the ground," she says. "With that data, they can measure the effects of ARs on watersheds, reservoirs, cities, towns, people, and policy. The students are learning a new and marketable skill—GIS—and applying it to a real phenomenon that has on-the-ground impacts."

**"The students are learning a new and marketable skill—GIS—and applying it to a real phenomenon that has on-the-ground impacts."**

**—Dr. Jason Corderia '05,  
Assistant Professor of Meteorology**

The PSU team's research is funded by a four-year, \$379,000 grant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in collaboration with the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, which is one of the oldest and largest centers for ocean and Earth science research. The partnership between Scripps and PSU was established in 2013 and has led to several research opportunities involving undergraduate and graduate students and jobs at Scripps for recent PSU graduates Brian Kawzenuk '15G and Chad Hecht '16G.

Cordeira believes it is the interdisciplinary nature of research at PSU that helped the University secure this latest grant and helped Kawzenuk and Hecht land jobs in their field immediately after graduating. "This grant comes at an opportune time when the University is moving toward a more interdisciplinary, integrative approach. This project includes elements of social science, computer science, atmospheric science, and environmental science and policy," he says. "I think that was part of the appeal to Scripps when they decided to both fund this project and hire our graduates."

Cordeira and Villamagna expanded their research team during summer 2017 in which one graduate student and three undergraduate students led interdisciplinary projects that aim to improve the understanding of forecasting extreme precipitation and its impacts over California.

Allison Young '16G, a recent graduate of the M.S. Applied Meteorology program and one of the students on the research team, said her integrated and interdisciplinary research experience at PSU will give her an edge when she enters the workforce. "No Earth science exists on its own; they're all connected," she says. "All of the natural sciences are coming around to this idea that students and researchers need diverse skills to solve a problem. Thanks to this project, I feel like I'm already ahead."

■ Barbara Alan

# Beebe River Restoration Project Thrives on Partnership



The Beebe River flows 16.7 miles from Black Mountain Pond in Sandwich, NH before joining the Pemigewasset River near the town of Blair. As with all rivers and streams the Beebe River is home to all manners of aquatic life, but thanks to the Beebe River Restoration Project, a Plymouth State Clusters Initiative, this summer the river is also home to Plymouth State University students, faculty, and researchers.

The river is home to wild eastern brook trout, which thrive in cold waters, and the Beebe's undeveloped tributaries offer prime spawning ground and a cooler habitat when the main river warms in summer. Road crossings along the Beebe and its tributaries are currently managed with culverts beneath the road's surface. However, low stream flow (as observed during the dry summer of 2016) and culverts blocked with natural woody debris can prevent the trout from reaching or returning from the streams.

The goal of the Beebe River Restoration Project is to restore natural hydrologic flows into the river by replacing the culverts with bridges and removing barriers allowing fish passage. It sounds simple, but it is a complex project with many moving parts, implications, and a dedicated team of professionals, students, and volunteers making it happen.

PSU was introduced to the project in early summer of 2016 when Tyson Morrill '18, a volunteer with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department who monitored trout along the river, became a graduate student in biology at PSU. As part of his graduate program, Morrill designed a plan to study the Beebe River brook trout population pre-and post-restoration.

The PSU Cluster Initiative team consists of two Plymouth State faculty members, two graduate students, four undergraduate students, and an alumn; Amy Villamagna, Ph.D., assistant professor of environmental science and policy, Brigid O'Donnell, Ph.D., associate professor of developmental biology, Tyson Morrill, graduate student in biology, Katerina Crowley, graduate student in environmental science and policy, Samantha (Mac) Bevier, environmental science and policy major, Zach Newcity, environmental science and policy major, Griffan Nyhan, environmental science and policy major, Nick Scola, interdisciplinary studies major, and Jared Lamey '17, BS, Biology.

The PSU team is working alongside NH Fish and Game to electrofish or "shock" the water, making it possible to tag and collect data on the trout population. After tagging, the team will temporarily relocate fish when construction gets underway to avoid any negative interaction. Volunteers from Trout Unlimited Pemigewasset Chapter, often as many as 20 or more, regularly pitch in to help the team with tagging and data collection. In addition, members of the PSU community and community-at-large have often waded into the Beebe to lend a helping hand.

The entire restoration project is spearheaded by Nancy Bell, Vermont and New Hampshire director of The Conservation Fund. According to Dr. Villamagna, Bell is the catalyst who makes the whole operation happen.

"It is a great partnership and truly integrated project," says Villamagna. "The way all groups are working together in concert to make it happen is amazing."

Plymouth State is responsible for the scientific aspect of the project. The team is currently gathering data to determine the state of the fish population and general health of the river pre-restoration. Once the culverts are replaced and natural stream flows are restored, PSU will continue tracking and monitoring fish, monitoring macroinvertebrates, wildlife and fauna along the river, and analyzing data to determine the health of the river.

Morrill's graduate studies, co-advised by professors O'Donnell and Villamagna, will take him through the pre-restoration phase of the project, while another graduate student will continue post-restoration.



Photo Credit: Tyson Morrill '18

## Beebe River as an Open Laboratory

The PSU team's work this summer was funded through a cluster grant from the Tourism, Environment & Sustainable Development cluster. In addition, Nancy Bell has submitted a grant application to The Conservation Fund to help support and expand PSU's involvement going forward.

"Our vision is to eventually use the Beebe River watershed as an outdoor classroom for undergraduate and graduate students from the sciences, policy, and geography departments, as well as history, art, and other programs," says Villamagna.

"This is a long-term project with great opportunities for PSU students to get real field experience," adds Morrill. "The Beebe parcel is ten minutes from campus, which makes it easily accessible. And having the chance to work in the field with people from various organizations and the community creates a true open lab—it's exciting."

Samantha "Mac" Bevier, one of the undergraduate students working on the project, credits hands-on opportunities such as this as a primary reason she transferred to Plymouth State University. "I want to do the research, not just hear about it in lecture," says Bevier.

■ Lisa Cramb



# 2017

## Homecoming & Family Celebration and Reunion Weekend

Sept 22-24



### Come back to Plymouth for Homecoming & Family Celebration and Reunion Weekend!

Check out some great events like tailgating, the cornhole tournament, athletic contests, alumni awards, art exhibits, Music, Theatre & Dance performances, reunions, and more!

Be sure to join us for our 37th Annual Barbara Dearborn '60 Golf Classic, raising money for student scholarships and having fun together on the links.

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PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY  
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# A Creative and Innovative Soul:

## Remembering Dr. Roi M. White and the Plymouth Players

Plymouth State University's Music, Theater, and Dance Department, and future Arts & Technology Cluster, is the "creative heart" of campus. Theatre's development and resulting success can be attributed in part to the late Dr. Roi M. White, the man who, quite literally, built PSU's performing arts program from the ground up. From being a kid who was "born in a trunk" to two stock theater actors and receiving no traditional schooling outside of the theater circuit until high school, to building a highly respected theater program and receiving an honorary doctorate, White epitomized the notion that hard work and passion pay off. As Dr. Charles R. Duke '62 noted in an article at the time of White's retirement, "If the theater is magical, Dr. Roi White ... is a magician who made it come alive."

Between 1951 and 1978, White established one of the finest collegiate theater programs of its kind and became widely recognized for his work. Much of this recognition was thanks to the Plymouth Players student performance group he established. Early in the group's existence, as Professor Jim Hogan (PSC 1953-1986) mentions in his book *Plymouth—Where My Viewpoints Crossed*, "The Players, along with the Boston University School of Theater, were singled out of all the academic theaters in New England as doing 'pioneering work' in the training of school theater personnel."

The Players started without a significant budget allowance, so they built sets in the basement of Rounds Hall and performed in a small lecture hall. Dr. Charles R. Duke noted at the start, "All that [White] had were enthusiastic students, but those, in his opinion, were quite enough. He had to borrow tools from the maintenance department to build stage settings, and chairs and a table from the local hotel for props." Despite these initial challenges, the Plymouth Players grew into a professional-level performing group that produced shows across the region, drawing crowds by the hundreds.

"In a college with no theatre majors, and no formal drama department, Plymouth emerged as an almost mythical creator of theatrical magic in the Northern hinterlands," recalls Terry Lorden '66, a former Player who later worked with White to establish the American Stage Festival in Milford, New Hampshire. "A kind of cult, a good cult, naturally formed around Roi's creations. Audiences from some distance, but also theatre-devoted, mature performers, artists, photographers, set builders, wardrobe collectors and re-creators, and historians became working members."

In the years following its creation, the Plymouth Players emerged as the face of Plymouth for the New England region. This centrality in the public's eye was an unplanned, yet magnificent development for the Plymouth Teachers College (PTC) and Plymouth State College (PSC) communities. Performing an exceptional four major shows per year, the group wowed audiences with works of Shakespeare, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Eugene O'Neill and many of theater's other notable playwrights.

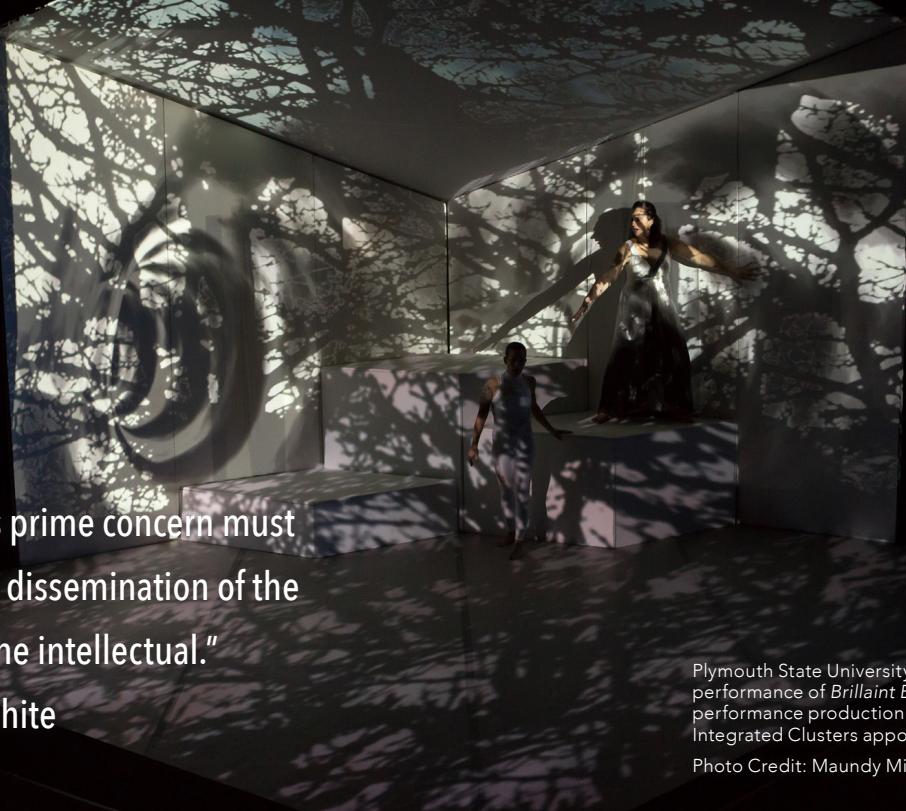
White not only instructed the Plymouth Players through their productions, but created the set designs, lighting configurations, and various aspects of the period costuming required for each play. With such immense passion and work ethic, there was no better man to take on that challenge. In White's own words, this enthusiasm stemmed from genuine love for his job: "I have liked my work so much. I have been pleasantly surprised that I have been paid to do it," wrote White. This sense of commitment extended beyond his productions to include his many students, as well. White didn't want to simply give his students an education; he strove to provide them with experiences. Through their work in Plymouth State Theatre, and grueling apprenticeships on the summer theater circuit, many of his students found a passion.

In his instruction, White challenged his protégés to push their limits. He strongly believed in the hidden potential of his performers, particularly those that were more reserved. He found that some of his best students came from people who were quiet or shy, and said that his greatest joy was "to see people blossom, to see them successfully express themselves, and to build something inside that shows through in their lives."

Working with the students of PTC and PSC was one of White's most significant passions. Many of his students from the Plymouth Players went on to become educators of the arts, and professionals on the theater circuit as actors, directors, stage managers, and set builders. His dedication proved to be infectious, as his students often worked as hard as he did, giving their best efforts to the craft, developing and refining their theater skills along the way.

Commenting on White's dedication to his students, Larry Presby '58 remembers that "as the Plymouth Players' Director, White never failed to make rehearsals a teaching time, as well as requiring perfection in performance." White's remarkable accomplishments in building an exceptional theater program, his commitment to his students, and his passion for the theater led to his award of a Doctor of Humane Letters Degree by PSC and the University System of New Hampshire in 1972. The honorary degree is awarded to those who are outstanding educators and leaders in their field. There was no more qualified recipient for this honor than Dr. Roi White. As Duke said, "the honor was richly deserved because it was for much more than producing plays. It was recognition for a man who had devoted his entire life to bringing the theater to life for people."

White retired from PSC in 1978, but continued his work in the theater until his death in 1984. Today, his legacy lives on in the creative culture of PSU. His legendary Plymouth Players endure, still performing on campus. During his tenure, White inspired a close-knit community of innovation, passion, and creativity that remains central to the core values of Plymouth State University to this day.



**"The college's prime concern must always be the dissemination of the cultural and the intellectual."**

**—Dr. Roi M. White**

Plymouth State University Theatre's performance of *Brilliant Being*, a multimedia performance production that embodies the Integrated Clusters approach.

Photo Credit: Maundy Mitchell

## **Barbara Demmett Webb, Class of '65,**

Barbara Demmett Webb, Class of '65, acted under the direction of Dr. Roi White at Plymouth Teachers College (PTC) and slowly found a path into theatre, first via community theatre and most recently into local professional theatre productions. Since moving to Plymouth, she's performed with the Papermill Theatre at Jean's Playhouse in Lincoln as well as the Winnipesaukee Playhouse in Meredith.

Webb was comfortable with the stage from an early age; singing, dancing, and performing before women's clubs, grange halls and veteran's hospitals. She then dabbled in theatre a bit in junior high and helped back stage for her senior play in high school. When Webb saw a posting in Rounds Hall during her freshman year at PTC she decided to audition. She was cast by Dr. Roi White as Muriel McComber in Eugene O'Neill's *Ah, Wilderness!* and in many subsequent productions, including *The Torchbearers* and *The Merchant of Venice* while studying to become a teacher.

"I learned valuable acting skills from Dr. Roi White and enjoyed my time as a Plymouth Player very much," says Webb. "I have fond memories of those times."

The stage door reopened for Webb at the age of 45 when she performed in a community theatre production of *Crimes of the Heart*, and it has not closed since. She learned of numerous community theatres in New Hampshire and kept an eye out for auditions. Her passion is evident as she performs in one play after another, despite the rigor of learning lines and traveling to rehearsals. "Community theatre requires a lot of work and a lot of travel time, but it also provides a lot of pleasure," shares Webb.

The prestigious New Hampshire Theatre Awards began in 2002, and seldom has there been a year when Webb didn't receive a nomination. She was selected as Best Actress in Community Theatre both for *August: Osage County* and for *The Dining Room* and as Best Supporting Actress for *Blithe Spirit*. She is very proud to have been one of the top five finalists for Best Supporting Actress in Professional Theatre in 2015. She and her husband, Gordon who is the men's lacrosse coach at PSU, moved to Plymouth in 2007. She immediately became involved with the Educational Theatre Collaborative (ETC) and has performed in four of their recent productions. She says performing with ETC helped her meet people in Plymouth and the surrounding area. In her first ETC show in 2008 she was surprised to meet up with a local thespian, with whom she had shared the stage at PTC 45 years before.

Her list of things she had planned to do while in retirement remains predominantly untouched. "This theatre hobby has changed all that," says Webb.

■ Besty Cheney '89 '99G



# All in the Family A Plymouth State Legacy

Photo Credit: Ian Halter

Plymouth State is practically embedded in Sue Smith's DNA. It's part of her family's legacy, which began when her grandmother, Phyllis Shepard Smith, graduated from Plymouth Normal School in 1926. It is an understatement to say that the rest is history.

A 1981 graduate of the University of New Hampshire, Smith earned a master's degree at Plymouth State while working on campus in the late 1980s—first in admissions and later as Director of Alumni Relations. All three of Smith's children either attend or have graduated from PSU. Her daughters Nathalie Smith Palmer '17 graduated in May and Mackenzie '22 is an Interdisciplinary Studies major, with a focus on marketing and health; and her son Baker '20 is a Fine Arts major. Mackenzie and Baker are commuter students, but "enjoy campus life as much as possible," says Smith.

When Smith learned of PSU's transformation to an Integrated Clusters model, she immediately recognized the possibilities for students, alumni, and the community. As a lifelong local resident and owner of Cottage Place on Squam Lake, Smith is active in civic and business organizations and passionate about ensuring the region's economic vitality. She is excited about what PSU's Integrated Clusters approach means for the community and for students like her children. She sees it as a win-win.

"Plymouth's alumni ranks include successful businesspeople, many of whom live and work in this area," says Smith. "Creating more opportunities to forge partnerships with these alumni and their businesses will be invaluable to students as they prepare for future careers, but also stands to benefit the region's economy."

Smith always looks forward to greeting PSU alumni and friends at Cottage Place on Squam Lake. Please visit [www.cottageplaceonsquam.com](http://www.cottageplaceonsquam.com) for additional information.

■ Lisa Cramb

# THE GREEN | PLYMOUTH STATE ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Meet up with alumni in your area and take a trip back to PSU for Homecoming and landmark reunions!

## SEACOAST CHAPTER ALUMNI GATHERING

September 14, 2017

The Rusty Hammer, Portsmouth, NH

## HOMECOMING & FAMILY CELEBRATION AND REUNION WEEKEND

September 22-24, 2017

[plymouth.edu/homecoming](http://plymouth.edu/homecoming)

### EVENTS AT THIS YEAR'S HOMECOMING!

#### TAILGATING

Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### DEDICATION OF THE '75, '76 GREENWAY

Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 11 a.m.

#### LASTING IMPRESSIONS: PSC/PSU ALUMNI ART EXHIBIT

Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 4-6 p.m.

Museum of the White Mountains at PSU

#### ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS AND REUNION CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 23, 2017 Savage Welcome Center at the PSU Ice Arena at 4 p.m., or immediately following the football game  
Honoring landmark reunions and our award recipients

Graduating Senior

Award of Excellence

Samuel Chiaverini '17

Recent Alumni Award of Excellence

Lara Gruner '12

Outstanding Graduate Alumni Award

Justin Slattery '16G

Faculty/Staff Award of Excellence

Patrick and Patty May

Distinguished

Alumni Service Award

Samantha (Kenney) Maltais '08

Alumni Achievement Award

J. Terrence "Terry" Hart '78

Ut Prosim Award

Scott Bernier '92

#### NEW! PANTHER PROWL WITH PRESIDENT DONALD BIRX

Sunday, September 24, 2017 from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

A Motorcylce ride through the White Mountains to raise money for scholarships for students in the North Country.

#### PSUAA BARBARA DEARBORN '60 GOLF CLASSIC

Sunday, September 24, 2017 from 4-6 p.m.

Waukewan Golf Club

## ANNUAL APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB -

### PSU ADVENTURE WEEKENDS

September 29-October 1, 2017

Fall Foliage: Highland Center and Zealand Falls Hut

March 16-28, 2018

Winter Wonderland: Pinkham Notch

## ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Savage Welcome Center at the PSU Ice Arena

## PANTHER BUSINESS CLUB HOLIDAY GATHERING

December 1, 2017

The Algonquin Club, Boston, MA

## SWEDISH ALUMNI GATHERING

December 2, 2017

O'Leary's Pub, Stockholm, Sweden



Find out more about these and other great alumni events at [go.plymouth.edu/AlumniEvents](http://go.plymouth.edu/AlumniEvents)

## CLASS NOTES ★

★ **Classes of 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007:**  
Celebrate your reunions at **Homecoming & Family Celebration and Reunion Weekend**, September 22-24, 2017!

### 1960s

**Brooks Kennedy '65** is retired and has been married for 54 years. He and his wife have two children, and four grandchildren two of whom are in college and two in high school. Kennedy notes "I take great pride in saying my family was my career, and financial planning was my hobby."

**Patricia (Hannon) Leary '67** enjoys retirement in Bozeman, MT, and has spent over ten summers traveling to Denali Park Alaska where her spouse drove a tourist bus in the park. She celebrates her 49th wedding anniversary in 2017 and has two children and four grandchildren.

### 1970s

**Jonas Glidden '70** taught at Pittsfield Middle High School in New Hampshire for 35 years, retiring in 2005. Glidden was recently inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame as part of its inaugural class. He was a long-time Athletic Director and coached girls field hockey, basketball, and softball for many years. He is also a member of the New Hampshire Coaches Association Hall of Fame, having coached for over 25 years in the Granite State. Glidden now resides in Florida with his wife, **Elaine (Poirer) Glidden '69**.

**Marcia (Cram) Calise '71** recently got together with long-time friends **Sally (Jackman) Acor '71** and **Dottie (Hartley) Gallagher '72**. They reminisced and caught up on children and grandchildren in Maine over lunch and wine.

**Mardee (Gerren) Goldberg '71** is retired after 35 years of teaching PE in the town of Danvers, MA, along the way earning a master's degree from Cambridge College. Retirement is split between MA, where she manages real estate investments and teaches pickleball and table tennis to seniors, and The Villages, FL. Goldberg is a nationally ranked table-tennis player, and has two children and one granddaughter.

**Brewster Bartlett '72** hosted the annual Kappa Delta Phi summer gathering on the last Sunday of July in Loudon, NH. A record-turnout of 35 brothers from the classes of 1968-86 met to share stories, memories, and laughs. Memories of **Dana Nelson '69**, who recently passed away, were shared and brothers pledged to keep the Kappa Delta Phi scholarship alive with financial support.

**Nancy (Beegle) Badger '75** was elected President of the Heart of Carolina Romance Writers, a North Carolina chapter of Romance Writers of America. Badger published her first book in 2010, and published her 19th romance novel in March 2017.

**Duncan Nims '75, '76G** is the Regional Learning Officer for the Bureau of Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Region headquartered in Boise, ID, and celebrated 40 years of federal service on June 19, 2017. Nims' career began as a teacher at the Blackwell Job Corps Center on the Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin and included duty stations in Missouri, New York (where he met Sue his spouse of 31 years), and Washington state before coming to Boise in 2001.



Left to Right: Larry Kontos '77, Dave Thompson '77, Frank Cavacco '77, John Gwardyak '77



Jonas Glidden '70



Kappa Delta Phi Summer Gathering

**Susan (Cornwell) Robbins '75** retired from teaching special education in June 2016 from Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (NC). Robbins earned a PhD in 2013 from UNC-Greensboro in Specialized Education Services. She travels the east coast from Sarasota, FL, where she kayaks in the mangrove tunnels, to NH where her son and his family reside.

**Larry Kontos '77** hosted and celebrated his 40th reunion gathering of alumni musicians from PSC with families and extended families at his home in Campton, NH, in August of 2017. Kontos celebrated with his original roommates, **Dave Thompson '77, Frank Cavacco '77, and John Gwardyak '77**.

**Bob "Bubba" D. Thompson '79** retired on June 30, 2017, after 38 years working as an actuary with Watson Wyatt Worldwide and Fidelity Investments. He credits Professor Ed Wixson's Mathematics of Finance course for a successful career as a pension actuary and an early retirement.

# IN MEMORIAM

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

## Linnie L. (Watson) Giles '41

March 30, 2017, Freedom, NH

## Pauline L. (Belyea) Breck '46

June 17, 2017, Shrewsbury, MA

## Ellen (Pushee) Jordan '47

April 24, 2017, Lake Elmore, VT

## Lois I. Kent '51

February 5, 2017, Newmarket, NH

## Eileen (Parent) Clark '52

April 17, 2017, Rochester, NH

## Beverly M. (Ashley) Zampieri '55, '70G

April 14, 2017, Dover, NH

## E. Richard Haney '62

March 13, 2017, York, ME

## Daniel A. Downes '65

March 18, 2017, Lebanon, NH

## Carl M. McAllister Jr. '67, '75G

April 22, 2017, East Hampstead, NH

## Sandra E. Whitcomb '68

April 23, 2017, Candia, NH

## Donald C. Babic '69

June 17, 2017, Barre, VT

## Robert W. Peacock '69

June 21, 2017, Bend, OR

## Judith M. (Randall) Whitney-Blake '70

June 8, 2017, Belfast, ME

## Steve Vaillancourt '74

March 27, 2017, Manchester, NH

## Rowena M. (Wixson) Palmer '77

March 26, 2017, Norway, ME

## Linda Jean Marrer '78

August 5, 2017, Holderness, NH.

## Pamela J. Clancy '80

April 19, 2017, Barrington, RI

## Deborah A. (Lee) Perry '80

June 30, 2017, Sidney, ME

## Michael A. Morgan '81

June 18, 2017, Brentwood, NH

## Emily E. (Brnger) Bourgoine '89

March 20, 2017, Dublin, NH

## Madelyn A. (Austin) Johnson '93

March 28, 2017, West Lebanon, NH

## Jennifer C. Downer '94

May 21, 2017, Hooksett, NH

## Anthony J. Gangi '06

June 10, 2017, Londonderry, NH

## Elizabeth B. Hall '08

March 10, 2017, Keene, NH

## Zachary P. Frank '14

June 5, 2017, Wakefield, MA

## Faculty, Staff, and Friends

### Elizabeth Doak

July 14, 2017, South Freeport, ME

### Theodore A. Giebutowski

June 9, 2017, Rumney, NH

### John R. Newsom

June 19, 2017, Osprey, FL

**James Damren '87** is the head boy's varsity ice hockey coach at Lebanon High School (NH).

**Mike McDevitt '88** is General Manager of Soccer Savings.com in Wichita, KS, overseeing the soccer division while also heading up the team sales division for all sports.

**Jason Neilson '89** is employed with the National Weather Service and has served in Goodland, KS for the last three years. Prior, he served for 16 years in Burlington, VT.

**Jonann Torsey '89G, '07CAGS** continues to lead Russell Elementary School, Rumney, NH, as its Principal.

## 1990s

**Debbie (Manus) Love '90** is office manager at the JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc./CHI. Love helped plan Tau Omega sorority's 50th anniversary celebration, July 2017.

**Scott Lemek '91** celebrates seven years with Hyundai Capital America, currently serving as Regional Manager for Genesis Finance, Hyundai Finance, and Kia Finance divisions. Most importantly, Lemek celebrates 10 years of being cancer-free.

**Belinda (Hughes) Proctor '93**, after working as Testing Coordinator for one year at Durham School of the Arts, was promoted to Assistant Principal for 12th grade at the Durham School of the Arts (NC) after working as the Testing Coordinator for one year. She has also been accepted to the North Carolina State education doctoral program.

**Tony S. DeCrosta '94** earned his MBA from Colorado State University.

**Marc Tayler '97** is now living in Ireland, a move precipitated by his wife's job. Tayler is helping acclimate their kids and start a new chapter in their life, which includes an attempt at writing children's books.



Steven Davis '87

**Jeff Bourgeois '95** graduated from the University of San Diego with a PhD in Leadership Studies on May 27, 2017.

**David Talbot '94G** retired from PSU's College of Business Administration faculty after 15 years of active service. Immediate plans include travels to Russia, Eastern Europe, and the gulf states. You may expect to see Dave with his wife, Marti, at PSU home ice hockey games and on the slopes of Loon and Cannon in the winter and at their summer home on Joe's Pond in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

## 2000s

**Jonathan Haas '00** was named women's Division I golf coach at Valparaiso University (IN).

**Matthew Wolcott '00** recently accepted a new appointment in Maine as Senior Vice President for Resource Development & Marketing for the United Way of Greater Portland. He and his wife Leah '00 and their three children have recently settled in Falmouth, Maine.

## 1980s

**Carolyn (Cousins) Krahn '81** is an account executive with Artforms, Inc. in Brunswick, ME. **Hans-Peter Krahn '79** and **Carolyn Cousins Krahn '81** celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on September 18th, 2017. They are marking the occasion by travelling to England, Ireland and Scotland and hiking the West Highland Way with PSC classmate Rob Muehleck '79 and Kathleen Muehleck, with plans to toast Hans and Rob's 60th birthdays on the top of Ben Nevis in Scotland.

**Janet May '81** recently obtained MS degree in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Southern

Maine in May of 2017. May also earned a MEd in Special Education (1997) from the University of Maine.

**Kenneth Martin '83** works for the Department of Defense with the Air Force, and is based in New Hampshire.

**Dorry (Concannon) Foster '86** is CEO of the Wenatchee Valley YMCA (WA).

**Stephen Davis '87** celebrates his 10th year in business as President of Davis Wealth Management, LLC in Concord, NH.



Jennifer Cyr '03 in Cusco



Jenn Streeter '06



Sam Chiaverini '17



Dan Lader II '11 (in black) - Winter Wild Race 2017 at Waterville Valley.

**Robin (Hartman) Baxter '02** is the Director of Club Accounts and Sanctioning at US Lacrosse, the national governing body of the sport. Prior to this, Baxter served as the Vice President of Events at NXT Sports, a youth sports education and event management company.

**Jennifer Cyr '03** spent three weeks in Cusco, Peru in the spring of 2017 teaching English and volunteering at an after school program.

**Jesse Riley '03** has nearly completed her first year as Director of Production at Trinity College's Austin Arts Center in Hartford, CT., prior serving as Technical Director for one of the theaters at The University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music, Theater, and Dance.

**Timothy McNamara '04** is currently serving as an officer in the United States Coast Guard in Washington, D.C. since. McNamara's service began in 2007, and includes stops in Staten Island, NY, Charleston, SC, Belfast, ME, and Syracuse, NY, along the way earning a master of science degree from the California University of Pennsylvania. He is married to his wife, Kaitlyn, and together they have one son, Liam.

**Chad Cavanaugh '05** joined CRMD Solutions (Boston) in April 2017 as chief financial officer.

**Hannah Hammond '05** is currently visiting assistant professor of theatre at Berry College in Rome, GA, teaching acting and musical theatre and directing college productions. Hammond has been based in NYC since 2006, and has performed and taught with many regional theatre companies around the country, including the national tour of Cirque Dreams Holidaze, and has had the opportunity to work with the UK's top theatre/musical theatre professionals.

**Jenn Streeter '06, '14G** accepted a position at Mount Saint Mary College in New York as an Academic Advisor starting July of 2017.

**Ryan Dobens '08** has been promoted to Manager at PricewaterhouseCooper's Washington, D.C. National Tax Services in the Mergers & Acquisitions practice.

**Dale Dearth '09** went on to earn a masters degree in sport management from SNHU. He recently celebrated his fifth wedding anniversary and has two children, Giuliana and Sofia.

**Dan Lader II '09** is an Employment Specialist and Case Manager with White Mountain Mental Health, Littleton, NH. Lader went on to earn a masters in Arts and Teaching with K-12 Art Education Certification. He is a member of Acidotic RACING since 2013 and an avid ultra-runner, completing the Pemi Loop, The Pinnacle Challenge 50k, Twin State 50k, The Hamsterwheel 40 miler (twice), Runamuck 50k, M2M 55 miler, and Bear Brook Trail Marathon.

## 2010s

**Christopher Bergeron '11G** a new position as assistant professor at Bellevue University (NE) where he will be developing a new Masters program in Instructional Design & Technology. The position is remote, so Bergeron continues to reside in New Hampshire. He completed his doctorate in December of 2016 from Nova Southeastern University (FL).

**Erin Croce '12** is a Group Ticket Sales Account Executive with the Colorado Avalanche.

**Katie (Laro) Ward '12, '14G** is the Senior Meteorologist and Database Manager at MetStat, Inc. in Fort Collins, CO.

**Sam Durfee '14** is in year three at the

Central Regional Planning Commission (NH). Starting as an intern, then hired as an assistant planner, Durfee is now a regional planner and coordinates a number of projects. He also chairs the board of PermaCityLife, a NH non-profit striving to revitalize downtown Franklin through the application of permaculture principals and public-private partnerships.

**Alyssa Hammond '14** recently began a new job with the National Park Service, Boston National Historical Park (BNHP), at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston, MA, as a dispatcher for the Law Enforcement Divisions for BNHP, Lowell National Historical Park, Cape Cod National Seashore, Minute Man National Historical Park, and Salem Maritime National Historical Site.

**Jesse Anser '15** is Marketing Director of NLI Entertainment, which manages Alpine Adventures, Candia Springs Adventure Park, and Whales Tale Water Park (NH).

**Matty Leighton '15P, '18CAGS** is a financial services center manager, overseeing academic and administrative units at Plymouth State University.

**Kimberly McLaughlin '15** recently passed the CPA exam. McLaughlin works at Leone, McDonnell & Roberts, Professional Association as a staff accountant in Dover, NH, where she's been since graduating in 2015.

**Christopher A. Musumeci '15G** has a new position as Operations Manager at Key-Rite in Seymour, CT. He was formerly a Manufacturing Engineering and Maintenance Supervisor at Eaton in Reno, NV.

**Samuel Chiaverini '17** is an account executive with Shawmut Communications (MA). Sam is receiving the Graduating Senior Award of Excellence at Homecoming.

# Alumni Business Insider Q&A

## TIFFANY BAERT, CFMP

Public Relations Officer, Bank of New Hampshire

Tiffany Baert '09 earned her Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Plymouth State University in 2009. Following graduation, she began her career in the marketing department at Bank of New Hampshire where she currently serves as Public Relations Officer. In this role, Tiffany works with NH nonprofit organizations to identify their needs and aligns them with the giving policy of the bank, both through donations and sponsorship opportunities. These donations and sponsorships average \$1 Million annually, and it is Tiffany's job to tell the story of each partnership and the great work being done as a result. In her spare time, Tiffany volunteers as a Mentor for the Circle Program, a member of the Central NH Chamber of Commerce's Marketing and Membership committee and is also a member of Plymouth Regional High School's Marketing Advisory Committee.

### YOU'VE EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME IN YOUR CAREER AT BANK OF NH. HOW HAS YOUR CAREER RISEN SO QUICKLY?

Success is measured in many ways. While I feel I have been successful in many aspect of my life, there is always more to achieve. I feel that my career has progressed quickly as a result of determination, having the right career for my personality, and by surrounding myself with the right people.

I have always been determined in life which has been a strong attribute to my success. I tend to set small, fast-paced goals along the path to a much larger goal. Once completed, it is time for something new. Always stay busy, never be bored and don't be afraid of change. Change is inevitable and sometimes hard, but your biggest strength is in learning to adjust.

At an early age, I became an entrepreneur, running a lemonade business at the local fairs and festivals, which provided me with the skills to do many things but most importantly made me realize what components of a business I loved to do. Every job has certain tasks you prefer to prioritize over others but identifying what it is you like most and ensuring that is the majority of your daily job, you will enjoy your work and the challenges you encounter. You should always look forward to going to work each day and I do.

### ARE THERE ANY "KEYS" TO YOUR SUCCESS?

Yes, I feel there have been many components to my success including hard work, focus, communication and dedication.

**HARD WORK** - You should always do your best and exceed expectations upon every opportunity.

**FOCUS** - You always need to have a goal in mind and stick to it.

**COMMUNICATION** - Anticipate what will be asked, be thorough and responsive.

**DEDICATION** - Be committed and loyal to yourself, your job and your peers.

I have been fortunate to have a boss who recognizes, appreciates and rewards all of these "keys."

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

My favorite part is working with people, co-workers and the community. It is rewarding to assist others, and I am grateful to be assisted. We learn from each other every day.

### WHAT HAS IT BEEN LIKE TO WORK WITH PSU AS A PROFESSIONAL?

In my role as Public Relations Officer for Bank of New Hampshire I have been fortunate to work with Plymouth State University on many levels. It gives me great pride to partner with them to further the expansion of the University and programming in a giving capacity and to benefit from their charitable efforts to the many civic and nonprofit organizations within the Plymouth community.



### HOW DID YOUR EXPERIENCES AT PSU HELP YOU BECOME SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR CAREER?

I would consider myself a nontraditional student due to transferring schools three times in four years. This in itself was a huge learning experience although I do not recommend it. I transferred to Plymouth State University for the beginning of my Junior Year. The transfer to PSU also brought me "home," which I realize now was where I belonged all along. As a senior in high school and myself as the sole source of financing for my education, I decided against all advisement to stay local and moved to Charlotte, NC where I would know very few people and pay out-of-state tuition. That lasted one semester and I moved to Providence, RI where it was a reasonable distance from home. Although this was less than a three hour drive home, the private school I decided to attend was more than I could manage to pay on my own and it still didn't feel like the right fit for me.

Finally I decided to apply to Plymouth State, was accepted, moved home and loved every bit of my last two years earning my Bachelor's degree. Going to Plymouth State not only taught me many valuable life lessons but attending classes that exposed me to real-life application of my major was eye opening and provided affirmation that the major I had selected was the right fit for me. While working to appropriately align my transfer credits I built a relationship with an advisor that became a source of guidance for my education and my future. They provided me with the tools I needed to succeed. I always felt like they were rooting for me as a student and as I reconnect on a professional level realize that it never stops. As an alumni they are proud to see and hear about all students that followed their dreams and are successful in various ways.

### WHAT DOES PSU MEAN TO YOU?

Plymouth state is not just an education to me but is a place that I look at as a resource for the community.

## EXCHANGING VOWS

1 Jesse Anser '15 and Norma Ross '14 exchanged vows on August 12, 2017, at the Owls Nest Resort and Golf Club.

2 Tiffany (MacKenzie) Young '11 and Jonathan Young '11, both Childhood Studies grads, exchanged vows at the Common Man in Plymouth on June 25, 2017.

3 Billy Cann '15 and Katie Cottone '15 were married at the Black Swan Country Club on June 25, 2016 in Georgetown, MA.

Pictured from left to right Emily Spring '15, Kat Hall '15, Brittany Angelo '15, Kelsey Clifford '15, Billy Cann '15, Katie (Cottone) Cann '15, Kim McLaughlin '15, Kristen Ternullo '15, Katelyn Ventre '15, Becca Theriault '15, Justin Hurd '16, John Zona '16, Ryan Davis '16, Eric Sylvia '15, Grady Arnao '16

Brianna Frost '11 married Nicholas Nelsen '12 on March 15, 2017, in Concord, NH in a private ceremony with friends and family.

4 Brenda Shively '13, '17G married Megan O'Gara '14 on Mary Lyon lawn at PSU on July 29, 2017. The ceremony was officiated by David Gyger '97.

5 Katie (Laro) Ward '12, '14G married Brenden Ward '12 on June 18, 2017, at The Common Man Inn and Spa in Plymouth, NH.

From left to right: Michael Pirhalla (2012), Nicole Petrin (2012), Samuel Lillo (2012), Cortney Shepard (2012), David Heeps (2012, 2014), Erin Norris (2012), Michael Wessler (2016), Nathan Obin (2012), Benjamin Thresher (2011?), Peter Orszagh (2013), Katie (Laro) Ward (2012, 2014), Brenden Ward (2012), Faye Harrington (2012), Tyler St Cyr (2012), Kaitlin Peronto (2012), Haley Fister (2016), Doug Inglis (2013)

6 Colin Murphy '13 married Anna Doumas '13 on August 19, 2017.



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## ARRIVALS

Michael Moore '11 adopted a four-legged friend named Grace. Her birthday is December 5, 2016. Her adoption day is April 24, 2017.



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### SHARE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PHOTOS!

Send us your personal and professional accomplishments at [go.plymouth.edu/infoupdate](http://go.plymouth.edu/infoupdate) so we can share your news with the alumni community. Submit your update today!

### CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



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## ALUMNI CHAPTERS

Chapters are geographic or affinity/interest-based groups with the following goals:

- 1** Connect as alumni for fun, friendship, and business networking.
- 2** Serve and connect alumni to serve in strategic volunteer roles in support of PSU's Integrated Clusters.
- 3** Support the fundraising goals of Plymouth State University.

Listed below are fledgling groups, recruiting volunteer leaders for growth.

North Country, NH

Panther Gridiron Club,  
Formerly Friends of PSU Football.

Washington, D.C.

Panther Football Alumni

San Francisco/Northern California

LGBTQ and Allies Affinity Group

Colorado Denver to  
Ft. Collins Front Range

Contact us at [alumni@plymouth.edu](mailto:alumni@plymouth.edu) to get connected with any of our chapters.



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## – FOOTBALL TAILGATING AT PLYMOUTH STATE –

Are you ready for some football? Get in the game and come tailgate with us! Now you can tailgate at all Plymouth State home football games. Bring your grills, coolers, and chairs and come cheer on your Panthers! Show your Panther pride and decorate your vehicle. Cost is \$20 per vehicle on first-come, first-served basis. Standing room is FREE. Contact Lauren Lavigne at [l\\_lavigne@plymouth.edu](mailto:l_lavigne@plymouth.edu) to reserve your spot today!

Get the 2017 PSU Football schedule here:  
[Athletics.Plymouth.edu/sports/fball/2017-18/schedule](http://Athletics.Plymouth.edu/sports/fball/2017-18/schedule)



Ian Halter photo