



Academic Affairs

Acmes & Accolades



GENESEO
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

| November 2019

The Division of Academic Affairs at SUNY Geneseo is organized into 2 schools and 18 academic departments which provide a variety of majors, minors, and concentrations for our students. The division also includes several support units that complement our academic programs, enhance programmatic study, and ensure the development and completion of degree programs.

Academic Affairs Honors Five with Annual Awards

The Division of Academic Affairs honored five employees with its Awards for Outstanding Commitment to Geneseo's Values on October 21. Provost Stacey Robertson recognized recipients at the division's annual Fall Festival where faculty and staff celebrated their colleagues' accomplishments.

"Our talented faculty and staff in Academic Affairs perform outstanding work, and their contributions help make our division and college even stronger," Robertson said. "Our recipients' dedication and commitment to live our values have a lasting impact on our students' lives."

Honorees received an award and certificate as well as a \$1,000 internal grant to support ongoing work in their respective award categories.



Nominees for each category also received a certificate in honor of their dedicated work.

Shown here are Irene Belyakov-Goodman, Andrea Klein, and Melanie Medeiros. Absent from the photo were Lytton Smith and Ed Pogozelski.

The **Award for Learning** honors intellectual inquiry, scholarly achievement, and personal growth. Associate Professor of Anthropology Melanie Medeiros, former co-coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean studies program, designed two popular study abroad programs in Brazil and Cuba. She is now planning an alumni trip to Brazil with Professor of English Maria Helena Lima. In addition, she imagined, designed, and proposed Geneseo's sociomedical sciences minor, now pending SUNY approval, and will serve as its coordinator. Melanie is the author of *Marriage, Divorce, and Distress in Northeast Brazil* (Rutgers University Press) as well as several research articles and has presented at more than a dozen national conferences. She also de-

signed and collected data on a new research project concerning Latino immigrant farmworkers in western and central New York, engaging students in her work.

The **Award for Creativity** celebrates a spirit of innovation that inspires intellectual curiosity and problem-solving. Lytton Smith, director of the Center of Integrative Learning and associate professor of English and creative writing, demonstrates his lifelong passion to support young writers through a variety of ways on campus. He is known among students for his challenging projects, inclusive classroom environments, wildly creative ideas, and above all his unceasing encouragement of the next generation of artists. Lytton has brought a variety of well-known poets and writers to Geneseo to host readings and, in the words of his nominator, "singlehandedly has enhanced the liberal arts side of this university." Described as "passionate, compassionate, and admirably creative in his practice and profession," Lytton has helped many students gain acceptance into prestigious M.F.A. programs.



The **Award for Inclusivity** recognizes accomplishments in promoting a diverse campus community marked by mutual

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Intersession Courses Expanded for 2020

Geneseo has heightened its focus on intersession course offerings, and the results are positive. The 40 classes scheduled for Intersession 2020 — up from 18 offered last year — had nearly three-quarters of the available seats/spaces filled prior to open registration on November 11. Study away sections — to Argentina, Italy, and Madagascar — were completely filled.

The winter break term, which runs December 30, 2019-January 21, 2020, provides students with the opportunity to accelerate their academic progress or maintain their program eligibility in the Excelsior Scholarship. Class offerings include both major and general education courses.

WIG Team Prepares to Launch GPS Program

One of the outcomes of the Provost's WIG (Wildly Important Goal) Team's efforts to increase retention of first year students is the new Geneseo Points of Support (GPS), a program designed specifically for students having critical problems who also lack experience or support in understanding how colleges or college offices work.

The GPS program is intended to help students—who often hide problems like family crises, financial issues, or social concerns because they are unaware of College services that can assist them—by providing them with a trained guide to help them navigate unfamiliar institutional processes.

Typical student concerns include multiple holds placed on their account or multiple exams scheduled for one day; filling out applications for academic accommodations; understanding payment options; hesitating to communicate with residence life, dining services, health and counseling services, or university police; or considering taking a leave of absence.



Members of the campus community have volunteered to become GPS Guides and have attended training that will enable them to provide short-term mentoring to students in need.

Responsible for one student at a time, a GPS Guide will walk alongside their assigned student as they journey the path toward resolution, helping them build confidence and problem-solving skills along the way. The guide will help the student determine which office to visit, how to interact with the office staff when they arrive, and what questions to ask. The guide will be there for the student until their problem is solved, whether for a day or a few weeks.

More information and a GPS Guide application for interested faculty and staff members may be found at <https://forms.gle/2sbasqrs53EtmUMA9>.

Seventh Annual ASSEStivus Planned

Plans are underway for the College's seventh annual ASSEStivus, a day-long event organized and hosted by the College Assessment Council. This event embraces the model of continuous improvement and highlights assessment initiatives and best practices.

This year's event, scheduled on January 21, 2020, will focus on assessing recruitment and retention strategies for underrepresented groups and will feature a practical workshop format for program assessment coordinators.

Teach to Engage Day Deemed a Success

More than 70 faculty and staff from across campus divisions met together on October 15 at Buckland Park Lodge in Brighton for our inaugural Teach to Engage Day.

After a warm welcome by President Battles and Provost Robertson, participants contemplated the information presented by several campus panelists regarding who our students are and how we can best impact their success and well-being.

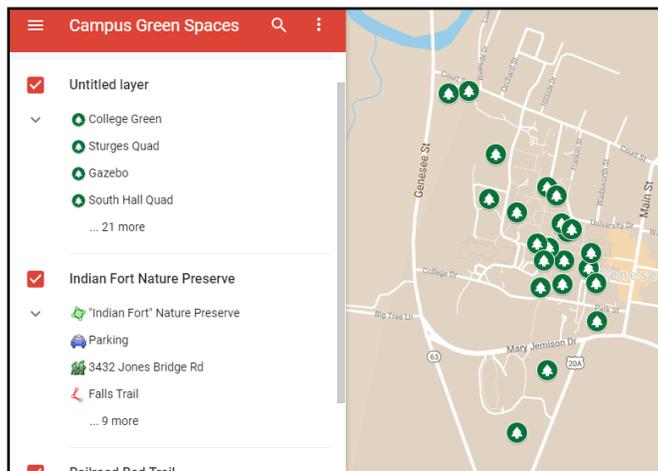
Next, the participants heard from another panel of campus constituents who provided information on various innovative and high-impact practices. Interactive discussions ensued as participants collaborated together at their tables.

After lunch, table participants worked together to develop two-minute "elevator speeches" designed for various stakeholders including prospective students, current students, alumni, parents, faculty, professional staff, and the general public/community members.

WIG Team Member Develops Interactive Green-Space Map

Inspired by *Nature Rx: Improving College-Student Mental Health*, a 2019 book by Donald Rakow and Gregory Eells that emphasizes the mental health benefits of spending time outdoors, Director of Multimedia Keith Walters has designed an interactive map highlighting campus and surrounding green-space areas that students can utilize for wellness in nature initiatives.

The map includes descriptions, photos, and tips on when to best use the green-space areas, which include the Indian Fort Nature Preserve, the Railroad Bed Trail, the Island Nature Preserve, the Genesee Valley Greenway, and approximately 25 spaces on campus.



Teaching and Learning Center Expands Offerings

The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC), through collaboration with faculty and administration, supports a learning culture that values and rewards teaching, facilitates reflective dialogue about teaching and learning, encourages the development of teaching as a practice and a scholarly activity, invites innovation in curricular development, and encourages the creation of diverse learning environments in which all students can learn and excel.

Directed by Dr. David Parfitt, the TLC, in keeping with its mission to reinforce the importance of teaching excellence as a fundamental responsibility of a public university, has expanded its offerings to also include retention-focused programs.



Upcoming program topics include the following:

- ◆ The Data Analytics Summit series, which brings together various campus stakeholders to share ideas as we develop this important new program.
- ◆ The Fulbright Forum, which provides previous recipients the opportunity to speak about their experiences and answer questions from colleagues interested in applying for the fellowship.
- ◆ Dominant Narratives of a Geneseo Education, which is part of a series of programs focused on growth mindset and student-centered pedagogy. The session will explore how dominant narratives can influence our assumptions and lead to prescriptive, rather than collaborative, practices in teaching, advising, and support.
- ◆ Reading Group: Teach Students How To Learn, also part of the series of programs focused on growth mindset and student-centered pedagogy, provides time for introspection on Saundra Yancy McGuire's 2015 book *Teach Students How to Learn* that will help participants focus on strategies that can be incorporated into their courses to improve student metacognition, study skills, and motivation.
- ◆ Roundtable Discussion on the First Year Seminar Experience, also part of the series of programs focused on growth mindset and student-centered pedagogy, during which the first year seminar course designer and facilitators will discuss successes and opportunities for improvement in preparation for submitting the course through the process needed to obtain approval as an ongoing course.
- ◆ The General Education and the Geneseo Experience Deliberative Dialogue Series, which will provide opportunities for participants of diverse views and experiences to seek shared understanding and to search for common ground for action on this important topic.

Past TLC programs include topics such as The Power of the Pause: Mindfulness-Based Strategies for the Classroom, The Power of the Pause: Self-Care Strategies for Faculty, Short Portable Modules: Digital Online Modules for Environment Sustainability, Writing a Learner-Centered Syllabus, and Cross-disciplinary Courses: Geneseo Green Quotient.



Faculty Kudos

Associate Professor **Jim Allen**, Department of Psychology, gave a talk to the Rochester Minimalists on September 10 at the Brighton Memorial Library on his book *The Psychology of Happiness in the Modern World*.

Professor **Robert Goeckel**, political science and international relations, was invited to present his paper, "State and Church in the GDR: Anglo-American Perspectives," at the Berlin Divide and Reunited: 30 Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall conference sponsored by the Institute for Church-State Research in Berlin, Germany.

Professor of English **Paul Schacht** was awarded a SUNY Innovative Instruction Technology Grant award of \$35,200 for the project A Laboratory-Based Introduction to Digital Scholarly Editing. He also received a SUNY Conversations in the Disciplines (CID) grant of \$1,622 for the workshop Sustaining Digital Projects, Sustaining Careers.

Assistant Professor **Yvonne Seale**, history, was granted the 2019 Teaching Association for Medieval Studies' (TEAMS) Early Career College Educators' teaching award based on her lesson plan "Mapping the Middle Ages." Seale has been invited to present her work at the group's 2020 International Congress for Medieval Studies in May.

Assistant Professor of Strategy **Pouya Seifzadeh**, School of Business, wrote an article on mergers and acquisitions for the *Rochester Business Journal*.

Associate Professor of Education **Annamarie Urso** received United Way of Livingston County funding of \$4,750 in support of the 2019–20 Soaring Stars Program, a summer enrichment program for economically disadvantaged youth. The funds will be used for student materials and supplies for the program. This is the sixth year the United Way has provided support for Soaring Stars.

Associate Professor of Biology **Suann Yang** has been selected as a mentor for the QUBES Project, an NSF-supported community that connects faculty from across the globe who collaborate on finding better approaches and teaching materials.

Academic Affairs Awards (continued from Page 1)

respect for the unique talents and contributions of each individual. For nearly 20 years, Irene Belyakov-Goodman, former coordinator of ESOL and lecturer of English emerita, worked diligently to make our international and English Language Learner population feel included and be successful at Geneseo. In addition to teaching all the English courses Geneseo offers to international students, Irene developed Methods for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, which reached capacity every semester. In bridging her courses, she created a lasting legacy at Geneseo through the Speech Buddies Program, which pairs international students with students studying language teaching methods for friendly, long-term tutoring and collegial interaction. As one nominator wrote, "Speech Buddies has provided the means for hundreds of students to meet and befriend students with cultural and linguistic backgrounds that are vastly different from their own." Irene was also an advocate for LGBTQ+ students through SafeZone and was always willing to help students from diverse cultures, countries, and languages.

The **Award for Civic Responsibility** commends the promotion of ethical local and global citizenship. Associate Professor of Physics Edward Pogozelski infuses history and current events into his courses to make learning interesting and relevant while underscoring the importance of ethical decision-making in the application and practice of physics. Throughout courses such as Applied Mechanics and LabVIEW (Instrumentation and Interfacing), Ed makes a point of ensuring his students understand the broader view. Examples include analyzing the design processes used in failed bridges and delving into factors that led to the Hyatt Regency walkway collapse in Kansas City. Ed leads the annual Geneseo bridge-building competition that tests students' engineering design and construction acumen. Ultimately, he destroys their work with a device that allows him to control force over time. In the words of his nominator, he "drives home the analytical concepts of the course but also forces students to think about the bigger picture and ethical problems we will encounter throughout our careers. I think this is the epitome of a liberal arts education."



The **Award for Sustainability** acknowledges advancement in just principles of ecological, social, and economic stewardship. Andrea Klein, director of Campus Events and Scheduling, is often behind the scenes busily working to ensure the campus community hosts memorable events for faculty, staff, students, alumni, visitors, and friends of the College. These include high-profile celebrations such as New Student Convocation, Commencement, and the President's Gala. In addition, her initiative led to recent improvements

in campus signage and the lobby transformation in Erwin Hall, both of which help create a welcoming environment. Andrea also chairs the Buildings and Grounds Committee and has helped engage faculty, staff, and students with campus volunteerism projects to help beautify the campus.

Nominations of any currently-employed Academic Affairs faculty, professional staff, and classified staff, including those who have been previously nominated but not awarded, are being accepted now through Monday, December 2, 2019 for next year's awards. The awards selection committee will consist of this year's awardees.

Galleries' Exhibits

All exhibits are free and open to the public.

Bertha V.B. Gallery—October 30–December 7, 2019

Wednesday & Thursday, 1-4 p.m.; Friday & Saturday, 1-5 p.m.

Photography: The Landscape: Exterior/Interior—Exhibiting artists are Denis Defibaugh, Robert Doyle, Carl Hazelwood, Joanna Jennings, John Reuter, Andy Smith, Kristine Tenalio, Dick Thomas, and Edward (Ken) White.

Visitors will experience a range of photographic experiences, from the panoramic views of Doyle's New York to Defibaugh's Norwegian village Uummanq in Greenland; from Jennings' psychological spiritual renderings of historical memory to Reuter's sometimes surreal polaroid photographs, and Hazelwood's ubiquitous travel photos from his studio windows.

Viewers will witness the continuing extension of photography in the hands of and through the eyes of mature artist photographers.

Lockhart Gallery—October 23–December 7, 2019

Wednesday & Thursday, 1-4 p.m.; Friday & Saturday, 1-5 p.m.

Hand-Picked: Art Expressions of Farmworkers Who Feed Us—So often farmworkers are an invisible population in this country, yet they are invaluable to our communities and our economy.

This traveling exhibit was designed to raise the awareness of all viewers toward a clear understanding of the inner and outer lives of migrant farmworkers in eight counties of Western New York. The exhibit also features six poems by Mexican and Puerto Rican participants in our Literature program which is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts.