

# SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

## A Message from the Dean

### Greetings from the Division of Research and Academic Resources!

As our busy year continues, I want to bring you up to date with some of what we've accomplished and what we plan for the rest of the year. Reports from the Writing Program and Hatch Library follow the summary.

The director of our writing program, Rich Murphy, has given writing advice to individual faculty members and visited classrooms, trained the writing tutors, and developed our first Faculty Learning Community. (See below.) He is also planning a Writing Colloquium for May 15, followed by a half-day of Writing Assessment on the 16<sup>th</sup>. And on June 5, he will offer our first "Annual Faculty Writing Retreat" to the first 12 faculty who register. This is an opportunity for faculty to think about their own writing for a change. Details and registration information are on the website.

[https://mycampus.baypath.edu/web/center-for-](https://mycampus.baypath.edu/web/center-for-teaching-and-learning/writing-retreat-1)

[teaching-and-learning/writing-retreat-1](https://mycampus.baypath.edu/web/center-for-teaching-and-learning/writing-retreat-1)

Hatch Library, under the capable leadership of Mike Moran and his staff, continues to be the academic heart of the college, whether on the Longmeadow campus, Burlington, CMC or online. His staff has been very involved in the faculty development efforts this past year and will continue to be so.

Our new website, already rich in academic resources for faculty and students, changes weekly, and we have been pleased to hear such positive feedback from our users. Let us know what additional resources you would like to see for both faculty and students. Many thanks to Kristen Elsner, our remarkable graduate assistant, without whom we would not have the site, and who maintains the page on a daily basis.

We have sponsored three faculty workshops this term. It's nice to see adjuncts taking advantage of these opportunities and reminds us of how much

they bring to the institution. The topics for these workshops were selected by faculty who responded to a survey last fall and ranked each topic. Canvas training remains an ongoing topic and we will work with IT to provide the support you need to use it in your courses. If you have ideas or suggestions for other workshops, please contact me directly.

In February, the Division supported the Deans' attendance at the National Center for Academic Transformation conference in Baltimore to explore how we could use technology to enhance our classes to provide student support. More to come on that issue; in the meantime, visit the Merlot site link on the webpage to get an idea of the future.

The Office of Research reviewed multiple submissions for financial support for student research from students and faculty and was able to support all of those that qualified. Thus far we have sent over 100 students and faculty to con-

ferences. And our most recent initiative, the Summer Scholars Program, has already started sparking the students' interest.

Our first Faculty Learning Community (FLC), Pedagogy of Classroom Writing, attended the Bard College Institute for Writing and Thinking last December. The members (Dick Briotta, Sheila Foley, Lori Vaughn and Sandra Had-dad) learned theory and technique that they will share with you in May. The FLC will continue next year and we are looking for additional members to join the group.

Academic Achievement Day is around the corner; many thanks to you for encouraging your students to participate in this new event. We hope to see you throughout the day, at Erin Gruwell's talk, and at the Marsha H. Conrad Awards and Maroon Key Induction in the evening.

*~Atty Ann Dobmeyer*

## Academic Achievement Day

Bay Path College will be celebrating its first annual Academic Achievement Day on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on the Longmeadow Campus. The College has established the tradition of celebrating the valued contributions of its students and faculty to their fields and to society. Through this annual event, the College will celebrate their accomplishments as they share their work with their families and friends and the greater Bay Path College community.

This day will include academic talks and panels, poster presentations, performances and student, family and faculty socializing. The day will also include the Presidential Lecture Series. At 4 pm in Mills Theater President Leary will introduce Erin Gruwell, a former teacher known for the publication of *The Freedom Writers Diary* in 1999, made into a feature film in 2007. Her lecture is sure to include inspiring remarks and will be followed by a book signing. A community dinner in Blake Dining Commons will follow and

provide the opening to the evening events which will include the Marsha H. Conrad Awards Ceremony.

Click Here for more information:

<https://mycampus.baypath.edu/web/center-for-teaching-and-learning/aad-2012>

### Current Research Projects

**“Characteristics of Proteolytic Enzymes from the Larvae of the Flesh Eating Fly *Sarcophaga Bulbata*”**

**“Teaching in the 21st century: Utilizing the Most of New Technology Resources”**

**“Sustainable Design for Interior Environment”**

## Research Opportunities

The Division of Research and Academic Resources at Bay Path College accepts applications from undergraduate and graduate students for funding for special research projects. We encourage students in all majors and programs to consider applying for these grants. Grant money may be used to purchase items necessary to conduct the research including supplies, materials, journals and publications, travel, museum admission, *et cetera*. The usual maximum amount that can be awarded per project is \$500. Research projects for undergraduates carry academic credit from one to three credits and at both the lower and upper levels. Grant recipients are required to present their findings at Bay Path College's Academic Achievement Day in April. Application deadlines are October 15 for the

following spring term and March 15 for summer and fall terms.

### Summer Scholars

The Summer Scholars Program at Bay Path College is a brand new opportunity open to all undergraduate students in the summer after their sophomore or junior year. The program encourages student research, scholarly activity, or creative work in collaboration with a faculty mentor. The program supports a student, with direct oversight from a faculty supervisor, as the student develops and implements a plan for an activity, conducts the activity, analyzes the data, and creates a written and oral presentation of the results to share with her peers at the college's annual Academic Achievement Day. The students will work with a faculty

supervisor to create a project that will enhance her Bay Path College Education. The student will meet regularly with her mentor to discuss her progress. The student will receive three credits for her work (a minimum of 135 hours) in a designated research course, which will be reflected on her fall schedule as part of that semester's load. *Students selected for this honor will receive a stipend of \$1000.*

Please see the Portal for More information.

# Writing Program

Bay Path College's new Writing Program provides learner-centered resources to undergraduate and graduate faculty and students in an effort to foster the creation of learning environments between students and faculty members. Resources are provided on the writing program Web site, through email, and in person by the director, the Faculty Learning Community members, fellow faculty members, and writing tutors. The program promotes critical inquiry and writing through holistic learning and encourages faculty to value learning environments for students and themselves in classrooms and online. In the tradition of Paulo Freire's pedagogy, the program attempts to realize classrooms where learners and teachers learn together. As the Program Director, I look forward

to working with the Bay Path College Community.

Last fall, faculty members were invited to take part in a Faculty Learning Community in Classroom Writing Pedagogy. The group is comprised of Richard Briotta, Sheila Foley, Lori Vaughn, Sandra Haddad, and me. We have been meeting to share research and devise strategies for more engaged writing in our courses at the College. Part of our investigation into classroom writing pedagogy brought us to a local workshop.

From December 2 to December 4, the faculty learning community attended the Writing and Thinking Institute at Bard College for two days of workshops on engaging students with academic writing. Sheila Foley, Lori Vaughn, and Sandra Haddad attended a session title

"Writing to Learn," and Richard Briotta and I attended "Teaching the Academic Paper."

The days were filled with writing and thinking as workshop facilitators modeled how writing can be used in all courses by way of learning environments. At first, the Bay Path contingent was skeptical regarding where the workshop leaders were leading us. Through a variety of "free writes" and "focused writing exercises" all participants played the student so that we could experience for ourselves how content-rich the pedagogy is for faculty members in the disciplines. By being patient and participating and then watching how learning environments can be constructed, the participants from Bay Path College received significant insight into our teaching. We

expect that other faculty members at the College will be hearing from us in the future.

Though the Bay Path group was broken into a group of three and a pair, we stuck together at the hotel before and after the workshops and saved tables during breakfasts, lunches, and dinner at Bard. During these times together, we shared our experiences to learn from each other. In case the reader is overly impressed with the sincerity of the weekend, I can tell you good humor permeated the whole experience.

Richard Murphy:  
[rmurphy@baypath.edu](mailto:rmurphy@baypath.edu)

# Hatch Library

A key component of the library's mission statement provided the focus for much of our staff's work during the Fall 2011 semester: "to support Bay Path's focus on leadership, communication, and technology, Hatch Library collaborates with faculty to integrate information literacy at all levels of the curriculum." The introduction of the new WELL curriculum meant that Hatch librarians did up to 50% more classroom library instruction than ever before, since all 12 WEL 100 sections visited the library, while we continued to visit all ENG 114 and ENG 124 classrooms in both the Traditional and the One Day programs. Librarians also provided class instruction to students in various graduate and undergraduate courses in many other

disciplines. On Saturday, January 7, 2012, our two librarians on duty taught five morning and afternoon classes, the most ever on a single Saturday. Finally, since all 39 students in the college's new Online Degree Completion program are currently enrolled in the library's non-credit online course EXT 098 (Basic College Information Literacy Skills), our library instruction workload, including this new online component, is reaching a new level of intensity in the Spring 2012 semester. Speaking of EXT 098, Hatch Reference and Instruction Librarian Rachel Alter has just begun working with two interns from the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, Chelsea Delnero and

Lori Dethloff, to review and update the content and accessibility of the modules in this online course.

This semester Rachel has also partnered with Rich Murphy to design and present a professional development workshop on "Focused Inquiry," showing how faculty in the disciplines may involve students in a current conversation in their fields through writing and research exercises. The workshop was first presented on March 7 to an enthusiastic audience of faculty in multiple disciplines. It was repeated on March 28

Four Hatch librarians received professional development grants from the Cooperating Libraries of Greater Springfield participate in continuing education events this spring

\*Rachel will participate in several training webinars by the Northeast Document Conservation Center on archives work;

\*Irene McGarrity will attend a workshop at SUNY Albany in "Transliteracy, Technology, and Teaching;"

\*Tanya Semo will participate in the annual conference of the New England Technical Services Librarians at Holy Cross College in Worcester;

\*Tracy Vingo will attend a workshop on "Instructional Design" at Simmons College in Boston.

Mike Moran  
[mmoran@baypath.edu](mailto:mmoran@baypath.edu)

Stop by and visit  
<http://library.baypath.edu>.

## Bashevkin Center for Academic Excellence

David Maloof has been the part-time Interim Director Bashevkin Center for Academic Excellence since January of this year. He has been tutoring writing at Bay Path for ten years; has taught writing, literature, journalism and other subjects at Boston University, the University of Massachusetts, and other institutions; coordinated and taught in the GED program at Holyoke Community College; and published numerous articles, reviews and essays on education, books, travel, and other subjects in regional and national newspapers and mag-

azines.

The Center is running smoothly thanks to Dave. Be sure to encourage students to use the Center, especially as finals approach. We are lining up the tutors for the 2012-2013 year for the Center and encourage you to provide us with the names of students who might be excellent tutors: students who are smart, knowledgeable about their content area, have solid writing skills, and good interpersonal skills with an ability to empathize. Please forward the names directly to [adobmeyer@baypath.edu](mailto:adobmeyer@baypath.edu)

David Maloof

[dmaloo@baypath.edu](mailto:dmaloo@baypath.edu)

Check out the Portal for more information and the Tutoring Schedules!

## Center for Teaching and Learning Profile

Kristen Elsner came to Bay Path College in 2007 as an undergraduate student in the Forensic Science Program. As an undergrad she was the President of two clubs, Food Committee and CSI Bay Path, and was also Photographer for

Gaming Club. Kristen was also a Student Admissions Representative (SAR) during her first three years at Bay Path. Kristen is presently a student in the Masters in Forensics program and spends most of her day doing re-

search in Forensic Biology. When she is not on campus she is in her hometown of Providence, Rhode Island.

**We are on the  
Portal!**

## Upcoming Events

1. April 11th 2012– First Annual Academic Achievement Day
2. May 15th, 2012– Writing Colloquium
3. May 16th 2012– Writing Assessment
4. June 5th 2012– First Annual Faculty Writing Retreat