

Learning *Alive*

The Academic Affairs
Magazine of SUNY Orange

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On the Cover

From left, Dr. Joe Zurovchak (ornithology), Monty Vacura (botany) and Dr. Shelly Paradies (neuroscience) demonstrate the breadth of diversity that members of the College's Biology Department bring to the classroom.



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Learning Alive welcomes your ideas for future articles. Topics should focus on academic initiatives and the students, faculty and staff who are making learning come alive.

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Welcome

Teamwork is a critical element in the success of any organization, business or college. To prosper as a group, individuals must be able to work in harmony with others, both internally and externally.

I'm proud to say that the staff and faculty at SUNY Orange excel in their ability to collaborate with one another, unite their resources and strive toward a common goal. They also have demonstrated a willingness to embrace innovative ideas from outside the College while creatively teaming with business and civic leaders, and community members, to enhance our students' educational opportunities.

In this edition of Learning Alive, you'll read about our outstanding Biology Department, under the direction of Dr. Frank Traeger. This talented and creative group of educators and administrators is at the forefront of several exciting new initiatives on campus.

You will also learn about how our Continuing and Professional Education staff is expanding the College's outreach in business training, professional development programs and non-credit education. You'll see that a group of faculty sought to develop several "humanities initiatives" that sharpened their focus on classroom teaching, and you'll discover how a wide cross-section of campus personnel developed a model "learning community" aimed at assuring a positive "first year experience" for selected students.

We have young, energetic faculty who are bringing new ideas and backgrounds to the College, and seasoned professors who are enhancing their expertise with contemporary teaching methods. In the end, their wonderful efforts are keeping learning "alive" at SUNY Orange.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Richards
President, SUNY Orange

Human beings need community, that sense of belonging and contributing to something larger than oneself. Community Colleges adopted the term as their unique descriptor during the 1960's and 1970's—their era of greatest expansion. The term "community" at SUNY Orange includes activities in the classroom; in the department, within the College as a whole, or in relation to local, national and international society.

In an academic year in which we faced a variety of stressors that affected our daily routines, it seems important to be reminded that community building and teamwork are ever present and bountiful at SUNY Orange. Within the pages of this third issue of Learning Alive are stories about people and departments who individually and collectively are making significant contributions to the College community, and beyond.

For example, read about the First-Year Experience "movers and shakers," a team that is connecting the curriculum and helping students bond through a unique learning experience. Or read about the Biology Department, an "awesome" team of extremely talented and gifted faculty involved in anything and everything from environmental sustainability and ecological conservation to technological innovation and campus beautification.

Learning Alive is intended to showcase colleagues in Academic Affairs and this issue surely hits the mark. As you peruse the pages, I am certain you will be impressed by our activist community—a community that shares a common interest in learning and professional involvement. When we collaborate, work as a team and move beyond individual perspectives into the realm of common understanding, the possibilities are limitless. Enjoy your read!

Sincerely,

Dr. Catherine Chew
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Learning *Alive*

Strong internal teamwork and creative alliances with those outside of the College help keep learning "alive" at SUNY Orange.



4 In the News

Teaching and learning come alive at SUNY Orange thanks, in part, to teaching excellence, academic partnerships, technological support, community outreach and international relations.

7 The Latest Chapter

The new faculty members who comprise SUNY Orange's "Class of 2007" arrived at the College with varied backgrounds and unique perspectives on education.

8 Creating a Positive "First-Year Experience"

Modeled after a program operated successfully by Kingsboro Community College, staff and faculty at SUNY Orange crossed course and professional boundaries to create a pilot "First-Year Experience/Learning Communities" program.

11 A Renewed Focus on Teaching and the Classroom

A group of SUNY Orange faculty within the Liberal Arts Division blended a creative mix of ideas, culled from discussions held throughout the 2007-08 academic year, into several "Humanities Initiatives" that will benefit students.



18 Teamwork Fuels CAPE Success

Thanks to a strong team of administrators, the College's Continuing and Professional Education Department has successfully retooled and integrated its programming, operations, sales and marketing strategies to create a recipe for success.



22 Bringing International Education to SUNY Orange

A gleaming new Gilman Center for International Education, revised academic offerings and an influx of new faculty will allow SUNY Orange to globalize its curriculum and offer students a first-rate academic pathway to the international career of their choice.

Cover Story: Demonstrating its "Bio-Diversity"

With a full-time faculty roster numbering 10 strong that is aided by a network of reliable support personnel, SUNY Orange's Biology Department is among the College's largest and most diverse. The faculty members boast an impressive portfolio of specialties, including family medicine, anatomy and physiology, neuroscience, ornithology, ecology, environmental science, dendrochronology, botany, evolutionary biology, genetics, developmental biology, nutrition and herpetology. Under the direction of Dr. Frank Traeger, the department aspires to a mission that is equal parts service, academics, campus enrichment and innovation.

