Susan Colby Colgate Scholars Symposium Highlights Student Research Projects

Colby-Sawyer College will host the 2008 Susan Colby Colgate Scholars Symposium, a campus-wide celebration of student scholarship, on Wednesday, April 23. The symposium will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. in various locations on campus. The event is open to community members and admission is free.

The symposium highlights senior students’ research in their majors, known as Capstone projects, in academic areas including art, biology, child development, business administration, communication studies, community and environmental studies, English, exercise and sport sciences, history, society and culture, nursing and psychology. Presentations by Wesson Honors Program students, teaching interns in education, and select undergraduates will also be featured during the day.

“The Scholars Symposium is one of the most exciting and significant events of the academic year, showcasing our undergraduate research and other forms of scholarly and creative work. It is an opportunity for our students to present their culminating senior projects to the college community and the public,” says Deborah Taylor, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty. “Our seniors demonstrate the depth and breadth of knowledge and the range of skills they have acquired in their majors and across disciplines. In addition, other students present work they have done in internships, exhibits, writing and research projects, audio and video productions, and other scholarly endeavors.”

To learn more about the symposium and view a schedule of events, visit http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/news/symposium.html.

Sustainability Series Features Ecologists and University Professors Tom Wessels, Chris Uhl

The Natural Sciences Department and Cultural Events Committee will host a Sustainability Series featuring ecologists and academicians Tom Wessels of Antioch University/New England and Chris Uhl of Pennsylvania State University. The events are part of the college’s efforts to become a leading institution in applying sustainable practices and communicating ways for individuals and communities to live sustainably and reduce their ecological footprint.

Antioch University/New England Professor of Ecology Tom Wessels will discuss his book “The Myth of Progress: Toward a Sustainable Future,” a valuable guide and resource for individuals in making a commitment to reducing “their ecological footprint.”

Pennsylvania State University Professor of Biology Chris Uhl will speak to what he describes as the “urgent challenge of learning how to live in a manner which does not jeopardize the future.” Author of “Developing Ecological Consciousness: Path to a Sustainable World,” Professor Uhl has combined his knowledge of medicine and ecology into what he calls “ecological healing.” The lecture and discussion will take place on Thursday, April 24, at 7 p.m., in Wheeler Hall at the Ware Campus Center. The public is welcome to attend these events, and admission is free.

College to Host Consortium on Quantitative Literacy, Writing with Numbers Workshop

Colby-Sawyer College will host the 12th annual Northeast Consortium on Quantitative Literacy (NECQL), an event for educators to explore strategies and practices for strengthening students’ quantitative literacy skills. A two-day Writing with Numbers Workshop prior to the conference will allow participants to develop and share assignments that engage students in writing with numbers across fields of study.

The Writing with Numbers Workshop will be held Thursday, May 15, and Friday, May 16, followed by the NECQL conference on Saturday, May 17, at Colby-Sawyer’s New London, campus. Educators at all levels are invited to participate in one or both events, and registration is required. There is no registration fee for these events.

The conference and workshops are a response to an urgent national need recognized by educators across the country to improve students’ ability to understand and apply mathematical concepts and reasoning skills. The events will bring educators together to explore the issues, current research and practice of integrating quantitative literacy skills into the liberal arts curriculum.

The NECQL conference will feature presentations by faculty members in mathematics, psychology, technical communications, writing and other disciplines from Hollins University, Middlebury College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the University of South Florida and Carleton College. The conference is funded in part by a Colby-Sawyer College grant from the National Science Foundation for Quantitative Literacy Across the Curriculum in a Liberal Arts Setting.

The Writing with Numbers Workshop will feature a keynote address titled, “Storyboarding with Data: Using Quantitative Reasoning to Teach Scientific Writing” by Mya Poc, Ph.D., director of Technical Communication with MIT’s Writing and Humanistic Studies Program. Led by faculty members from Carleton College and Wellesley College, the workshop will assist educators in helping students learn to write and argue using quantitative information and reasoning skills. Participants will work together to refine writing assignments from across disciplines that involve students in writing with numbers. The workshop is organized by the National Numeracy Network and Carleton College’s Quantitative Inquiry, Reasoning and Knowledge (Quirk) Initiative.

For the Writing with Numbers Workshop, priority will be given to applications received by mid-April. Participants in the NECQL conference are urged to register by Friday, April 25. For information and registration, visit the NECQL conference site at www.colby-sawyer.edu/ necql and the Writing with Numbers Workshop at http://serc.carleton.edu/mnn/news/workshop08/registration.html, or contact Assistant Professor of Mathematics Semra Kilic-Bahi at skilic-bahi@colby-sawyer.edu.