



College of Natural and Social Sciences Overview

The College of Natural and Social Sciences (CNSS) includes the following 13 academic departments: Biology, Business Administration, Economics, Chemistry and Biochemistry; Computer and Information Sciences; Geosciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice; Speech Pathology and Audiology; and Sport Management and Exercise Science. Dr. David Ewing serves as dean of the college. The college serves about 2,200 students, 105 full-time faculty, 70 part-time faculty, and 25 staff members, and offers 41 majors, 32 minors, and five graduate programs. A new line in molecular biology has just been filled and recruitment is currently underway to replace four open faculty positions and to upgrade the position of Director of the School of Business to a dean position.

Highlights

Initial planning for the new \$60 million Science and Technology Center is complete and an architect has been selected. The project will allow the science and mathematics programs to fulfill their vision of delivering an education that prepares students for cutting-edge careers, top notch graduate and professional schools, fulfilling lives, and for serving the broader community's science education needs.

The School of Business and Natural Sciences alumni advisory councils, both established in the last two years, have already become important resources for curricular and fundraising efforts of the college, and for student career development.

Grant support to the college continues to be strong, with \$1.7 million in active external support and \$1.3 million in new pending proposals.

The SUNY Fredonia Technology Incubator, located in the City of Dunkirk, is now under construction; client companies are being recruited, and sources of venture capital are being identified. The Dean of CNSS and several CNSS faculty are involved in launching the exciting project.

Faculty honors include:

Dr. Li Feng (Economics) received a major grant for \$640,044, "The Effects of Teacher Preparation and Professional Development on Special Education Teacher Quality" (co-PI with Tim R. Sass of Florida State University) from the U.S. Department of Education, Institute for Education Sciences, for 2007-2010.

Dr. Gary Lash (Geosciences) received a major grant from the N.Y.S. Energy Research and Development Authority of \$131,000 to improve the assessment of the thermal histories of black shale as an aid in natural gas exploration. He also appeared on The History Channel's documentary, "Crude: The Incredible Journey of Oil."

The Social Work faculty received a grant from the Council on Social Work Education to integrate a Geriatric Social Work Initiative into the curriculum.

In October 2007, Dr. Kim Tillery was an invited member of Healthy Hearing Delegation at the Special Olympic Summer Games in Shanghai, China, to provide hearing screenings to 4,500 athletes.

Student highlights include:

The student organization Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) won both the Regional SIFE Championship (for the eleventh consecutive year) and was a semi-finalist at the national competition, its best performance to date.

Over 30 Mathematics Education students attended the annual meeting of the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State (AMTNYS), held in October 2008 in Rochester. The seniors in Dr. Keary Howard's and Assistant



Dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences David Ewing.



The Department of Mathematical Sciences at SUNY Fredonia annually hosts a Pi Day event every March. Pi Day has been celebrated around the world by math enthusiasts annually since 1998 and at SUNY Fredonia since 2002.

Professor Tedi Cox's methods classes gave presentations in sessions entitled "Lessons with Potential from Student Teachers with Potential." Many attendees remarked how impressed they were with the students.

The Psychology department continues to offer many out-of-class opportunities to its majors. Over 20 students were engaged in independent study projects during both the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters. Most of them made presentations at the Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference. Fredonia had more students participating in that conference than any other school. Psychology also expanded the number of internship opportunities for students. A total of 40 students held Psychology internships last year.

Planning Assumptions

Planning assumptions used in the development of the 2009-2010 budget for the College of Natural and Social Sciences include the following:

- Full funding for all existing tenure/tenure-track positions.
- Funding for replacements of four vacant positions.
- Funding for upgrade of the director, School of Business, to dean.
- Enrollment will increase by approximately 20 students.

Operating Budget

The 2009-2010 budget will allow the College of Natural and Social Sciences to continue to make some progress on strategic goals. Continued funding for the School of Business, which includes the upgrade of the director position to a dean, will allow the multi-year process of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation to move forward. The natural science programs have been growing and are anticipated to continue doing so. Matching funds will continue to come from the college budget to leverage grant support. In partnership with Information Technology Services, the budget will allow updated technology for classrooms and for faculty to continue to be priorities. However, state funding cuts have severely limited other equipment replacement and faculty travel. No additional new faculty lines are anticipated and one or more open lines will not be replaced. All necessary courses to allow students to graduate on time will continue to be offered.