NEASC 2002 Effort Leads to Book Award for Bob Dugan

Responding to the 2002 NEASC self-study led Sawyer Library Director Bob Dugan on a professional journey that culminated recently in an award for his book *Viewing Library Metrics from Different Perspectives: Inputs, Outputs, and Outcomes.*

The University is once again at the data-collection stage of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation process, providing an opportunity to examine how well Suffolk is fulfilling its mission, according to Vice President of Academic Affairs Janice Griffith, who is heading up the NEASC self-study for 2012.

The American Library Association’s recognition of Dugan’s book as the winner of the 2010 Greenwood Publishing Group Award for the Best Book in Library Literature can serve as inspiration to committees formed to implement the self-study.

*Viewing Library Metrics from Different Perspectives*, co-authored by Dugan with Peter Hernon of Simmons College and Danuta A. Nitecki of Drexel University, grew out of Dugan’s efforts to respond to NEASC Standard 7, Library and Other Information Resources, for the self-study submitted in 2002. Dugan began developing a new means of organizing information about the library’s holdings, one that has become a model for other university libraries.

Dugan, working with Assistant Director Becky Fulweiler, developed a statistical-based management information system (SMIS) of library metrics.

He was able to develop basic tables so that the library could determine, for example, how many books it owned and how many circulated.

“When we began our building program, we could tell definitively how many books we had and how much shelving we would need, so we didn’t underbuild or overbuild,” said Dugan. “We also know the days and hours we’re busiest, and that means we can staff accordingly.”

Some fun facts that SMIS has revealed about the Sawyer Library:

- The library’s busiest day is the first Tuesday after Labor Day
- More than half of library usage occurs from outside the building
- For every $1 the University spends on the library, it returns more than $8 in services

Now, as the University readies for the next accreditation cycle, Duggan said the NEASC form “will take us about three minutes to complete,” because all the necessary data is in hand.

“We can show how far we’ve progressed since the last self-study, and we can show support from the University,” he said. When the NEASC site team arrives on campus, “we don’t have to say, ‘This library is a good library.’ We can show them what we do.”

“The NEASC self-study encourages us to explore what the University is doing well and how we can improve,” said Griffith. “The dynamics of higher education have shifted rapidly in the past two years. The recession and changed leadership in Washington have resulted in some new paradigms. A thorough self-study will be extremely beneficial in helping us plan for Suffolk University’s future.”

Living on the Dock of the Bay

David DeAngelis never has to worry about mowing the lawn around his house, because he doesn’t have one. A house, that is.

DeAngelis lives on a sailboat at the Constitution Marina in Charlestown. The place he calls home is 40 feet long, has the USS Constitution as its neighbor and was built “for speed and comfort.”

His fascination with boats began at an early age.

“I grew up in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, in a boating family,” said DeAngelis, the director of Student Leadership and Involvement. “I bought my first boat when I was 14 years old, a 13-foot Boston Whaler. From that point on, I got ‘the itch,’ as they say in the boating world.”

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Sustainability Plan in Place as Campus Celebrates Earth Day

The Suffolk University Sustainability Committee has released a draft Campus Sustainability Plan to serve as a road map for campus environmental initiatives.

The plan resulted from discussion among several departments about how to integrate sustainability into planning and operations, according to Erica Mattison, campus sustainability coordinator and Sustainability Committee chair.

“We have been able to take many ideas from committee members and others and turn them into actionable items,” she said. “As we strive to become a more sustainable institution, there is a value in having a written plan to help prioritize and guide our efforts.”

The plan, which is available through the Sustainability Web page — www.suffolku.edu/sustainability — describes recent achievements, sets goals and outlines strategies. It addresses issues that include green building practices, energy and water conservation, waste reduction and recycling, environmentally preferred purchasing, sustainable dining, and education and outreach. Feedback from the campus community is welcome.

Last month marked the 40th celebration of Earth Day, and the Moakley Archive and Institute and the Sustainability Committee co-hosted Boston Harbor Islands: Past, Present, and Future. The panel discussion highlighted the creation and ongoing management of the Boston Harbor Islands National Park and the groups that made this transformation possible, including environmental organizations, state and federal agencies, and elected officials.

Awards and recognition

The University’s efforts on behalf of sustainability were recognized when its employee education program on waste reduction and recycling earned a Gold Achievement Award from the Environmental Protection Agency’s WasteWise Program.

Suffolk also made the Princeton Review’s newest guidebook, Guide to 286 Green Colleges.

In the latest RecycleMania, the national collegiate waste reduction and recycling competition, the University placed 28th of 267 schools in the Grand Champion category, which measures waste reduction and recycling. This placed Suffolk in the top 10 percent for the first time since it began participating in 2007.

Potpourri

Eric Bellone and Graham Kelder, Paralegal Studies program director and assistant dean of Student and Human Services, presented a paper “Drug Court Contract Issues under the Model Drug Offender Accountability and Treatment Act” at a symposium held in June as part of the International Law and Policy Association of Washington D.C.


Tom Connolly, English, is a weekly commentator on “The Callie Crossley Show,” WGBH radio FM 89.7. He contributes to the “Ragtime” segment, discussing the tabloid treatment of news stories and commenting on popular culture. The show is also available on the WGBH Web site.

CAS Dean Kenneth S. Greenberg was honored with the Connecticut Association of Law and Policy in Connecticut’s Distinguished Lecturer for 2009-2010. As part of this program, Greenberg delivered the keynote lecture at the March 2010 CAS Dean’s Conference on “The Reconstruction of the Supreme Court — A Joint Meeting of the University of the Distinguished Lecturers of the Universities of Missouri and Kansas.”

The Center for Crime and Justice Policy Research is also available on the WGBH Web site.


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A Puzzle in Stone

A worker guides an enormous slab of granite sidewalk into place in front of the Modern Art Museum. The old stones from the sidewalk and theater facade have been restored and are now being reassembled. The residence hall-theater gallery complex on lower Washington Street will open this coming fall. (Photo by Gordon King)
Eight years ago, DeAngelis moved to the Constitution Marina from New Haven, where he was working at Quinnipiac University.

“Most people would simply pack up the moving truck and drive to their next location,” he said. “I, on the other hand, untied my dock lines and sailed north for three days.”

His C&C cruiser racer is equipped with all the comforts of home, including two bedrooms, a kitchen, living room, bathroom, two flat-screen televisions, electric and propane heat, and hot running water.

“I live on the boat twelve months a year, and I love it,” said DeAngelis. “It’s a normal house, except that it’s in the water. And I have as perfect a waterfront view as you’re ever going to get.”

During the winter his boat is covered in shrink wrap to protect it from the elements. However the boat truly comes to life in summer, with sails, flags and the freedom to cruise the open sea.

“I boat every weekend in the summer,” said DeAngelis. “The people at the marina, who are all ages and from all walks of life, are great, and we all get along. We socialize together in our own little world or floating village.”

Living so close to the USS Constitution does have its challenging moments.

“The cannon goes off at 8 a.m. and sunset every day,” said DeAngelis. “Let’s just say that you better be ready for it.”

Cycling can have tremendous health benefits that include decreasing cholesterol, blood pressure and the risk of heart attack. Many people find that cycling also can help lower stress levels and increase overall feelings of wellbeing.

Before hopping on the saddle, would-be cyclists should check out a local bike shop for tips about what kind of bike is appropriate. A well-fitted helmet is an essential piece of gear, and no one should ever ride without one.

A check-in with a health care provider is also a good idea for those who have any concerns about adding cycling to their repertoire of physical activities.

Pedaling Along the Road to Improved Health

National Bike Week—May 17–21— offers a chance to make a positive change for good personal health, a fatter wallet and a healthier planet.

For those living within biking distance of work, commuting on two wheels can be a great option. Bicycle commuting incorporates regular exercise into the day without the necessity of even having to think about finding the time. In addition to decreasing the cost of the daily commute, cutting down on driving trips by even a little bit can do a lot to decrease air pollution.

Learn more about the University’s efforts to support biking to work at www.suffolk.edu/offices/19868.html.

Dock of the Bay

Continued from page 1

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