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Office of the Provost **PROVOST'S CORNER**

Vol. 1, Issue 6

FROM THE PROVOST AND ACADEMIC DEAN'S DESK:



Dear Colleagues,

I use the phrases “modular degrees” and “stackable certificates” often and thought it might be helpful to explain what I mean and why they represent an important direction for NPS. Modular degrees can help NPS better capture our educational efforts.

One of the ways that NPS is unique is that we take in warfighters with non-technical degrees who are 6–8 years out from college and graduate leaders with STEM masters degrees. In addition, rather than only providing degrees comparable to civilian schools, our curricula include classes requested by sponsors to provide the defense-related education they need in their Officers (and required for P-Codes).

The result is that a student might come to NPS and take 1-3 quarters of preparatory, graduate coursework for a year and a half to cover the essentials of their degree, followed by half a year of additional courses. That is how we turn a social sciences major into a P-Code rated officer with technical skills and a STEM degree in ~27 months: an accomplishment that shows how our students shine and our educational system works. When our statistics are compared with those of civilian schools, at first blush, NPS looks slow and the civilian programs (which only admit students with B.S. degrees equivalent to the M.S. degree sought) seemingly graduate students faster.

Modular degrees can help NPS more directly convey our students' accomplishments. NPS creates a preparatory module or core, separate from the degree. Additional course work is packaged into a post-graduate degree certificate. A student would then obtain the STEM degree, a preparatory certificate, and a post-degree certificate. The degree time would be shorter than the civilian school equivalent because our offerings always fully include summer and (for many programs) multiple intakes per year. In addition, while the NPS and civilian degrees would then be comparable in terms of credits, our classes would still be more Naval-focused. In addition, our capstones/theses pair the student with a faculty member keen on applying ideas to defense-related problems.

The modular curricular structure more clearly showcase our students' efforts and our educational offerings in comparison to other universities. As an added bonus, it would also be possible for students who obtain graduate degrees at other universities to take the post-degree certificate at NPS (or via DL) and obtain a P-Code. This is one direction for curriculum and degree reforms—there are others. The details will be more complicated of course, and LoE 1.1 is working on how this vision can be applied across NPS.

V/R
Scott

NPS...NEXT TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

Work on the Transformation LOEs is picking up speed. For those looking to become involved, the Leads, Objectives, and Tasks for each LOE are listed on the Wiki pages, so feel free to look and contact the person who is leading the effort in the area of your greatest interest. The LOE Leads coordinate effort between LOEs at the twice monthly In-Progress Reviews (IPRs).

LOE Status



LOE 1.1 - Curricula. The Team has drafted a curriculum structure, or ontology, that they are now having selected departments review for fit. They are also looking at the best way to group programs for the most effective integrative effect.

LOE 1.2 - NWSI/Research. This LOE has divided into two working groups: 1.2.1 – NWSI and 1.2.2 – Research. 1.2.1 has completed has developed estimates of our current state and is outlining the desired future end state. They are now working to derive tasks, constraints, restraints, and assumptions from the current NWSI mission statement.

LOE 1.3 - Organizational Structure. The 1.3 LOE Team has proposed a few alternative organizational designs and is circulating them among the LOE groups for feedback. They are giving particular focus to supervisory roles.

LOE 1.5 - Business Operations. This team is conducting a survey that asks for faculty input. The survey will be used for three things:

- To ensure the LOE team has identified all the business processes that serve faculty
- To identify sticking points that should be examined and fixed
- To collect any recommendations on how to make it better

Please consider responding to this survey, and if you can, choose at least one process off the beaten path (we will get more useful inputs if not everyone fills out comments on travel, purchasing, and conferences!). [The survey can be found here.](#)

All the LOE groups are reviewing the questions received at All Hands events, via e-mail, and that left on Wiki and developing answers which will be posted on the Wiki. The Transformation Center, located in the Dudley Knox Library, is open from 8 am to 4 pm. Anyone who has questions, comments, wants to engage, or wants to see what's happening is welcome to stop by.



DUDLEY KNOX LIBRARY EXTENDED EVENING HOURS

Effective Monday, Oct 25, our new hours will be: Monday–Thursday: 0700–2000 Friday: 0700–1730 Closed weekends and federal holidays
Note: No desk services will be available during these extra evening hours (1730–2000).

For questions contact Greta Marlatt at gmarlatt@nps.edu.

BIX22 INFORMATION MEETING

Students with big ideas, high impact research, or a game changing thesis are encouraged to join the Big Idea Exchange team and leaders from CS4925 Sense 21 Innovation Leadership course on 04 November, 1200–1300, Reed Hall rooms 101/102, for a taste of what you can expect for BIX 2022.



What is the Big Idea Exchange (BIX)?

BIX is an annual event here at Naval Postgraduate School designed to give students a voice to big ideas that can change the way the Department of Defense approaches its known (and unknown) challenges.

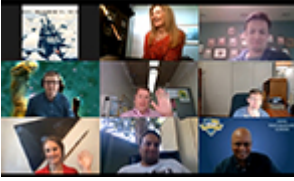
Who participates in BIX?

BIX is for those interested in the problems that surround us and have a desire to design and be part of innovative solutions to those problems. You don't need an innovative idea to join this planning meeting – just the desire to make a difference and be part of the solution.

Why should you participate in BIX?

In partnership with Dr. Peter Denning and Col Todd Lyons (Ret), BIX22 offers participants the opportunity to develop their ideas and strategies for adoption through participation in CS4925 Sense 21 during the Winter quarter. During the spring quarter, participants present their idea to a panel of senior leaders selected on their ability to assist in the adoption and sustainment of big ideas. Previous BIX participants have gone on to attend pitch contests like NavalX's Agility Summit.

For more information or to RSVP for the information session please contact Michael.mccoy@nps.edu. Due to COVID-19 protocols, we will be limited to under 50 persons.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TEACHING FELLOWS AY21! ENROLLING AY22 NOW!

The Teaching Fellows Program (TFP) develops instructional competencies and nurtures the application of evidence-based practices to build confidence and cultivate scholarly teaching. [View presentations from this year's participants here.](#)

Still time to Enroll—The AY22 Teaching Fellowship will be offered January through December 2022. Faculty who are interested in the teaching fellowship may submit their letter of candidacy along with a letter of endorsement from their department chair by 19 November 2021. The Teaching Fellowship is a competitive program that is open faculty campus wide. Please contact arodgers@nps.edu with questions.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SCHEDULING

Starting Fall 2021, three outdoor classrooms will be offered at NPS designed to meet health guidelines: Cottage Place, Quad Landing, and Bocce Court.



These outdoor classrooms have been installed around campus in areas that can accommodate up to 36 students each. Subject to availability, any faculty member may reserve an outdoor classroom for a single or recurring use during the winter semester. Faculty and staff will need to use the [Event Scheduler](#) to complete the booking form. Information about the classroom spaces including a link to the Event Scheduler, wi-fi capabilities, and health and safety information can be found [here](#).

If there are any questions or recommendations on these outdoor spaces, please send an email to TLC@nps.edu



19TH ANNUAL ACQUISITION RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM NOW ACCEPTING PROPOSALS

The Naval Postgraduate School announces the 19th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium May 11–12, 2022, as a virtual interactive event.

The Symposium Program Committee is soliciting proposals for papers or panels from academicians, practitioners and others interested in defense acquisition research. Proposals are due by November 29, 2021.

[More information can be found here.](#) POC: Karey Shaffer, arp@nps.edu

MARITIME GRAY ZONE RESEARCH TASK FORCE

This rapid concept generation workshop is scheduled for 16-19 November on the NPS campus in Monterey. Small teams of NPS students will be facilitated through a rapid concept generation process using tools of user-centered design in response to the design challenge “How might emerging technologies, new operational concepts, and new force capabilities contribute to a more effective force in the geo-political competitive phase to deter adversaries, strengthen allied relations and shape the strategic and operational environment?” Registration is now open. The link is posted on the [NWSI website](#).



WEBINAR: LEVERAGING VR/MR FOR SPATIAL REASONING



Online Faculty Webinar
Thursday, October 21 2021, 1200–1300

As one of the Education Grants awardees, Michael Guerrero, Lecturer, Computer Science, will present his work on a usable prototype for a whiteboard-like environment in virtual reality (VR) and how it was used to overcome student difficulty understanding challenging concepts in 3D. Video footage taken from the lesson used to derive experimental data as well as a live demo will be shown. This talk is part a series of six webinars showing the [TLC Education Grants](#) research projects, funded via the TLC's Data Analytics informing Teaching and Hybrid Learning ([DAITA HL](#)) Initiative. These grants support instructional improvement efforts by NPS faculty. Stay tuned for next upcoming announcements.

[Access the live webinar here](#) (video from the event will post to same link).

WRITE-INS RETURN TO HERMANN HALL NOVEMBER 5!

GWC Write-ins provide dedicated stretches of time each Friday for students to make real progress on a paper or thesis, with expert help from librarians and writing coaches waiting in the wings. Starting November 5, Write-ins will be hosted in the Executive Briefing Center in Hermann Hall, with a hybrid option via Zoom.

[Click here for more information on the Write-ins.](#)



NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

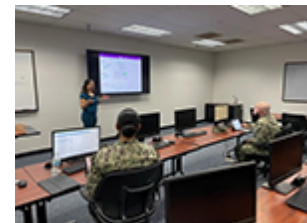
The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans. [Read, listen to, and watch more here.](#)

POC: Tammy T Lowery, Deputy Director EEO, tammy.lowery@nps.edu

SHARING NPS EXPERTISE IN INNOVATIVE HYBRID EDUCATION IN SUPPORT OF MODERNIZING NAVY TRAINING

On October 4 8, Dr. Ralucca Gera, Professor of Applied Mathematics, shared her expertise in hybrid education with the commanding officer, training managers, curriculum developers and instructors at the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE) and the Naval Civil Engineer Corps Officers School (CECOS) in Port Hueneme.

Dr. Gera provided a week-long training to instructors on notetaking and interaction with digitized course content. The effort is part of a NRP study lead by Dr. Simona Tick (GSDM) and supported by a cross-disciplinary NPS team of faculty and students, including Dr. Kathryn Aten (GSDM), Dr. Amela Sadagic (GSOIS), LCDR. Aguilar and LT. Wickham (GSDM), working on reconfigurations of existing classroom-based curriculum to support the development of personalized and adaptive hybrid Navy training. If you are interested in getting briefed on using digital resources and increasing the interaction with digitized course in your hybrid courses, please contact Ralucca Gera at rgera@nps.edu.



COVID-19 UPDATES



For specific information on Coronavirus for university faculty, students and staff, and the latest updates from NPS leadership, [visit the NPS community's COVID-19 website](#).

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

November 10: USMC Birthday

November 11: Veteran's Day- NO SCHOOL

November 16–19: [Center for Executive Education SPEAR Workshop](#)

November 16–19: Maritime Gray Zone Warfare Innovation Workshop ([NWSI](#))

November 18: [Women in Computing](#)

November 19: [Faculty Voices Webinar - Mobile All-In-One System for Game Theory Concepts Activities](#)

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AT THE NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

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If you would like to submit an item for consideration in future Provost Corners, [click here](#).

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