



Colby-Sawyer Receives NSF Grant to Integrate Math, Analytical Skills into Liberal Arts Curriculum

Colby-Sawyer College has received a three-year \$149,290 grant from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Course, Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) program to incorporate the teaching of basic math and reasoning skills across its liberal arts curriculum.

The NSF received more than 900 proposals for its CCLI program, and following a rigorous peer review process, awarded approximately \$12 million to 100 applicants, including Colby-Sawyer.

Colby-Sawyer's "Quantitative Literacy across the Curriculum in a Liberal Arts Setting" project seeks to strengthen students' ability to routinely use basic mathematical concepts and skills that are critical in today's information-centered world. It is designed to ensure they are able to efficiently gather and analyze information and use it to make well-reasoned decisions in their future careers and personal lives.

The project could serve as an excellent model for teaching quantitative literacy at other liberal arts institutions in higher education, according to Elizabeth Teles, NSF grant program official. "Quantitative literacy offers a quantitative habit of mind that can be applied in nearly any discipline and responds to a lack of relevance that students often see in traditional mathematics courses," Teles wrote in the NSF review. "The project has a clear student focus with opportunities for students to advance their quantitative literacy skills through newly designed mathematics courses, liberal education courses and major courses."



photo by Kris Caron

Semra Kilic-Bahi, assistant professor in mathematics

The grant will enable Colby-Sawyer to become a leader in developing student-centered experiences in quantitative reasoning and provide an exceptional opportunity to generate an interest in science, technology and mathematics, according to Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculty Deborah Taylor. "We've had great success in developing our writing-across-the-college program, and we will use that model to help our students develop proficiency with quantitative reasoning across the liberal education program and in their majors. These are important life skills for every liberally educated person, not just those who choose to major in the sciences."

A cross-disciplinary team of Colby-Sawyer educators will lead the project's development and implementation from March 2007 through February 2010. These faculty members include the project's principle investigator, Semra Kilic-Bahi, assistant professor in mathematics, and co-investigators John Callewaert, director of the Institute for Community and Environment, Ben Steele, professor and chair of the Natural Sciences Department, Lynn Garrioch, assistant professor of psychology, and Randy Hanson, professor of history.

Colby-Sawyer will make its quantitative literacy program research and materials available to other academic institutions through conference presentations and publications, as well as by posting information on existing Web sites for the Washington Center Curricular Initiatives and the Center for Mathematics and Quantitative Education at Dartmouth College. *To learn more about the quantitative literacy project, contact Professor Kilic-Bahi at skilic-bahi@colby-sawyer.edu.*



Fine and Performing Arts Presents Shakespeare's Romantic Comedy, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

The Colby-Sawyer College Fine and Performing Arts Department will present "A Midsummer Night's Dream," a romantic comedy by William Shakespeare, as its spring theater production.

The show will open Thursday, March 29, at 8 p.m., with performances continuing on Friday, March 30, and Saturday, March 31, at 8 p.m., at the Sawyer Fine Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, and free with a Colby-Sawyer ID. For reservations, call the college box office at 526-3670.

The Colby-Sawyer production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is a traditional take on Shakespeare's delightful and entertaining dream play, where anything goes and everyone ends up happy. Young people fall in and out of love with the help of fairies' magical juices, "rude mechanicals" and "hempen home-spuns." The play, directed by Professor Jerry Bliss with assistance from Sara Hayes, features a cast of student and faculty actors.

Colby-Sawyer Presents Juried Student Art Exhibition

The Department of Fine and Performing Arts will host its annual Juried Student Exhibition, featuring recent work by students in painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, photography and graphic design.

The exhibition at the Marian Graves Mugar Art Gallery will be celebrated with a closing reception and awards presentation held on Thursday, April 5, from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is free and open to everyone; refreshments will be served.

The Juried Student Exhibition is one of the college's most anticipated events of the year, with hundreds of creative works on display and dozens of awards presented by alumni, friends and local individuals and businesses.

"It's always exciting to see the 'best of' results of a year's worth of work by our students," says Rebekah Tolley, gallery director and assistant professor of Fine and Performing Arts at Colby-Sawyer. "Students are careful to select entries that represent their best works, and professors are careful to select the kinds of works they want to encourage."

Exceptional student art work is eligible for prizes. These awards include three scholarships: the Edith B. Long Memorial Scholarship, the Charlotte Cobb Stahl Memorial Scholarship, and the Nancy Pierce Williams Scholarship. Many other prizes that have been donated by community residents and businesses will be presented to students.

To learn more about Colby-Sawyer's Fine and Performing Arts Program, visit www.colby-sawyer.edu/academic/art.



Linocut by Jesse Lundberg '08



Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 21

Rock Climber and Filmmaker Rob Frost Hosts Films & Discussion

7 p.m. Clements Hall, Curtis. L Ivey Science Center

Rob Frost will host and discuss two of his films, "Uncommon Ground" and "Harvest Moon," which toured with the Best of Banff Mountain Film Festival. Admission is free.

Wednesday, March 28

"Clams and Radon: The Clamshell Alliance and New Hampshire's 1970 Anti-Nuclear Movement"

7 p.m. Clements Hall, Curtis. L Ivey Science Center

The environmental activism of the 1960s continued into the 1970s in New Hampshire with the Clamshell Alliance's campaign to halt construction of the Seabrook Nuclear Plant. George Longenecker discusses the Clams' use of popular imagery, including music, banners and slogans to gain national attention. Admission is free.

Monday, April 2

Presentation by former NASA Astronaut and Dartmouth Medical Professor Jay Buckley

7 p.m. in Clements Hall, Curtis. L Ivey Science Center

Dr. Jay C. Buckley Jr. flew as a payload specialist for NASA's STS-90 Neurolab mission in 1998, where he logged 6.3 million miles in space. He has also been involved in design and development of flight hardware for Spacelab missions. Dr. Buckley, now a professor at Dartmouth College School of Medicine, will discuss his work with NASA and the space program. Admission is free.