I'm Susan Pliner, and most of you probably know me in my role as Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. As CTL Director, I love watching our students as they unfold their academic potential throughout their 4 years. I'm especially looking forward to this year's Senior Symposium, which should be spectacular—a real chance to see students talk about what their passion is and what they've learned. I hope we can put such opportunities in place for our juniors and sophomores in the coming years. This year I've also had the chance to help students unfold their potential in a second role, as Interim Director of the Centennial Center for Leadership. For me, leadership is a conscious act and I see the Center's role as helping students become not just leaders, but reflective leaders; leaders who think ahead, behind, around, about what they do, why and for whom they do it. Our leadership certificate program offers students a tangible way to build their skills and watching students become leaders on campus and in the community offers me a tangible reminder of how effective and talented our HWS students really are. This year, for the first time, the Centennial Center for Leadership will bring together a host of student leaders, from Resident Advisors to Teaching Fellows, athletes, club leaders and more, for The Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute (TLI) a three-day training, will run this August and is designed to provide HWS student leaders with a focused and integrated leadership development experience. Student leaders from across campus will be provided a foundational experience in leadership theory and practice. Included in this program is the goal to better define excellence in leadership on campus with a focus on building inclusive, cross-cultural competencies. This training will enable our student leaders to understand ethical decision-making and creating a vision, while connecting to leaders across campus. In either role, I love the Colleges because of the connection I make with students, the diverse ideas and experiences I am exposed to and the level of student engagement. Helping students realize their potential, their dreams—sometimes helping students see potential inside them that they didn't know they had—this is what keeps me going.

A galvanizing experience on campus last spring was the independent study project Delvina Smith '09 completed in anthropology about the legend of Agayentah, which has a long history at Hobart College. As a community engagement component of the project, she organized a public presentation at the ICA combined with an open forum to discuss Native American student concerns and potential paths for connections between HWS and the neighboring Haundenoosaunee (Iroquois) communities, as well as Native America in general. To open this year, the Haundenoosaunee flag appeared for the first time at convocation. Tyler Hill (Onondaga) '09 carried and posted the purple and white flag, which depicts the original Hiawatha wampum belt representing the original formation of the confederacy of the Six Nations. During fall semester, a series of events came together into a successful conference titled Lacrosse: The Creator's Game, which the ICA cosponsored. This major event was organized through collaboration of Bill Warder (Admissions), Cathy Williams (Communications), Hobart Lacrosse Coach T. W. Johnson, William Smith Lacrosse Coach Pat Genovese, Professor Mary Hess, Intercultural Affairs Director Alejandro Molina, and myself. To recognize the historical connection between Hobart and Haundenoosaunee lacrosse teams, the first event of the conference was an exhibition game on October 23rd between the Iroquois National Team and Hobart Statesmen. Peter Jenison of the Seneca Nation opened the game with a thanksgiving prayer calling all living beings, both spiritual and animal, to come to our campus. At halftime, in the pouring rain, Ganondagan's Spirit Dancers demonstrated several traditional Iroquois dance forms. The second event, on October 29th Jordan Kligerman showed and discussed his film Sacred Sport, a concise but richly informative compilation of archival and contemporary images and film footage from the history of Haundenoosaunee lacrosse.
Justin Bryant native of the city of Geneva has been involved with the Boys and Girls Club since the age of 9. He always loved going to the center— he never thought he would end up back where he started! Justin did a bit of traveling around the US over the past couple of years while being part of Drum Corps. “I gained a lot of experience dealing with different types of people while I was in Drum Corps.”

Started in January 2010, Justin has been working in the newly established Geneva Community Center as their Career Exploration Instructor. Excited to work at the Center Justin reminisced about when he applied to work at there; “ the kids interviewed me – I got grilled– I mean the kids don’t throw any punches!”

Justin has been working on some projects for the kids at the Center such as “Career Launch” and “Money Matters” which starts April 27, along with another project “Junior Achievement” which teaches kids how to manage their money and create college accounts. This project will be in collaboration with Hobart and William Smith Colleges Economics Majors who will be helping facilitate the program.

Justin being recently hired at the Geneva Community Center has mobilized fast to create a relationship with the Colleges. “ Actually LAO was the first group I was introduced to that started my dealing with Hobart and William Smith College students – I have gotten an awesome response. Anything I ask has been done by these students.” Other groups Justin has been working with are the Leaders of Tomorrow House. Justin Bryant hopes to build more relations with other organizations at Hobart and William Smith Colleges; he mentions “ it’s nice to have students that are close in age– I see it as a mentorship opportunity, so that our kids realize that college is attainable whether it’s Hobart and William Smith or any college.” Justin also hopes to run things “smoother” in the upcoming year so that activities are more accessible to HWS students when they come and volunteer their time.
Hi, my name is Elena. I am a Russian Language and Culture, and International Relations major. Last spring, I went abroad to Moscow, Russia. I studied at Russian State University for the Humanities through Middlebury College. During my study abroad I learned more about the Russian culture, interacted with Russian people and traveled around the country. Russia has an issue with children that have no families or homes. Their care is in the hands of the state. That was one of my goals and reasons for going to study abroad in Russia. I was awarded the SEAY grant that allowed me to travel to Siberia and stay for a week in an orphanage to see how children lived and talk to them about how they liked their "home." That's what I did abroad. It was a very interesting experience.

On campus, I have also been a part of LAO as the Community Service Coordinator. I love learning about new cultures and helping people. I consider myself a global citizen and want to continue educating myself about the world we live in. I am a teaching assistant for the Russian department and I have worked at the IC which gave me an opportunity to meet new people from various backgrounds.

My semester in DC opened my eyes to the gateway of microfinance and how it is being used to eradicate poverty in South Asia and elsewhere in the world. My curiosity led me to the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, which is the pioneer in the field. I spent three months there learning all about microfinance from a grassroots level. My work involved travelling to several remote villages in rural Bangladesh to interview women about their experience with Grameen, conduct research projects and observe the daily transactions of the bank. The experience strengthened my desire to pursue a career in International Development and was essential in enlightening me about the key development issues of the region. The coursework I took at HWS prior to going to Bangladesh, gave me the adequate qualitative and quantitative skills to work efficiently as a field researcher. Those three months really contributed to my personal, professional and academic growth and enrichment. I am really thankful to all the support I received from the Colleges in helping me pursue this endeavor.

Currently, I am a senior at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. I expect to graduate in with a double major in Art History and Media and Society. At Hobart and William Smith, I am the president and one of the founding members of both The HWS Media Club and The Art’s Collective. Through these organizations, I have promoted the arts and brought to light the influence of the media in our society. With the HWS Media Club, I coordinated a Faculty Jeopardy and instituted the colleges first fashion magazine. With the Art’s Collective, I coordinated the HWS Fashion Show and all the student art shows.

I garnered an internship with DETAILS Magazine. As the intern for the editorial department, I had to transcribe interviews, research happenings in pop culture. I also had the opportunity to intern with Focus Features Films, the specialty film division of NBC/Universal Studios. As an intern for the publicity department, I worked under the Director of Regional Publicity. I created college field directives, researched for the film campaigns and created a presentation on how to brand films to the college demographic.

Determination is a trait that I most value in myself. Through these experiences, I have learned that perseverance and hard work are the ingredients for success.

Our Campus Community

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Dining Services and Intercultural Affairs have been collaborating on different events for several years. I love the IC, they are wonderful people, they have great ideas and overall have a great staff. I have been working at catering for the past 20 years and part of my job has involved creating and adapting menus to fit the needs of students for their events. It has been a very enriching experience and for the most part I usually know what the students want and don’t want. I think that the work that the cultural clubs do on this campus is terrific and the clubs that I have worked with are very involved and know exactly what they want to see out of me. One of the clubs I have worked with, LAO, “dot every I and cross every T,” so they usually cover everything, which makes my job a little easier. I am glad that I am able to help students and staff put on great events.

Steve Chilbert, Missy Thorpe
Pat Heieck, Tammy Pillsbury
And Vincent Alonso,
Dining Services
**SPRING 2010 Calendar**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration**  
January 19- Friday, January 22

**Three Cups of Tea with Seher Syed ‘10**  
January 25, 5 p.m.

**Alger L. Adams ‘31 Academic Excellence Dinner**  
February 2, 5:30 p.m.

**Community Corner with Jackie Augustine ‘99**  
February 23, 5 p.m.

**Paying Your Loans After HWS**  
February 25, 7 p.m.

**Finding a Job in this Economy**  
March 4, 7 p.m.

**Exile and Memory with Irakli Kakabadze**  
March 2, 5 p.m.

**International Women’s Day**  
March 8, 5 p.m.

**Pre-Law Student Panel**  
March 29, 6 p.m.

**International Experience Student Panel**  
April 5, 4:30 p.m.

**China: An Education with Helen McCabe**  
April 6, 5 p.m.

**Salsa: A Vibrant Tradition with Heather MacNaughton ‘10**  
April 13, 5 p.m.

**Taste of the Worlds**  
April 23, 7 p.m.

**HWS Classes of 2010 Reception**  
May 14, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

**Light Lunch & Senior Photo**  
May 15, 12 p.m.-2 p.m.

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**Intercultural Affairs Programming**

The Cross-Cultural Coffee Hour gives students a chance to talk informally about their experiences of crossing borders. Past presenters include Mariza Pereira ‘09, Seher Syed ‘10 and Heather MacNaughton ‘10.

The Fireside Chat with Faculty gives students the opportunity to listen to faculty discuss their research in an informal setting. Past presenters include Susanne McNally (History), Jeff Anderson (Anthropology), Irakli Kakabadze (Political Science) and Helen McCabe (Education).

International Experience Student Panel students share their experiences from abroad such as internships, alternative spring breaks and volunteerism. Past presenters include Innis Baah ‘10, Adam Croglia ‘10, Elena Sherlock ‘10 and Seher Syed ‘10.

The Writing Table faculty of the Writing and Rhetoric Program hold one-on-one sessions weekly with students who need support with their writing skills.

Community Corner Conversation community leaders from the Geneva Community are invited to have conversations with students. Conversations span from careers after college, current events and local issues. Jackie Augustine ‘99, Geneva City Council member, launched the program this spring.

Warm Wednesdays with Wormley provide an opportunity for students to enjoy a nice warm meal prepared by our very own “Chef” (Assistant Director of Opportunity Programs Edith Wormley) and conversation with guest HWS staff.