WHAT IS FORTNIGHT?

A **fortnight** is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. The term derives from the Old English *feorwertyne niht*, meaning “fourteen nights.” Inspired by the opportunities and challenges of Middle States Standard 14 and the desire to share information and best practices, **FORTNIGHT** is a communication vehicle, which is distributed online to the campus community.

ASSESSMENT-RELATED ACCOMPLISHMENTS: RECAPPING AY2012-2013 AND LOOKING AHEAD

As we come to the close of the 2012-2013 academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to update the campus on major assessment-related initiatives and accomplishments; in addition, we offer preliminary plans for the coming year. There will be a major personnel change over the summer related to assessment initiatives, as Professor Syed Rizvi, Chair of the Engineering Science & Physics Department, assumes the role of Interim Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness. Dr. Susan Holak will continue in her transition to the role of Interim Founding Dean of the School of Business. Dean Holak will, however, remain as the co-chair of the Middle States Follow-up Committee to develop the Middle States Monitoring Report that is due on December 1, 2013.

CAMPUS UPDATES

**Middle States Follow-up** – The Middle States Follow-up Committee was occupied during the spring semester, gathering supporting documentation from departments, programs, and committees to demonstrate progress on Middle States Standard 12 (General Education) and Standard 14 (Student Learning Outcomes). Standard 12 documentation includes the governance resolutions and related discussions captured in meeting minutes for the General Education, Undergraduate Curriculum, and Graduates Studies Committees – each committee passed a resolution this spring establishing a standing assessment sub-committee. These three sub-committees are charged with overseeing assessment activities for the respective governance committee, establishing a calendar of assessment activities or reporting from departments/programs, and preparing year-end assessment reports. One member from each of these assessment sub-committees will participate in the Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee (AOAC), a faculty group that serves as a forum for advancing assessment initiatives, resources, collaboration, and instruction without formally approving curriculum.

A Middle States writing committee that includes Professors Richard Powers (History), Catherine Lavender (History), Lacey Sloan (SASW), Susan Mee (Nursing), and Eileen Gigliotti (Nursing), along with Dr. Susan Holak and Warrick Bell, has been meeting to develop the Monitoring Report that has to be submitted on December 1 of this year.

A significant issue being addressed by this group is the demonstration of alignments between the College’s General Education goals (approved by the Faculty Senate in October 2011) and the course-level learning outcomes described by Pathways. The group is completing a mapping project to include in the campus documentation supporting the Monitoring Report. This map shows that the College’s General
Education fulfills all the Pathways requirements, and notes the courses that explicitly address each goal. The information will help contextualize the ongoing assessments of both General Education learning and the functioning of the General Education curriculum at the College.

With regard to documenting the College’s continued emphasis on Standard 14, academic departments and programs have completed Assessment Activity Reports for their AY 2011-2012 assessment activities. Assessment Activity Reports for 2012-2013, which were due on June 15, 2013, have been collected from almost all academic departments.

**Foundations of Excellence** – The campus has been engaged throughout this academic year with the John N. Gardner Institute’s Foundations of Excellence (FoE) program. Working committees developed reports on the nine Foundational Dimensions; these are being compiled into one report by Co-Chairs Vice President Ramona Brown and Associate Provost Deborah Vess. The analysis and recommendations revealed by the FoE process will be used for planning the first-year experience and allocating related resources.

**Academic Program Reviews** – As noted in the last several installments of FORTNIGHT, this spring the campus has hosted many external evaluators as the second step in our four-phase academic program review process (Self-Study, External Review, Response and Action Plan, Follow-Up). Significant progress has also been made towards shortening the self-study cycle from approximately ten years to seven. In May, the Cinema Studies MA hosted Professors Robert Harris of Fitchburg State University and Richard Peña of Columbia University, and the Library hosted Dr. Judith Lin Hunt, Dean of Library Services at Montclair State University and Ms. Michelle Young, Director of Libraries at Clarkson University.

**Administrative Program Reviews** – Following the lead of the academic programs, a similar review process is in place for administrative programs and offices. Within the Division of Student Affairs, the Center for Student Accessibility has been engaged throughout the year in preparing a self-study document under the guidance of Chris Cruz Cullari, the Center’s Director. Nancy Carr, President of the New York State Disabilities Service Council and the Director of the Disability Services Office at SUNY Onondaga College and Paula Perez, Director of Accommodative Services at Dutchess Community College, visited the campus in May to serve as external reviewers. Areas scheduled for review next year are the Center for the Arts and the Office of Student Life.

**CLOSING THE LOOP: FORTNIGHT COMES FULL-CIRCLE**

FORTNIGHT was created in September 2008 to serve as an online communication vehicle for assessment-related information, resources, and accomplishments. Now completing its 10th Volume, all issues appear on the website of the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness at www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment/fortnight.html. The publication was referenced in the Middle States self-study report to document examples of ways in which assessment activities have been used to inform decision-making processes and resource allocation at the College – aka “Closing the Loop.”

**FORTNIGHTLY NOTES**

The Fortnight Summer Camp takes place on a 365 acre farm just outside of Seattle, Washington, each year. High school students learn about the natural world, teamwork and crafting skills, planning, and the application of classroom learning in a non-classroom setting while dreaming up, designing, and building a tree fort or other building over the course of two weeks. See more about the camp at fortnight.smokefarm.org.

This is the 70th installment and final issue of Volume 10 of FORTNIGHT. All issues of FORTNIGHT are available on the College Assessment website, along with electronic resources, templates, and other assessment information, at www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment. Enjoy your summer!