Falen helps create resources, programs and systems to help undergraduates find their professional passions.

Geoff Falen, St. Lawrence's new director of career connections, focuses on strengthening experiential learning opportunities for students to complement their in-classroom coursework.

"By working with faculty, alumni and staff, I'll develop connections and relationships that students can use," says Falen in explaining his title. He plans to assist students in networking with alumni and parents, and to find creative ways to integrate internships and other experiential activities into the academic program at St. Lawrence for course credit. Or, as Dean of Academic Affairs Valerie Lehr explains it, Falen helps create resources, programs and systems to help undergraduates find their professional passions.

St. Lawrence students have interned all over the country, from Goldman Sachs in Manhattan, to Teach for America in San Francisco, to U.S. embassies all over the world. Falen looks forward to helping more students find internship opportunities, a process that can be daunting at any stage in a college career. Coming off of 10 years as Colorado College's director of career services, he has a proven track record of helping students secure internships that are both exciting and fit their career trajectory.

"The key thing to take away in any internship is the skills you learn, the connections you make with individuals, and the associations you make between your academic work and your internship," explains Falen.

On the job for just six months, Falen has already begun to feel the strength of the St. Lawrence connection on which he helps students capitalize. Of meetings with alumni in New York City, he says "There was an obvious passion to actively assist students on the road to their post-St. Lawrence goals."

Falen's job will help to ensure that even more students have the opportunity to find internships and learning opportunities within a field they find exciting.

As St. Lawrence's master plan explains, "high-impact learning occurs when the traditional classroom is connected to outside experiences."

Alli Shea knows of internships, having completed one, focused on writing, in University Communications in fall 2012.

NEW RESIDENCE HALL PLANS PROGRESSING

Plans are under way to build a 150-bed residence hall near the Noble Center and the Quad. Construction is expected to begin this spring and be completed by the fall 2014 semester.

The project could include adding geothermal energy and reducing the amount of pavement surrounding the Quad to add more green space. Other priorities include keeping with the character of the traditional campus and maintaining or enhancing the views to landmark buildings surrounding the Quad, such as Gunnison Memorial Chapel. For details and progress reports as they become available, visit www.stlawu.edu/newreshall.

“Our students have participated enthusiastically” in the planning process, President William L. Fox ’75 wrote in an update to campus. “During individual and focus group conversations, we found (them) to be educated, aware, involved, trusting and community-oriented.”
**FROM CARPENTRY TO CANNING:**

Tangible Skills in a Liberal Arts Setting

*By Molly Lunn '12*

What do skills in carpentry, sheep-shearing, canning and maple tree tapping have in common? Those behind St. Lawrence’s new Sustainability Semester argue they’ll help your student get a job.

Located five miles from the St. Lawrence campus on leased farmland, the Sustainability Semester offers courses taught by University faculty, workshops led by local sustainability leaders and an immersion experience unique to St. Lawrence off-campus programs. For details, visit [http://www.stlawu.edu/academics/experience/sustainability-semester](http://www.stlawu.edu/academics/experience/sustainability-semester).

“It’s the liberal arts, but with some tangible skills,” says Louise Gava ’07, the program’s coordinator. Homesteader-in-Residence Ben Swimm compares the practical experience gained on the farm to that acquired in a science lab. “The scientific background of a task becomes more understandable when you actually work through it in the field,” Swimm says, mentioning the science behind plant nutrition as an example.

Most students favor a trip to Dana over preparing their own food, but self-sufficiency skills are an integral part of the Semester. Students experiment with wholesome, local foods both in the kitchen and in the fields surrounding their farmhouse residence as they learn to plant, grow, harvest and preserve the ingredients they will turn into steaming dinners.

“Whether it’s about goat breeding or just green living, the chance to live out any idea we explore in the classroom is an exciting prospect,” says Swimm. Intensive study with sustainability “practitioners,” such as a master boat builder, demonstrates how the North Country community has turned sustainable living into viable economic activity. “You have to be pretty creative to make your own job here,” says Gava. Learning from that creativity will help students on their own searches in the green job, education and energy fields, where their hands-on experience will help them stand out in a competitive applicant pool.

A concluding component in Boston allows students to see experiments in sustainability in an urban context, and to merge what they learn in the rural setting into their own version of sustainability for the future. This furthers a final goal of the semester: to enable students to connect sustainability with the wider world, and to provide life-long models for students’ future communities.

Following her writing internship in University Communications last fall, Molly Lunn graduated in December and moved to Bainbridge Island, Wash, where she is an intern at YES! Magazine.

**MEAGHER DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC SERVICES ENDOWMENT BUILDS**

**Goal: $1 million**

**Progress: $281,000** in cash and pledges as of January 31, 2013

This endowment honors John Meagher, long-time director of academic services for students with special needs, who has announced plans to retire in 2014, and will fund the assistant director position. Interested in supporting it? Please contact Chad Tessier at c tessier@stlawu.edu or 315-229-5519.

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**PARENTS!**

Changed your email address lately?

Please let us know!

Send your new email address to

Elaine Smith, e smith@stlawu.edu

Thank you!
SEND US YOUR FAMILY PORTRAITS

We’re looking for pictures of families (St. Lawrence student, the parents, Grandma and/or Grandpa, siblings, any combination you have) enjoying themselves on campus – at a football game, during Family Weekend, on Moving-Up Day, doesn’t matter. If you don’t look like you’re enjoying yourselves, don’t send us that picture! We’ll bank these for possible use in print or electronic publications or in our Social Media outreach.

Please send electronic images to

University Photographer Tara Freeman, tfreeman@stlawu.edu.

Thank you!

FAMILY WEEKEND 2013

October 4-6 Save That Date! (and don’t put off finding a place to stay!)

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND!

Want to see the tentative schedule?

Planning to reserve tickets for the Senior Class Dinner Dance?

Have questions?

Want info?

Go to:

www.stlawu.edu/commence
Important Dates Spring-Fall 2013
www.stlawu.edu/calendar/acad_calendar.html

SPRING SEMESTER 2013
Monday, January 21
Classes Begin
Saturday-Sunday, March 9-17
Spring Break
Saturday, April 27
Moving Up Day
Friday, May 3
Classes End
Monday-Saturday, May 6-11
Final Examinations
Sunday, May 19
Commencement 10:00 a.m.

FALL SEMESTER 2013
Wednesday, August 28
Classes Begin
Friday-Sunday, October 4-6
Family Weekend
Friday-Sunday October 11-13
Homecoming
Thursday-Friday, October 17-18
Mid-Semester Break*
Saturday-Sunday, November 23-December 1
Thanksgiving Recess*
Thursday, December 12
Classes End
Sunday-Friday, December 15-20
Final Examinations

This calendar is subject to revision by the University.
*Residences are open and meals are available during Midsemester Break; residences and meals are not available during Thanksgiving recess.