

FALL
2021

UNE

MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

STATE-OF-THE-ART-FACILITY
UNDER-SERVED
COMMUNITIES



CUTTING-EDGE
TECHNOLOGY

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

TEAM-BASED
CARE

Design Thinking
Partnerships
Makerspace

DREAM BIG!

SYNERGY

WORKFORCE





As 2020 (and its unprecedented challenges) gave way to 2021, there was hope that the miracle of the COVID-19 vaccines would deliver a definitive knockout blow to the pandemic and allow a full return to normalcy. But the rollercoaster ride continued, as novel variants and vaccine hesitation forced us to update our plans (many times over). At this point, I think, we all realize that we need to get used to living in a “new normal” paradigm for the foreseeable future, where circumstances are likely to change on a dime and complacency is simply not an option.

I believe that UNE is well positioned for this new reality. We have always been a community that is unusually nimble and adaptive. We're proud of our heritage and traditions to be sure, but we're also uncommonly quick and decisive when it comes to making needed changes to our ways of doing things, honoring the innovative, entrepreneurial spirit that is embedded in our DNA. The Nor'easter community rises continually to meet new challenges and embrace new opportunities, and we are always evolving as the needs of our students and the communities we serve change over time.

In true Nor'easter fashion, we haven't just “kept the trains running” during the COVID era; we've continued to move forward, making great progress on our strategic initiatives. For example, we have continued to develop academic programs, including an exciting new major in criminology, and have made significant progress on restructuring our undergraduate curriculum to make it more flexible. Our Makerspace team continued to integrate the principles and practices of design-thinking innovation with diverse programs across our campuses, and we've expanded our efforts around creating an even more diverse, inclusive, and welcoming community.

That adaptive, ever-evolving spirit is reflected in this issue of the UNE Magazine. Here are some of the highlights you'll find in these pages:

- Sparked by a generous gift from the Harold Alford Foundation, and despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, we initiated the planning process for a new state-of-the-art health sciences facility on the Portland Campus to house our prestigious College of Osteopathic Medicine and support the expansion of our team-based interprofessional education programs. The oral-history-style cover story takes you behind the scenes with members of UNE's leadership team during that planning process.
- After regretfully taking last year off, this fall we resumed our overseas programs — at our one-of-a-kind campus in Tangier,

Morocco, and at partner sites in France, Spain, and Iceland — allowing our students to build the genuine global perspectives and cross-cultural awareness that are more important today than ever before.

- Our Diversity Leadership Certificate program moved online, where it racked up record enrollment numbers, as students, inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement and other developments, looked for ways to turn their passions into action.
- And we even found time to introduce a new version of our beloved athletics mascot, Stormin' Norman!

All that, plus regular features such as “Spotlight” articles on our amazing alumni and donors, a “Humans of UNE” portrait, a photographic “Travelogue” on a scientific whale-watching vessel, and a full-color comic by M.S.W. alum Katy Finch. There's also an account by some obscure writer named James Herbert about his trip to Washington, D.C., to testify before a U.S. Senate subcommittee...? Okay, that's me. But it was a very exciting trip, and it underscores our urgent need to educate more health professionals to meet growing deficits in underserved areas, including Northern New England.

As we have emerged from our pandemic-induced physical isolation, it's been so gratifying to reconnect personally with so many friends and colleagues. Although videoconferencing tools like Zoom proved invaluable when we had to remain physically isolated, they can't fully replace the depth and nuance (and sheer human connection!) of face-to-face interactions. Lynn and I have especially relished welcoming both new and returning students to our campuses. Their energy and excitement to be back in person are truly infectious.

UNE's amazing journey and successes are the product of the ongoing collective efforts of our entire community, from our dedicated trustees to our administrators, faculty, professional staff, students, and alumni. I continue to feel very privileged to lead this extraordinary community. Please come back to visit our beautiful campuses and re-experience for yourself the inimitable Nor'easter spirit.

Happy reading!

JAMES D. HERBERT, Ph.D. | PRESIDENT



25

COVER STORY DREAM BIG!



49

TRAVELOGUE MONTEREY BAY DAYS



53

MR. HERBERT GOES TO WASHINGTON...



63

HOMECOMING

- 01 PRESIDENT'S LETTER
- 03 CONTENT
- 04 NEWS BRIEFS
- 15 GLOBAL EDUCATION A Wide, Wide World: Global Education Returns to UNE
- 19 WOMEN'S MARCH 2021
- 21 DREAM BIG! Harold Alfond Foundation Gift Will Position UNE as a Health Professions Education Hub
- 37 HUMANS OF UNE Belle Bocal
- 39 DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION Decade of Diversity Leadership Training Marked With Enrollment Explosion
- 43 UNE ONLINE CGPS Alumnus Wins Million-Dollar Federal Grant to Bring His School Safety Dream to Life
- 44 UNE ONLINE Emphasis on Compassion Opens Up New Possibilities in Nutrition Education
- 45 ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS
- 47 DEBORAH MORTON SOCIETY INDUCTEES 2021
- 57 NOR'EASTER NEWS Silver Linings From Athletics in an Otherwise Cloudy Year
- 59 NOR'EASTER NEWS New-Look UNE Mascot Makes Its Debut
- 61 FIFTEEN MINUTES WITH... Jonathan Millen
- 65 CLASS NOTES
- 75 IN MEMORIAM
- 77 REMEMBERING

79 HIDDEN TALENTS Sweet Tooth

82 COMIC The Art of Emergence

For additional content and bonus features, be sure to visit us online: une.edu/magazine

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Seaweed being harvested from UNE's kelp farm

UNE RESEARCHERS STUDYING FOOD SAFETY ASPECTS OF EDIBLE SEAWEED

The level of pathogens found on edible seaweed and what can be done to keep levels low are the focus of a study now underway involving researchers and students at UNE.

"Edible seaweed, including sugar kelp, is really a burgeoning industry in Maine," explained Kristin Burkholder, Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Biological Sciences. "Our recent work has shown that, not surprisingly, kelp harvested from the Gulf of Maine is subject to occasional low levels of contamination by bacterial pathogens."

However, Burkholder explained, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not been keeping pace with potential safety issues around consuming this product as food. Since seaweed is not considered seafood or a crop, it is not regulated by the FDA, she said.

"So, there really is no guidance out there for the industry on how to keep the risk low," stated Carrie Byron, Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Marine and Environmental Programs.

With \$150,000 in funding from a Maine Sea Grant, Byron, Burkholder, and their students are examining ways that the industry can minimize the food safety risk.

The most commonly used drying method in the industry now is air drying. The researchers will be comparing that to freeze drying the seaweed, a method used in some other countries, to see if one way is better than the other at keeping pathogen load low. Master of Marine Sciences student Jessica Vorse is conducting the temperature experiments for the study, followed by experiments that examine the effects of seaweed drying methods on pathogen levels.

An important element of the study is working with industry members to inform the project goals. "The industry really sees the need for this research," Byron said. "Very rarely do you see diverse industry members all coming together in the same place at the same time on a topic, but we were able to do that with representation across species, across farming, and across harvesting methods on a topic that can be really scary for them."



WMTW's Jim Keithley interviews Carrie Byron.



Students Hannah Korper and Emily Schutt being interviewed by WMTW

UNE RESEARCHER RECEIVES SECOND PATENT FOR HIS BREAKTHROUGH CANCER DETECTION AND MONITORING METHODS

Srinidi Mohan, Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Pharmacy, has received a second patent from the United States Patent and Trademark Office for his breakthrough methods and diagnostics for cancer detection and treatment monitoring.

Mohan previously received his first U.S. Patent, titled "Methods and Diagnostics for Cancer Detection and Treatment Monitoring." The method uses a marker in the blood to detect the presence of highly aggressive tumors and to help track cancer growth. Mohan found that the marker Nw-hydroxy-L-Arginine (NOHA) was both a sensitive and reliable indicator for estrogen receptor-negative (ER-) tumors, the most aggressive types of breast cancer.

Currently, no reliable blood-based marker exists for estrogen-negative breast tumor prognosis and/or disease monitoring.

In the second patent, Mohan shows NOHA predictive response in ovarian carcinoma based on ER expression status.

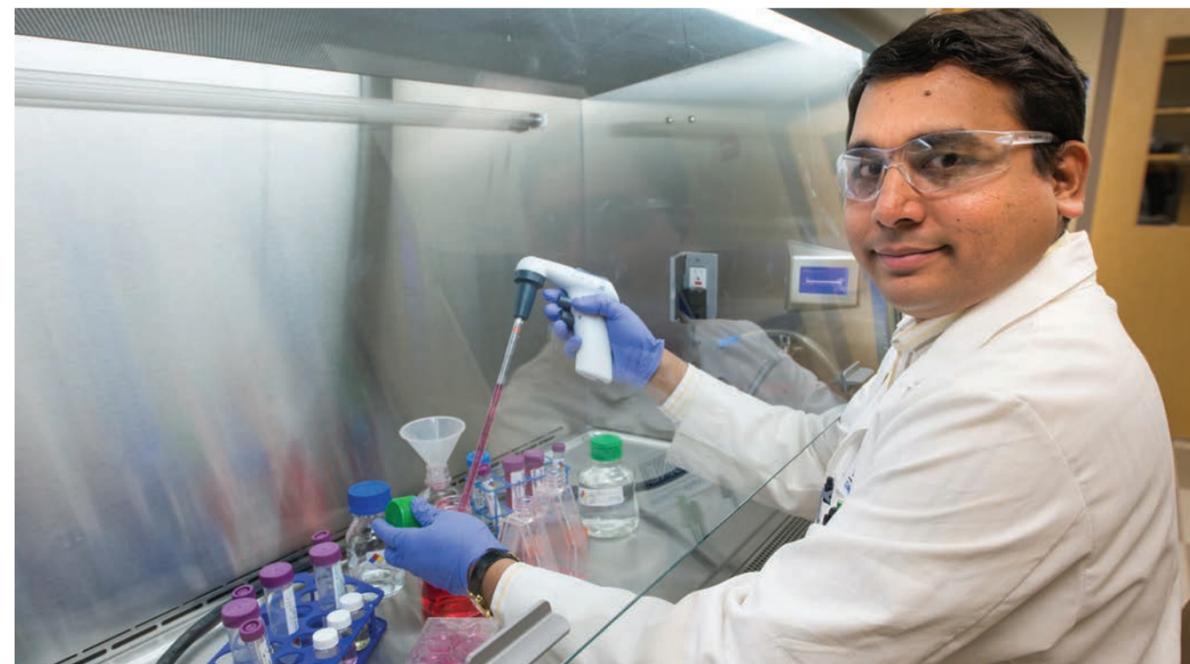
Ovarian cancer is the most lethal gynecological malignancy. Each year, around 230,000 cases of ovarian cancer are diagnosed, and there are around 150,000 deaths. The exact causes of ovarian cancer are still unclear, but most of the risk factors are associated with the changes in levels of sex



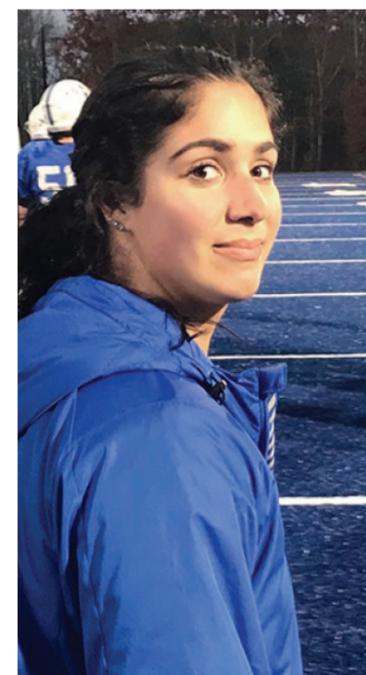
hormones during women's lifetime. The estrogen receptor (ER) mediates the effects of sex hormones on proliferation of ovarian cancer cells.

While the association of ER expression status has a well-established prognostic and treatment-predictive role in breast cancer, its role in ovarian cancer is less defined. Thus, identification of prognostic and predictive factors based on ER expression status would be useful to better navigate diagnosis, treatment, and therapy management in ovarian cancer patients.

"I am both delighted and humbled with this opportunity to expand the scope of NOHA as a cancer biomarker," Mohan stated. "I look forward to the opportunity of NOHA biomarker implementation at a clinical setting."



UNE GRAD HIRED FULL-TIME BY NFL'S BUFFALO BILLS



University of New England graduate Andrea Gosper, B.S. '19 (Health Sciences), has been hired full time by the Buffalo Bills football team as player personnel coordinator.

"She just brings a great perspective," Bills General Manager Brandon Beane said in an interview on the team's website. "She played college sports; she was a college softball player. She is a grinder."

Gosper played for UNE's softball team and interned with the UNE football coaching staff. In 2019, she was invited by the National Football League (NFL) to take part in its Women's Careers in Football Forum in Indianapolis. The forum helps the NFL identify qualified women to join its next generation of leaders. While attending the forum, Gosper met Beane and Bills Assistant General Manager Joe Schoen. A few weeks later, she received a call offering her a paid internship with the team.

"I don't know anybody that's put more hours in this building than her in the last two years," Beane stated. "She loves it, you can see it. She is just fired up to come in here."

Gosper says her time with the UNE football team prepared her for the opportunity. She worked with the offensive scout team and broke down practice and game video.

Gosper spent the last two years as a scouting intern for Buffalo. Now, she'll transition into a full-time role. By being promoted to player personnel coordinator, Beane said her new job responsibilities will consist of about 75% college scouting and 25% pro scouting and administrative work.

"While she's still growing, she's got what it takes," explained Beane. "In two years, she's come so far. She's going to be a good scout when her day comes. I firmly believe that."

CGPS FOUNDING DEAN MARTHA WILSON RETIRES

Martha Kirkendall Wilson, Ph.D., D.S.W., ACSW, founding dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies (CGPS), retired from her position on May 31 after 17 years of dedicated service to the University.

Wilson joined the University in 2004 as the director of the School of Social Work, where she led the development of the country's first accredited, fully online, asynchronous social work program. Wilson's work to create the online MSW program was a prime example of UNE's culture of innovation and paved the way for the establishment of CGPS as a college within the University.

In 2011, Danielle Ripich, Ph.D., then president of UNE, approached Wilson with her vision to create a unit within UNE to manage all of the University's online programs in-house. Wilson grew this service unit, originally known as Online Worldwide Learning (OWL), from a single person in a conference room in the School of Social Work to its present incarnation as a stand-alone, 100% online college within the University.

With an annual enrollment of approximately 8,000 students, CGPS now boasts 20 individual certificate and degree programs designed to meet the needs of individuals not only in Maine but across the globe.

Wilson's dedication and work on behalf of UNE students, faculty, alumni, staff, and community members was immeasurable. Her leadership and guidance brought CGPS to its current form: a highly curated combination of experienced leadership, expert faculty,



advanced technology, and accredited course content that ensures that our online students receive a high-quality graduate school experience and a true return on their investments of time, money, and passion.

We offer our deep gratitude to Wilson for her tireless devotion to the University, and we wish her the best in retirement. She leaves behind her a legacy of innovation and a college culture that is the living embodiment of her commitment to fostering a student-centered learning environment.



UNE ANNOUNCES 2020-2021 MAINE IDEAS CHALLENGE WINNERS

Winners have been announced for the University of New England's 2020-2021 Maine Ideas Challenge.

Formerly known as the Student Innovation Challenge, the Maine Ideas Challenge provides students with the opportunity to propose transformative solutions to real-world problems. Innovative solutions can come from any field at any scale, from new business ideas that transform markets to social innovations that change lives.

The idea-stage competition brings student innovation together with UNE's strengths in life, health, and social sciences. This year's challenge brought together students from 12 academic disciplines across the University.

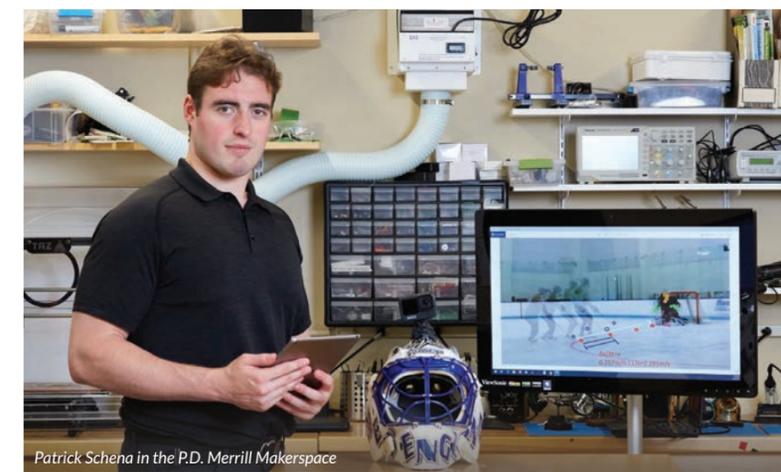
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION AWARD: Desk-I-Nation

- Aimee LeMieux (Education, '23)
- Victoria Bowler (Health, Wellness, and Occupational Studies, '22)
- Molly Daley (Business, '21)
- Steve Sims (Applied Mathematics, '23)

The Desk-I-Nation Education group is working on an educational website that connects classrooms with live, virtual field trip providers from all over the nation.

3RD PRIZE: Prehabilitation App

- Maryam Nahidian (D.P.T., '22)
- Eric Norman (D.P.T., '22)



Patrick Schena in the P.D. Merrill Makerspace

- Riley Shea (D.P.T., '22)
- Libby Breznyak (Medical Biology, '22)
- Gabriel Tarbuck (Health, Wellness, and Occupational Studies, '22)

The Prehabilitation app is being designed to decrease frailty for individuals scheduled for major abdominal surgery by creating an all-encompassing approach to pre- and post-surgical care.

2ND PRIZE: Innovision Hockey Goalie Training

- Patrick Schena (Business, '21)
- Jared Christy (Business, '23)
- Jenna Pych (Business, '22)

The Goalie Training project is developing a hockey goaltending training accessory designed to improve visual attachment and tracking quality when the puck is shot at the goaltender. The Goalie Training team is using camera-based technology to record on-ice hockey practices, which are then analyzed using AI so that coaches can easily make changes to the player's game.

1ST PRIZE: Ready Set Return

- Morgan Dube (M.S.P.A., '22)
- Augustus Mendoza (Business, '21)

Ready Set Return is a health care app to aid in the return-to-play process for those who have suffered an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury and have undergone surgery.



Morgan Dube



Ready Set Return app interface

UNE A LEADING MEMBER OF MAINE DELEGATION AT ARCTIC CIRCLE ASSEMBLY



James Herbert; Sigríður Sía Jónsdóttir, dean of the College of Health Sciences at the University of Akureyri; Holly Parker; Karen Houseknecht

The University of New England recently sent a delegation to the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland, the first such conference since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

UNE sent six delegates to the Icelandic capital in mid-October, including UNE President James D. Herbert, Ph.D., Holly Parker, Ph.D., director of UNE North: The Institute for North Atlantic Studies, and Karen Houseknecht, Ph.D., associate provost for Research and Scholarship, in addition to three UNE North advisors.

The Arctic Circle Assembly is the largest annual international gathering focused on the Arctic, this year drawing 1,400 participants from 40 countries interested in the future of the region to the Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Center in downtown Reykjavik.

This year's event, the first in-person conference since fall 2019, featured over 100 sessions and 400 speakers, including UNE's own Parker, who hosted a breakout session with colleagues from the University of Akureyri and National Health Service Scotland, entitled "Digital Health in the Arctic and Rural North – Challenges and Opportunities for Supporting Resilient Communities."

"We were so excited to return to the Arctic Circle Assembly to reconnect with colleagues from throughout the region and to continue building new partnerships to advance UNE's, Maine's, and the region's sustainable development," Parker remarked.

UNE also led the first working meeting of the University of the Arctic Thematic Network in Bioregional Planning for Resilient Rural Communities. Additionally, the UNE delegation met with University of Iceland Rector Jón Atli Benediktsson and senior leadership to discuss potential collaborations in education and research.

Photos courtesy of Holly Parker and James Herbert



The Maine delegation in conference



Parker, Houseknecht, and Herbert explore the glacial terrain.



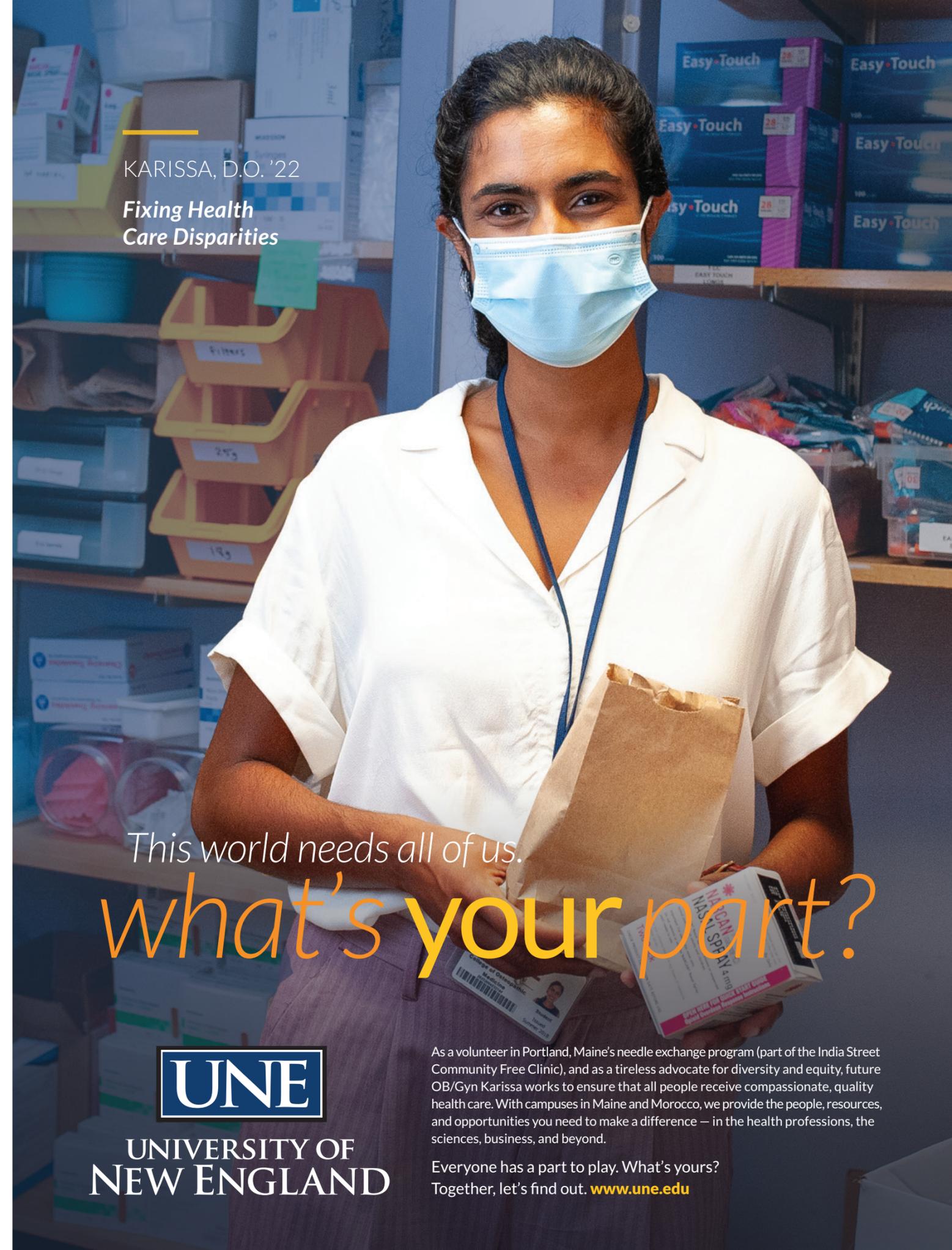
Herbert with Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator for Alaska



Exterior of the Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Center in Reykjavik



Parker, Houseknecht, and Herbert with University of Iceland colleagues Jón Atli Benediktsson, rector; Róbert H. Haraldsson, director of academic affairs; and Áslaug Jónsdóttir, from the university's International Office.



KARISSA, D.O. '22

Fixing Health Care Disparities

This world needs all of us.
what's your part?



UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

As a volunteer in Portland, Maine's needle exchange program (part of the India Street Community Free Clinic), and as a tireless advocate for diversity and equity, future OB/Gyn Karissa works to ensure that all people receive compassionate, quality health care. With campuses in Maine and Morocco, we provide the people, resources, and opportunities you need to make a difference — in the health professions, the sciences, business, and beyond.

Everyone has a part to play. What's yours? Together, let's find out. www.une.edu



« OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE UNE COM's "Fishin' Physicians" form bond that withstands the tide

Three friends, a whole lot of fishing gear, and miles of open water. It's the quintessential New England scene, lived by University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNE COM) Class of 2023 students Charlie Bloom, Hannah Akre, and Kelsey Klingel — or, as they are known online, the Fishin' Physicians.

The group of friends began fly fishing in the cool waters off southern Maine in late spring, as striped bass began to make their northerly migration. They began documenting their experiences on their Instagram account, @fishinphysicians, and have since amassed over 3,200 followers and have garnered thousands of likes on trade social media accounts like Simms Fishing, On the Water Magazine, Cheeky Fishing, Origin Outfitters, the Saltwater Guides Association, and the American Medical Women's Association, to name just a few.

The crew said their Instagram account is a way to share their hobby with friends and the public, but it is also a way to spread their values as doctors in training. "We talk a lot about how we can use this platform as a way to kind of promote global population health because we know that there's such a correlation between the health of our environment and how that affects human health," said Klingel.

ARTS AND SCIENCES »

UNE faculty member designs quilt that showcases the art of mathematics

Visitors to the third floor of Decary Hall on the University of New England's Biddeford Campus might notice a new addition to its walls. Across from Room 336, adjacent to the office of Ryan D. Hedstrom, M.S.T., associate teaching professor in the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, hangs a quilt in the design of the Fibonacci sequence.

The quilt features the numeric blocks produced by the Fibonacci sequence, which dictates that each sequential number is the sum of its two preceding numbers when starting from 0 and 1 (0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, ...). When drawn in two dimensions, the sequence produces the signature golden spiral associated with the mathematical value of Phi: the "golden ratio."

Hedstrom himself designed the quilt — which bears UNE's own signature colors — while his mother, Anita Hedstrom, stitched it together by hand. "My mom has been quilting for many years, and I've always wanted to work with her to do some sort of mathematical quilt," he said. "I finally got the opportunity to make that happen, and we had the privilege of donating it to UNE."



DENTAL MEDICINE »

College of Dental Medicine offers no-cost care to Buxton's Buddhist monks

"Finally, there is no more pain," Phally Prakk, a monk at Buxton's Wat Samaki Buddhist Temple, said after the extraction of an aching molar at the University of New England's Oral Health Center. "I've had this going on for years, and this was really needed."

The Oral Health Center — the clinical education center for UNE's College of Dental Medicine (CDM) — recently began providing oral health care and interpreting services at no cost for the two monks at the temple, which serves Maine's Cambodian community. Buddhist monks are traditionally cared for by the communities they serve and, because they do not earn income, often encounter barriers to health care. Prakk was the first of the monks to take advantage of the partnership. Had there been no such no-cost program, he said, he would have been in pain for even longer.

"As Maine's only dental college, we have a responsibility to educate and produce highly skilled and competent dentists to serve our state," said Jon Ryder, D.D.S., M.S., former dean of the CDM. "That service begins with putting the patient first, no matter who they are, or where they come from. If we can educate students and, at the same time, improve the health of our communities, we have fulfilled our mission."



HEALTH PROFESSIONS »

After two strokes, PA student aims to make patients her priority

Sarah Pasquine (M.S.P.A., '22) never considered a career in medicine. But after suffering two strokes — one during her undergraduate studies and another while studying for her Master of Public Health degree at Columbia University — her perspective began to change.

After the second neurological event, Pasquine underwent two brain surgeries before returning to her hometown of Presque Isle to recover. Later, while researching neurosurgery, she was given the unique opportunity to work alongside her own neurosurgeon and witness him perform, on another patient, the very same life-saving procedure that saved her own life. "That was really when the light switch flipped on in my mind that medicine was for me," Pasquine reflected.

To follow her newfound passion, Pasquine enrolled in the University of New England's Master of Science in Physician Assistant (MSPA) program, the only such program in Maine, to pursue a second master's degree. When she graduates this spring, Pasquine looks forward to working with rural and underserved populations and has already completed a clinical rotation in Sherman, a remote town in Maine's Aroostook County. "Rural health care is truly unique and something I think all providers should experience," she said. "We still have paper charts. We have no electronic records. I'm learning how to do a lot with only minimal resources."



PHARMACY ⬆

Grants from Covetrus and Hannaford to support diversity in pharmacy workforce

The University of New England, with generous support from Hannaford and Covetrus, is the recipient of \$150,000 in scholarship and research funding to UNE's School of Pharmacy to advance diversity within Maine's pharmacy workforce as well as in the pharmacy profession.

The Hannaford Pharmacy Diversity Scholarship will be awarded to diverse students enrolled in the School of Pharmacy, with a preference for those in the Advanced Standing Track (AST) for Foreign-Trained Pharmacists. The AST provides an accelerated degree path for students who were previously educated abroad, offering the opportunity to earn a Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Pharm. D.) in three years. The Covetrus Diversity Scholarship will support pharmacy students who actively contribute to nurturing a more diverse and inclusive community at UNE and who have an interest in veterinary pharmacy.

"We are grateful to both Hannaford and Covetrus," said Robert McCarthy, Ph.D., FAPhA, dean of the School of Pharmacy. "Many immigrants and refugees who come to Maine have received professional education and training in their home country but lack the credentials needed to practice in the United States. Moreover, finances often prevent them from seeking the additional preparation needed; the support from both our corporate partners will play a significant role in reducing these barriers."

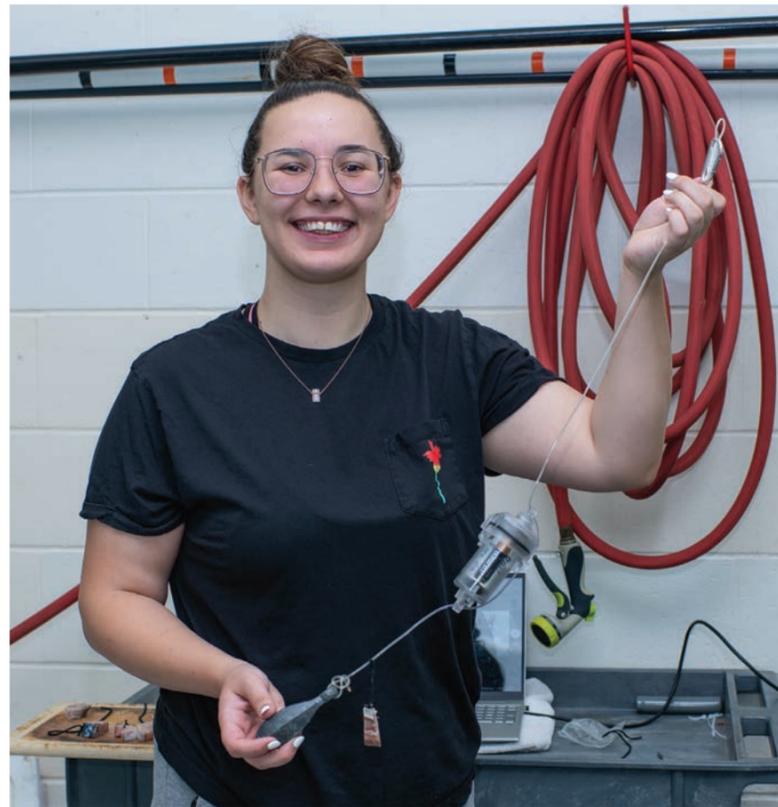
MARINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS ⬇

UNE undergraduate studying novel approach to protect sharks

As predators at the top of the food chain, sharks maintain the populations of species below them, and they keep competitors in check to ensure species diversity. So, when sharks get caught in fishing lines or bite onto long-line fishing bait, as they often do, it not only has repercussions for fishermen, but it can also throw off the balance of the food chain.

Bethany Brodbeck (Marine Sciences, '22) is trying to find a solution to that issue. She is studying the use of novel technology to reduce shark bycatch, both to protect fishermen and preserve shark populations. Brodbeck is currently conducting a bycatch reduction experiment in UNE's Marine Science Center using spiny dogfish — a small species of shark — as a representative species. The research includes using small devices, known as electronic bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) — developed in partnership with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science — which emit electrical signals that target the sharks' electro-sensory systems to deter them from bait. The study aims to determine if the devices can be placed on long fishing lines to ward off sharks and prevent them from becoming mixed up in the fishing haul.

Hailing from rural Pennsylvania, where opportunities for marine research are limited, Brodbeck said the research experience has been invaluable to her academic and professional careers. "There's no way of knowing what you want to do in marine science without getting hands-on experience," she said. "The fact that UNE allows students to do hands-on research, even as freshmen, is absolutely incredible."



GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES ⬆

UNE alum is new director of diversity, equity, and inclusion for Goodwill Industries International

Samantha-Rae Dickenson, Ed.D. '18, M.P.H., has been hired as the director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for Goodwill Industries International. In her role, Dickenson oversees DEI operations for Goodwill Industries International and offers DEI support to Goodwill organizations across North America. Her goal as director of DEI, she said, is to develop a full DEI strategy that aligns with the overarching mission of Goodwill Industries International and is reflected internally across its employees.

"Goodwill is a leader in transforming the demographics of people who are marginalized and providing opportunities for those who don't have equitable access to professional development resources and career resources," Dickenson said. "A big part of the mission is focusing on providing those resources to those who need it the most, and that is also a priority for us internally."

Dickenson said the skills she learned in UNE's online Doctor of Education program have prepared her well for her new role as director of DEI. "The program taught us about organizational management, how to navigate an organization as a leader, and to create an environment that promotes trust and open and honest communication," Dickenson said. "I did my dissertation on microaggressions that Black women face in the workplace and how to create inclusive work environments, so my journey through the Ed.D. program definitely propelled me to further my skillset as it relates to developing strategy and being more foundationally sound in that realm."

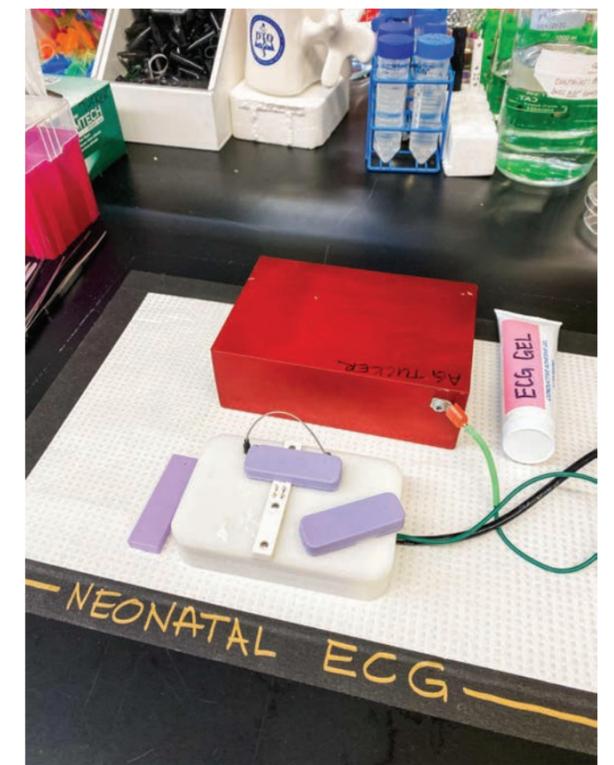
RESEARCH ⬇

UNE researchers publish novel approach for assessing neonatal mouse heart function

Researchers in the Tucker Laboratory at the University of New England have devised a first-of-its-kind, noninvasive process for measuring the electrical activity of newborn mice with the goal of detecting congenital heart defects (CHD) in the tiny mammals as early as the first day after birth. The process utilizes a device developed in partnership with Dover, New Hampshire-based physiology research and teaching firm iWorx.

The research, published in the *Journal of Visualized Experiments (JoVE)*, "Noninvasive Electrocardiography in the Perinatal Mouse," was written collaboratively by current and past UNE College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) students; Kerry L. Tucker, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences; and Adrian Moran, M.D., a pediatric cardiologist at Maine Medical Center.

Lindsey Fitzsimons, M.S., RCEP/CES, who is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Maine Graduate School of Biomedical Science and Engineering and is completing her doctoral thesis at the Tucker Lab, said, "The more parallels we can draw with rodent and human cardiac function, the greater the reproducibility and translatability of both basic science and clinical biomedical research."



A WIDE, WIDE WORLD GLOBAL EDUCATION RETURNS TO UNE

by Alan Bennett

Ever since her brief experience as a teenage exchange student, Emily Williams had always wanted to go back to Spain.

The Class of 2022 psychology major had fallen in love with the place.

And why wouldn't she? It's a vast wonderland of mixed cultures and cuisines, where vibrantly colored fishing villages dot the southern coastline. Monolithic Madrid, the central capital, is home to some of the finest museums in the world, as is Barcelona to the east. And, in the north, steep mountains slope their way to the autonomous community of Basque Country, overlooking the cyan waters of the Cantabrian Sea.

For these reasons and more, Williams was ecstatic about her plans to study abroad in Seville, another cultural hub, in the fall 2020 semester.

"When I heard that we had a program in Seville, I knew it was not only academically going to be a great fit for me," Williams expresses, "I knew, because of my past experience in Spain, that it was going to be perfect."

But things don't always go according to plan.

In early 2020, when the coronavirus had gone from just a worry to everyone's worst fears realized, University of New England officials made the difficult, but necessary, call to send students home from their studies abroad and indefinitely postpone all Global Education plans and programs.

It was a flurry of events that Anouar Majid, Ph.D., vice president for Global Affairs and founding director of the UNE's Center for Global Humanities, will never forget.

"Study abroad operations across the world basically shut down overnight," Majid explains. "And, from there, we just had to sit anxiously and wait for some sort of relief from the pandemic."

But in recent months, as vaccinations against COVID-19 began to soar, infection rates stalled, and mask mandates dropped, it was evident that relief was finally here: the University of New England would offer Global Education for the fall 2021 semester.

Students, and the staff who arduously worked to make Global Education possible, felt an immediate sense of resounding joy.

We just had to sit anxiously and wait for some sort of relief from the pandemic. — Anouar Majid

"Students are so excited about doing what they planned to do for once, since there were so many unplanned things last year," says Emily Dragon, director of Global Education at UNE.

And she is right. Students — sophomores, juniors, and even seniors — expressed their excitement at the prospect of furthering their educations in lands outside the United States.

"To have the opportunity to complete an intense course load while abroad is an incredible opportunity," says Jillian Dusseault (Medical Biology, '22). "I've always wanted to have an educational experience abroad to better understand the cultures of places outside the United States. Studying abroad is also an incredible platform to learn more about yourself once you are faced with a new environment and new global challenges."

Dusseault is not alone in her views. Many students say they are thrilled to travel overseas, not so much for the sights — though they are great — but to immerse themselves in their studies at locations where they can learn from and interact with their host communities.

"This trip will help me narrow down what I want my career path to be," says Ariana Telzerow (Marine Affairs '23), who is studying in Iceland this semester. There, she is not only taking courses like Antarctic Law and Policy, but she is also completing an internship with the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network, organizing sessions for the annual Arctic Circle Assembly and serving as a research assistant. "This work really goes hand-in-hand with my major," she notes.



Ariana Telzerow visits Dettifoss waterfall in Vatnajökull National Park along the Jökulsá á fjöllum (Glacial Mountain River); it is the most powerful waterfall in Iceland.

That kind of hands-on work is why students seek a global education from UNE, Majid states. The University is unique, he says, as one of only a handful of institutions with a designated international campus (in Tangier, Morocco), in addition to UNE's existing global partnerships in Seville and, new this year, in Aix-en-Provence, France.

"When students travel, they learn new languages and are exposed to different cultures. Students go overseas, and they come back thoroughly transformed," Majid remarks. "UNE provides an experience that goes beyond just studying abroad; we provide a very powerful educational opportunity for students to supplement the education they receive on our main campuses."

"It's not about luxury," he adds. "It's really an integral part of their education. It makes UNE a truly unique institution."

Emily Williams, whose dreams of returning to Spain were quashed for 2020, says there is no substitute for the kind of experience provided by a global education.

"Being able to immerse yourself in a new culture, living with a host family, and learning a new language in real time — it's the best possible environment," she says. "That's not something you can learn in a textbook or from watching a movie. You just have to go."

The year 2020 was a double whammy for Williams, whose plans to fly to Ireland in the spring for a travel course were also put on hold. But, fortunately, as international borders began to reopen, this fall (2021), Williams' dream of a Spanish semester finally came true.

In her time on the Iberian Peninsula, Williams has engaged in studies that are preparing her for research as a future graduate student.

At UNE's seaside Biddeford Campus, Williams researched human relationships, both romantic and personal, in UNE's Self and Close Relationships Lab under the direction of Julie Peterson, Ph.D., former director of the Women and Gender Studies program. Far across the Atlantic Ocean, she has taken courses in cultural psychology to further incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion into her future research — which she hopes to one day also complete overseas.

"I'm hoping that, through my experience taking cultural psychology courses and by studying abroad, I'll be able to gain a deeper understanding of perspectives unlike my own," Williams says. "I want to teach psychology to undergraduates one day, so having that understanding is incredibly valuable."

Telzerow shares a similar, yet more general, sentiment.

"Studying abroad and learning new perspectives makes you a more well-rounded person," she says.

To the northeast, checking in from neighboring France, Dusseault says that, as a future health professional, it is important to have a multinational perspective to relate to patients and provide better — and more accurate — patient care.

Studying abroad and learning new perspectives makes you a more well-rounded person.

— Ariana Telzerow



Anouar Majid stands at the entrance to the Tangier Campus.

“The new layer of knowledge I will gain overseas will support me in the health care field and teach me to have compassion and understanding for the diverse backgrounds of my patients,” she says. “This experience will help improve my adaptability to new situations and create an excellent foundation for global knowledge.”

Dusseault isn't the only one thinking in terms of better patient care.



Finn Lambert in front of a Moroccan tile wall in Tangier

In Morocco, where UNE's Tangier Campus has an abundance of space for health professions students to practice their clinical skills and do community outreach, sophomore Finn Lambert (Nursing, '24) says that studying abroad has allowed him the opportunity to understand determinants of health outside the United States.

As a nurse, Lambert says it is important to understand how to effectively treat global populations and apply that knowledge to patients back home in Maine, or wherever — and in whichever specialty — he ends up practicing.

“A really big part of this program, for me, is helping to decide exactly what to do with my degree when I graduate. I might want to specialize and become a travel nurse, or maybe this trip will have inspired me to do something else,” he says. “But I definitely think that going overseas and having a bunch of new experiences will help me no matter where I decide to go medically.”

Lambert also says he was fortunate to study in Morocco this year, after the pandemic derailed his first year as a college student.

“It was really difficult trying to make the transition from high school to college during the pandemic, so it's going to be great to finally leave the U.S., safely travel to other places, and make up for that lost time,” he says.

Majid says such reflections as Lambert's show the power of global education.

“This pandemic really affected us all in many different ways. I think, in a macabre way, it has awakened us to how precious things are in this world and how fleeting the beautiful things in life can be,” he expresses. “To see the world as a student and learn from cultures other than one's own is one of those beautiful things.”



Students arriving at the train station in Morocco



Jillian Dusseault outside the Berlin Cathedral in Berlin, Germany



Emily Williams in front of the fountain in the Plaça de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain



Students pose for a group shot on the Tangier Campus.



Jillian Dusseault relaxes on a Mediterranean seawall in Monte Carlo, Monaco.



WOMEN'S MARCH 2021

Women's reproductive health has recently jumped to the forefront of American news. There have been many attempts at restricting access to reproductive health care in different areas of the country, most notably in Texas. According to the Guttmacher Institute, nearly 600 anti-reproductive health care pieces of legislation have been introduced across 47 states in 2021 alone. As an institution educating many future health professionals, the University of New England is in a unique position to ensure that this important issue is addressed so that the next generation of health care providers can advocate for women's rights.

When I became President of UNE's Generation Action Club, my priority was to focus on projects that would involve and benefit all members of the UNE community. We decided to hold a Women's March to raise awareness of Women's reproductive health care and to show that UNE is a place where all people are treated equally. Watching this idea become a reality was truly amazing.

The event, which was held on October 22, started with a speech from GenAction Secretary, Safiya Nafai '24. We then paused for a moment of silence to reflect upon why it was that we were marching. Then we marched! The voices of our students chanting, "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" ensured our message was heard. As I was leading the march across campus, I couldn't help but be overwhelmed with joy seeing everybody behind me fighting for something I feel so passionately about. It was an incredibly powerful moment, and I am so thankful for everyone who helped make this happen. There is a quote that has always spoken to me: "Nevertheless, she persisted."

Brooke McLaughlin, Neuroscience '23
President, UNE Generation Action
March co-organizer with Emma Naess '23, Safiya Nafai '24, and Jordyn Tullock '24



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Gregory W. Powell

HAROLD ALFOND FOUNDATION GIFT WILL POSITION UNE AS A HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION HUB

by Angela Coulombe

The tagline on the Harold Alfond Foundation website says it all: “Beyond What Is, To What Can Be.” Acting on that tagline, the foundation has supported the University of New England’s growth as Maine’s leading health care educator for over 25 years, first in 1995 with a grant to build the Harold Alfond Center for Health Sciences and later, in 2010, supporting the construction of the Harold Alfond Forum on UNE’s Biddeford campus.

The foundation’s most recent investment in the University was announced in October 2020, with a grant of \$30,000,000 to support the relocation of UNE’s College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNE COM) from Biddeford to a brand new, state-of-the-art building in Portland, where it will join UNE’s Westbrook College of Health Professions and College of Dental Medicine. The new 110,000-square-foot medical

“The gratitude he felt [...] highlighted for him the importance of UNE’s mission and the importance of quality, affordable health care in our state — Gregory W. Powell”

education building will strengthen UNE’s signature, nationally recognized programs in Interprofessional Education, known as IPE. Gregory W. Powell, chairman of the board of trustees for the foundation explains, “When the foundation was considering how to make the future of our state better and stronger, we knew UNE was just the right place to invest and that this was the time to do it.”

Founded in 1950, the Harold Alfond Foundation furthers the philanthropic legacy of Harold Alfond, the founder of Dexter Shoe Company, by investing in education, health care, and youth and



Powell with UNE President James Herbert

Gregory W. Powell is the chief executive officer and president of Dexter Enterprises, Inc., where he also serves as a director. In 2005, Harold Alfond appointed Powell as chairman of the Harold Alfond Foundation’s Board of Trustees. Prior to 1996, Powell practiced law for 15 years, concentrating his practice in litigation and trial work. He served on the University of New England’s board of advisors from November 1992 until he was elected to the board of trustees in October 1994, serving as vice chair from 1999 to 2000 and receiving an honorary degree in 2014. We recently talked with Powell about the Harold Alfond Foundation and its long and generous partnership with UNE. Here are some highlights from that conversation.

On UNE as an Outstanding Investment

What has made it easy to extend the Harold Alfond Foundation’s support to UNE over the years is the University’s entrepreneurial spirit, its ability to adapt and change to meet new needs in the health sciences and elsewhere, the attractiveness of the school to students of modest means who want to see that connection between their education and a good job that will serve society, and the evolving recognition of the importance of high-quality health care, especially extending into rural areas. All of these things were seen by Mr. Alfond, by me, and by our board as an incredibly valuable combination of attributes. So, it was not hard to conclude that UNE was a great, great investment.

Mr. Alfond liked to think about his philanthropy as an investment, and the investment needed to have high returns. And when you think of the state’s need for health care and you think of the needs of students to have an experiential education that will lead to high-quality work that contributes to society, this investment was one we had great confidence would have high returns — and, in fact, it has. The University is outstanding in every way.

I think the fact that the foundation is invested in UNE should make other potential investors feel secure that they’re making a

community development causes that hold the promise of making enduring, transformative contributions to the state of Maine and its communities.

"In 1940, Harold Alfond bought an abandoned shoe factory in rural Norridgewock, Maine," says Powell, relating a critical piece of the foundation's pre-history. "In the early years of the business, Harold fell seriously ill, but medical help in rural Maine was scarce. There was a single family doctor in Norridgewock, an osteopathic physician name Dr. Joseph Eshleman*, who took care of him. Harold later gratefully recalled, 'Dr. Eshleman pulled me through.' He never forgot Dr. Eshleman, and the gratitude he felt for Dr. Eshleman highlighted for him the importance of UNE's mission and the importance of quality, affordable health care in our state — as well as how every man and woman, with a good education, whatever their profession, can make a difference in the lives of others."

The relocation of the medical school will establish on UNE's Portland Campus a health professions education hub unprecedented in Maine and New England, helping UNE realize its interprofessional health education mission to bring health disciplines together on one campus where students will learn to work across disciplines in integrated teams. The cutting-edge facilities will allow UNE to significantly increase the

“Today, the foundation still sees a great and promising future for Maine and its people, and we see UNE as a huge part of that future. — Gregory W. Powell

college's class size and will create a digital health teaching center to focus on telehealth and digital health technologies, such as wearable devices, artificial intelligence, robotics, and health data discovery and application — all critical in meeting the needs of rural residents living in isolated areas away from population centers. The new building will be adjacent to an expanded patient simulation center that can accommodate large cohorts of student teams engaging in case studies and collaborative learning, establishing a campus that will fully integrate all of UNE's professional health care education programs with its health-related Centers for Excellence, including those in Collaborative Education, Aging and Health, Digital Health, and Public Health.

"The relocation of the College of Osteopathic Medicine to Portland to join with UNE's other health care programs and the resulting establishment of an Institute for Interprofessional Education and Practice is the most transformative project in the University's history, and it is only possible thanks to the investment of the Harold Alfond Foundation," states UNE's president, James Herbert.

"The foundation has stood behind the mission and growth of UNE for the past 25 years," says Powell. "Though Harold Alfond made many gifts to higher education, there were none of which he was more proud than his first gift to UNE in 1995 for the health science center in Biddeford. The foundation could feel back in 1995, as we know for a fact today, that the University would grow into its name and become a great contributor to Maine, its economy, and the health of its people. Today, the foundation still sees a great and promising future for Maine and its people, and we see UNE as a huge part of that future. What could be better? An innovative, collaborative, entrepreneurial university dedicated to producing health care professionals — more of them — and all working in teams, and doing so in a time of great need, promise, and opportunity." Powell pauses briefly before finishing his thought. "You can't get much better than that."

* Dr. Eshleman's granddaughter, Jessica Mena, D.O. '05, is a UNE COM alum.

good investment. Because we certainly believe in it — and our track record is pretty good!

On the Importance of Teamwork

If I were to look at the way our country is functioning right now, I would say the one thing that we need a hell of a lot more of is teamwork. We need to have cooperation and efforts toward common goals that we all share. UNE's leadership in interprofessional health care education is a perfect example of the way we should be in other areas of society.

I don't think there's another university around that offers all of the great health care disciplines that UNE has all in one place. What a wonderful combination. It's just terrific. So, the idea that these disciplines actually learn to work together in a team-spirit fashion is right up the alley of the Alfond Foundation and fits perfectly with Mr. Alfond's love of athletics and teamwork.

Teamwork is the foundation of great things, especially in a state, like Maine, with limited resources. You need to have people working together and communicating with each other. Can you imagine running a football play without a huddle? Well, teaching interprofessional education is having a huddle. And by bringing UNE's medical school to Portland, the "quarterbacks" will finally be practicing with the rest of the team. They will be part of the huddle. All of UNE's health professions will be co-located in a world-class facility where teamwork can be taught and cultivated. It's just a terrific project in every way, and we are delighted to support it for all those reasons.

On Lessons He Learned from Harold and Bibby Alfond

Harold and Bibby both believed strongly in giving back and helping others. Harold liked to say, "I can only wear one pair of pants at a time." So he had a lot of pants. [Laughs] He would give a pair of pants away rather than have them sit wasting in his closet. There's just a huge, gratifying aspect to helping others around you, and Mr. and Mrs. Alfond were leading examples for that.

Helping those who need help is a value that Harold and Bibby passed along to their children, too. All of their children have followed in their philanthropic footsteps. To this day, many members of Harold's family are active on the foundation's board and contribute greatly to the foundation's work.

What Harold knew is that he couldn't do it alone. What he could do is, he could support and endorse and encourage others who had talent and ambition and energy to give back to the state of Maine, to their towns, to society. And he knew that by engaging others in a form of philanthropic teamwork, he could have a far greater impact on the world around him than by going it alone.



Architect's rendering of the new COM building (subject to change)



DREAM BIG! DREAM BIG! DREAM BIG! DREAM BIG!



*An Oral History of the Coming Transformation
of UNE's Portland Campus*
BY PHILIP SHELLEY

DREAM BIG! DREAM BIG! DREAM BIG! DREAM BIG!



ON OCTOBER 6, 2020, UNE RECEIVED A GIFT OF \$30 MILLION FROM THE HAROLD ALFOND FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FACILITY FOR THE RELOCATION OF UNE'S COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (COM) FROM THE BIDDEFORD CAMPUS TO THE PORTLAND CAMPUS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INSTITUTE FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE (IIEP), AND THE ACCELERATION OF HIGH-GROWTH PROGRAMS ON THE BIDDEFORD CAMPUS.

ONCE THE NEW FACILITY IS ESTABLISHED IN PORTLAND, THAT CAMPUS WILL BECOME SOMETHING UNIQUE IN NEW ENGLAND AND RARE IN AMERICAN HIGHER ED: A CONCENTRATED HUB DEDICATED TO EDUCATING STUDENTS IN MULTIPLE HEALTH PROFESSIONS PROGRAMS. THIS IS A WATERSHED MOMENT FOR UNE, NOTHING LESS THAN THE NEXT LEAP FORWARD IN THE EVOLUTION OF A UNIVERSITY THAT HAS ALWAYS HAD THE MOXIE TO DREAM BIG, AND THE RESULT WILL HAVE PROFOUND IMPACTS ON OUR STUDENT EXPERIENCE, MAINE'S CRITICAL WORKFORCE NEEDS, AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE ACROSS THE STATE AND THE REGION.

BUT TURNING A DREAM ON THIS SCALE INTO REALITY TAKES THE SUSTAINED, CONCERTED EFFORT OF HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE: COLLABORATING WITH THE ALFOND FOUNDATION AND OTHER GENEROUS DONORS, PLANNING THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS, OPTIMIZING ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING, ASSESSING CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY – AND DOING IT ALL AMID THE UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES OF THE ONGOING COVID PANDEMIC.

WE SPOKE TO SEVEN PEOPLE AT UNE WHO ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THIS ONGOING EFFORT AND ASKED THEM TO TELL US THE STORY IN THEIR OWN WORDS.



INTRODUCTION

JANE CARREIRO, D.O., *Dean of the UNE College of Osteopathic Medicine*: Moving the College of Osteopathic Medicine [COM] to the Portland Campus is going to be transformational. It's like COM is growing up in some ways, you know? We're leaving our childhood home, and we're moving.

JAMES HERBERT, PH.D., *President of UNE*: What I'm really excited about is establishing the Portland Campus as our health sciences campus in the public mind. As long as COM remains down in Biddeford, if I were to call Portland our "health sciences campus," it doesn't quite add up. So, we're finally going to be able to brand that very clearly. This is our health sciences campus. And guess what – we will have a higher concentration of diverse health care programs on a single footprint than any place else in New England. This is going to cement, once and for all, our reputation as the provider of Maine's health care workforce.

KAREN PARDUE, PH.D., RN, *Provost of UNE (former Dean of UNE's Westbrook College of Health Professions)*: The fabric and the culture of the Portland Campus is interprofessional education, and we're doing it really well. But the feedback we get from faculty, professional staff, and students is, "Where are the medical students?" because the health care team always has a physician there. So, I'm always cautioning people to say, yes, this new building is the home for the College of Osteopathic Medicine; and they absolutely need a home. That's part of the identity of the college. But that doesn't mean the only people in there will be COM students. If we do that, we've missed an opportunity because we might as well just build a box somewhere – that won't achieve what we're looking for.

BACKGROUND

AL THIBEAULT, *Vice President for University Operations*: After the UNE merger with Westbrook College in 1996, that's when the idea of moving COM to Portland first started to bubble up, but it wasn't heavily discussed. Then in 2001, Nursing, Social Work, and Physical Therapy went to Portland, and we had that first thrust of combining the health professions on one campus, so it came up again under [former UNE President] Dr. [Sandra] Featherman. But it didn't have the traction because of the heritage. Historically, COM has always been a cornerstone of the Biddeford Campus. A lot of people, including some of the COM alumni, faculty, and current students felt it should stay there.

JANE: For many years there's been a big resistance about moving COM. And I was the first one. In my first meeting with James, I said, "Absolutely not." I said, "If I don't get to the point where I think this is the best thing for COM, I'll find a reason to resign so you can do this without me."



ELLEN RIDLEY, Assistant Vice President of Advancement Strategy: When President Herbert came on board, one of the first questions that he asked, I think even during his interview, was, "How come the medical school is not in Portland?"

AL: President Herbert came in, did his year of walkabouts and talkabouts and discussions with people on needs and priorities, and the idea of moving COM to Portland bubbled to the surface for him. He saw that, now, the time was right. You know, "We need to elevate what we do best."



JANE: What started to change my mind was, developmentally, it's very difficult for medical students, who on Tuesday morning are going into a hospice to take care of somebody that's dying, and on Monday and Wednesday, they're on the Biddeford Campus with undergraduates; they're surrounded by people who are in a different developmental stage, people who are just figuring out what they want to do. There's such a developmental schism. That really moved me, and I started to see the possibilities.

JANE: I went up and spent time on the Portland Campus. It has a different atmosphere because the students are all older developmentally, and that is the message that I've been sharing with everybody. We've had regular meetings with alumni, and I show them the building plans. I tell them, "I don't want this move to end up being 'they' moved," right? "I want it to be 'we' moved." I think that's really important, to bring the alumni into the conversation. And I think people are really seeing it and saying, "Yeah, this makes sense!"

"This is going to cement, once and for all, our reputation as the provider of Maine's health care workforce."

— James Herbert

WORKING WITH THE HAROLD ALFOND FOUNDATION

ELLEN: You do something called creating a case. What is the case for moving COM to Portland? What is the case for creating the Institute for Interprofessional Education and Practice? Why is it needed? What will it do for Maine? How much will it cost? And the donor then gives you the green light and says, "That sounds like something that we might be able to get behind." And, of course, it's always based on the donor's priorities. In this case, the project was a really excellent fit for the Alford Foundation's priorities and their mission.

JAMES: Greg Powell, the head of the Harold Alford Foundation, has been a phenomenal partner. I meet with Greg regularly, and he's continued to help us think through the various implications of this project and how it will impact the state as a whole. We couldn't ask for a better partner than him.

ELLEN: We started substantive work on the draft proposal in June of 2019, and then James met with Greg Powell at the Cumberland Club in July. A couple of weeks later, we submitted a highlights document that was prepared by the Institutional Advancement team, led by [Vice President for Institutional Advancement] Bill Chance and James. After that, Greg and Travis [Cummings] from the Alford Foundation came to the Biddeford Campus for a tour. At that point, we began to realize that not only was the foundation interested in the move of the medical school, but they were also really interested in finding out what would happen to the spaces that were vacated on the Biddeford Campus. Moving COM would open up significant classroom space, and space is a challenge there. The project became bigger and more comprehensive at that point.

ELLEN: My biggest recollection is working through Christmas [2019]. It was a 24/7 type of endeavor, with lots of thinking about the details and what's going to make the best case. The

grant writer's job is to cull and edit and fine-tune material from many different sources. The response document was really the most collaborative moment in our work together because that involved Nicole Trufant, Bill Chance, [Associate Provost for Academic Affairs] Mike Sheldon, Karen Pardue, Shelley Cohen Konrad, Jane Carreiro, and, of course, James himself. It was a very heavy lift. I spent all of Christmas vacation in my office. James ended up sending me a box of chocolates!

KAREN: We're all so grateful to the Alford Foundation for the opportunity to create something special. Because this isn't just putting up a building. We're creating an educational experience that can't be replicated anywhere else.

ELLEN: In my writing, I like to focus on the emotional connection. So, writing about Harold Alford, it's very meaningful to me to think about this man who loved Maine, who obviously worked really hard, and had the good fortune to have this huge financial legacy to leave to the state. That's such a celebratory thing to talk about. I love that part of this work.

MAKING IT HAPPEN



NICOLE TRUFANT, CPA, Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration: It's so freaking complicated! Because you have to build the facilities building, you have to move the National Guard out...You know that, right? Ask Al what he has to do to get this thing done.

AL: In order to move COM to Portland, we've got to build the new COM building behind Innovation Hall. But behind Innovation Hall resides the National Guard and their vehicle maintenance facility. Allowing that to remain was a condition of the transfer of the armory. [The old National Guard Armory building was acquired by UNE in a 2015 land-swap agreement and converted into UNE's Innovation Hall, which opened in 2017.]

AL: But in order to build the new COM building, we've got to get them out. Well, they're not ready to go until...well, before COVID, it was '23. Now it's probably '24, '25. We had basically three options. So, first I said, "Look, I need you to leave so that we can build a building. You're in the way." They laughed at me. They said, "We've got no place to go." My second option is I can rent and renovate a building to accommodate them somewhere. Or, option number three: we can build a building on campus that meets our future needs, put the National Guard there for a couple of years, and then when we move them out, finish that building so it can become the new facilities management building for UNE. So, we're not throwing away money. That was our best alternative.

"We're all so grateful to the Alford Foundation for the opportunity to create something special."

— Karen Pardue

AL: I had a long conversation with the lieutenant colonel. When he stopped laughing, after I told him this is what I wanted to do, he said, "What makes you think we want to move twice?" And I said, "Well, because I'm asking nicely." We had a very good relationship with their senior staff, including the general, with whom I had worked when we did the armory transfer. He and I did all the presentations to the different planning boards. We had worked together quite a bit. And he said, "Tell me what I gotta do, and I'll help you." And so the lieutenant colonel told his people, "Work with UNE, and tell them what you need.

Not what you want — what you need, so we can do the bare bones." And they've agreed to move into our new facility until their new facility is available.

KAREN: It's also a really challenging time to be building. Materials are crazy. I mean, they say steel will take nine months to get here — if we can get it.

AL: The thing that's changed the most is COVID's impact on the economy. It's like a huge set of handcuffs. We used to be able to get steel in about six, eight weeks. So we built our schedule to accommodate the traditional construction schedule. Now, we talk to people about steel: it's twice the price. And you're not getting it in six weeks. You're getting it in seven months.

ELLEN: The fact that COVID happened meant that the Alford Foundation ended up having all kinds of additional questions about how we were going to do this given the impacts of the pandemic. So that was another three or four months of providing documents.

NICOLE: I was very much involved in assuring the foundation that our financial health was strong, that we were going to be able to weather this storm and come out of COVID. And it was also important to show that we would be able to build without impacting our student experience, that we would still be relevant in the marketplace.

NICOLE: I also set up a committee, a COM building leadership group that I am co-chairing with the provost. We meet weekly to go through plans and to make final decisions, in consultation with the president, with respect to the building.

KAREN: I enjoy bringing together various groups of people: Jane and [Interim Dean] Sally [McCormack Tutt], who is now representing the Westbrook College of Health Professions, and Al Thibeault and [Director for Campus Planning] Eric Mora who are essential because I know very little about building design itself. I know a lot about pedagogical design and active learning spaces. So, the opportunity to kind of marry all these talents to envision what this can be is wildly exciting.

NICOLE: Alan and I have meetings with board of trustees members to keep them involved in the process, which is helpful because they have such great expertise. One is an engineer and another one is a commercial real estate developer. And I have four national boards that I serve on, with my colleagues, two of whom built medical schools recently. I've been reaching out to them, getting ideas and best practices.

JANE: Back in August [2020], I set up work groups at COM, divided by department. I posed the question, what do we want to be in five years? In 10 years? And I just let them have at it. Then we brought all the information together, and there was a list of about 12 commonalities that everybody hit on: We all want to be together. We want to have a face that says, "This is COM." We want to feel welcoming. We want to see the natural world. We want it to feel like home. It was great because there was so much consistency, so it was easy to bring that to the design team.

NICOLE: I'm working closely with Alan and Eric on the design of the building from the budget perspective. Because we can't just look at the cost of building the building. What's it going to cost to operate that building longterm? Because that becomes part of the budget cycle in perpetuity. So those are really important decisions.

JANE: For the most part, that first design that the architects came out with captured all of those commonalities that everybody had. We all looked at it and said, "Wow, that's exactly what we were thinking!"

THE NEW BUILDING

KAREN: The new building is being designed with a lot of intentionality to mix and mingle and braid different groups of students together in a very organic way.

AL: One of the things that we've been very, very conscious of is the need to integrate COM into the fabric of the Portland Campus. So the location of the building, the physical connection of the building to Innovation Hall, will allow for that synergy and the cross-pollination.

“The location of the building, the physical connection of the building to Innovation Hall, will allow for that synergy and the cross-pollination.” – Al Thibeault

“UNE is truly, deeply committed to interprofessionality – committed to a pedagogy that is cross-professional, cross-disciplinary, experiential, and interactive.” – Shelley Cohen Konrad

KAREN: It made no sense to create a simulation center in the new building because we already have one. We need to expand its footprint, but we don't need to recreate what we already have. So, a large walkway is being created to connect Innovation Hall to the new COM building, and the COM students will be coming over to Innovation for their simulation experience, just as health professions students do. And that will make it so much easier for faculty to design true team-based simulations.

AL: But the other side of that coin is that we still need to give COM an identity. We're working very hard to give them a home, a place that they can truly call their own and say, "This is the College of Osteopathic Medicine." So, when they're recruiting students, they can showcase their building, their facilities, their home, but it's still woven into the fabric of the campus. And by "woven in," I don't mean just physically tying it together but in terms of culture and programming.

KAREN: One thing that's really being emphasized as we design this building is pedagogical effectiveness and design for interprofessional education and practice. The classrooms will be active learning spaces with a lot of flexibility so that they can accommodate, say, a typical lecture or presentation of content but also provide the opportunity for small breakout groups where students can apply that content to a case or a situation.

KAREN: We're also working very hard, with [Director of UNE's P.D. Merrill Makerspace] Justine Bassett's leadership, to be sure that health professions students are exposed to the concepts of design thinking and problem solving. Like most professions, sometimes we just do things because that's how we've always done them. And nobody's really thought about, "Okay, what's that about?"

JANE: A health professions-dedicated makerspace will be a huge opportunity for health professions students to get together and work on projects and come up with great ideas. To be working with, say, occupational therapists or dental students, you get a whole new perspective on what might be possible to help a patient.

KAREN: The pandemic has taught us a lot about telehealth. Right now, in Innovation Hall, we have virtual reality simulation in one of the suites. And it seems to me that some version of telehealth also belongs there because I do believe that our students need that basic competency. And I don't mean on the equipment. It's not just about knowing which button to push but having a mental model of how telehealth works and how to build a relationship or conduct an interview over this video channel.

THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (IPE)



SHELLEY COHEN KONRAD, Ph.D., LCSW, Director of UNE's Center for Excellence in Collaborative Education: The move of COM to Portland cements the culture of interprofessional learning. The Center for Excellence in Collaborative Education [CECE] has been around at UNE in one form or another now for 11 years doing this work. Creating a health sciences campus with our medical college on it is a really validating statement. It says that UNE is truly, deeply committed to interprofessionalism – committed to a pedagogy that is cross-professional, cross-disciplinary, experiential, and interactive.

KAREN: We know from years of doing interprofessional education that it isn't just putting students in a room to learn together. They need that co-location opportunity to have lunch together, study together, ride the shuttle back and forth from the parking lot. It's those casual and informal relationships that really blossom into a true team-based, collaborative practice approach.

SHELLEY: The national and international landscape of what we mean by "interprofessional" is changing. In 2016, the national IPEC [Interprofessional Education Collaborative] association changed a lot about the health competencies they were looking for. I think the most important part of that was recognizing that in order to really focus on health, you need to look beyond just health care and look at the environment and issues of poverty and social determinants. And to do that, it wasn't just health care providers that needed to be trained as team members but people in the humanities as well.

KAREN: Health professions education has been so siloed for so long. I'm a nurse by background. I didn't know who anybody was or what anybody did when I graduated. We didn't even talk about that. There are clinicians out there practicing now who really don't know anything about IPE. So, in addition to teaching our students, we're also offering opportunities to up-skill or inform the practicing world around interprofessional education and practice.

SHELLEY: We've done all along quite a bit of workforce development. Not only in Maine, but around the country, we've been invited to do various kinds of trainings in various kinds of clinical programs. But it's much harder, as I like to say, to "train backwards" — to have people thinking outside of how they were taught originally when they were at university, when they were doing their clinical education. So, we've tried to develop innovative models where we customize the kind of training that we provide.

KAREN: CECE is the hub for IPE at UNE, but while Shelley knows most of the projects that are going on, IPE has become so much a part of the fabric of how the faculty thinks, at least in Portland, that there's always lots of little projects going on that she doesn't even know about — and they certainly don't need CECE's blessing, but she has sort of been the hub of this with all these spokes going everywhere. That, to me, is the exciting part. That tells us that IPE at UNE has been really successful because we don't need one leader organizing this; it just happens spontaneously.

SHELLEY: I mean, when I hear what's going on in other universities, I feel like we're doing really well, you know, in terms of support, cultural adoption, visibility, the variety of programming that we have, that we're inclusive in the way that we are inclusive...Yeah, we're doing really well.

“We've tried to develop innovative models where we customize the kind of training that we provide.”

— Shelley Cohen Konrad

“That tells us that IPE at UNE has been really successful because we don't need one leader organizing this; it just happens spontaneously.”

— Karen Pardue




CONCLUSION

JAMES: Everybody is all in. People get it, they understand it, and they're excited about it. I think the vision is very compelling, and it's compelling to people in a lot of different stakeholder groups, from faculty to administrative leaders, to trustees, our partners in business, government...The people in the community whom I talk to are very excited about it. Our partners in the big medical systems are very excited about it and have written us incredibly enthusiastic letters of support for the state and federal funding we are pursuing.

ELLEN: From an Institutional Advancement perspective, when we have a big, exciting, transformative project, it's a moment in time to engage people and really grow the profile of the University. When I first came to UNE, we were just beginning the conversation about opening a dental school. The entire state of Maine understood that this was something that was really critical. This is another one of those projects. We're going to be able to look back on this 10 years from now and say, "Wow, look how that changed Maine, and how it changed the University of New England, how it improved our relationships with our clinical partners, how it advanced interprofessional education..."

AL: I started here when it was embarrassing to tell people where you worked. Nobody knew where it was. Nobody knew what we did. And quite frankly, when you came to campus, it was embarrassing. You'd have guests to the campuses, and things were run down. They were too small for what we were trying to do. The facilities weren't nearly as good as they are now.

NICOLE: I can't describe to you the pressure and the burden of logging into the bank three and four times a day to make sure you're going to be able to make payroll. You never forget that feeling, ever. Ever. And I swore, as long as I sit in that chair, that we would never be in that position again. I never imagined that we'd be in the place that we're at today. So we don't take it for granted. We remain, at heart, a little school with the big dreams.

AL: UNE is looked on in a completely different light now. I look back, and, to me, it's like, "Oh my God, look what we've done!" When I started at UNE, our facilities totaled 400,000 square feet. Now we're at 1.6 million. I've overseen construction for more than half of our square footage, on all three campuses. When you look at what UNE has done in the last 20 years, it's mind-blowing.

KAREN: It will be a dramatically different professional campus than anything I'm aware of across the country. I can't think of an organization that, in our footprint, has a medical school, a dental school, nursing, pharmacy, the therapies [occupational and physical], physician assistant, anesthesia, social work... I mean, this is incredible. And while this is terrific for COM, it's also terrific for all those disciplines too. It's another distinct value proposition as to why a student would choose, say, nursing or PT at UNE. It benefits everyone.

“We’re going to be able to look back on this 10 years from now and say, “Wow, look how that changed Maine, and how it changed the University of New England, how it improved our relationships with our clinical partners, how it advanced interprofessional education...”

– Ellen Ridley

“When you look at what UNE has done in the last 20 years, it’s mind-blowing.”

– Al Thibeault

“I think that that’s the biggest thing, that it’s going to give us a spring-board to move into the future.”

– Jane Carreiro

“It benefits everyone.”

– Karen Pardue

“My hope is that, several years after COM comes here, IPE is just what they do.”

– Shelley Cohen Konrad

“We remain, at heart, a little school with the big dreams.”

– Nicole Trufant

“You also need periodically to step back and dream big – do something bold and transformational for UNE. And really, more importantly, transformational for the impact that we have on the state and the region.”

– James Herbert

JAMES: Everyone in the health professions is keenly aware of disparities in health care, whether due to income, race, gender identity, location... It's something we talk about constantly at UNE: how to address those disparities and close those gaps, especially in a predominantly rural state like Maine. So really, the most important thing, by far, is why we are doing all this now. The new facility will allow us to increase the class size of our med school and other programs, to train more doctors, and to improve outcomes through team-based care. Expansion of IPE and other programmatic aspects will allow us to increase our focus on diversity and cross-cultural competencies; and tools like telehealth will allow providers to reach even the most isolated patients. So, this is vitally important to the health of Mainers and people across the region.

SHELLEY: My hope is that, several years after COM comes here, IPE is just what they do. So we don't even have to say, "Hey, we do interprofessional education!" right? My hope is that we will have common classes where students from different programs come together to learn, and that's just how UNE makes its mark – that's just how we do business, and it's not a big deal. That's what I would love.

JAMES: UNE has been this place that has periodically reinvented itself. First there was St. Francis College and the New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, and they merged to become UNE. And then you had the merger with Westbrook College. I think this is another one of those watershed moments in UNE's evolution. Every day we're working on smaller things, you know, launching a new program here and a new initiative there, which are great, but you also need periodically to step back and dream big – do something bold and transformational for UNE. And really, more importantly, transformational for the impact that we have on the state and the region.

JANE: What the new building is going to give us is, all those places where we've been cutting corners and trying to do workarounds, we're not going to have to do that anymore. And the faculty, staff, and the students are just ecstatic about that. There will finally be enough space to do all the things we want to do. I think that that's the biggest thing, that it's going to give us a springboard to move into the future. The other big thing is that we're all going to be in one building, instead of spread out across campus. That feels really good to everybody. When I talk to my colleagues, they're all excited. They're like, "Wow, you're getting a new building! You're moving to Portland!"

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BELLE BOCAL

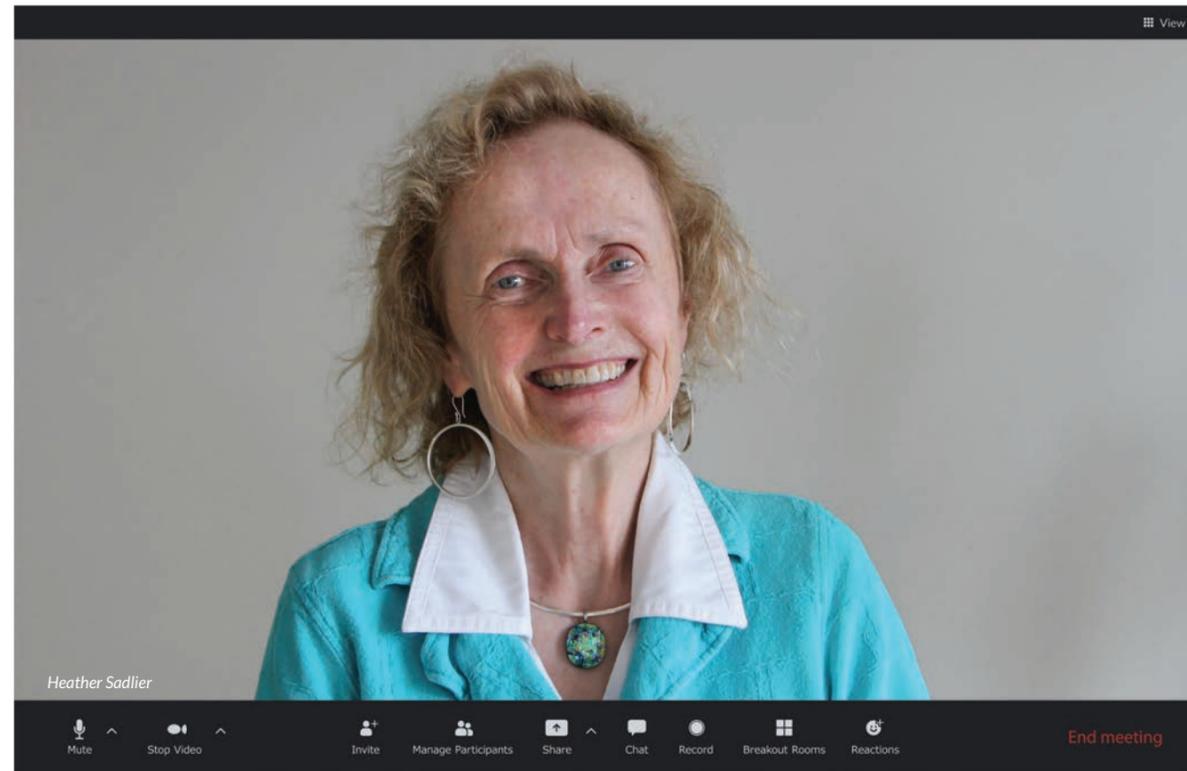
(she/her/hers)
M.S.W. '24
Reunion Gift Officer,
Institutional Advancement

Something that I have personally witnessed and heard countless times from current students, alumni, faculty, and staff is that while UNE feels like a small college, we have a large-scale impact in the communities we serve. Growing up as a first-generation Vietnamese American in Portland, I hope to continue purposefully working with the BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, People of Color] community here in Maine. Prior to even applying, I thought about how different cultures think about access to care. There is really no word for “mental illness” in Vietnamese; all we have is “bệnh tâm thần,” which roughly translates to “madness” and carries a lot of shame. I want to give others more.

That is why I am on the clinical track in the M.S.W. program here at UNE — nationally, and definitely here in our own state, there isn't enough representation of people of color in the mental health space. Upon graduation, I will join the ranks of the less than 5% of mental health professionals practicing nationally who are people of color. This is something I can do for my community — get my training at UNE and then serve historically marginalized groups.

A note regarding the photo:

Ryan Adams (IG: @ryanwritesonthings) is a Black artist, and some of his work is featured in the neighborhood I grew up in. Photographer Holly Haywood and I chose to shoot at Root Wild Kombuchery on Washington Avenue, blocks from where my mom opened Portland's first Vietnamese store and restaurant in the late 1970s, and now home to one of Ryan's murals — a collaboration between him and Rachel Gloria Adams for Indigo Arts Alliance, an organization that embodies a Black-led, multiracial approach to the rich intersections of citizenship, community-building, and creativity.



DECADE OF DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING MARKED WITH ENROLLMENT EXPLOSION

by Jennie Aranovitch

How likely would you be to interrupt someone who was telling a racist or homophobic joke? To protest unfair or exclusionary practices in an organization? To challenge friends expressing a gender stereotype? What about intervening when someone is being sexually harassed?

UNE students enrolled in the Diversity Leadership Certificate program ask themselves these questions once at the start of the program and then again at the end in order to assess their growth in awareness of and sensitivity to multicultural and social justice issues; and, hopefully, says DLC instructor Heather Sadlier, Ed.D., they continue asking themselves these kinds of questions for the rest of their lives.

Last spring marked the 10th anniversary of UNE's Diversity Leadership Certificate program, a series of workshops, community learning experiences, and self-reflection assignments designed to address critical topics focused on racism and other systemic inequities, including those involving sexual orientation, gender identity, and socio-economic class. Successful completion of the program earns students a certificate, enabling them to receive a micro-credential badge, which they may then choose to put on their resume.

And what a milestone anniversary it was. In part, fueled by the growing national awareness of systemic racism in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others and the resultant conscience-raising activities of the Black Lives Matter movement, the DLC program saw a 400% increase in enrollment, with the number of participants leaping from 12 to 60.

Sadlier, a faculty member in the education department, pioneered the DLC program in 2012, along with since-departed program assistant Jonathan Osborne and the mastermind of the original program, Donna Gaspar Jarvis, now a career services advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences. Sadlier is the only current instructor for the program who has been part of it since its inception. She believes that the racial unrest of 2020-2021 was eye-opening for the students, serving as a catalyst for their desire to effect change. "Some of them are quite shocked when they learn about these issues. They want to do something personally about their own potential biases, but they also want to make a bigger difference," she says.

But aside from the increase in visibility of the Black Lives Matter movement, one other factor likely played a significant role in bolstering the number of participants in last spring's DLC cohort. For the first time ever, the program was offered online and, interestingly, that decision was not made because of the pandemic. In fact, Sadlier and former DLC program director Erica Rousseau planned to deliver the spring 2021 session virtually, well before COVID-19 ever hit. "Even before COVID, Heather and I decided we needed to be more accessible," explains Rousseau. "We had been talking about this for years. We were thinking that because we have always offered the DLC on the Biddeford Campus, we're not reaching our students who have jobs and families, our graduate and professional students. Yes, it was in the evening and it's all free, but still it wasn't as accessible as it could be."

The result was not just the surge in enrollment numbers but a substantial increase in diversity. While in the past, the DLC course registrants were almost exclusively undergraduates, the spring 2020 cohort represented undergraduate as well as master's and doctoral students, including online students, some of whom were zooming in internationally from as far away as China. Among the students, there was a substantial mix of ethnicities, multiplicity in the ways in which they identified with gender, sexuality, and religion, and representation of a wide variety of academic disciplines. The increased diversity, says Sadlier, "just opened up the conversations deliciously."

"It allowed me to connect with individuals who were all over the country," shares Anika Koopman, a Class of '24 neuroscience major on the pre-med track. "As a student on campus, I was able to connect with graduate students who do not live in Maine, and their participation allowed for more diversity and more enriching experiences to fuel personal growth."

For Katie Berger ('22), an applied exercise science major/coaching minor, the age range of participants was key. "It was really interesting being in class with so many 'real' adults because their perspective on many of the topics was very different from that of typical college-aged students," she says.

Many online graduate and professional students, unable to register for the program in the past, were appreciative of the opportunity to enroll. "I loved this opportunity because if it was offered on campus, I would not have been able to participate," notes Christen Papallo, M.Ed., (Doctor of Education, '23).

Despite the program's emphasis on celebrating differences, consistency reigned supreme in the overall structure of the program, even with the switch to online delivery. In addition to the seven 90-minute workshops, the seven-week DLC also requires attendance at pre-approved events, including ones focused on social justice and religion/spirituality, as well as journal entries and a final reflection paper that demonstrates an understanding of cultural humility, strategies for changing oppressive structures, and advocacy/allyship. (A service learning component, normally required, was made optional for the spring 2021 cohort due to COVID-19). Overall, the program requires approximately 20 hours of work.

The workshops, says Sadlier, are very "future-focused."

Some of them are quite shocked when they learn about these issues. They want to do something personally about their own potential biases, but they also want to make a bigger difference.

— Heather Sadlier

“It’s definitely not about guilt, students, white students, any students. It’s focused on ‘How can I do better? How can I contribute to improving our country?’ It’s about bringing accurate information to them, giving them an opportunity to look at the facts about different situations, and helping them understand what is going on and how they can do better. It’s the awareness factor ... like ‘Okay, now I’m beginning to understand this. Now I understand how I can be part of the solution because I don’t want to be part of the problem.’”

The ultimate hope, Sadlier explains, is that the program will serve as just one part of a broad array of experiences that will shape the way the students think and feel. “Predating the inception of the DLC program, there were – and, currently, are even more – professors and staff throughout UNE who build these critical topics into their curricula and programs. I’m always hoping that the students will pull things in from their courses, as well as from University events,” she says, specifically mentioning Professor David Livingstone Smith’s lecture on “Race and Dehumanization” and Stacey Abrams’ address on voter suppression, UNE’s MLK Celebration events of 2021 and 2020, respectively. “The DLC program is not being done in isolation. Hopefully the students are making connections from classes, from courses, from precedent, and, together, the outcome is that they’ve really grown in their knowledge about how to be a good human.”

But the DLC program does much more than contribute to the students’ development into good humans; it provides a valuable skill set. Marc Millette (Marine Science, ’23) signed up because he thought the program would benefit him as residential advisor. “To be a successful RA, I must learn to connect with people of all sorts of backgrounds, especially ones different than mine,” he reasons. For many of the participants, the knowledge they gain in the course is going to carry over into their professional lives. Koopman, who hopes to attend medical school and then join Doctors Without Borders, feels the lessons learned will be invaluable to her in her future career. “Having diversity training in health care allows me to develop a comfortable environment for all my patients, regardless of their culture, religion, or orientation. I know I am ready to be a team player in a respectful and inclusive workplace, thanks to the trainings provided by the DLC program,” she shares.

Jessica Alexander, who recently graduated from UNE’s online M.S.W. program, feels the DLC has provided her with a perspective that will make her a better social worker. “One of the biggest pieces I took from the DLC will be to not assume anything about a client or community and really take the time to ask the questions needed to get a full picture of the issues impacting them,” she explains.

Some of the older students who are already in the midst of their careers were able to immediately integrate what they learned in the DLC into their professional approaches, and they even plan

to expose others in their work circles to some of the concepts and activities introduced in the program. Papallo, a special education teacher at a public alternative high school, is one such student. “I have already started to incorporate what I have learned into my professional and personal life,” she notes. “I brought the idea of cultural humility to my school meetings, and no one had heard of it before. I also hope to complete the privilege activity with staff, followed by small group discussions and reflections.”

There is, perhaps, no better indication of the value of the DLC to the students than the amount of work that they put into their reflection assignments. “When I tell you that they all wrote a novel, I’m not lying,” Rousseau says with a chuckle. “I had to stop printing. I ran out of ink and paper, so I got my glasses and read on the computer screen ... A lot of them did a lot more than what was required.” Not surprisingly, the students point to the reflections as one of the most critical pieces of the course and one that makes it stand alone in its quality. “The reflections created a solid foundation of growth for me as I applied what I learned to the real world and learned where I still needed to grow,” Koopman discloses. “The biggest difference between the UNE DLC program and past diversity workshops I have been a part of was the reflections.”

Sadlier has some reflections of her own about the program. “I think, in a way, it has been an undiscovered gem of a program,” she says. “Certainly there are many people across the University doing incredible things, but this certificate program may not be quite as visible. I hope the DLC will become more and more known so that it can reach across the University as a resource. I think that the support is there. I think the interest is there. We have very dedicated staff and professors and ... I’m proud of our University’s steps in this direction ... and it’s a huge part of why I love working at the University – to be able to do this work.”

As for her hope that students don’t experience the DLC in a vacuum – that they see correlations with other things to which they are exposed at UNE and elsewhere – it seems safe to say that she can rest assured that those connections are being drawn. “Not a day goes by that I don’t see something, whether on the news or in my community, that reminds me of the lessons we learned in the DLC program,” says Koopman. “The lessons and actions that the DLC instills in its participants are still very influential in my life, and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity.”

“As a student on campus, I was able to connect with graduate students who do not live in Maine, and their participation allowed for more diversity and more enriching experiences to fuel personal growth.

– Anika Koopman



Marc Millette



Millette and Koopman at Elements café in downtown Biddeford, Maine



Anika Koopman

CGPS ALUMNUS WINS MILLION-DOLLAR FEDERAL GRANT TO BRING HIS SCHOOL SAFETY DREAM TO LIFE

by Allison Willard and Monique Gaudet



Students carry signs celebrating unity, friendship, and kindness.

Skip Wilhoit, Ed.D. '20, is driven to change the world, and his recent award of a \$2.7 million Department of Education grant is helping him start with his school district.

After serving in the Army, Wilhoit combined his service experience and passion for education to focus on violence/dropout prevention and school climate issues by assuming the aptly titled position of coordinator of safe schools in his hometown school district of Manatee County, Florida.

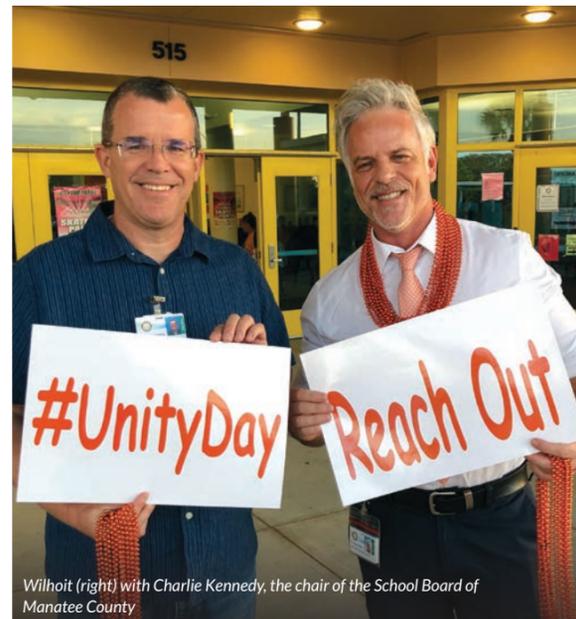
"Research says a positive school climate is critical for academic learning and critical for a student's growth and development," he explains. Around the same time, through research and his own experience, he came to understand that a core educational practice, assessment, was crucial to effecting positive change in school systems. "As the adage goes, what gets measured, gets done."

Combining the two insights, Wilhoit developed a unique approach to assessing school climate and safety, which he calls the Transformational Assessment of School Quality, or TASQ. Instead of the traditional assessment approach, which is to survey students, parents, and staff on how they feel about school environment issues, the TASQ gauges the number and the quality of school practices that are correlated by research with safe and positive educational climates. By moving the focus from subjective concerns to objective habits and processes, he says, the TASQ allows school leaders to quickly and easily pinpoint where they can improve.

Wilhoit used his Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) dissertation at UNE to develop this framework and put it through the rigors of doctorate-level research. His work, when combined with a broader initiative involving behavioral intervention, led to him and his grant team winning a \$2.7 million federal "School Climate Transformation" grant for his school district. Wilhoit can hardly contain his excitement: "By the end of the five-year grant period, we'll have a structured process that we hope to

have spread to all of our 70,000 students across 50 traditional schools, 17 charter schools, and a technical college. We hired some really amazing people to help steer the grant, and I'm certain they will lead us to that level of success."

Wilhoit's ultimate dream is to see TASQ become widely adopted and integrated into state accountability systems, thereby transforming day-to-day behaviors in schools across the country. "I hope to travel to different districts or schools and serve as a consultant for transforming the climates in their schools," he says. "Who knows how it's going to turn out, but my intent at the onset is to change the world."



Wilhoit (right) with Charlie Kennedy, the chair of the School Board of Manatee County

EMPHASIS ON COMPASSION OPENS UP NEW POSSIBILITIES IN NUTRITION EDUCATION

by Allison Willard and Monique Gaudet

Angelina Maia, Ph.D., RD, LD, originally intended on becoming a physician, but throughout her training she felt there was a vital piece missing. "I was searching for how to connect better with my patients," she says. In time, she discovered that the field of nutrition allowed her a unique, more personalized way to build relationships with patients and to see her impact on their lives and overall health firsthand. "I found that connecting with patients by having compassion and supporting their goals and choices could yield extremely positive results," she shares.

Now, she's applying these ideals to a new dream: expanding opportunities for graduate nutrition students as the assistant director of the M.S. in Applied Nutrition and director of the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) Focus at UNE's online College of Graduate and Professional Studies (CGPS).

"When the opportunity arose to oversee this program, it was a no-brainer for me," Maia explains. "I'm a big proponent of empathy and compassion and how we can integrate that into our coursework." These principles were easily aligned with a new educational model devised by the leading nutrition accrediting body, ACEND®, which allows online students to complete required field hours where they live (instead of relocating around the country). "With this model, we have the ability to be creative, to allow students to get experience in areas they're interested in while still attaining competencies and staying on track," Maia says. "The students who are coming into this truly want to help."

“With this model, we have the ability to be creative, to allow students to get experience in areas they’re interested in while still attaining competencies and staying on track. — Angelina Maia”



Elizabeth Dodge, Ph.D., director of the Graduate Programs in Nutrition, agrees: "When students can access evidence-based coursework online, while addressing the needs of their local communities, the field of dietetics will grow and diversify."

Already, in the half-year since welcoming its first cohort, the RDN Focus program has resulted in a myriad of new opportunities for nutrition students to assist underserved communities. A few examples include implementing a novel nutrition assessment program with a Meals on Wheels affiliate in Washington state; partnering with a Minnesota non-profit where students are assisting with development of a Food Action Plan; and here in Maine, developing a curriculum for first responders focusing on nutrition, exercise, and overall well-being.

"The pillar of how we do this is dignity," Maia says. "The shame and the stigma that surrounds people who need assistance is suffocating. That caregiver part of me, which drove me to consider becoming a doctor, is enhanced by the ways we're working now. It's more than the food; it's deeper than that. As RDNs, we have the opportunity to tap into all of these pieces and provide holistic care. That's my way to have a greater impact."

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

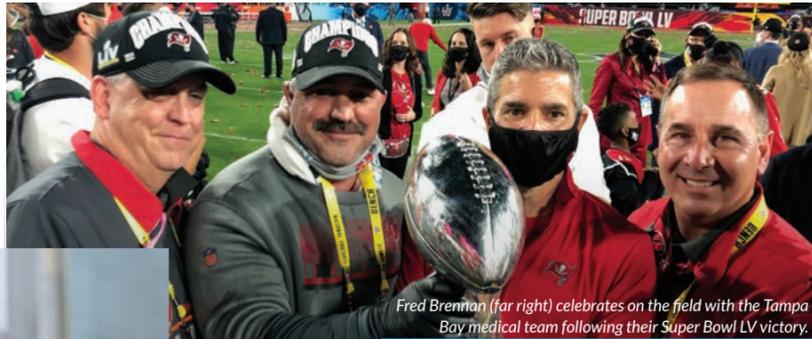
by Amber Windler

FRED H. BRENNAN, JR., D.O. '92 (DOCTORATE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE) TEAM PHYSICIAN – TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

There is more than one way to earn a Super Bowl ring. According to Fred Brennan, D.O. '92, being selective about where you commit your time and skills, having a strong network, and always treating others with respect are things that can get you into championships. Brennan has spent over 26 years in sports medicine supporting elite athletes, including four years working with the Toronto Blue Jays and serving annually as a chief medical officer for the Boston Marathon and the Ironman World Championship. In 2020, through the network he developed from years of attending conferences and keeping in touch with contacts from around the country,

he scored a dream job — team physician of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The very next year, with the help of Brennan and a certain quarterback-tight end combination who may be familiar to Patriots' fans, the Bucs won Super Bowl LV. Brennan says that one of the most refreshing things about his time in professional sports is

learning that athletes are just like regular people. "Once you sit down and talk, you can see yourself going out and having a beer with them or just relaxing with them. The perception you see on TV might not be what's really happening in real life."

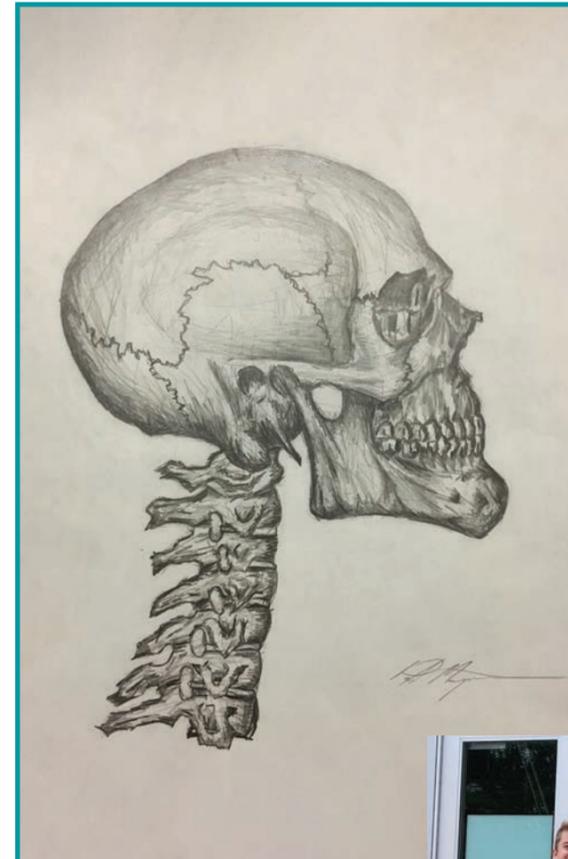


Fred Brennan (far right) celebrates on the field with the Tampa Bay medical team following their Super Bowl LV victory.



LYNNE SCHMIDT '10, M.S.W. '20 (MEDICAL BIOLOGY, MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK) AUTHOR

Lynne Schmidt moved from Michigan to Maine to be on the East Coast for her undergraduate studies. She was determined to study the sciences, despite not knowing where her studies would take her professionally. While a student, Schmidt submitted pieces to four issues of *Zephyr*, UNE's journal of creative expression. Schmidt continued to write for UNE after graduation as a contributor to the spring 2014 issue of the *UNE Magazine*. "I moved to the Outer Banks of North Carolina after graduation, and then I moved back to Maine to become a snowboarding instructor. It didn't pay very well, so I got a second job and eventually found my way into social work with a position at Oxford County Mental Health Crisis Services. I realized that to achieve my dreams, I needed a master's degree." Over the years, she continued to write, though she did not take it seriously until 2018. Schmidt has now been published in over 100 literary magazines, and her work has received the Maine Nonfiction Award, Editor's Choice Award, and was a 2018 and 2019 Pacific Northwest Writers Association finalist for memoir and poetry, respectively. Schmidt is the winner of the 2020 New Women's Voices Contest and author of several chapbooks (short books of poetry). Says Schmidt, "Trust the Universe. It is possible to make ends meet and figure things out as you go."



PAUL MANGIAFICO '17, D.P.T. '19 (APPLIED EXERCISE SCIENCE, DOCTORATE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY) PHYSICAL THERAPIST – RANGELEY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

When Paul Mangiafico submitted the illustration "Skull and Cervical Spine Study" to UNE's student-run journal of narrative medicine, *Akesis*, he did not expect it to lead anywhere. "I've always liked drawing anatomy, such as skeletons and the muscles," says Mangiafico. "When *Akesis* accepted my submission, my professor learned about my illustration skills and asked for my help." Amy Litterini, PT, D.P.T., associate clinical professor of physical therapy, needed someone with knowledge of physical therapy and artistic talent to provide illustrations for her new textbook, *Physical Activity and Rehabilitation in Life-threatening Illness*. Mangiafico agreed to help, and together with co-author Christopher M. Wilson, PT, D.P.T., D.Sc.P.T., the book was published in the spring of 2021. Mangiafico plans to continue both gaining experience as a physical therapist and practicing his skills as an artist. "My dad always said, 'mind, body, soul,' which I really believe," he shares. "Always challenge your mind, always challenge your body physically for health and wellness, and then there's your soul. I think the soul part for me is my art."

MAINE MARINERS HOCKEY SALES TEAM

Four UNE alumni are the source of the positive energy you feel when walking into the Maine Mariners sales office in Portland, Maine. Christian Dunbar '20, Sam Murray '20, Shannon Upton '21, and Brandon Narciso '21 greet you with smiles, handshakes, and stories about why they love getting the community involved with Maine Mariners ice hockey.

The relationship between UNE and the Mariners began before these students even graduated. In August of 2017, UNE Professor Aimee Vlachos contacted Mariner's Vice President Adam Goldberg about a project involving UNE's Sports Marketing class: creating a promotional night for the Mariners. The class, including Upton and Murray, met with Goldberg on two occasions and delivered its final presentation to him at the Comcast Center. When the Mariners began playing in 2018, the class, now including Dunbar, needed to



Shannon Upton (Sport and Recreation Management, '21); Brandon Narciso (Sport and Recreation Management, Business Administration minor, '21); Sam Murray (Sport and Recreation Management, Business Administration minor, '21); Christian Dunbar (Sport and Recreation Management, Business Administration minor, '20); Also pictured: Jordan Place, B.S. '10 (Sport Management, Business Administration minor)

implement the idea the previous class developed. In addition to a valuable experiential learning opportunity, this project created an important network of contacts the students could use to land jobs after graduation. For Narciso and Murray, it was their classmates'

encouragement and positive experience with the Mariners that ultimately led them to pursue positions on the sales team. If you attend a Mariners game this season or hear that buzz of excitement for the team, you'll know that there is some Nor'easter Nation behind it!



UNE President James Herbert, Provost Karen Pardue, and members of the Deborah Morton Society



President Herbert and Darby Mutagoma



Maine Governor Janet Mills addresses the gathering.



President Herbert delivers his remarks.



President Herbert with Dan McCormack, UNE Board of Trustees chair



Inductees Nancy Grant, Susan Hammond, and Janet Mills

DEBORAH MORTON SOCIETY INDUCTEES 2021

The 59th annual Deborah Morton Society Convocation celebrated the contributions and achievements of four exceptional Maine women, including Maine Governor Janet T. Mills.

Each year, the University of New England bestows this honor to outstanding women who have achieved high distinction in their careers and public service, or whose leadership in civic, cultural, or social causes has been exceptional. When the Deborah Morton Award was first presented in 1961, it was the first annual award in Maine to honor women's achievement.

"We are fortunate here in Maine to have such a proud tradition of women leaders," said UNE President James Herbert. "The Deborah Morton Society is one important way UNE honors them. The University's many women leaders – on our faculty and in the administration – form another link in our identity. And the amazing work our female students and graduates do, on campus and off, extends our mission throughout the state."

The four inductees were nominated in 2019 by members of the Deborah Morton Society, though the induction ceremony was postponed until October 2021. They are Linda Cross Godfrey, president of Atlantic Leadership Center; Nancy Grant, a lifelong bicycle/pedestrian/trail advocate; Susan Hammond, executive director of Four Directions Development Corporation; and Janet Mills, governor of Maine.

"Throughout our history, in education, sciences, and the environment, government, the economy, the arts, and public discourse, women with courage, strength, and fortitude have made Maine the state we all know and love," shared Governor Mills, Maine's first woman governor. "I learned the values of Yankee independence, courage, and a little bit of stubborn self-reliance from these women. I think about them often and the twists and turns they navigated to get to where they needed to go."

*Linda Cross Godfrey provided her remarks by video

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Dora Mills, chief health improvement officer for MaineHealth (former UNE VP for Clinical Affairs and former director of public health for Maine state government)



Inductee Susan Hammond with James Herbert



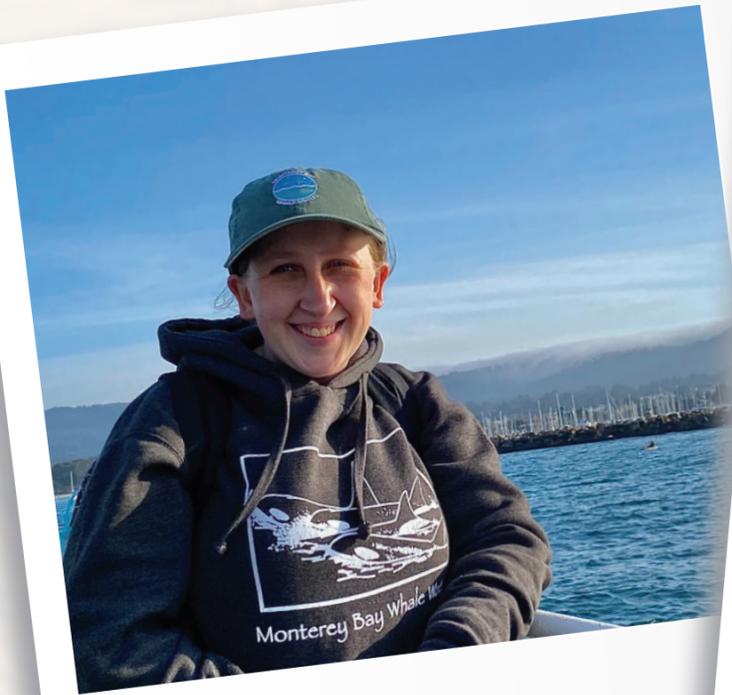
The traditional bagpipe procession into the ceremony



Inductee Nancy Grant with James Herbert

MONTEREY BAY DAYS

By Morgan Quimby with Melissa DeStefano



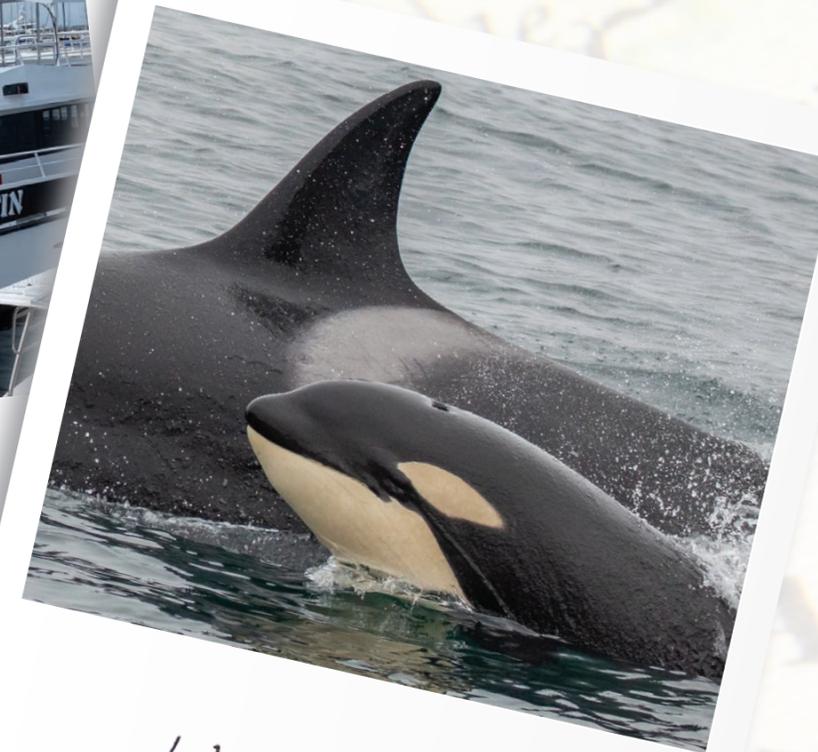
Hello from beautiful Monterey!



A delightfully odd fish,
the Mola Mola!



The Blackfin



Wild orca pod

Hello! My name is Morgan Quimby, and I am currently a photo ID research intern with Monterey Bay Whale Watch in Monterey, California. My love for marine life started at a young age when I first watched the movie *Free Willy* and fell in love with Orcas. As a photo research intern, I capture identification photos of marine mammals to track individuals in the area and globally. Through this work, we can learn more about the species' behaviors and ecology. So far, the experience feels like a dream come true, and I am honored to share with you through this article!

The Mola mola, or ocean sunfish, is the kind of creature you need to see to believe. This was the first Mola mola I'd ever seen in person, and it just made me smile. These goofy-looking creatures are the world's largest bony fish. They are quite clumsy swimmers and are often seen at the water's surface basking in the sun, hence their name. Their teeth are formed into a sort of beak, and their mouths are permanently open. It is always exciting to see a new species for the first time. Judging by the eye contact we got from him throughout the encounter, our boat was quite the sight for him too!

I was initially drawn to the Monterey Bay Whale Watch specifically because it is owned by Nancy Black, a killer whale research biologist who has studied the species in Monterey for over 30 years. As part of the fleet of ships, we have this beautiful 65-foot catamaran (double-hull) called the *Blackfin*. It is the main ship that I conduct whale research on. Typically, I am either at the counter writing down data or out on the bow of the boat taking photos.

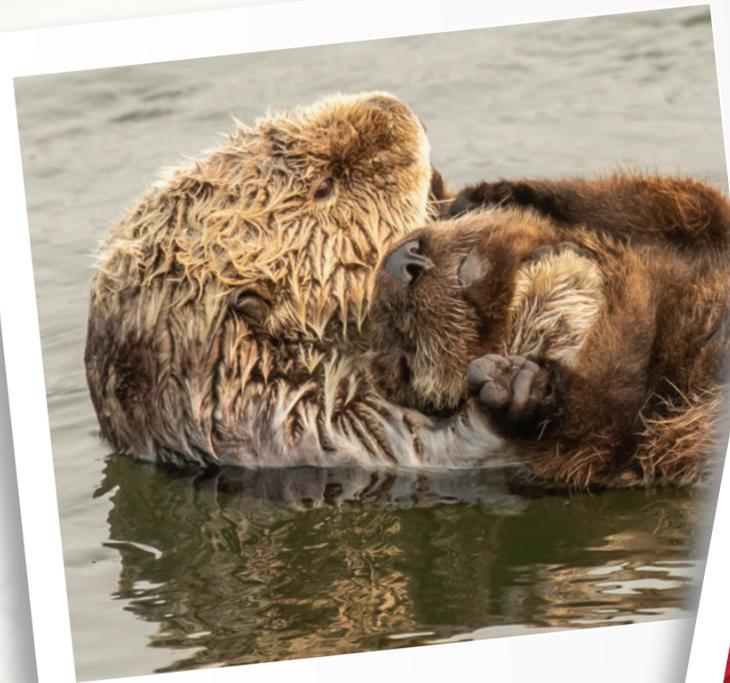
We spent one and a half hours with this orca pod of seven to eight individuals about 14 miles from the shore in Monterey Bay. It took me days to process the emotions of this incredible encounter. I have officially crossed off the top item on my bucket list. Anyone who knows me well knows that my favorite animal is the orca/killer whale. Not only did I see orca in the wild for the first time, but I witnessed something truly rare and special. My first view of a wild killer whale was a massive male fully breaching out of the water. Then we watched as they dragged a Risso's dolphin by the fluke below the surface and shared the prey among all members of the pod. This is only the second time in 35 years of orca research in the area that a pod has been seen hunting Risso's dolphins. This was an experience I will truly never forget!



Taking identification photos of a wild orca



Breaching humpback whale calf named Google



Southern sea otter mom and pup



Sidney & I with the San Simeon elephant seals

Here I am photographing the unique pod of killer whales that we witnessed preying on a Risso's dolphin. To track and study individual whales, we need to capture and catalogue photos of certain parts of the animal and learn to recognize who is who. With killer whales, capturing photos of their white eye patches as well as their white "saddle patches" behind their dorsal fins is key to identifying which orca we are observing. For humpback whales, it is important to capture photos of the underside of their tail flukes. Each individual fluke is unique — sort of like the whale equivalent of a human fingerprint. The patterning of white and black, along with scars and barnacles, help us to identify each humpback whale we see.

This happy humpback whale calf is named Google. She has become quite the local celebrity due to her playful and energetic nature. While her mom is down below the surface feeding and resting, young Google enjoys approaching boats to get a closer look. On this particular day, Google put on quite the show. She approached the boat several times, watching us as she glided by under the surface, and breached over 100 times while we watched in awe! While breaching can serve many purposes, and we don't know 100% for certain why they do it, it seemed clear that young Google was feeling playful and building up muscle.

Towards the beginning of my time here in California, I observed and photographed four mother and pup southern sea otter pairs in Morro Bay. It is hard not to have a constant smile on your face while watching a mother and pup interact. The pups in this little nursery group were getting to a size where they seemed too big for mom's lap. When the mother isn't diving down for food while her pup waits patiently at the surface, she is tending to her coat and her pup's coat to keep them both dry. When observing wild sea otters, it quickly becomes evident how attentive an individual must be to its fur to stay dry and warm. When they aren't eating or sleeping, an otter is grooming its precious fur coat.

My friend Sidney and I first met at UNE! She was my tour guide for Accepted Students Day, and as soon as I saw the orca keychain on her backpack, I knew we would be friends. We are both passionate about marine mammals, so we were both over the moon with excitement when we both got internships involving marine mammals for this summer/fall. Prior to starting my internship at Monterey Bay Whale Watch, I visited Sidney in her hometown of Santa Barbara, California. I really enjoyed spending time seeing where she grew up, and we also got to visit the elephant seals of San Simeon (seen in the background of this photo).



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MR. HERBERT GOES TO WASHINGTON...

by James D. Herbert, photos by Aaron Schwartz

The email arrived the evening of May 11, 2021. A senior staffer for Maine's Sen. Susan Collins asked if I was available the following week to come to Washington, D.C., to testify to the Senate Health, Education, and Labor Committee. Sen. Collins, the ranking member of the committee, together with Chairman Bernie Sanders, was requesting that I address the committee on the growing crisis in the health care workforce in the United States.

Sen. Collins and I had previously discussed health care workforce shortages in Maine, along with UNE's ongoing efforts and future plans to address them, and I had always been impressed by her mastery of the issues and her insightful questions and ideas. Still, I was surprised to be asked to testify before a U.S. Senate committee on the topic.

It goes without saying that it took me about a nanosecond to accept the invitation. My terrific assistant, Holly, immediately cleared my schedule for that day and booked transportation. I carved out some time in my schedule to prepare my testimony. Although I already had a good sense of the main points I wanted to make, I needed to ensure that my facts and figures were up-to-date. I reached out to UNE's research librarians, who sprang into action to assist with my various queries. The biggest challenge in preparing my remarks was keeping them to the required five minutes; as those who know me well will attest, it can take me that long just to say my name!

The following week, prepared remarks in hand, I was off to D.C. The hearing began with Sen. Sanders offering introductory remarks, followed by remarks from Sen. Collins. I was struck by the intelligence and complementarity of their perspectives, which gave me hope for finding common ground during this era of highly polarized politics. When it came time for my testimony, I had a blast. It felt almost like a symposium at an academic conference, and I was in my zone. Afterwards I made my way to the front of the chamber where Sens. Sanders and Collins were talking among themselves. Sen. Sanders turned my way, pointed his finger at me seriously, and said in his characteristically gruff voice, "You're doing some great work there at the University of New England. Send some of your graduates to

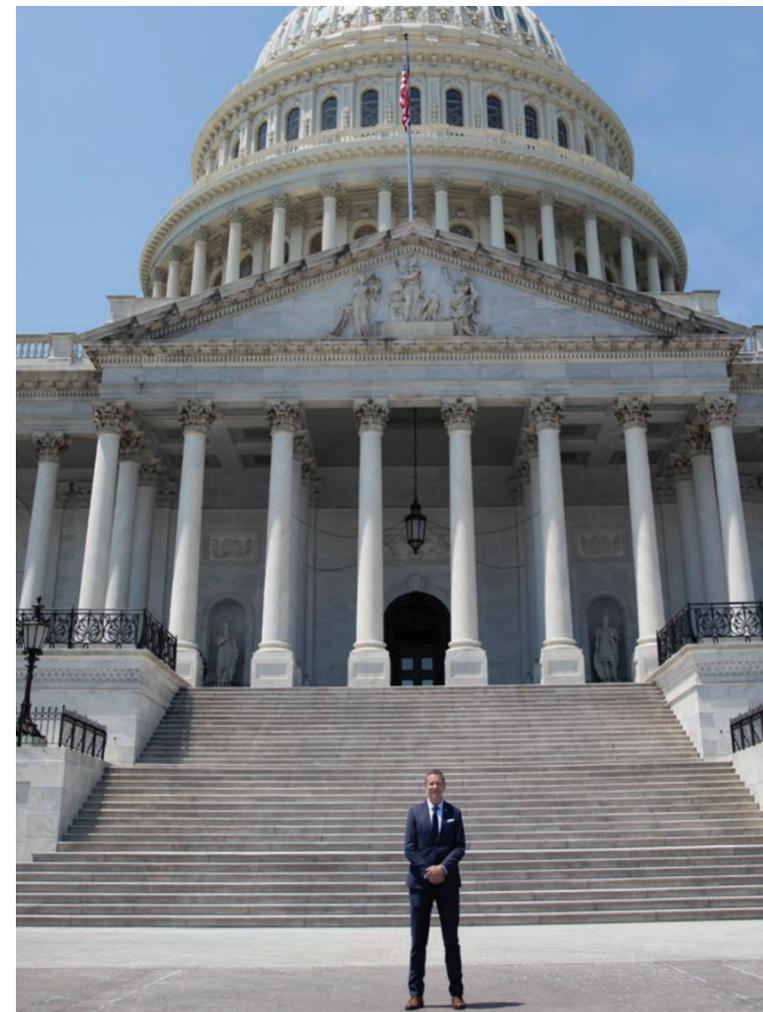
Vermont." Without missing a beat, Sen. Collins retorted in her own unique lilt, "No Bernie; we're keeping them all in Maine!" I couldn't help but chuckle out loud.

As she escorted me out of the chamber toward her office, Sen. Collins offered to have one of her staffers accompany me to the Capitol building to look around. I was delighted. The building had been closed to the public following the January 6 insurgency, and it was a rare privilege to visit it. I must admit that the experience was rather surreal. The only people present were members of Congress, their staffers, a few journalists, and lots of very serious-looking Capitol Police. As I wandered through the rotunda and surrounding halls, I could picture all too clearly images of the mobs that were in those very places only weeks before. I had a visceral sense of the fragility of our democratic system and was reminded of our collective responsibility to ensure its survival.

I hope my testimony was helpful to the committee. Either way, my most recent trip to Washington certainly had a profound impact on me.

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SILVER LININGS FROM ATHLETICS IN AN OTHERWISE CLOUDY YEAR

by David Ambrose

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the University of New England Athletic Department needed to rethink everything it had done in the past. With restrictions on outside competition, gathering sizes, and in-person activities, the entire department needed to come together to brainstorm new ways to interact with the UNE community and ensure that student-athletes were still getting a full college athletics experience.

Putting work into bettering themselves off the field has always been a huge part of the UNE student-athlete experience, and a major aspect of that happens in the weight room. Lyndie Kelley '11, former UNE women's basketball athlete and current coordinator of strength and conditioning, found unique ways to overcome the challenges of COVID and still make sure her athletes were improving every day.

In a normal year, entire teams would train in the facility together, but with a social distancing policy in place, that was not possible. Instead, only 12 athletes were allowed in the weight room at once, which led to much more one-on-one time between Kelley's staff and the students. Teams were also split up and worked out with others so new relationships were formed, and the bonds between the department grew stronger.

"Our student-athletes really got to know each other and learned to appreciate what their peers could do. They demonstrated an amazing aptitude to support one another, 14-feet apart but 500 student-athletes and 18 teams strong," notes Kelley.

That closeness led to more conversations about topics outside the realm of fitness. The strength and conditioning staff helped facilitate improvements in nutrition, sports psychology, diversity,

They demonstrated an amazing aptitude to support one another, 14-feet apart but 500 student-athletes and 18 teams strong.

— Lyndie Kelley

equity, and inclusion. The student-athletes consistently worked hard to improve all aspects of their athleticism and their personal lives, as well as the world around them.

Intramural programs have become very popular on campus in recent years due in large part to the effort Assistant Athletic Director for Intramurals and Club Sports Patty Williams has put into expanding the offerings. She was able to make the most of the restrictions and offer various in-person and virtual activities to keep the student population engaged.

The Esports club first started in the spring of 2020, just as the campus shut down. When students returned that fall, the club began holding events for games such as Rocket League, Mario Kart, and Among Us that were very popular among students. The growth and participation in Esports programming has also led to a proposal for a dedicated gaming space on campus, and the club hopes to compete regionally and nationally in the near future.

Many other new intramural opportunities were introduced, and traditional offerings were altered, with COVID-safe rules. Soccer tennis, soccer golf, and badminton all made their debuts this year due to the need to reduce contact amongst participants, and these became some of the most popular activities offered. The yearly dodgeball tournament had always been successful, but in 2021 a year-long league began and drew unprecedented numbers. The Nor'easter 5K Bolt, a virtual/in-person race open to students and alumni (entrants run or walk five kilometers on their own at any time during Homecoming Week and submit their times online), garnered over 150 entrants from 26 different states and is set to become a staple of Homecoming Weekend in the future.

In total, well over 300 students participated in intramural programming in 2020-21, below "normal" non-pandemic participation levels, but still great numbers, according to Williams, considering the unpredictability and restrictions during the year.

On the club side, the Dance Team would normally perform on the sidelines of nearly every football and basketball game in preparation for Nationals in the spring. This year they were unable to do any of that but still found a way to show off their new routines to the public. The squad recorded a variety of dance routines throughout the year, which were shown online during the live streams of various Nor'easter sporting events, including a few sports, such as hockey and lacrosse, that have not traditionally involved the Dance Team.

The enhanced live video stream technology was first introduced two years ago and included a multi-camera production at a few select events as opposed to the single-camera that was ordinarily used. Without spectators allowed into games, the focus of athletic communications efforts shifted towards enriching the live video stream even more. Improvements included playing videos during halftime, adding graphics to the presentation, and providing play-by-play announcing on nearly every broadcast last year.

Nothing showcased the updated production values more than the Teddy Bear Toss hockey game. The annual event is always one of the



most well-attended and exciting games of the year. Everyone waits in anticipation until the first goal is scored by the men's and women's hockey teams so they can throw their stuffed animals onto the ice. Each year the Harold Alfond Forum student building managers organize the event, which raises money for the United Way of York County and stuffed animal donations for numerous organizations in the area. Fortunately the event was still able to go on with some very major alterations.

Unable to play against outside competition, the Nor'easter men's and women's skaters each played intrasquad scrimmages in front of a crowd of stuffed animals. Tickets were sold to the public to sponsor an animal, and the event "sold out" raising over \$4,250 for United Way.

The event featured a variety of additions to the broadcast to make it a must-watch for the UNE community. A "ZamCam" took viewers along for a ride on the Zamboni while the ice was prepared for the game. The broadcast also featured a kiss-cam, messages from the teams and Forum building managers, and when the first goal was scored, an animation of teddy bears flooded the screen to somewhat replicate the normal event.

While the pandemic has been such a challenge for everybody in all aspects of their lives, many people have been able to find some sort of silver lining or have learned something about themselves that they will carry with them going forward. The UNE Athletic Department is no different as many new ideas and programs were able to shine during an otherwise bleak year. As things are trending back towards normalcy, the Nor'easters look to remember many of the lessons learned from the experience.



NEW-LOOK UNE MASCOT MAKES ITS DEBUT

by David Ambrose

UNE's Stormin' Norman was once voted the top college mascot in the state of Maine, but Norman has also been one of the most polarizing figures on campus since his creation nearly 15 years ago. Many dedicated Nor'easter fans love his uniqueness, and there is no other mascot like him at any other institution in the country. On the other hand, his design has also been described as "creepy" and "weather vomit" by members of the UNE community. This fall, the UNE Athletic Department is set to give the Nor'easters' semi-beloved mascot a facelift and unveil a new Norman.

As soon as she was promoted to director of Athletics in June 2019, Heather Davis made it one of her goals to revamp the design of Stormin' Norman. "We all loved the idea and uniqueness of Norman, but his design was stale and outdated. We hoped to bring a new energy to him and promote a mascot that everyone could be proud of and excited about," says Davis.

The department enlisted the help of Rickabaugh Graphics, a design company whose portfolio includes some of the most iconic mascots in collegiate sports — including Ohio State University's Brutus Buckeye — to mock up a few potential ideas. The original Maine-centric concept designs included a lobster and moose, but after consulting with various constituencies on campus through focus groups and surveys, the decision was made to keep the mascot a cloud-like figure but with a refreshed look.

Everything was ready to go with the design in late March 2020; the costume just needed to be built, and plans were in place to reveal the new and improved Norman that fall. Like many things that spring, the

debut was put on hold when the pandemic hit and postponed everything until this year. New-look Norman was finally unveiled in Biddeford during Homecoming Weekend. As he burst onto the field during the Nor'easters' Homecoming football game to the roaring cheers of the crowd, the PA announcer explained that Norman had spent the pandemic lockdown working with UNE's crack athletic training students and faculty to get in tip-top condition and shopping for new clothes — hence, his new look.

This was not the first time that changing the Nor'easters' mascot had been discussed. Shortly after the athletic logo was rebranded in 2008, there was talk within the UNE community about creating a new Norman. Former Athletic Director Kim Allen sent a survey out to all students to gather feedback on a new design that included concept drawings of potential costumes. The designs included a seal wearing a raincoat, a yeti, and a blue lobster, as well as a reimagined version of the current mascot. None of the ideas ever came to fruition, and the project was postponed. Over the years that followed, there were always whispers of a redesign, but until recently the idea never made it past the initial stages.

Keep your eyes on the sidelines at UNE games this year to get a glimpse of our new mascot hyping up fans and helping to create an enjoyable atmosphere for everyone involved.

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A QUICK HISTORY LESSON

Stormin' Norman was the first mascot for the Nor'easters but not for the University. During the St. Francis College days, the athletics teams were known as the Knights, and their mascot, Sir Otis, roamed the sidelines. St. Francis became the University of New England in 1978, and the Knights name and logo remained. UNE merged with Westbrook College, whose teams were known as the Wildcats, in 1996. That nickname stayed for a year until the Nor'easters were introduced prior to the 1997-98 school year.



“We hoped to bring a new energy to him and promote a mascot that everyone could be proud of and excited about.”
— Heather Davis



FIFTEEN
MINUTES
WITH...

JONATHAN MILLEN

Interview by Jennie Aranovitch

Jonathan Millen, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, came to UNE in the summer of 2019 as a proponent of the early college experience as a critical time for students' exploration and self-discovery. He soon created UNE's GUST (Guided Undergraduate Studies) program for incoming students who are undecided about the academic field in which they want to major. Currently the third most popular program in the college among incoming students, GUST destigmatizes the "undeclared" status while providing academic mentoring, career counseling, and a structured curriculum that allows students to explore their options and interests as they stay on track for an enriching four-year college experience.

Could you explain what GUST is and why it was created?

GUST is a program for students who have chosen to come to UNE but are not yet ready to declare their academic major. The idea is to rebrand the whole idea of being undecided or undeclared. Rather than having those students labeled as something with a negative connotation, we wanted to frame it as a positive. We want to make the case that being undecided at that age is the best decision a student can make — that is, to delay their choice of major until they're ready and understand the full landscape of possibilities and until they've had the chance to work with our faculty and professional advisors. Your first few semesters of college should be a process of exploration and of figuring out what fits

with your interests, aptitudes, and passions, rather than choosing a college major before you even step foot on campus, when the people who are most qualified to help you haven't yet played a part in that conversation.

So what can a student enrolled in GUST expect?

Students in the GUST program are all enrolled in a first-year seminar with carefully selected faculty who build the curriculum with those students in mind. The purpose of the course is not to help them choose a major; but it's to help them explore what it means to be in college, to help them get acclimated, and to help them develop the skills and the

habits of mind for success. And it really ends up destigmatizing the concept of not having a major.

GUST has four stages. The first is Exploration, which I just mentioned: the idea that we want students to understand the full scope of opportunities before they narrow it down. From there, we go to Transition, which is the process of declaring a major. Students need to declare a major by the end of the fourth semester, but this involves a lot more than just checking a box. It involves meeting with the academic director of that program, being assigned a new faculty mentor, and having it be a mindful process. From there, we go to Immersion. During the Immersion phase, students start to dive deeply into their disciplines, looking at internship and research opportunities, going beyond the classroom curriculum and getting that real-world experience — getting out in the field, making personal connections. And then, finally, Expansion is going outside of the major. So maybe that is choosing a minor or studying abroad — doing something that really rounds out that four-year experience.

What is the downside of coming into college with your major already declared?

Data suggests that the average college student ends up changing her major multiple times — on any college campus; not just UNE. And when you change majors, that's when you end up having to make up credits, or you fall behind, or sometimes you can't get into the program that you want. GUST addresses a lot of those concerns. GUST will not slow down a student's progress toward graduation. Our commitment is that we'll make a schedule every semester that moves them toward graduation. We want students to be thinking about that entire four-step process from day one so they know what lies ahead, and they don't get to that point in their college career when it's too late to change majors, or declare a second major, or to study abroad.

Is each student's GUST program specifically tailored to the individual?

Yes, what I tell the students is, "The more you tell us, the more the program will work for you." It's not a good program if you plan to keep all your thoughts to yourself; it's meant to provide opportunities for conversation with the faculty mentor, the professional advisors, and the career counseling staff. If you tell us that you have no idea whatsoever what you want to major in, your plan will look different from that of the student who is torn between chemistry and biology.

What kind of college student were you? Would you have found a program like GUST to be helpful when you were an undergraduate?

I entered college myself as an undecided/undeclared student. During my first three semesters, I registered for classes without a clear sense of direction or strategic purpose. Even more, I remember feeling very confused about the prospects of declaring a major: When/how would I know if I was ready? How would I go about doing so? What if I made the wrong choice? It seemed to me at the time that all of the other students knew exactly what was going on. Only later did I realize that many of those same students were just as unsure about the choices they had made, with a large percentage going on to eventually change their majors. Those experiences planted the seeds for a program like GUST.

Would you say that the GUST program has been a success?

Absolutely. In fact, GUST students will be the third largest cohort of students coming into the College of Arts and Sciences this fall, after marine sciences and biology. There are just under 50 incoming in the program, which is terrific. Last year, we ran two first-year GUST seminars; this year we're going to be running three. And it's important to recognize that one of the reasons for the success is the partnership with the faculty. Having the right faculty teach these courses is critical. Michael Cripps [associate professor of rhetoric and composition and interim academic director for the School of Arts and Humanities], in particular, has been a tremendous ambassador and serves as one of the faculty mentors along with Cathrine Frank [professor of English and the coordinator for Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities], and Amy Keirstead [CAS associate dean] has been a very important partner. I'm getting a lot of credit for this in different circles, but it really is a joint effort with the faculty, and it would fail without their commitment.



HOMECOMING

UNE hosted its first Homecoming Weekend, welcoming over 1,600 alumni, families, and friends to campus October 1-3. In addition to a variety of varsity and alumni athletic games, guests experienced the Saco River by boat, learned from students about research they conducted through the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience, and met a new and improved Stormin' Norman.

Celebrations delayed by the pandemic were also a big part of Homecoming Weekend. As part of the celebration of their 50th and 51st Reunions, the St. Francis College classes of 1970 and 1971 invited the children of Bill and Georgette Sutton to announce the funding of the William Sutton Endowed Scholarship. The Class of 2020 also reconnected with classmates, faculty, and professional staff with a sunset cruise, followed by a brunch on their return to campus. Karol L'Heureux, longtime member of the Athletic Department who retired in 2020, was celebrated for her administrative and coaching efforts over the years, and members of the Class of 1966 and fellow donors cut the ribbon on the refurbished pavilion at Jordan's Point, which they helped fund as part of their 50th Reunion.

UNE also recognized the significant contributions of several members of the UNE community. The Varsity Club Hall of Fame inductees included Kelly Coleman '15, D.P.T. '17, Ashley Gott Haase '12, Aidan McParland '17, M.S. '18, and Dennis Leighton, D.P.T. The UNE-SFC Alumni Council honored Raymond Gagnon '70 with the M. Ben Hogan Alumni Achievement Award, Timothy Lenehan '71 with the Alumni Service Award, Lauren Hayden '16 with the Young Alumni Award, and Ronald Ouellette as an Honorary Alumnus. In the presence of the Beaudry family, alumni, and friends, the performance court in the Alford Forum was dedicated as Coach Beaudry's Court by Athletic Director Heather Davis and President James Herbert.

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class NOTES

1955

Stephanie Carter Pearson writes: I had a wonderful 4th of July week with my three children and their families at a small resort in northern NH. It was a real treat after not having been able to be together for more than two years. The kids have grown and everyone, including me, is doing well in their own phase of life. My grandkids include an Amazon computer engineer, a girl out of the Navy and now studying criminal justice at the University of Denver, one in community college in Maine, a senior in high school aiming high in her college choices, and lastly a fourth grader and Kindergarten twins in the northwest. I enjoy a pretty quiet life in Exeter, NH where there are enough activities and friends to keep me busy.

Randi Shaffer writes: Just had a call from **Ann Corbin**, and her husband Jack from New Hampshire. They came to California several years ago for a visit. I have regular aches and pains of old age, but am keeping fit! Love to all my classmates.

Jean Earley Cohen writes: I'm in good health with two of my three kids nearby. Youngest Jenny, husband and two boys (17 and almost 16) live 15 minutes away; son John lives next door; he's single with a son and daughter living in other states; and oldest daughter and husband in Atlanta. And I'm blessed with two terrific sons-in-law! I often think of the Westbrook years and so many great classmates there. Best wishes to all!

1958

Barbara Mae O'Leary writes: I talk to **Marilyn Davidson Harrington** every couple of weeks. I plan to visit her in September. I tried calling **Barb Frazier** but she wasn't home- I'll try again. In January, I returned to swimming twice a week. The Westbrook pool is only 5 miles from home and this year it is 22 years since I retired as a microbiologist at Maine Medical Center and started swimming. I live blocks from Westbrook campus so I'll be there for all events.

1962

Madeline Frustaci Coppinger writes: Summer of '21 held out the hope of being far better than summer of '20! While we must continue to be cautious, we can begin to venture a little away from home and be with family and friends. I was able to visit my children and grandchildren in New Hampshire, attending the oldest granddaughter's wedding in June. In August, I attended my postponed high school reunion in South Portland. In addition, I will be spending a few days near the ocean with my older daughter enjoying a few "lobstah"! I have been able to resume my volunteer work in Vermont, which is a great blessing to me to drive elderly folks to medical appointments. I am looking forward to 2022 when we can celebrate our Westbrook reunion — we won't say how many years!! Be well, friends.

Judith Tammel Spinnager writes: Recently met a WJC Class of 1964 dental hygienist in the dentist office I've been going to for about 20 years. Small world, since that office is in Williamsburg, VA. Having recently moved back to New Jersey, I will probably not see her again.

Barbara Wood Strout writes: A trip down memory lane... The 1962 class banquet was held at the Poland Spring Hotel, Poland, ME. Years later, when our family was living in Poland, the hotel burned to the ground the eve of Fourth of July 1975. We sat on the golf course and watched the fire and the big tower of the front hotel fall. Those in the class of 1962, before and after would remember Richard Simmons who taught foreign language at Westbrook. Sadly he passed away in Florida on March 22, 2018 and is buried in Brooklawn Cemetery, Portland. His sister, Lois Knight is a near neighbor here on Strout Rd, so for a number of summers I got to visit with Mr. Simmons, long after Westbrook graduation. Our class would remember Mary and Bob Mills... Mary was in charge of the bookstore, and Bob was on the Westbrook Grounds crew. Their farm "High Fields" is one road down from us on McCann Rd. Their son "Jerry" was my husband's best boy-hood friend. It is a very small world. For more years than I can remember, I was the secretary to the Poland Planning Board, Board of Appeals, and Poland Election Warden. Little did I know at our graduation banquet what a big role Poland, Maine would play in my life.

Nancy Hall Perkins writes: Hello classmates! Larry and I celebrated our 56th wedding anniversary in June. We have lived in Readfield, ME in four homes over the course of 50 years, with our last one on the east shore of Marana-cook Lake. We delight in seeing the sunsets year round in our 15 sided Del Tech home which is our smallest and final home. I have seen **Roxann Gallant Meehan** and **Beth Kendall York**, MSW '95 at our Deering High School gatherings. We have 3 children and 6 grandchildren and all live in Maine except one granddaughter in Myrtle Beach, SC. It's so nice to have them near. All is well with us, and I hope you are well also!

1963

Dan Keohane writes: Sadly, the past two years have been difficult for my wife, Anne, with an unexpected fall, hip replacement and ongoing therapy at the Spaulding Rehab Hospital. Anne's care and recovery resulted in time taken from the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement (HILR). I had been a member for 20 years, leading (in our terminology) five courses on China, along with being a member of the Student Council, the Teaching and Learning Committee, and the Admissions Committee. I took retirement this past semester. I miss the extremely interesting courses along with the many, many friendships I made over the years. Finally, Anne and I have started to discuss plans for our 60th Wedding Anniversary next June! Nothing is confirmed at the moment but planning is better than simply sitting around thinking about it.

Peter Makuck writes: Along with more than fifty other writers, I was invited to choose a work of art in the North Carolina Museum of Art and write an essay, a story, or a poem. I wrote a poem about "Summer" (1891), a painting by Hans Thoma, which is included in *You Are The River*, a book with handsome artwork edited by Helena Feder and published this summer by the Raleigh museum. I also have a poem in *Crossing the Rift: North Carolina Poets on 9/11 & Its Aftermath*, an anthology edited by Joseph Bathanti and David Portorti, which will be published in September by Press 53. The poem is "Letter to Bill Heyen" and is from my most recent volume of poetry: *Mandatory Evacuation* (BOA Editions, 2016).

Please email your news and photos to alumni@une.edu, post on UNE Connect at www.alumni.une.edu, or mail to the UNE Office of Alumni Advancement, 716 Stevens Avenue, Portland, ME 04103. College of Osteopathic Medicine news should be emailed to RSAS@une.edu.

PLEASE LIMIT SUBMISSIONS TO 75 WORDS OR LESS. SUBMISSIONS MAY BE EDITED FOR LENGTH AND CLARITY.



Brian Walsh

1964

Helen Mahoney writes on behalf of her husband, **Bryan Mahoney** who recently passed away, "He had wonderful memories of his years gathering with classmates."

1969

Brian Walsh writes: It took a while, but I've finally entered the very esteemed social category of Grandparent in June! Waiting for his arrival was the growing light in the dark tunnel of a COVID winter. I'm clearly well behind many of my classmates and with no hope of getting close to **Jay LeClair**. I've received a thoughtful and appreciated welcome to the club from many classmates after posting the news on Facebook. We took a drive across country to Denver in late August to spend about a month with this little guy and his parents. **John Little** reached out to share he is facing many health challenges and maintains a positive attitude through it, a classic Marine approach. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers and reach out to him. I'm keeping busy doing some consulting work for Thomas Aquinas College, a very special place, and pursuing a few favorite pastimes like fly fishing, photography, hiking and wood carving. Keep in touch and stay well.



Teri Tombarelli Blouin

1973

Dennis Globuski shares the news of the passing of his wife **Carol Lambert '72** from cancer. Despite struggling with his own medical challenges, he writes, "We had 45 years of a good life together. I am holding up and I have a lot of good people to help me. I wish I had better news but with the help of good friends and my strong faith I am doing okay."

Dennis Grossano writes: I retired April 30, 2021 from Sloan Kettering Cancer Center after 44 years as an oncology pharmacist. I'm very thankful for the education I received at St. Francis College. The best professor who made a great impact on my life was Dr. Gilbert Samuels. I stay in close contact with my roommate for four years at SFC, **John Desmond** who resides in South Boston. My wife and I vacation in the Biddeford area twice a year. We love Maine. My children are Daniel (34), Jenna (31), and Stefanie (28).



Greg Nye

Thomas Glynn writes: I retired from the Financial Industry, have been married for 40 years, and have two children and three grandchildren.

Constance Melancon Sharuga writes: I am proud to be able to say that I was UNE before there was a UNE; having graduated from both Westbrook College and St. Francis College (1977). After graduating from St. Francis College, I went on to earn both a Masters Degree and a PhD. I have spent most of my professional life as either a dental hygiene educator or program director. I am now happily retired.

1977

Carol Kaybel Graziano writes: This year I am a 3 year survivor of breast cancer. Stay on top of those mammograms. Rick and I will celebrate our 42nd wedding anniversary this September! I retired from nursing in 2020 after 43 years of a rewarding career. We are still anticipating a move to the Carolinas.

Teri Tombarelli Blouin writes: I retired in June 2021, from a Business Supervisor position with the State of New Hampshire. I am enjoying my first "retiree" summer at our home on Lake Winnepesaukee. Retirement was the best gift I ever gave myself! I am the happiest ME ever! It is affording me priceless time with family and friends. I enjoy hiking, gardening, reading, cooking, entertaining, kayaking, quilting, photography and travelling. I have a long list of new hobbies I plan to try and many places I want to visit now that time is on my side. My husband, children and grandchild fill my life with much love and precious memories. My best to all!

1982

Greg Nye, D.O., writes: Still married. Still working. Still in Massachusetts. Renting again. Planning to retire. Hoping for 25 more years.

1986

Robert T. Leonard, Jr., D.O., was recognized by the International Society of Hair Restoration (ISHRD) with the Golden Follicle Award. He is the founding Secretary of the ISHRD and has been a Past President. In addition, he is one of nine surgeons to attend all of the 28 Annual Scientific Congresses. Dr. Leonard and his wife Kathryn also met at UNE as classmates.

Andra Larson, D.O., writes: I've retired after all these years and finally have found my true vocation!

1991

Sue Shea St. Pierre, D.O., is enjoying life in Northern California as an Assistant Professor at Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She writes, "Medical students inspire me in every way and I am honored to be their mentor and teacher. I am happy to see that student wellness is becoming more a part of the conversation - it means I get to work on my own wellness as well!"

1992

John Campbell, D.O., writes: Tish and I are doing well in Alabama, working on our Southern accents, "Ya'll!" We are happy to announce that we now have 5 grandchildren: 2 girls, 3 boys with one more on the way! Wow time flies! Also, we are very proud of all our 4 children with 2 children being physicians, Kristine is a Pediatrician and Patrick is a Family Medicine physician in the Army (the apple doesn't fall far from the tree). That's all for now. I will try to update more often. Hello Class of 1992!

1996

Dennis Dean, M.S.N.A., was recognized as a 2020 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award winner. \$10,000 has been awarded to his non-profit, A House for ME. This non-profit provides supportive housing for individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities.



Robert T. Leonard



Andra Larson



Sue Shea St. Pierre

2000

Alyn Whelchel, PA-C, writes: After many years working in family medicine I decided to accept a faculty position at Red Rocks Physician Assistant Program. My clinical practice has shifted to physiatry and the combination is wonderful. I am also honored to be the president of the Colorado Academy of PAs and look forward to an exciting few years for our profession!

2002

John Kasel, PA, writes: I joined One Medical in Austin Texas this past February as the District Medical Director. I am responsible for leading the provider team as the primary care organization expands in the Austin market.

2003

Carol Gardner, D.O., writes: I have a holistic Family practice, "Preventive Medicine" in Burlington VT. However, a new doc is taking over now and I am working part time (semi-retired). Enjoying my grandkids and living on Lake Champlain!

2005

Deirdre Heersink, D.O., writes: How is it possible that we began medical nearly 20 years ago?! I still remember the ice cream social just days before the shock of 9/11. I'm enjoying life as it flies by with my 3 kids and 3 jobs in Brunswick, Maine. Variety is the spice of life. What a rollercoaster year for us all. Love to meet up with you all again for some freezing swimming at Fortunes Rocks Beach and remember the good old days with Dr. Cross in anatomy lab.

Meredith Beaugard, PA, a physician assistant at Maine Medical Center in Portland received the Hospital Medicine Excellence Award by Maine Health. She was recognized for helping to build a labor pool for MMC's Advanced Practice Providers (APP) service by proactively reaching out and collaborating with other APP services at MMC. Her contributions provided a critical lifeline to those services.

2006

Andrew Leach, Waynelete lacrosse coach, was named The Forecaster's Portland edition Coach of the Year of a boys' team.

2007

James Jowdy, D.O., writes: **Michelle Dunlavy Jowdy, D.O.**, and I are heading to Portsmouth, VA. Michelle is searching for a Pediatric position and I'll be starting as a physician for the Coast Guard via the Public Health Service. I'll be focusing on Operational Medicine, caring for their divers, pilots, and special operations units that are in the area. Hope this finds everyone doing well.

Karin Paquin, M.S.Ed. '12, writes: Since my last update, I have had a second little boy and accepted a new position as a 5-8 Science and Social Studies Teacher at St. John's Catholic School in Brunswick, Maine, where I own a home. My oldest is now 6 and attends SJCS and my youngest will be 1 in September.

2009

Sarah Tolford Selby, D.O., writes: After many moves due to my husband Luke's 10 years of surgery training (NY to CO to OH), we are finally settling down and moving to Kansas City this summer! I will be working as an EM Physician at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC), and Luke will be a Surgical Oncologist at KUMC as well. Our two boys and COVID puppy are excited for this next adventure.

Christopher Renaud, D.O., assumed the position of chief of anesthesia services at Franklin Memorial hospital in Farmington, ME, and continues to be the liaison for rural anesthesiologists with the Maine State Society of Anesthesiologist.

Adrienne D'Ascanio Schreder recently relocated from Boston, MA to Grapevine, TX with her husband Darren and their 2 year old daughter Olivia to be closer to family. Adrienne accepted a new position as the Director of Transformation Management at Texas Health Resources in Arlington, TX.

2010

Julie Eldredge Blanchette, M.S.O.T. '11, writes: I met my husband in January of 2016 and we were finally married on October 11, 2020!

2011

Marc Bouchard, D.O., writes: Since graduation, I completed a residency in general psychiatry at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and completed my military service obligation in El Paso, Texas. After residency, I served as the Division Psychiatrist for the 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, TX, a general psychiatrist, and the interim inpatient psychiatry unit chief at William Beaumont Army Medical Center. I separated from the Army in November 2019, moved to Olympia, Washington, and have been serving as the medical director of behavioral health for Providence Medical Group Southwest WA. I married my wife, Megan, in 2016, and we now have three little boys.

2012

Ross Isake, D.O., received the Hospital Medicine Excellence Award given out by Maine Health. He currently serves as assistant associate medical director for hospital medicine at Maine Medical Partners and chief of inpatient medicine at Stephens Memorial Hospital in Norway, Maine and was recognized for his excellent efforts during the pandemic.

2013

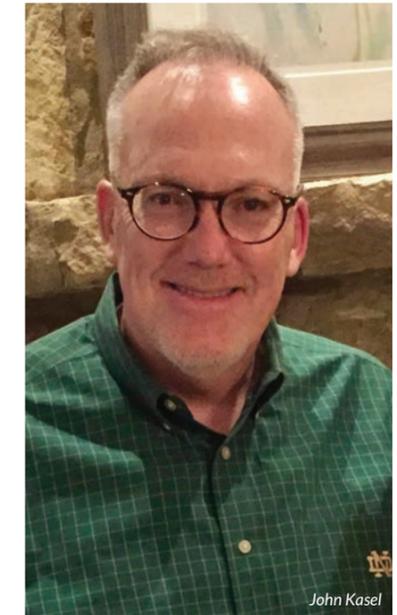
Elizabeth Zimmerman, M.S.W., received her clinical license and has begun private practice in the Gulfport, Mississippi area.



Adrienne D'Ascanio Schreder's daughter, Olivia



Julie Eldredge Blanchette



John Kasel



Deirdre Heersink



Karin Paquin



Andrew Leach



Arwen Christian with baby Kalina and Sarah Smithson, D.O.



Shikea McCollum



Ashley Kirkpatrick Bair



Kelly McLaughlin



Krystal Hamlin (center) is honored by Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence Executive Director Wendy Mahoney (left) and Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch (right).

2014

Arwen Christian, D.O., writes: I am currently practicing Ophthalmology in Colorado. My husband and I had our first baby named Kalina in November of 2020. Classmate **Sarah Smithson, D.O.**, got to meet the baby and we took her to the brewery.

Heather A. Stewart, Pharm.D., was named the 2020 Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year in Maine at the recent meeting of the Maine Pharmacy Association. Stewart has been a Walgreens employee for over six years. The award is presented annually to a pharmacist in each state for individual excellence and outstanding contributions in state pharmacy association activities, community affairs and in professional practice.

Shane Stevens, OD. joined Eyes on Rosemont, LLC on June 1, 2021. Dr. Stevens completed his bachelor's degree at UNE and then attended the New England College of Optometry in Boston, graduating in 2018. He also completed a residency in ocular disease and primary care at the Veteran's Affairs Hospital in Vermont.

2015

Kelly McLaughlin, M.P.H., MCHES. started a new position at the New Jersey Department of Health as a Public Health Education Consultant. Kelly is leading the development and rollout of a new program called Project Firstline, a CDC training collaborative with the goal of providing basic infection prevention and control training to frontline healthcare workers to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in healthcare settings.

Krystal Hamlin, M.S.W. has been awarded the Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence Award for her work at Haven House Family Shelter and facilitating the Coordinated Community Response Team in Warren County, Mississippi.

Ashley Kirkpatrick Bair, M.S.W. writes: Since graduating from UNE, my husband Jerry and I have had our second child, Jaxon! We live in Saco and enjoy spending lots of time outside! Professionally, I have further deepened my love of social work, and have become certified in clinically treating both children and adults who suffer from trauma symptoms.

2016

Shelly Wood, M.P.H. writes: I have worked full time for our county hospital as a Registered Dietitian since 2013 but have been able to really shine since my MPH degree. I work as an advisory board member for NorCal SCI, a non-profit dedicated to helping those with spinal cord injuries. I also work in two outpatient clinics, physical medicine and rehabilitation (mainly spinal cord injuries) and gastroenterology. Additionally, I was published for research I did and I'm awaiting a grant submission decision which should be announced in September. I'm really pleased with where I've gone in the last 5 years. Getting an MPH is unique for a dietitian since dietitians usually go for an MS in Nutrition but I didn't want a second degree in nutrition! The MPH was the way to go and it's really helped me with research and public outreach. I'm still paying off student loans but they are 100% worth it :-). Hope things are going well for the program.

Kristina Carlson, D.O., '21 is in her first year of residency in internal medicine!

2017

Shikea McCollum, M.S.W., currently works as a disabled veterans outreach program specialist and veterans employment consultant for the NCWorks Career Center in Greensboro. In addition, she's also working toward her license in social work with a focus on women veterans whose military experience she can uniquely understand. She was also recently featured in the News & Record Newspaper by Jennifer Bringle entitled Dedicated to serving fellow veterans.

Jarrod Richards, Ed.D., was recently appointed Vocational Dean at Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School in Wakefield, MA. Richards had previously held the position of Math/Science Department Head. Dr. Richards is also a Senior Instructor/Program Supervisor in the School of Education at American International College. Dr. Richards credits his degree from UNE as opening up these opportunities for his career advancement beyond the high school mathematics classroom.

Suzanne Reese, D.P.T., was recently named one of Tulsa Community College's 50 Notable Alumni, in recognition of the College's 50th anniversary. She is a retired Associate Professor and Physical Therapist from Tulsa Community College.

Suzanne Reese



Malual Mabur, PA, was awarded Maine Medical Center's 2020 Hospital Medicine Excellence Award for his commitment to his patients and community. Not only working in the medical field in a professional capacity, Malual created YouTube and Facebook Live videos to share vital COVID information and facts to the local Sudanese communities. Malual grew up in South Sudan where he trained as an infectious disease specialist and became a naturalized US citizen in 2013.

Malual Mabur

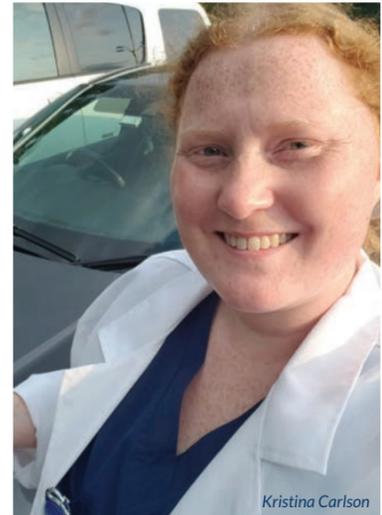


2018

Katie Rogers, Pharm.D., '18 and I got engaged in Fort Sumner Park on Munjoy Hill this past July! After graduation, we moved to Maryland and most recently we moved again to Central New York and bought our first home together! We thank UNE (and the Old Port) for being the place where our paths first crossed.

Jenson Bloom, M.P.H., writes: I have been working for the CDC Foundation with COVID relief and I just moved to Tulsa with my boyfriend and our dogs!

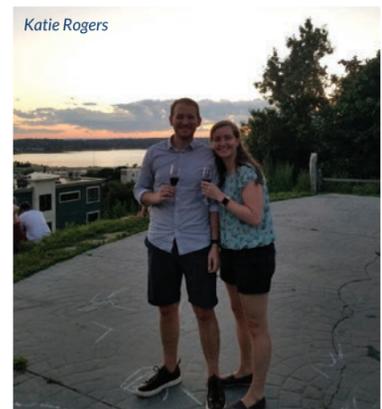
Jonathan Nutt, D.M.D., purchased his first dental practice, Integrity Dental, in Yarmouth, Maine. "Owning my own practice and practicing dentistry according to my personal philosophy has always been a dream of mine. It is so exciting and I feel so blessed to be able to have the opportunity to make this dream into reality!"



Kristina Carlson

Alexander L. Tai, Ed.D., has been appointed the First Vice-President of Columbia Missouri National Education Association (CMNEA) in Columbia, Missouri. He is the very first Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) First Vice-President in association history. Columbia Missouri National Education (CMNEA) is a local affiliate to the National Education Association (NEA). The NEA is the largest labor union and professional interest group in the United States founded in 1857.

Katie Rogers



Abdullah Orakzai, M.P.H., writes: I really enjoyed my time at UNE. It was a memorable experience. Currently working as Clinical Research Coordinator at Stanford Hospital. Happily married with two kids.

2019

Samantha Pearce, M.P.H., writes: I will be applying the skills I developed in UNE's Master of Public Health program as a Community Epidemiologist at The Collaborative. I entered UNE's program with the goal of becoming an epidemiologist, not expecting to have that dream come true in my home state of Vermont. I will be designing community and organizational evaluations to improve programs and promote healthy choices in my community.

Alden Bush, M.P.H., writes: I just completed my Master of Science with a concentration in Registered Nursing and am continuing on to the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at Columbia University School of Nursing. I was also just elected a University Senator serving for the 2020-2022 period as the representative of Columbia Nursing to the Columbia University Senate. My MPH from UNE has been an invaluable resource in my clinical education and while working during this global viral pandemic.

Sharon Gomez, M.S.W., writes: After my graduation, I embarked on a very memorable work experience as a social worker in the hospital serving French Canadians and First Nations communities in a rural town in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Not only did I learn the language and the culture of the far North but I also got to enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing, hiking, camping, and cross-country skiing. It was an adventure that I will never forget!!! After a year of adventure, I went back home to Toronto working in my dream job as a social worker in the mental health unit at Trillium Health Partners - Mississauga Site. Thanks to the UNE, I was able to reach my career dream and adventure!

Kate Carmody, M.P.H., writes: Hit my 2.5 year mark at the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation!

2020

Sidney Crudup II, Ed.D., writes: My intent after graduation was to climb the ranks of the public school education system as an administrator in order to empower underserved and underprivileged inner-city children. Little did I know that my career and my life would completely change when I was summoned to be the pastor of a church. I still aim to empower, but it will apparently be from another vantage point. I plan to use my educational experiences at UNE to be the best leader I can be for the church. I am excited about my future.

Kailene Laundry Jones, M.P.H., writes: After receiving my degree, I jumped right into the field as a Project Specialist to provide technical assistance to support the planning and start-up of a new non-profit organization in the Upper Valley of New Hampshire. The non-profit is working to build a state-of-the-art residential treatment facility to provide services to pregnant and parenting women experiencing co-occurring mental health and/or substance use disorders. The program will provide a safe and supportive community that welcomes women to stay with their children during treatment. Since accepting this position, I have continued to strengthen my skills to better serve the organization and am dedicated to seeing the program come to fruition. I am grateful for the knowledge UNE's program provided me! It has certainly allowed me to bring value to this initiative that is preparing to serve a population I am so passionate about!

Elizabeth Connolly, Pharm.D., and her husband, Thomas, welcomed a son, Corren Michael Connolly, on June 27th, 2021.

Katelyn Van Leir, D.M.D., will be continuing the public health journey UNE guided her to. Starting in August of 2021 after completion of a General Practice Residency, Dr. Van Leir will be a general dentist with United Healthcare Centers, an FQHC, in Fresno, CA.

Greta Castonguy, D.M.D., is currently completing her GPR residency in Roanoke, Virginia. She plans to return to Maine when this next year is complete.

2021

Sean Shields, D.P.T., writes: I have joined InterMed as Manager of Physical Therapy where I oversee the operations of the entire 35 person department. I am also a board-certified clinical specialist in orthopedic physical therapy.

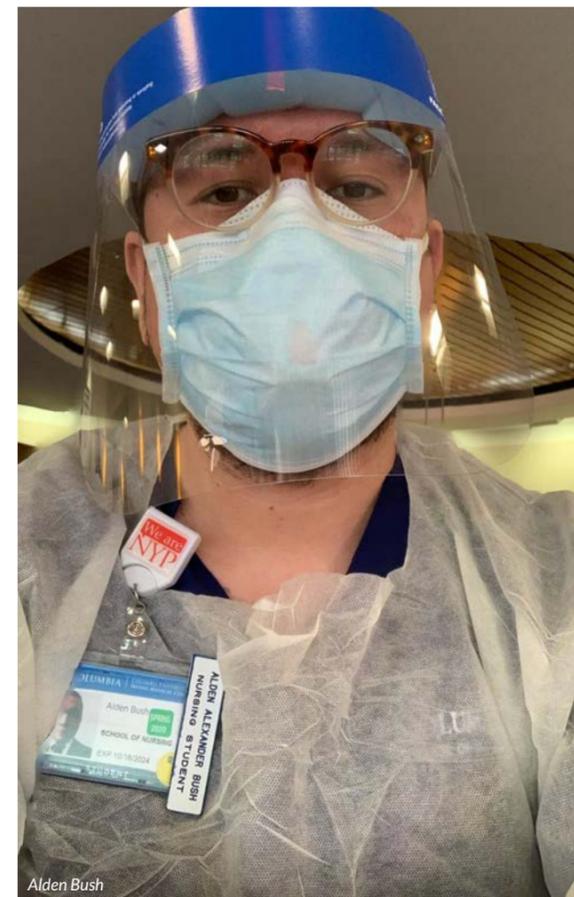
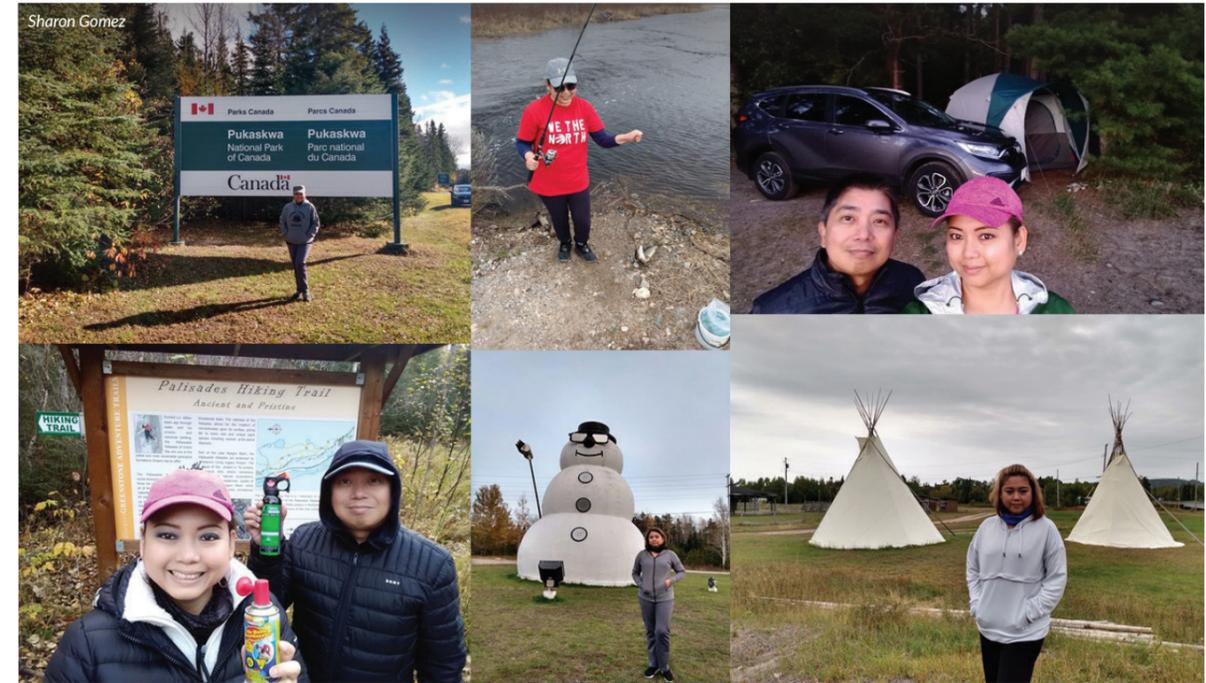
Hilary Martin is currently living in Brunswick, ME and working as the 9th-12th grade literacy specialist at Mt. Ararat High School.



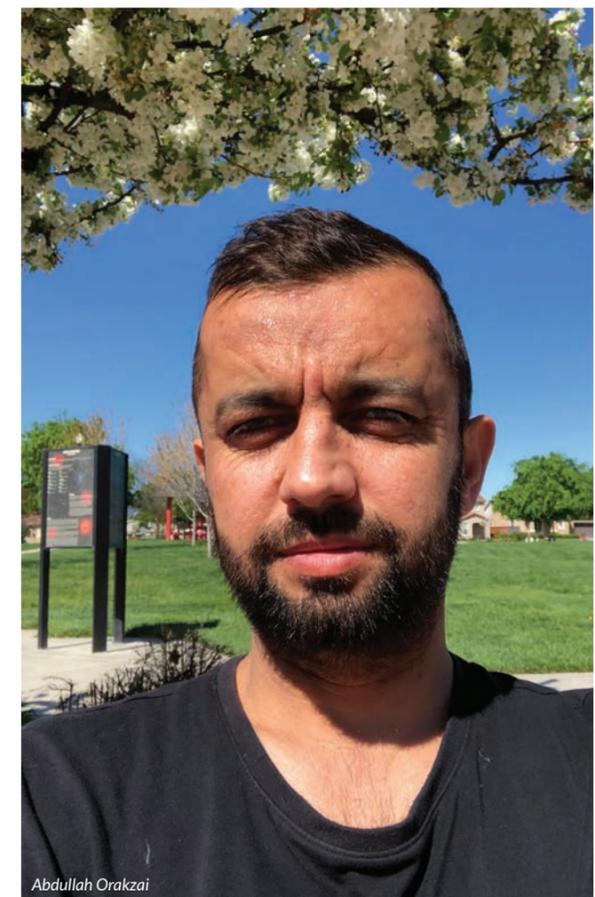
Kailene Laundry Jones



Sean Shields



Alden Bush



Abdullah Orakzai

1924

Eva Woodbrey Lekachman
Westbrook Junior College
June 15, 2011

1938

Meredith Fletcher Adams
Westbrook Junior College
March 7, 2010

1940

Margery Gale Mayer
Westbrook Junior College
July 18, 2018

Mildred Thorne Hawkins
Westbrook Junior College
June 30, 2021

1941

Susan Bryant Camp
Westbrook Junior College
August 31, 1994

Barbara Sughrue Dooley
Westbrook Junior College
January 2, 2006

Catherine R. Greer
Westbrook Junior College
April 29, 2020

Phyllis Nasman Little
Westbrook Junior College
October 1, 2018

Winetta Adams Milligan
Westbrook Junior College
August 9, 2014

Priscilla Moulton Ropke
Westbrook Junior College
January 14, 2013

Ruth Gillette Schrek
Westbrook Junior College
June 6, 2016

1942

June Petersen Cott
Westbrook Junior College
September 15, 2005

Beatrice Smith Harpine
Westbrook Junior College
September 15, 2020

Ruth Lawton Kenney
Westbrook Junior College
December 8, 2007

Belle MacDonald Maxwell
Westbrook Junior College
December 28, 2011

Eleanor Winters Newcombe
Westbrook Junior College
March 9, 2016

Frances Thomas Sammer
Westbrook Junior College
May 17, 2008

Jane Finnell Schreiber
Westbrook Junior College
2009

Rosalynne Burg Tye
Westbrook Junior College
October 1, 2008

Jean Dargo Wood
Westbrook Junior College
May 1, 1997

Gloria Belotti Lucia
Westbrook Junior College
October 28, 2016

1943

Anne Woodman Crowell
Westbrook Junior College
June 26, 2020

Helen Copeland Dahl
Westbrook Junior College
January 6, 2017

Edea Gregory Hurley
Westbrook Junior College
November 18, 2019

Alice B. McGinty
Westbrook Junior College
April 21, 2013

Gladyce Tyldsley Miller
Westbrook Junior College
August 1, 2014

Gerladine Parker
Westbrook Junior College
May 26, 2019

Norma Reeves Rachlin
Westbrook Junior College
November 24, 2020

Beverly Roberston Sawtelle
Westbrook Junior College
June 18, 2009

1944

Priscilla Towne Huntington
Westbrook Junior College
August 8, 2013

Pauline Kimball Langley
Westbrook Junior College
October 9, 2010

Pat Langlin
Westbrook Junior College
August 23, 2021

1945

Mary Frances Braheney
Westbrook Junior College
February 3, 2012

Eunice King Macdonald
Westbrook Junior College
May 5, 2017

June French McLeod
Westbrook Junior College
July 17, 2018

Eleanor Eckerson McIntyre
Westbrook Junior College
January 29, 2019

Joan Smith Potter
Westbrook Junior College
May 17, 2017

LaMora Heiber Tetreault
Westbrook Junior College
March 16, 2016

Ann Wagner Warshaw
Westbrook Junior College
November 24, 2014

Gloria Olsen Watson
Westbrook Junior College
July 18, 2019

Marjorie Ricketts Willett
Westbrook Junior College
February 6, 2018

Florence Munson Williamson
Westbrook Junior College
July 26, 2009

Gloria Carter Winslow
Westbrook Junior College
August 12, 2020

Regina Langdon Annunziata
Westbrook Junior College
December 1, 2017

1946

Marie Gates Jones
Westbrook Junior College
June 16, 2013

Lydia Backer LaFleur
Westbrook Junior College
June 7, 2020

Evelyn Rudy
Westbrook Junior College
February 1, 2011

Elizabeth Young Spector
Westbrook Junior College
February 1, 2019

Marjorie Hopkins Sears
Westbrook Junior College
February 9, 2018

1947

Audrey Munson Kane
Westbrook Junior College
May 25, 2018

Mildred Holbrook O'Day
Westbrook Junior College
August 21, 2020

1948

Martha Green Clark
Westbrook Junior College
May 19, 2018

Barbara Fox Dixon
Westbrook Junior College
December 28, 2020

Virginia Carolyn Hudson Holloway
Westbrook Junior College
November 24, 1989

Ruth Dea Mauer
Westbrook Junior College
October 1, 2019

Shirley Look Dunbar
Westbrook Junior College
August 8, 2016

Patricia Crites Shaw
Westbrook Junior College
October 30, 2018

1950

Nancy Reese Williamson
Westbrook Junior College
January 19, 2020

Joan Barry Doherty
Westbrook Junior College
July 18, 2016

Patricia Proudfoot Lindberg
Westbrook Junior College
January 1, 2017

1951

Barbara Meade Fallon
Westbrook Junior College
January 20, 2021

Fay Valentine Leonard
Westbrook Junior College
September 17, 2020

Helen Stevenson Putnam
Westbrook Junior College
April 27, 2014

DeAnn Mears Savino
Westbrook Junior College
January 31, 2016

Mary Sawicki
Westbrook Junior College
April 12, 2013

Janey Hovey Standen
Westbrook Junior College
December 30, 2020

Vivienne Robinson Garmon
Westbrook Junior College
June 3, 2021

Evelyn O'Hare Newman
Westbrook Junior College
June 12, 2021

1952

Phyllis Hitchcock Pawson
Westbrook Junior College
March 17, 2020

1954

Priscilla Ward Seibert
Westbrook Junior College
June 14, 2014

1956

Faye Chichetto
Westbrook Junior College
January 28, 2018

Euoleen Williamson Dentamaro
Westbrook Junior College
January 9, 2021

Joan Morgan Erne
Westbrook Junior College
October 29, 2012

1957

Marie Jeanne Langlais Rochon
Westbrook Junior College
March 1, 2021

1959

Richard A. Boudreau
St. Francis College
May 3, 2021

1960

Judith Wallace Bray
Westbrook Junior College
June 19, 2020

Nancy Blackwell Faatz
Westbrook Junior College
December 11, 2020

Joyce Hansen Stiles
Westbrook Junior College
November 22, 2020

1962

Francis J. McBreen
St. Francis College
February 18, 2021

1963

Robert C. Dunbar
St. Francis College
November 1, 2020

Raymond D. Sanzone
St. Francis College
February 7, 2019

1964

W. Bryan Mahoney
St. Francis College
June 6, 2021

1966

Robert T. Freeman
St. Francis College
May 11, 2021

Joseph Myers
St. Francis College
May 21, 2021

Roger M. Normand
St. Francis College
April 30, 2020

William J. Watson
St. Francis College
November 2, 2020

1967

Sally J. Paterson
Westbrook Junior College
January 3, 2020

1969

Judith Dame DeVries
Westbrook Junior College
December 7, 2020

Mary Haus Gembarowski
Westbrook Junior College
June 7, 2003

1970

Karen Raymond Chula
Westbrook Junior College
January 1, 2021

Thomas B. Salatiello
St. Francis College
May 4, 2021

Frederick R. Scheithe
St. Francis College
April 12, 2020

Jeffery M. Stead
St. Francis College
February 11, 2021

1971

Laurie Heard Berg
Westbrook Junior College
March 27, 2020

James St. Germaine
St. Francis College
February 18, 2021

Terrance J. Ullrich
St. Francis College
December 12, 2015

1972

George S. Sponder
St. Francis College
October 6, 2020

John D. Roberts
St. Francis College
June 7, 2021

Carol E. Lambert
St. Francis College
December 31, 2020

1974

Sandra Leasak Lee
St. Francis College
June 24, 2021

1976

Patricia A. Tewksbury
Westbrook College
January 10, 2017

1977

Susan A. Leveille
Westbrook College
September 21, 2018

1978

Edward L. McAlinden
Westbrook College
June 24, 2021

1979

Leslie Targgart Dwyer
Westbrook College
February 5, 2021

1981

Peter D. Stead
Westbrook College
May 30, 2019

Linda McLellan Welch
Westbrook College
March 25, 2014

Kathy Schott Megna
Westbrook College
June 21, 2021

Barry J. Conant
UNE
January 28, 2021

1997

Eric Werntgen
Westbrook College
January 28, 2021

1998

Wendy L. Atwood
UNE
February 18, 2021

1998

James Roberge
UNE
July 17, 2019

2014

Eric M. Stevenson
UNE
August 21, 2020

2019

Tia E. Pittounicos
UNE
February 2, 2021

FRIENDS

Richard N. Berry
January 31, 2018

Arthur S. Billings, D.O.
January 17, 2021

Robert L. Card, D.D.S.
March 1, 2021

Elisabeth B. Conant, Ph.D.
August 23, 2020

John D. Downing
March 22, 2021

David C. Driskell
December 4, 2020

Thelma W. Dunning
October 18, 2019

James S. Jealous, D.O.
February 16, 2021

Bernard Lown, M.D.
February 16, 2021

Gloria Miller
January 4, 2021

Beverly Paigen, Ph.D.
June 26, 2020

Maile J. Roper, D.O.
January 19, 2021

Paulette St. Ours
April 26, 2021

Philip P. Thompson, Jr.
June 19, 2019

Norman E. Brackett
October 15, 2020

Stephen M Rose
March 2, 2021

Arthur J. VanDerburgh, D.O.
July 5, 2021



REMEMBERING

by Amy Haile

JAMES A. BEAUDRY

The University of New England community was deeply saddened to learn that James A. Beaudry, longtime coach and director of Athletics at UNE and its precursor St. Francis College, passed away on Dec. 3, 2020, surrounded by his family.

Mr. Beaudry, Coach Beaudry, or Coach, as he was called by students whom he taught or coached in the '60s and '70s or who high-fived him in the Alford Forum, enjoyed a 57-year relationship with the students, faculty, professional staff, and administrators of St. Francis College and the University of New England. Beaudry served as director of Athletics at the two schools for a cumulative span of 21 years, coaching a total of five different sports. He remained a familiar face on UNE's Biddeford Campus well into his 90s, exercising regularly at the Campus Center and mingling with students, faculty, professional staff, alumni, and administrators.

He was named an honorary alumnus in 2001, and, in 2005, was chosen to be the charter inductee into UNE's newly formed Athletics Hall of Fame. In 2011, the University renamed its Campus Center gymnasium, the "James A. Beaudry Gymnasium" at a ceremony attended by Beaudry and his family as well as former players and coaches. Additionally, the men's basketball team hosts a prestigious tournament each fall named the Jim Beaudry Classic, and the Beaudry name graces an endowed scholarship funded by St. Francis and UNE alumni.

PAULETTE A. ST. OURS

It was with heavy hearts that University of New England community members heard the news of the passing of Paulette A. St. Ours on April 26, 2021.

Professor St. Ours was a highly respected and valued faculty member and administrator who served St. Francis College, the University of New England, and in particular, our College of Arts and Sciences, for over forty years.

Paulette's service during this period as a mathematics professor (one of the two first women faculty members at St. Francis), assistant dean, interim dean, associate dean, and member and chair of countless University-wide and college committees, left an indelible legacy on the college and the entire University. She served in leadership roles during difficult times for our fledgling University as well as during later years of success. Her work throughout was steady, calm, and reassuring. In many ways, Paulette exemplified the core spirit of what continues to make UNE such a special place to work and study.





SWEET TOOTH

by Amber Hoffmeyer

Originally from Lincoln, Nebraska, Amber Hoffmeyer was an executive pastry chef (trained at the Great Plains Culinary Institute) before moving to Portland, Maine, with her husband and two miniature dachshunds to pursue her D.M.D. at UNE. Currently, her interests lie in oral surgery, though her passions are ever-evolving. Amber hopes someday to work in the public health sector treating underserved populations, as she also has experience as a former family shelter caseworker.

In addition to pursuing her D.M.D., Amber is the College of Dental Medicine's fourth-year (D4) class president, student council president for the College of Dental Medicine, first delegate for the Academy of General Dentistry club, and a member of the UNE Admissions Committee; formerly, she was treasurer of UNE's Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA), the Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery secretary, and community engagement and volunteering committee chair for the Special Care Dental Association.

And somehow, in addition to all the above, Amber still finds time to make pastries and baked goods as a hobby. She loves Maine and finds that Portland is a special place for its friendly community and easy access to both the beach and mountains.

I came to UNE from a career that was seemingly not health care-related. I went to culinary school, and I was a pastry chef for several years. It seems like a contradiction to go from giving cavities to fixing cavities. I made the switch because the lifestyle of a chef, although really glamorized, is not very conducive to work-life balance. It's nights, weekends, holidays. Everyone else in my family was in health care, so I was like the black sheep that was doing something completely different. When I decided to go back to school and started looking at careers in health care, dentistry was the one that stood out because it enables me to see patients and do hands-on work but also have a lifestyle where, if I want a family someday, I can do that.

When I start to explain my career change to people, they're like, "I don't get it," but there are actually a lot of similarities between being a pastry chef and what I'm doing now – the manual dexterity, the hand skills, multitasking in high-pressure and high-stress environments, working on a team and being able to communicate really well, thinking on the fly, and being creative. There are different materials that I work with now, but the same way that I would shape a thousand fondant flowers for a wedding cake, I can shape the perfect cusp of a tooth for a composite restoration. There's a lot more crossover than you would think. It's a little bit intuitive for me.

KARISSA, D.O. '22

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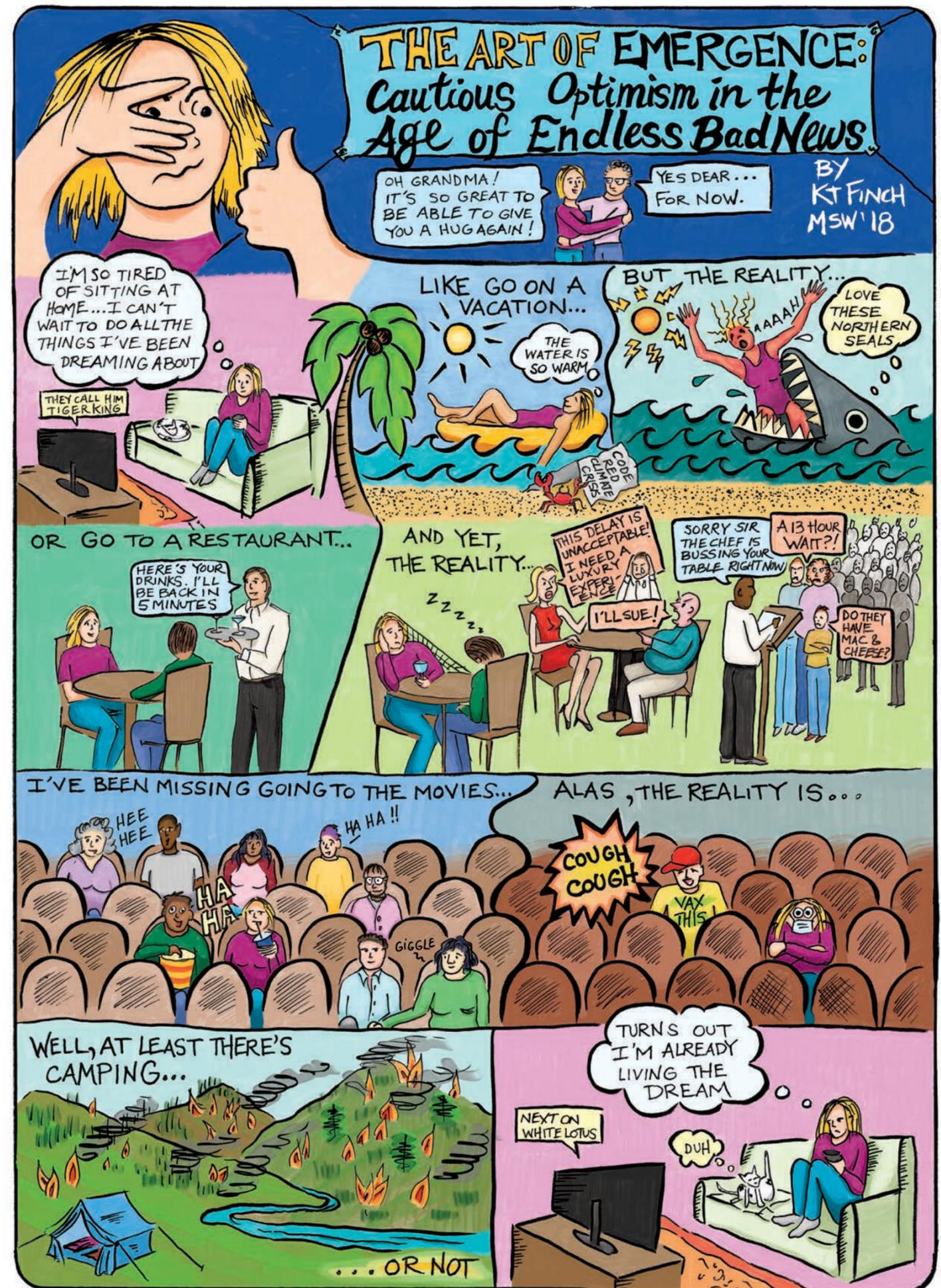
what's your part?

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NEW ENGLAND

As a volunteer in Portland, Maine's needle exchange program (part of the India Street Community Free Clinic), and as a tireless advocate for diversity and equity, future OB/Gyn Karissa works to ensure that all people receive compassionate, quality health care. With campuses in Maine and Morocco, we provide the people, resources, and opportunities you need to make a difference — in the health professions, the sciences, business, and beyond.

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Together, let's find out. www.une.edu



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