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 hesitancy 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 Alfond 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
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 a food 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 Carie Byrum, Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Marine and Environmental Programs. “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.”

With $150,000 in funding from a Maine Sea Grant, Byrum, 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

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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." This 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 N-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 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.

“Being 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.”

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)
Libby Breznyski (Medical Biology, ’22)
Gabriel Turbuck (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)
Augusto Mendoza (Business, ’21)

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)
Riley Shea (D.P.T., ’22)
Libby Breznyski (Medical Biology, ’22)

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.

Riley Shea’s D.P.T. student interface

Patrick Schena in the P.D. Merrill Makerspace

Morgan Dube
UNE A LEADING MEMBER OF MAINE DELEGATION AT ARCTIC CIRCLE ASSEMBLY

The University of New England recently sent a delegation to the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavík, 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 Houesknecht, 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 Reykjavík.

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

KARISSA, D.O.’22

Fixing Health Care Disparities

As a volunteer in Portland, Maine’s needle exchange program (part of the India Street Community Free Clinic), and as an unrelenting 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

This world needs all of us. what’s your part?
**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.”

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**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 don’t earn income, often encounter barriers to healthcare. 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.”
The Hannaford Pharmacy Diversity Scholarship will support diversity in pharmacy workforce

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 (EBRDS) — 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 alumn 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 reason 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 bring more foundationally sound in that realm.”
When I heard that we had a program in Seville, I knew it was not only by Alan Bennett

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

"It was a flurry of events that Anouar Majid, Ph.D., vice president for

In early 2020, when the coronavirus had gone from just a worry to

Everyone's worst fears realized, University of New England officials

But things don't always go according to plan.

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

For these reasons and more, Williams was ecstatic about her plans to

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 ardently 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 Dusseau (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."

Dusseau 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.

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, now 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, Dusseau 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
“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.

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.”
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 healthcare 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 Generation 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 everyone 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
DREAM BIG!

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 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 education building will strengthen UNE’s signature, nationally recognized programs in Interprofessional Education, known as IPE.

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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.

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 felt
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 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
and 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
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and opportunity.” Powell pauses briefly before finishing his thought.
“You can’t get much better than that.”

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 is a lot more of it 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 these 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. 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.
DREAM BIG! DREAM BIG! DREAM BIG! DREAM BIG! DREAM BIG! DREAM BIG!

An Oral History of the Coming Transformation of UNE's Portland Campus

BY PHILIP SHEELLEY
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 (IIPEP), 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 UNPRECEDEDENT 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.”

DREAM BIG!
JANE: What started to change my mind was, developmentally, it’s very difficult for medical students who, on Tuesday morning, are going into a hospital 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 school. That really moved me, and I started to see the possibilities.

JAMES: I spent time 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!’

### 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 Alfond Foundation’s priorities and their mission.

JAMES: Greg Powell, the head of the Harold Alfond Foundation, has been a phenomenal partner. I met 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 of Institutional Advancement] Bill Chance and James. After that, Greg and Travis [Cummings] from the Alfond 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 be the best case. The grant writer’s job is to collate and edit and fine-tune material from many different sources. The response document was really the most collaborative moment in our work together because it involved Nicole Trufant, Bill Chance, [Associate Provost for Academic Affairs] Mike Sheldon, Karen Pardue, Shelley Cohen Konrad, Jane Carriero, 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 Alfond 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 Alfond, 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 get 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 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 they move out, finish that building so we can become the new facilities management building for UNE. So, we’re not throwing away money. That was our best alternative.

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 Alfond 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 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.

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.

JANE: 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 interprofessionality — committed to a pedagogy that is cross-professional, cross-disciplinary, experiential, and interactive.

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.

ELLEN: 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.

KAREN: One thing that’s really been 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.

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

NICOLE: I can 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 make payroll. You never forget that feeling, ever. And I swear, 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.

NIKOLE: 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 make payroll. You never forget that feeling, ever. And I swear, 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.

SHELLEY: My hope is that, several years after COM comes here, IPE is just what they do. I can’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 that we want to do and that’s the biggest thing, that’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!”
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 “bênh 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 (see pin). 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, intersectional 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? The workshops, says Sadlier, are very “future-focused.”

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., (Doctor of Education, ’23), 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 inequalities, 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.

The result was not just the surge in enrollment numbers but a substantial increase in diversity. The increased diversity, says Sadlier, “just opened up the conversations deliciously.”

The workshops, says Sadlier, are very “future-focused.”

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.

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 on teaching 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 Papalin, M.Ed., (Doctor of Education, ’23).”

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— Heather Sadlier
“It’s definitely not about guilting students, white students, any students. It’s focused on ‘Okay, now I’m beginning to understand this. Now I understand how I can be part of the solution’,” says Sadlier. “We’re focusing on the idea of developing empathy and understanding and allowing students to ask questions and seek out the information they need to understand different perspectives. It’s about building a foundation of knowledge and understanding.”

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 find things in their courses, as well as University-wide 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 a 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. Papalo, 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.

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 cannot 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.”
CGPS ALUMNUS WINS MILLION-DOLLAR FEDERAL GRANT TO BRING HIS SCHOOL SAFETY DREAM TO LIFE

by Allison Willard and Monique Gaudet

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. “I found that connecting with patients by having compassion and supporting their goals and choices could yield extremely positive results,” she shares.

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.”

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 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’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 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.”

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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 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).

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 nonprofit 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.

“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

#UnityDay Reach Out

Wilhoit (right) with Charlie Kennedy, the chair of the School Board of Manatee County.
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 medicine supporting elite athletes, including things that can get you into championships.

According to Fred Brennan, D.O. (DOCTORATE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE), "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 physical therapy and artistic talent to provide illustrations for her new book, "Spine Study" to UNE’s student-run journal of narrative medicine, Akesis. She was determined to study the sciences, despite not knowing where her studies would take her professionally. When the Mariners began playing in 2018, the class, now including Dunbar, needed to attend a Mariners game this season or hear that there is some Nor’easter Nation behind it!

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." Instead of that, she is a physical therapist and practicing his skills as an artist. "My dad always said, ‘mind, body, soul; which I really believe,’ she 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 Durbar ’20, Sam Murray ’20, Shannon Upton ’21, and Brandon Narciso ’21 maintain a high level of professionalism while having fun and engaging with customers. "I’ve always liked drawing anatomy, such as skeletons and the muscles," says Mangiafico. "When Alexes 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., Sc.D.-PT., 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,’ she 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.’"
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.

DEBORAH MORTON SOCIETY INDUCTION 2021

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Linda Cross Godfrey provided her remarks by video.
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!

Hello from beautiful Monterey!

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!

A delightfully odd fish, the Mola Mola!

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!

Monterey Bay

The Blackfin

Wild orca pod
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. Within 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.

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 stay dry and warm. When they aren’t eating or sleeping, an otter is grooming its precious fur coat.

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 a 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.

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).

For additional content and bonus features, be sure to visit us online: une.edu/magazine.
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, 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, and 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 500 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 intranadal scrimmages in front of a crowd of stuffed animals. Tickets were sold to the public to sponsor an animal, and the event “sold out” taking 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 bear flashed 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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“NEW-LOOK UNE MASCOT MAKES ITS DEBUT”

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
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 concept of not having a major.

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 Immerison. During the Immerison 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/whom 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 programs 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 have 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 Grips [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 Catherine 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.
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 Reunions.

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 Hayder ’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 Alfond Forum was dedicated as Coach Beaudry’s Court by Athletic Director Heather Davis and President James Herbert.
**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 gradkids include an Amazon computer engineer, a girl in 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 college choices, and lastly a fourth-grader and Kindergarten twins in the northwest. I enjoy a pretty quiet life in Easter, NH where there are enough activities and friends to keep me busy.

Randi Shaffer writes: Just had a call from Ann Corbin, 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 kids (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-Hargis every couple of weeks. I plan to visit her in September. I tried calling Beth Frasier but she wasn’t home—I’ll try again. In January, I returned to swimming for a week. The Westbrook pool is only 5 miles from home and this year it is 22 years since I retired. I am blessed with two terrific sons-in-law. I often think of the Westbrook years and so many great classmates there. Best wishes to all.

**1962**

Madeline Frountzi Coppington 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 “holidays”! I have been able to resume my volunteer work in Vermont, which is a great blessing to me to do for 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 Tannell Spinneyger 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 Street 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 go down. Those in the class of 1962, before and after would remember Richard Simmons who taught foreign language at Westbrook. Sadly he passed away in Montana before March 22, 2018 and is buried in Brooklawn Cemetery. His brother Joe also passed away near the same time. Richard was 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.

**1963**

Dan Koshansky writes: Sadly, the past two years have been difficult for my wife, Arne, with an unexpected hip replacement and ongoing therapy at the Spaulding Rehab Hospital. Arne’s care and recovery resulted in time taken off from the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement (HILIR). I had been a member for 20 years, leading (in its 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, Arne and I have started to discuss plans for our 60th Wedding Anniversary next June! Nothing is confirmed at the moment but plans are better than simply sitting around thinking about it.

Peter Malicki 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 to write an essay 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 818, North Carolina Poets on 9/11 & Its Aftermath, an anthology edited by Joseph Babbitt and David Portorti, which will be published in September by Pyx 5. The poem is called “Letter to Bill Hayven” and is from my most recent volume of poetry: Mandantory Evacuation (BOA Editions, 2014).
1964
Helen Makovey writes on behalf of her husband, Bryan Makovey 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 this 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 the 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.

1973
Dennis Giosbetti 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 am very thankful for the education I received at St. Francis College. 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 rewarding career. We are still anticipating a move to the Carolinas.

Tori Tombari Blouin writes: I retired in June 2021, from a Business Supervisor position with the State of New Hampshire. I am enjoying my first “retired” summer at our home on Lake Winnipesaukee. Retirement was the best gift ever! I am the happiest ME ever! It is allowing me priceless time with family and friends. I enjoy hiking, gardening, reading, cooking, entertaining, kayaking, quilting, photography and travel. I have a long list of new hobbies I plan to try and many places I want to visit now that there is no rush. My husband, children and grandchild fill my life with much love and precious memories. My best to all!

1982

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 ISHRED 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!
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 obstetrical Family practice, “Preventive Medicine” in Burlington VT. However, a newborn 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 Beauregard, PA, a physician assistant at Maine Medical Center in Portland received the Hospital Medicine Excellence Award given out by Maine Health. She was recognized for his excellent efforts during the pandemic.

2006

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

2007

James Jowdy, D.O., writes: Michelle Duvalley 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 Medics, 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 eldest is now 6 and attends SJCS and my youngest will be 1 in September.

2009

Sarah Tolferd Selby, D.O., writes: After many moves due to my husband Luke’s 10 years of surgery training (NY to CO to OR), 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.

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.D., 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 interarm 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 Washington. I married my wife, Megan, in 2016, and we now have three little boys.

2012

Ross Isleke, 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 Stephen’s Memorial Hospital in Norwalk, Maine and was recognized for his excellent efforts during the pandemic.

2013

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

Kristyl 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, Jaxson! We live in Sarco 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 NonCan SEI, 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 am 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 MIPH 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! Hoping things are going well for the program.

Kristina Carlson, D.O., ’15 is in her first year of residency in internal medicine.

2017
Shikia 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 Northeastern 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 Instruction/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.

2018
Suzanne Rees, 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.

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 infection disease specialist and became a naturalized US citizen in 2013.

Kristina Carlson
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.

Aiden 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 hiking, biking, camping, and cross-country skiing. It was an adventure 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 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 Cruzk II, E.D.D., writes: My intention after graduation was to climb the ranks of the public school education system as an administrator in order to empower underserved and under-privileged 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 seeking out 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.

Sharon Gomez

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.

Kate Carmody

Elizabeth Connolly, Pharm.D.
IN MEMORIAM

December 28, 2011
Belle MacDonald Maxwell
September 15, 2020
Westbrook Junior College
January 14, 2013
Westbrook Junior College
August 9, 2014
Winetta Adams Milligan
Westbrook Junior College
Phyllis Nasman Little
Westbrook Junior College
April 29, 2020
Westbrook Junior College
Catherine R. Greer
Westbrook Junior College
Barbara Sughrue Dooley
August 31, 1994
June 30, 2021
Westbrook Junior College
July 18, 2018
March 7, 2010
June 15, 2011
Westbrook Junior College
Meredith Fletcher Adams
1942
1924
IN MEMORIAM
UNE MAGAZINE
FALL 2020

1943
June 12, 2021
Evelyn O’Hare Newman
Westbrook Junior College

Janey Hovey Standen
January 31, 2016
Westbrook Junior College

May 26, 2018
Wildor Hillebrook O’Day
Westbrook Junior College
August 21, 2020

Audrey Monroe Kane
Westbrook Junior College
February 3, 2012

Mary Frances Braheney
Westbrook Junior College
March 9, 2016

Eunice King MacDonald
Westbrook Junior College
May 7, 2017

Martha Green Clark
Westbrook Junior College
May 26, 2019

Florence Munson Williamson
Westbrook Junior College
May 17, 1977

Sally J. Paterson
Westbrook Junior College
January 3, 2000

Winna Lawless Rosen
Westbrook Junior College
March 1, 2017

Gloria Olsen Watson
Westbrook Junior College
July 23, 2012

Patricia Proudfoot Lindberg
Westbrook Junior College

December 1, 2017

June 26, 2020

Westbrook Junior College

May 25, 2019

Patricia Crites Shaw
Westbrook Junior College
October 29, 2012

Regina Langlois-Amaizati
Westbrook Junior College
December 17, 2007

June 7, 2020

Westbrook Junior College

March 7, 2010

June 15, 2011

Westbrook Junior College
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 Alfond 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.
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 glorified, 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

Fixing Health Care Disparities

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

This world needs all of us.

what’s your part?

THE ART OF EMERGENCE:
Cautious Optimism in the Age of Endless Bad News

by KT Finch MSW '18

Everyone says... I CAN'T WAIT TO DO ALL THE THINGS I'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT!

LIKE GO ON A VACATION...

THE WATER IS SO WARM...

OR GO TO A RESTAURANT...

AND YET, THE REALITY...

I’VE BEEN MISSING GOING TO THE MOVIES...

Alas, the reality is...

WELL, AT LEAST THERE'S CAMPING...

...or not

NEXT ON WRITING...