TEAMING UP TO IMPROVE LIVES

WESTBROOK COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
WITH THE FAST-APPROACHING WINTER HOLIDAYS, I have found myself pausing in recent weeks to reflect upon the many uniquely dedicated men and women who have helped UNE expand and evolve in such important ways over the past few years.

I recognize how fortunate I am to work with and for so many talented, caring individuals. Through our students, who perform thousands of hours of volunteer work each year at the local, national and global level; our faculty, who are leaders in their fields; and our alumni, who maintain lifelong relationships that began at UNE, we continue to extend UNE’s reach, tackling some of the most crucial challenges of our time. Along the way, we create new relationships that span oceans and cross continents.

In this issue of UNE Magazine, you will learn more about the role in which students and faculty in our Westbrook College of Health Professions are putting their classroom knowledge to work to improve people’s lives. I find it inspiring that the learning that begins on our campuses in southern Maine enables students to help people in places as far away as Ghana. You will also learn about a new aquaponics initiative in our College of Arts and Sciences that is allowing students to grow vegetables and edible fish at the UNE Marine Science Center; about a new partnership our College of Dental Medicine has forged with KeyBank to address Maine’s dental provider shortage; and about a long list of institutional awards UNE has recently amassed.

I hope you enjoy learning about these and other developments at UNE, and I offer my heartfelt thanks to you — our alumni, parents, and friends — for the role you play in making our University’s life complete.

BEST WISHES FOR A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON.

DANIELLE N. RIPICH, PH.D. | PRESIDENT

Clockwise starting from bottom left: Students work with seniors at the Channels Health Fair; Nick Vespa, Marine Sciences ’17, works as an aquaponics intern at Fluid Farms; UNE student poses with a new friend in Ghana.
We hope you enjoy our WCHIP issue.
For more information about UNE, please visit www.une.edu

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THE
Healing Powers of Teamwork

BY JEN PORTO
THE HEALING POWERS OF TEAMWORK

IF THERE IS ONE THING DEAN ELIZABETH FRANCIS CONNOLLY WANTS PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT THE WESTBROOK COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS (WCHP), IT’S THAT ‘WE'RE WORKING TO BETTER PEOPLE’S LIVES.’

With 11 distinct programs — including Physical Therapy, Social Work, Dental Hygiene, and Applied Exercise Science — WCHP is training the next generation of health care professionals to improve patient care from all angles. But educating these budding health experts isn’t just a matter of providing them with classroom lectures and run-of-the-mill internships; by providing meaningful hands-on learning experiences, WCHP positions its graduates to thrive in a competitive job market.

WCHP's student body is comprised of self-starters who take the initiative to volunteer within their communities and seek out new learning and practicing environments. The students seize every opportunity to work interprofessionally, integrating themselves into a variety of other disciplines as they learn from and teach their peers.

LEARNING TO WORK AS A TEAM

To prepare themselves for their work within the community, students are making strides through UNE’s Interprofessional Simulation and Innovation Center. The Center includes three simulation labs with fully equipped control rooms, a task training lab, and a debriefing classroom. The clinical simulation labs use mannequins placed in realistic settings, such as exam or operating rooms, giving students and visiting clinicians the opportunity to advance their skills while immersing themselves in realistic patient-care scenarios.

This year marked the successful completion of an interprofessional team immersion (IPTI) pilot project within the center that focuses on helping health professions students improve communication and teamwork. The goal of the project is to combat the more than 200,000 deaths that occur annually in the United States, largely as the result of poor communication and coordination between health professionals and health care workers. IPTI is a gateway for students to learn with, from and about each other’s unique expertise, which will improve their service to patients, clients and their communities.

During the program, eight student teams composed of undergraduates and graduates from WCHP programs — including Physical Therapy, Social Work, Dental Hygiene, and Applied Exercise Science — worked on interprofessional teams.

We're working to better people's lives. 🗣 — Elizabeth Francis Connolly

WCHP PROGRAMS

1. Applied Exercise Science
2. Athletic Training
3. Dental Hygiene
4. Health, Wellness and Occupational Studies
5. Nursing
6. Social Work
7. Nurse Anesthesia
8. Occupational Therapy
9. Physician Assistant
10. Public Health
11. Physical Therapy
UNE Magazine, College of Pharmacy, College of Dental Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine work on a faculty-developed patient case based on common clinical scenarios. Students participate in team-building exercises, critical case analysis and didactic sessions, collaborating with each other and determining courses of action. At the end of the semester, standardized patients are interviewed by student teams in three sessions that include a briefing, huddle and debrief. These interviews mimic real-world encounters that students will likely experience in clinical workplace settings after graduation and in their service learning endeavors.

By the end of term, UNE students gain more than just the ability to collaborate with other health professionals. They also learn that they can help patients by being actively invested and showing compassion — skills not always covered in a traditional curriculum. “The patient actors told us that even though sometimes there were no solutions for their ‘problems,’ they still felt truly cared for because the students were so empathetic,” reflected Shelley Cohen Konrad, Ph.D., LCSW, FNAP, professor and interim director of the School of Social Work and director of the Interprofessional Education Collaborative. “Even though we can’t always fix the problem, that doesn’t mean we’re not helping our patients. We focus on solutions, but care involves more than that.”

While this initiative offers a unique learning opportunity for students, it has also led to surprising realizations from faculty members, all of whom work as clinical professionals. By observing students, instructors have realized that while they are comfortable talking about their own skills specific to their professions, they don’t spend as much time focusing on where interprofessional knowledge overlaps and the importance of what that means when caring for patients. “When a physician prescribes medication, they discuss it with the patient. However, when that patient is discharged, he or she also speaks with a nurse, a pharmacist and possibly even a social worker. So, he or she is collecting information from four different professions,” Cohen Konrad explained. “Our students are comfortable with letting each other talk through these scenarios because they learn what is different about each discipline, but also what’s the same.”

Moving forward, IPTI and activities in the Simulation Center will provide University-wide opportunities for students and faculty.

BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

When students aren’t working in the Simulation Center, they’re out making a difference in the community. The volunteer work in which UNE students engage is taking place on a local, national and even global level as they embark on service learning projects made possible through UNE’s rapidly growing network of community partnerships. UNE’s Service Learning program was created in 2010 with the goal of providing every student with a community engagement opportunity prior to graduation. While some students do participate for credit as part of a course, the majority of students are volunteering purely for the experience. “Students come to me every year with new ideas and interests,” says Trisha Mason, M.A., coordinator of WCHP Service Learning. “Our list of partnerships continually grows as we balance the skills and passions of our students with the needs of the community.”

The list of outreach sites is as long as it is diverse. UNE has formed literally hundreds of partnerships with organizations such as the Alzheimer’s Association, Greater Portland Immigrant and Refugee Health Collaborative, STRIVE and even area day care centers.

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— Cohen Konrad

Clockwise starting from bottom left: Child gets measured for a helmet at the Biddeford Blast for Kids event; WCHP students treat a patient at the Community Health Fair; Students discuss clinical solutions for a patient case in the Interprofessional Simulation and Innovation Center.
“We try to expose students to a communities, populations and environments they might not be familiar with,” Mason remarked. “By gaining experience with people they might not see through their clinical rotations, students are being treated to be more culturally aware practitioners.”

UNE provides endless ways to become involved, and I believe they are some of the most rewarding and educational opportunities available.” — Erika Derks

Students from every program within WCHP are immersing themselves in a variety of different ways, whether they’re providing oral health screenings at health fairs, offering support for homeless individuals through the Milestone Foundation, or working with youth at the Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital. UNE’s collaborative program with the Cumberland County Jail, which provided 12 weeks of wellness workshops for inmates, even caught the interest of local news outlets earlier this year. Wherever there is a need within the community, there is a student with the passion to address it.

“UNE provides endless ways to become involved, and I believe they are some of the most rewarding and educational opportunities available.” — Erika Derks, Physical Therapy ‘16. “I’ve had the chance to work with individuals who are underserved in the Portland community, and it has made me a better, well-rounded clinician. It has taught me initiative, compassion, respect and gratitude — not only for the people whom we serve but also for those working alongside of us. Through these opportunities, I have found a passion for helping those in need.”

According to Mason, service learning is a way to help instill in students a commitment to life-long service. “We want them to continue making a positive impact on their communities — not just in their jobs but in their personal lives as well,” she expanded.

What is most notable about UNE students is their self-motivated nature. Many students encourage not only their peers to become involved in service learning opportunities but faculty members as well. The mutually beneficial impact that these efforts have for students, faculty and local communities has helped the program blossom from year to year.

“I was first exposed to the lack of dental care received by the inmates at the Cumberland County Jail while watching UNE’s ‘Health Behind Bars’ video,” shared Chelsea Roccaro, Dental Hygiene ‘16. “I was upset because I saw the way the men at the jail believed no one cared enough for them, and I was motivated because I knew I would make it my mission to change that. Everyone deserves to have access to dental care, and that includes the inmates at the jail.”

IMPACT

By communicating with peers in the Simulation Center, participating in team-building exercises and developing a commitment to service, WCHP students and graduates have become agents for change, offering new perspectives on how to improve patient care.

“Students ask clinicians really amazing questions,” noted Kristen Partho, Ph.D., M.S., RN, CN, ANFE, associate dean for Academic Affairs and associate professor of Nursing. “It makes practitioners stop and think about why they do things a certain way. As health care is constantly changing, faculty members view WCHP as a learning community that encourages students to challenge existing structures and introduce innovative approaches.

During the 2014–2015 academic year, WCHP students provided 380,000 clinical training hours to health care organizations, and they donated another 3,700 hours through community-based service learning. While that figure presents time in numerical terms, it’s the quality of those hours and the compassion they embody that have the most staggering impact. Not only are students easing the workload for clinicians, they are also...
improving the value of patient care by spending considerable time with each individual they see. On rotations at Maine General Health, students are participating in home visits, observing firsthand the context of their patients’ lives. These one-time visits eliminate the need for multiple appointments with multiple doctors, helping to avoid medical errors. The visits not only benefit patients, who appreciate the one-on-one time, but they are changing the business of family medicine as a result.

“We want students to experience this because it changes them. We want them to not just get it in their minds but feel it in their souls because that’s lasting learning,” Cohen Konrad expressed. “It isn’t just about dosages, it isn’t just about technicalities. Students experience service learning in a way that’s compassionate and hands-on, and that will hopefully change their practice for the better in the future.”

“Students don’t have the same requirement, so they are able to sit with people, listen to their stories and support them. It’s good for students to learn to be empathetic, but at the same time, patients need to feel heard.”

And they are being heard — on a global scale, thanks to UNE’s Ghana Cross Cultural Health Immersion. Each year, students and faculty travel to Ghana for two weeks, providing health education and clinical services to a population with severely restricted access to health services. For many Ghanaians, this initiative is the only opportunity they have all year to receive necessary medical treatments. The students and faculty who participate in the immersion have been able to build relationships with these community members, and have had their eyes opened to how health care is practiced in underserved areas.

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— Chelsea Roccaro

Driven by an arsenal of passionate movers and shakers, it’s clear that WCHP is just getting started. With a focus on patient-centric approaches, students and faculty will continue working to create positive change within the community and around the world. And so far, Cohen Konrad emphasized, “It’s been magical.”

Above: UNE students spend quality time with Ghanaian children.

Dr. Sean Pardue, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at Maine General Health, agreed. “It is common for clinicians working in ambulatory care to have performance expectations, and that narrows the amount of time they can devote to each patient,” explained Pardue. “Students don’t have the same requirement, so they are able to do so with people, listen to their stories and support them. It’s good for students to learn to be empathetic, but at the same time, patients need to feel heard.”

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The University of New England has been designated and recognized as a groundbreaker in new models of higher education by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. UNE was selected to join the Gates-funded Breakthrough Models Incubator a year ago to collaborate with nationally-recognized business and education leaders to develop competency-based programming for adults seeking to complete a bachelor’s degree.

In a meeting to discuss competency-based education as a way to enhance the workforce, Bangor Savings Bank advanced a simple, yet powerful question: would the University of New England help develop a new style of education program for Bangor Savings Bank’s emerging leaders? UNE embraced the opportunity to collaborate with one of Maine’s most respected private businesses to prepare our current and future workforce for the demands of a global 21st century economy.

Only six months later, what started out as a seemingly simple request has launched, not only a training program that will impact Bangor Savings Bank employees, workers and young people across the state, but also an innovative partnership that serves as a map for future workforce development initiatives in Maine.

UNE and Bangor Savings Bank have charted a new course, by which educational institutions and private business can collaboratively accelerate the development of skilled business leaders who will positively impact Maine’s economic development for years to come.

The two-year Essential Workplace Competencies Development Program will impact employees new to Bangor Savings Bank, as well as emerging leaders already in its ranks and across the state, by leveraging technology and new models education employed by UNE. As a key component of the program, Bangor Savings Bank defined the workplace competencies that its emerging leaders need in order to effectively serve its customers. UNE’s instructional designers are creating an online curriculum that is engaging and resource-rich. This approach ensures that learners can successfully acquire and demonstrate workplace skills, such as change-response, conflict management and strategic leadership. These financial professionals poised to embark on an exciting future will learn how to lead and be role models for their colleagues.

Through collaborating on this initial program, UNE and Bangor Savings Bank have demonstrated that partnerships like this one are a viable and vital way for our state to develop a workforce that can support and drive economic development in Maine.

UNE students and employees around the state. In the near future, private businesses can also take advantage of this innovative curriculum and delivery system to help their current and onboarding employees develop and sharpen their skills. Our combined investment in this single and unique program is an investment in the development of Maine’s workforce, which can only have a positive impact across companies, industries and communities.

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To Laura Groomes, a third-year student in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, growing time freely to others comes naturally. Whether reading BINGO numbers at a local assisted living facility, tutoring southern Maine high school students in preparation for a Brain Bee neuroscience competition, or visiting area elementary schools to advocate for brain safety, Groomes sees these activities as just part of her weekly routine.

“The truth is, I don’t feel like I’ve done much,” the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania native says. “The truth is, I don’t feel like I’ve done that much.”

Groomes actively sought out opportunities to brighten the lives of those around her, and thinking that her extra efforts would be appreciated, she dedicated herself nearly exclusively to their rigorous medical coursework and studying for their board exams, devoting much to their weekly routine.

“Most people go to medical school...and all you do is study all the time. I asked Dr. [Ed] Bilsky how I could get more involved, and he connected me with the neuroscience outreach program.”

Through the outreach program, Groomes handed out helmets to area youth at a brain safety event at UNE’s Harold Alfond Forum, visited elementary schools to read a book about a turtle named Franklin who proudly wears a helmet despite peer pressure to discard it, tutored Brain Bee participants and served as a Brain Bee judge.

Groomes’ breakthrough comes in 2012. That summer, she spent nearly three weeks bedridden at Johns Hopkins Hospital, while a neurologist studied her brain and devised a plan to fix it. Electrodes inserted into her brain isolated the area from which her seizures were originating, and then that bit of brain tissue was removed. She hasn’t had a seizure since.

Epilepsy Foundation. The Goulet Foundation works to promote brain safety and prevent brain injury in honor of Michael T. Goulet, a Saco teen who passed away from a Grand Mal seizure in 2010, seven years after suffering a traumatic brain injury in a snowmobile accident.

For Groomes, the fit was perfect.

While all of Groomes’ volunteer work is meaningful to her, her efforts through the Neuroscience program resonate the most personally. At an event in Biddeford last fall, she shared the story of her own struggles with epilepsy. She explained how she was diagnosed with epilepsy at age 12, endured the excitation of her condition as an undergraduate at Goucher College, tried twelve different drug combinations and underwent brain surgery.

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Groomes knows that she is one of the lucky ones. For others facing epilepsy or the effects of traumatic brain injury, solutions never come — that’s one of the reasons she is considering neurology as a specialty.

“One of the biggest problems with epilepsy and other neurological conditions is that there aren’t a lot of treatment options,” she explains. “The current first-line medications for epilepsy were developed before the 1970s, and they come with many side effects and others don’t even stop seizures. When it comes to the brain, there’s still so much that needs to be figured out.”

Groomes could also envision herself playing a meaningful role in patients’ lives as a physical or rehabilitation physician. In this specialty, she would help patients improve their quality of life after experiencing a stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury or other debilitating disease. While she isn’t sure yet where she will eventually land in the field, Groomes expects that the many rotations she will complete over the next two years will help her make up her mind. Wherever she ends up, it seems certain that Laura Groomes will be actively looking for opportunities to brighten the lives of those around her, and thinking that her extra efforts are not particularly noteworthy.
A glimpse into the identity of the aging population through art — that’s what an interdisciplinary group of students at the University of New England, along with residents of the Park Danforth senior living community, set out to reveal through a research project titled, “Visual Voices: An Arts-Based Assessment of the Perceived Identity of Aging Maine Residents.”

Their project used art to explore social and developmental topics such as identity and aging. Six female residents from Park Danforth participated in group discussions and art activities, exploring how they perceive themselves and how they feel perceived by their friends, family and health care providers. The goal of the project was three-fold: to share perspectives of aging adults with the community with the aim of encouraging a more holistic view of this demographic, to create an opportunity for participants to engage in creative activities that promote healthy aging, and to measure the impact of the Visual Voices methodology.

At the helm of Visual Voices were UNE Master of Public Health students Collyn Baeder and Zoe Hull, and Master of Science in Occupational Therapy students Adrian Jung, Michaela Hoffman, Rebecca Masterjohn and Virginia Sedarksi. They were advised by Rebecca Boulou, M.P.H., Ph.D., assistant clinical professor in the School of Community and Population Health, and Regi Robnett, Ph.D., OTRL, professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy.

The resulting artwork, created by both students and participants, was displayed in Mechanics Hall on Congress Street in Downtown Portland during the First Friday Art Walk in May. More than 200 visitors viewed the exhibit over the course of the evening, including Park Danforth residents, UNE faculty, staff, students, administrators and the general public. A smaller, more intimate exhibit took place at Park Danforth on Saturday, May 9.

At both exhibits, attendees had the opportunity to illustrate their own thoughts about perception and identity. As a result, members of the public approached UNE’s student research team to express that the artwork did, in fact, help to broaden their perspectives on the aging adult population.

Reflecting on the project, Baeder stated, “I was constantly impressed by the level of openness and empathy that the participants displayed with us and each other as we explored personal topics together.” Hull concurred, adding, “A sense of community formed very early on, creating a space where everyone felt comfortable sharing their perspectives.”

This project was funded through the innovative interdisciplinary student-led mini-grant program of the Center for Excellence in Interprofessional Education (CEIE). Funds were contributed by faculty members, the Office of Research and Scholarship, private contributions and an endowment by former trustee Brian Dallaire, Ph.D., and his wife.

“Elders are like any population — each person ages in his or her own way, affected by multiple and diverse factors of life,” says Shelley Cohen Konrad, Ph.D., LCSW, FNAP, director of the CEIE. “This project brings students from different professions together — not only to foster the creation of art that empowers but to develop relationships that then help them gain insight into the aging experience. Stereotypes cannot survive in the face of personal relationships developed through artistic expression.”

Following the conclusion of their project in May, Baeder and Hull endeavored for continued art opportunities for the residents of Park Danforth. They applied for a grant from Maine Arts Commission’s Creative Aging Partnership Program on behalf of Park Danforth for which they were awarded $943. These funds will support a six-week art program for the community’s residents slated to start later this summer.

CAPTIONS
Left page from top to bottom: Jane Muesse shows her artwork illustrating her identity; Adrian Jung looks on as Ann Heath presents her project.
Above: Collyn Baeder and Zoe Hull pose with Visual Voices participants from Park Danforth.
The elder population of America is expected to double over the next few decades, and caring for this aging population will require specialized medical professionals certified in the field of geriatrics medicine. The magnitude of this need motivated J. Chase Rand, D.O., to establish the Rand Geriatrics Immersion Scholarship Endowed Fund with a $100,000 gift to the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNE). The 80-year-old retired physician hopes that his contribution will inspire generations of medical students to pursue careers in geriatrics.

Dr. Rand, a native of Portland, Maine, and a founding faculty member of UNE, earned his Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry at Tufts University and continued on to Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine to earn his doctorate. He then served a 12-month rotating internship at Doctors’ Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. In 1963, he returned to Maine and established a family practice in Westbrook. During the last decade of his family practice, Dr. Rand saw an increase in patients over the age of 65 who required acute and long-term care for both minor and chronic illnesses. This prompted him to obtain certification in Geriatric Medicine. This collaboration developed into what is now known as MatureCare. This geriatrics group, founded in 2002, is now the largest of its kind in Maine with six full-time physicians, two part-time physicians, nine nurse practitioners, a social worker and a psychiatrist. The practice provides medical direction and services to 14 nursing facilities and one hospice center in Maine. It also provides a clinical resource for medical students.

As this new practice grew, UNE approached Dr. Rand to create a partnership that would offer a resource for student training and residencies. This collaboration developed into what is now known as MatureCare. This geriatrics group, founded in 2002, is now the largest of its kind in Maine with six full-time physicians, two part-time physicians, nine nurse practitioners, a social worker and a psychiatrist. The practice provides medical direction and services to 14 nursing facilities and one hospice center in Maine. It also provides a clinical resource for medical students.

Daniel Pierce, D.O., sees Dr. Rand’s gift and the establishment of the fund as a vital component in fostering geriatrics as a specialty. “There is no specific residency program for geriatric medicine, but we want students to experience the type of care and practice that is really quite unique,” said DeFeo. “A medical education is truly based on experiences... [his fund] encourages more people to be exposed to this type of practice. That leads to a career choice.”

Ideally, this fund will help as many as five medical students per year a clinical activity focused on elder care. Dr. Rand hopes, in addition to inspiring students, his gift will also trigger others to contribute to the endowed fund. His dream is to see the fund provide a significant stipend for a medical student to opt for a fourth-year fellowship and become certified as a geriatric physician.

“I can feel the passion when an individual enjoys what he or she does,” Dr. Rand’s passion for elder care is even more profound now,” said DeFeo. “He really spent his lifetime serving the people of this area. He wants to see more people involved with it and literally following in his footsteps.”

“Know that this has been a thought on Chase’s mind for a long time,” said Dr. Rand’s wife, Judy. “I think it’s wonderful. Hopefully this will help us make Maine improve the delivery of health care to the aging population in the future.”

CAPTIONS
Left page: J. Chase Rand, D.O., pictured at his home overlooking Panther Pond in Raymond, Maine. Above him from left to right: Associate Dean for Clinical Education Guy DeFeo, D.O.; MatureCare Medical Director Daniel Pierce, D.O.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Dires Bouthillette holds a B.A. in English with a minor in American Studies from the University of Southern Maine. She is the author of various Maine publications, and is working on a memoir.
If you could imagine a food production system that created fresh, delicious and nutrient-dense food, utilizing minimal energy and space while creating no waste, you might think that it seems too good to be true. But that is exactly what UNE’s Aquaponics Club is doing in the Marine Science Center.

Led by Jeri Fox, Ph.D., associate professor in the Aquaculture and Aquarium Science program, and Shaun Gill, M.S., assistant director of the Marine Science Center, members of the Aquaponics Club are immersed in the study of a field that is on the cusp of a new wave poised to splash across the nation and the world with tremendous impact — economically and ecologically.

“While the concept [of aquaponics] has been around for a long time,” Fox explained, “it’s really just now taking off like never before.” A hybrid of aquaculture — the raising of aquatic organisms for food — and hydroponics — the growing of plants in water, rather than soil — aquaponics is an ingenious system that uses waste from fish as nutrients for edible plant life, such as vegetables. Biological filtration, made possible by bacteria, breaks down ammonia, a main ingredient of fish waste, into nitrate, which is beneficial to plants. The plants, in turn, absorb the nutritious nitrate and clean the water for the fish, allowing for the use of the same water for repeated growing cycles. It is practical, cost-effective, environmentally sound and can be implemented virtually anywhere, eliminating the need for (and the associated financial and environmental costs of) transporting food over long distances.

The concept of aquaponics fits right in with the University’s Edible Campus Initiative, conceived by Fox — an effort to produce fresh, local foods on campus in the most sustainable manner possible.

Students interested in exploring aquaponics as part of this project undertook the task of developing a small-scale aquaponics operation, using the waste of a few goldfish in a tank located in the lobby of the Marine Science Center to grow basil. The pump used to oxygenate the water was completely run by solar energy.

For two students in particular, Joe Simonowicz, Environmental Science major, Aquaculture and Aquarium Science minor ‘15, and Dylan Turner, Aquaculture and Aquarium Science and Marine Biology double major ‘17, the experiment was riveting. “That created a real hunger for Joe and Dylan,” recalled Gill. “The goal was to take this to the next level.” The intense student involvement in the project is something that Fox is very quick to point out. “The applied experimental component is huge,” she said, noting that the construction of all iterations of UNE’s aquaponics system have been student-led.

From the engineering of the system, to determining the precise type and amount of food for the fish, to ensuring that nutrients are chemically available to the plants, students are involved every step of the way. “It’s the ultimate STEM experience,” Gill noted.

They had the good fortune to receive guidance from Tyler Gaudet, owner of Fluid Farms in Dresden, Maine, a thriving aquaponics business. Gaudet shared advice and enthusiasm with students, allowing them to learn from his successes as well as the mistakes he made along the way.

AQUAPONICS: GROWING FOOD FOR A GROWING INDUSTRY

BY JENNIE ARANOVITCH
Jeri Fox made multiple visits to UNE to counsel students in aquaponics practices and even provided a formal internship experience for Nick Vespa, Aquaculture and Aquatic Science ‘17, over the past summer.

Wes Simonowicz is the system engineer, Michael Galloway, Aquaculture and Aquatic Science and Marine Biology double major ‘15, in charge of the 4th, and Justin Andrews, Animal Behavior ‘15, in the lead plant cultivator, the Aquaponics Club researched all goals of taking its edibles experiment to new depth. As a result, the Marine Science Center now has a room dedicated to aquaponics with a fully functioning system.

The current operation has a 280 gallon capacity and recirculation water via a submersible pump. Fish in a tank serve as the tank’s sink. It is then filtered to remove solid waste. The enriched water is then filtered to remove solid waste. The chemical balances of water, food, and waste that require careful manipulation in order to grow produce.

The students are now learning one more skill as the aquaponics system gets revamped and expanded to make better use of space. Edenworks, a Brooklyn, New York-based urban aquaponics business, led to the delicate chemical balances of water, food, and waste that require careful manipulation in order to grow produce.

Implementing a successful aquaponics system requires several different areas of knowledge. Students who acquire these proficiencies become less the consumer and more the creator. Gill shared. “Pulling all of this together and making it work entails critical thinking and creativity,” she added. “In addition to understanding everything from tanks and pumps to the fiber optics of the energy-efficient lighting, to the delicate chemical balances of water, food, and waste, there’s much more in the world.”

Fox and Gill are excited for this next chapter of aquaponics at UNE. The University, they feel, is uniquely positioned to contribute significantly to the innovation in this field. “It’s marine science, it’s environmental science, it’s aquaculture — all the things that UNE excels in, and it dovetails perfectly with our health sciences orientation. This is the production of healthy food that is fertilizer free.” — Jeri Fox

Perhaps even more amazing than UNE’s aquaponics system itself is the fact that it has been entirely created outside of academic time. A product of the hard work and determination of the Aquaponics Club and its co-leaders Fox and Gill, the system is Fox’s dream, the precursor to UNE’s dive into the localivore movement. She envisions a student workforce over the summer months, a farmers’ market and a dining hall full of students with campus-grown vegetables. Aquaponics may be the biggest step in creating a truly Edible Campus.

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UNE HOSTS GERIATRICS CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS MAINE’S AGING POPULATION

UNE hosted the 25th Annual Maine Geriatrics Conference in June. Health care practitioners came together to nurture ideas-sharing, spur scholarly inquiry and devise care-strategies affecting older adults in all settings.

“This conference is about friends, new and existing, coming together again off an original," said Marilyn R. Guiglionci, Ph.D., professor and director of Geriatric Education and Research in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. The conference featured a wide array of workshops and sessions, including special guest speaker Toni P. Miles, M.D., Ph.D., president and director of the University of Georgia’s Gerontology Institute, whose talk was titled, “Integrating Policy and Research in the College of Osteopathic Medicine.”

“UNE has earned more than 16 notable top-rankings for delivering high value through its successful education programs. UNE’s most notable achievements include:

• Best 380 Colleges — Princeton Review
• Best Online Graduate Education Programs — U.S. News & World Report
• High Salary Potential for Graduating Students — Forbes
• #1 Among Maine Universities and Colleges for Increasing Student Career Earnings — The Brookings Institution
• Top Colleges of 2015 — Forbes

“Through our continually expanding repertoire of program offerings, our global education opportunities and our interdisciplinary approach to learning, we are constantly striving to provide students with the most diverse and valuable educational experience possible," says President Danielle Ripich, Ph.D. "We are continually exploring new ways to make sure our graduates have the best tools so that they may benefit their communities in Maine, the United States and around the world.”

Above: Students from UNE’s College of Osteopathic Medicine assist and health professions students. Workers, mental health practitioners, certified nursing physical therapists, substance abuse counselors, social workers, nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, and research scientists in the field of aging, including nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, and researchers, are using satellite tags, underwater video technology, to study the physiological and behavioral ecology of these sharks and their young, captured in the Gulf of Maine. The Porbeagle (Lamna nasus) is a predatory, endothermic shark that typically inhabits the upper pelagic zone from the surface to 200 meters deep. In the United States, this shark is considered a species of concern and, like many other shark species, is in need of concentrated conservation actions.

JAMES SULIKOWSKI AND STUDENTS WORK TO CONSERVE ENDANGERED SHARK SPECIES

James Sulikowski, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Marine Sciences, and his team are testing the hypothesis that the Gulf of Maine region serves as a nursery ground for this species, which would mean that this habitat is critical for the conservation and ultimate survival of the Porbeagle species.

To help manage and conserve the Porbeagle species of sharks, James Sulikowski, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Marine Sciences, and his team have created a compounding lab and elective course that aims to educate its students in veterinary pharmacy—a specialty that only a quarter of U.S. pharmacy schools offer.

Students from UNE’s College of Pharmacy (COP) participated in a Veterinary Pharmacy Compounding Lab and elective course in June. The course is one that aims to educate its students in veterinary pharmacy—a specialty that only a quarter of U.S. pharmacy schools offer.

“When I came to UNE, I had the confidence to interact with veterinarians and the resources to look up veterinary pharmacy information," said Shannon Grady, COP ’16. “This elective gave me the knowledge to effectively provide recommendations on medications for animals, the confidence to interact with veterinarians and the resources to look up veterinary pharmacy information."
UNE ANOUNCES DARLING SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF DEAN JAMES B. HANLEY

The University of New England was deeply saddened by the death of James B. Darling, D.M.D., dean of the College of Dental Medicine in UNE May following a battle with cancer. With much love and respect for Darling’s many accomplishments and valuable contributions, his colleagues in the College of Dental Medicine have named an endowed scholarship fund in his honor. The James B. Darling Scholarship for Emerging Leaders will provide much-needed scholarship support for dental students in perpetuity at UNE’s dental college.

Darling’s dedication to young scholars was reflected in his early support and advocacy for the creation of an endowed dean’s scholarship for dental students not long after his arrival at UNE. He generously provided an early and substantial gift to launch the endowment, and he championed the growth of endowed scholarship funds to support students in dental medicine.

UNE dental students selected for the program — known as Key Oral Health Scholars — will participate in targeted, community-based service learning projects while they are completing their clinical rotations.

UNE has partnered with KeyBank to take strategic steps toward building a robust dental workforce pipeline for the State of Maine and the greater New England region. UNE and KeyBank have committed $160,000 to establish a Key to Oral Health program, an ambitious initiative with a long-term goal of encouraging select UNE dental graduates to practice in underserved communities.

The research will be performed by a team of scientists at Southern Research, led by Subramaniam Renganarayanan, Ph.D., professor of biomedical sciences. Subramaniam Renganarayanan, Ph.D., professor of biomedical sciences, is a key player in the discovery at Southern Research, will lead the effort.

Author, scholar and trailblazing educator Anouar Majid, Ph.D., vice president for Global Affairs and Communications, delivered the conclusion of the program on May 31, 2018.

As the events of recent decades have underscored the importance of citizens, educators and policy-makers studying the cultural underpinnings of the gulf between the world’s most controversial religions, the lecture, titled “Islam and the Problem of Monotheism,” took place in Chautauqua’s Hall of Social Science in Chautauqua, New York State to present a lecture, titled “Islam and the Problem of Monotheism,” at the prestigious Chautauqua Institution.

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NEW COACHES

The University of New England welcomed two new head coaches to its ranks this year: Kevin Swallow is now leading the Men’s Ice Hockey Team, and Rick Hayes is head coach of the Women’s Swimming Team.

Swallow was head coach at Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts, for the past three seasons. During his tenure at Nichols, he led the Bison to a 55-20-7 record (.713 winning percentage) and consecutive Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Northeast championships. Before his arrival in 2012, Nichols had posted an aggregate record of 37-36-6 over a three-year period. The 2014–15 season was Swallow’s most successful at Nichols, as he guided the Bison to a 21-4-3 record and league title, a berth in the NCAA Championship field, and the No. 14 spot in the final United States College Hockey Online (USCHO.com) Division III Top 15 Poll. Swallow was recognized as the ECAC Northeast Coach of the Year for the second time in his career.

“I am extremely excited to be taking over the University of New England Men’s Hockey program,” Swallow said. “The team is on the verge of greatness, and with everything UNE has to offer, I feel like the sky is the limit for the program. I plan to instill the same culture and philosophies we had at Nichols, and our student-athletes will be expected to strive for excellence in all aspects of their lives.”

Hayes, who served as assistant coach at UNE under Kate Roy from 2005 to 2007, coached 13 All-New England selections and 16 Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) All-Academic picks while head coach at Saint Josephs for the past seven seasons. He was chosen GNAC Coach of the Year in 2012, and under his guidance, the Monks have annually earned College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) Scholar All-America Team honors.

“My goal is to continue, and grow upon, the years of success this program has had in both the classroom and the pool.”

— Rick Hayes

“I am extremely excited to be joining the University of New England Men’s Hockey program.”

— Kevin Swallow

“Kevin and Rick both come to UNE with a demonstrated ability to run highly-successful programs and develop student-athletes,” McDonald said. “We are fortunate to have them aboard and look forward to their contributions to our department and the entire campus community.”

Clockwise: Jack McDonald, UNE associate vice president and director of Athletics; Kevin Swallow, head coach of UNE’s Men’s Hockey Team; Rick Hayes, head coach of UNE’s Women’s Swimming Team.
NEW VARSITY SPORT RUGBY

Women’s Rugby is the newest varsity sport coming to UNE in Fall 2016. The Nor’easters recently gained membership into the National Collegiate Women’s Rugby Association (NCWVRA), which features such prestigious institutions as Harvard University, Brown University and Dartmouth College. The University has an agreement in place to open its varsity schedule with a contest versus Dartmouth, and according to UNE Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics Jack McDonald, discussions are underway for facility and infrastructure development, as well as the search for a head coach.

FIRST FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS ANNOUNCED

In August, UNE came to an agreement with the United States Coast Guard Academy to play a home-and-home series in 2018 and 2019. UNE will face the Bears on Thursday, August 30, 2018, at Cadet Memorial Field in New London, Connecticut, in what will be the Nor’easters’ first varsity contest, and the two teams will play in Biddeford the following season on Saturday, September 7, 2019. The Nor’easters plan to play an undetermined number of sub-varsity games in 2017 prior to a full varsity slate of competition beginning in 2018. Planning for facilities and the hiring of a head coach has already begun.

HALL OF FAME

The University of New England Varsity Club inducted its 11th class in a ceremony held September 18 at the Harold Alfond Forum on the Biddeford Campus. St. Francis College men’s basketball player Rocco Ferranti ’70, and field hockey player Taryn Flagg ’10, were enshrined, along with the 1993-94 Westbrook College Men’s Basketball Team.

Ferranti was a four-year varsity team member who ended his career with 1,079 points, a figure that ranks him in the record books among St. Francis, UNE and Westbrook College men’s basketball players. An All-Naismith Conference performer, Ferranti is the lone St. Francis College alum to have his jersey number retired.

Flagg is the first UNE field hockey player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Despite missing one season due to injury, Flagg is the program’s career leader in goals scored (51) and points (124). She was voted Commonwealth Coast Conference Rookie of the Year in 2006 and was a three-time All-Conference selection.

The 1993-94 Westbrook College Men’s Basketball Team posted a 30-5 record on its way to winning the Nordwest Conference Championship and earning a bid to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Championship. The Wildcats were second in the nation in scoring offense, averaging an astounding 104.8 points per game. Two players from that team — Paul Peterson and Derek Vogel — are members of the UNE Hall of Fame, as is Head Coach Jim Graffam.

CAPTIONS

Above: Enthusiastic students cheer at a UNE basketball game.
CAPTIONS
Background: Members of the 1993–94 Westbrook College Men’s Basketball team.
Bottom row, left to right: Special guests include former Westbrook College Director of Athletics Jim Beaudry, and former Westbrook College Director of Athletics Jim Graffam (pictured with Associate Vice President and President of Athletics Jim Haggerty). Additions include: Former Director of Athletics Mike McDonald (left) and Tom Frey (3rd from right in front). The inductees include: Taryn Flagg ’10, with her former coach Joan Howard; Rocco Ferranti, SFC ’70, with founder Bill Ferranti; SFC ’86, with founder Paul Ferranti; and SFC ’90, with founder Joseph Ferranti.

Background: Members of the 1993–94 Westbrook College Men’s Basketball team. Bottom row, left to right: Special guests include former Westbrook College Director of Athletics Jim Beaudry, and former Westbrook College Director of Athletics Jim Graffam (pictured with Associate Vice President and President of Athletics Jim Haggerty). Additions include: Former Director of Athletics Mike McDonald (left) and Tom Frey (3rd from right in front). The inductees include: Taryn Flagg ’10, with her former coach Joan Howard; Rocco Ferranti, SFC ’70, with founder Bill Ferranti; SFC ’86, with founder Paul Ferranti; and SFC ’90, with founder Joseph Ferranti.
In a gesture of loyal devotion and love for her mother, Zareen Taj Mirza gave a generous Moving Forward campaign gift to aid the restoration of Alumni Hall, the University of New England’s oldest structure. Thanks to her contribution, in honor of Josephine Hildreth “Dodie” Detmer, HON ’06, Alumni Hall will once again be the central hub of UNE’s Portland Campus, providing students with ample space to host academic events, alumni gatherings and public lectures.

Alumni Hall, formerly known as the “Seminary Building,” was constructed in 1834 to educate Westbrook Seminary students and was renamed in 1896 to recognize alumni who contributed to its repair and renovation. Mirza’s thoughtful contribution will ensure that her mother’s name lives in perpetuity through a space in the building dedicated in her honor.

Mirza’s interest in UNE was fostered by her mother’s dedication to the University. A retired history teacher, author, community volunteer and philanthropist, Detmer has been a major supporter and volunteer of the University for more than two decades. She is an honorary member of the Moving Forward Campaign Committee and is also a former trustee of Westbrook College and the University of New England. Detmer has received two awards from UNE, including an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 2006 and the Deborah Morton Award in 2009.

Philanthropy seems to be an inherited trait, as Mirza has also made contributions in support of UNE students and initiatives. Last year, she and her mother gave scholarship money to help students study abroad in Tangier, Morocco. However, this joint gift was not the first Hildreth family contribution; Wing Lounge in Alexander Hall was named for Mirza’s grandmother and Detmer’s mother, Katherine Wing Hildreth, HA ’69.

Alumni Hall has always played an integral role in student life at UNE. On June 9, 1834, the first Westbrook Seminary class was held in the Seminary Building, with “males and females admitted to equal privileges.” In addition to religious studies, the school also offered secular courses. Students could enroll in one of four educational tracks: English, Scientific, Ladies’ Classical and Preparatory, all of which were held in Alumni Hall.

In 1968, the building was retrofitted as a home for the humanities, where students took classes in art history, music, pottery and studio art. It was also used as a chapel, theater and a study lounge for day students.

When the $4.5 million renovation is complete in the spring of 2016, Alumni Hall will once again be welcoming, dynamic place for students, faculty and members of the UNE community. President Danielle Ripich envisions that it will serve as the “living room” for the Portland Campus, where students can relax in the newly-furnished study lounge, faculty can host educational activities and community members can participate in lectures and other events open to the public.

As of June 1, 2015, the University has raised more than $3.7 million for Alumni Hall, with the hopes of raising an additional $800,000 before the end of the campaign on May 31, 2017. All alumni and friends will have an opportunity to contribute to the campaign prior to that time.

Zareen Taj Mirza and Dodie Detmer are exemplars of kindness and generosity. Though the vestiges of life at Westbrook Seminary are now long gone, Alumni Hall will continue to serve as a timeless, welcoming place of learning thanks to Mirza and her meaningful gift.
Nearly 400 UNE and St. Francis College alumni returned to campus for Alumni Weekend 2015. The Class of 1965 celebrated their 50th Reunion as part of special programs. Alumni Awards included Daniel Vaillancourt ’69, Alumni Achievement Award; Ben Hogan ’75, Alumni Service Award; Eric Cossey ’75, Young Alumni Award; and Dr. Colbert ‘Doc’ Samuel, Alumni Young Alumni Award. Other activities included live music from Jim Gaudet ’70 and the Railroad Boys, a bounce house and KidFest program, a donor reception, and many athletic events.
Tom Tunney ’65 receives a 50th Reunion certificate from President Ripich.

Background image: Class of 1965 celebrates its 50th Reunion in the St. Francis Plaza.

Bottom images from left to right: The Class of 1985 celebrates its 30th Reunion; Mike Hogan ’75 accepts the Alumni Service Award from Amy Haile, senior director of Advancement Operations; John Moschella ’65 and Jim Beaudry.

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Background image: Members of the Class of 2015 at their first Alumni Weekend.

Bottom images from left to right: Young alumni check out the action in the Alfond Forum; Sara Capobianco ’14, with her dad Stephen Capobianco ’72; Men’s Lacrosse alumni.

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Eric Cressey ’03 accepts the Young Alumni Award.
Mary Jane Crabtree: “Anyone who remembers me, I just wanted to say ‘hello’. I enjoy getting the various messages and always look for anyone’s name from the Class of ’48. I don’t think Melville House is still there, but if it is, I say ‘hi’ to all my former housemates. I am currently living in Georgia (I would never have envisioned that!), but we do enjoy it, and all four of my children live here or visit often. So, hello to all, good health and joy from now on.”

Gloria LaMothe Reiske: “I am living in Virginia near the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. I have 13 grandchildren, one great grandchild, and I am expecting another in January. I have also authored more than 50 business articles and have a blog. I have a M.S.W. and am licensed in Virginia. I am retired now but was a clinical specialist and supervisor for many years. I love my lifestyle, traveling and visiting my grandchildren. I loved my time at Westbrook.”

Gwendolyn Lightfoot Grant: “I am enjoying retirement but not enjoying aging. These golden years! I turned 81 on June 30 and am doing okay. I have never hidden it! Sometimes who tells me about having lunch with Jodey Anderson.”

Lyne Sutherland Byron: “Dan and I were in St. Petersburg, Florida, in October on business and got in good with Betsy Ward Hatfield. We spent a couple of days getting caught up with one another and had a fabulous dinner one night at Betsy’s daughter-in-law’s Thai restaurant with Betsy’s lovely family. This spring we’ll be in Florida, where we will spend some time with Betsy’s lovely family. This spring we’ll be in Florida, where we will spend some time with Judy Maguire Shutowick and Mike Shutowick celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. It was a wonderful party with children, grandchildren and many lovely friends. I was one of Judy’s bridesmaids, and we all still朝鲜 are a great day.”

Bobbi Marchant Jennings: “Looking for all Class of 1961 folks! Let’s start working on our 55th Reunion! I’m putting together a list of names, addresses, email, etc., and we’re having fun chit-chatting and visiting already! We have even located some who were with us only one year, but they are still ‘Brookies’ and we’re looking forward to meeting up at the reunion. If you see this message, email me at Chesleyj2010@gmail.com, and let’s start talking!”

Katherine Ammon Delle Chiaie: “I am happily retired and have been married to David for 44 years. I enjoy volunteering at Elder Services, specializing in Medicare counseling and spending time with my grandchildren.”

James M. Craig: “My wife, Fran, and I have been married for 49 years. We have two sons, three grandsons, ages 28, 15 and 6, and one great granddaughter, age 3. I retired in December 2013 as president of the American Institute of Marine Underwriters, a trade group representing the U.S. ocean marine insurance industry. During my 10-year tenure as president, we traveled extensively to Europe, Asia, and the United States. Currently, I am a travel volunteer in both community and county organizations in various capacities. Our beach home in Lavallette, New Jersey was severely damaged by superstorm Sandy, and we are in the process of demolishing and rebuilding a new home.”

Polly Holcomb Pobuda: “In June of 2014, I retired after working 30 years in library at Carlson High School in Canton, Connecticut. I have always enjoyed working with the students and have been working as a substitute teacher this year. Greetings to all!”

Thomas P. Tunny: “My wife, Alene, and I retired in June 2014 after serving many years in international education. We met in Caracas, Venezuela, and each brought two children to our marriage. We now have 11 grandchildren. Our home is now in Hamilton, Montana, where Alene was born. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 50th reunion in September!”

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

College of Osteopathic Medicine news should be emailed to RSAS@une.edu.

CLASS NOTES EDITOR: AMY HAILE
PLEASE LIMIT SUBMISSIONS TO 75 WORDS OR LESS. SUBMISSIONS MAY BE EDITED FOR LENGTH AND CLARITY.

* Bolded dates signify reunion years
I am presently a professional entertainer and have a new book. It’s called “The Fallen Marion.”

Ronald A. Berube

I have been retired for 20 years and continue to travel and live in the Sarasota, Florida, area, where I married the next year and took up painting. My wife Jeanne and I have been exclusively together for 21 years. I have been travelling to Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont since 1982. I am still living in Waterport, Maine. I have been travelling to Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont since 1982. I am still living in Waterport, Maine. I have been travelling to Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont since 1982.

Dorothy M. Ben Hogan

I was a bachelor until the age of 60 and social worker at the Dartmouth, Massachusetts House of Corrections. I have been travelling to Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont since 1982. I am still living in Waterport, Maine. I have been travelling to Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont since 1982. I am still living in Waterport, Maine. I have been travelling to Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont since 1982.

Jacques Downs

I have spent much too long!”

Paul Casey

I became a grandmother of 40 years ago. I have wonderful memories of Bill, George and Jacques Downs, as well as many others. I am married to Ronald Berube and we have a grown daughter. I am a retired farmer and live in New York City. I have been married for 25 years and have remained in contact with former classmates Tom and Colette Basham, will celebrate her first birthday on June 1. Needless to say, I have been travelling to Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont since 1982. I am still living in Waterport, Maine. I have been travelling to Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont since 1982. I am still living in Waterport, Maine. I have been travelling to Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont since 1982.
Mike Dorche: “I have been chief medical officer at Coastal Family Health Center along the Matanzas Gulf Coast for the past year and a half. I have been a part of more than 7000 patients visit a week at Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).”

Russell A. Schilling: “I am still living recently. I married Karen. I am a certified vintage Bed and Breakfast in St. Mary, Maryland, sailing a lot, and working the dream on the Eastern Shore of the Gulf Coast for the past year and a half. I have been chief medical officer at Coastal Family Health Center along the Matanzas Gulf Coast for the past year and a half. I have been a part of more than 7000 patients visit a week at Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).”

Eric Uhrik: “In 2013 and 2014, I was chosen as Doctor of the Day in 2015. Our twin sons graduated from high school and love being a part of this growing artsy city.”

Laura T. Cloukey, D.O.: “We got married in November 2014 and the marriage. I was one of 10 local physicians in Ohio and Engineering in Tennessee. Our twin sons graduated from high school and love being a part of this growing artsy city.”

Erica Dallas, PA: “I am a board certified orthopedic clinical specialist, with a post graduate doctoral degree in orthopedics, and a manual therapy residency with spinal emphasis. I am also head physical therapist for the San Diego Padres (Major League Baseball) and an adjunct professor at San Diego State University in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program (teaching musculoskeletal therapeutics). I am in the process of collaborating with UCSD and NASA on a project to decrease the incidence of spinal disc herniations in astronauts who return back to earth after prolonged stays in space. I am also the sole owner and CEO of the World’s only certified orthopedic clinical specialist (only 3 percent of physical therapists in the country have achieved this specialty), a nationally certified pediatric manual therapist. I am certified as a selective functional movement assessment (SFMA) specialist, and I specialize in advanced manual therapy techniques, biomechanical evaluations and spinal dysfunctions. I have also taken advanced coursework in Dynamic Neuromuscular Stabilization (DNS) and pelvic dysfunction. I have also presented on topics such as back pain vs. pelvic dysfunction, plyometrics and performance enhancement for the elite athlete, injury prevention and performance enhancement for the older athlete. I am currently employed at Hematology Oncology Associates of Cape Cod in Falmouth, Massachusetts.”

Kahl Goldfarb PT, DPT, OCS, OMT, CSCS: “I am a board certified orthopedic physical therapist, strength and conditioning, spinal disc herniations in astronauts who return back to earth after prolonged stays in space. I am also the sole owner and CEO of the World’s only certified orthopedic clinical specialist (only 3 percent of physical therapists in the country have achieved this specialty), a nationally certified pediatric manual therapist. I am certified as a selective functional movement assessment (SFMA) specialist, and I specialize in advanced manual therapy techniques, biomechanical evaluations and spinal dysfunctions. I have also taken advanced coursework in Dynamic Neuromuscular Stabilization (DNS) and pelvic dysfunction. I have also presented on topics such as back pain vs. pelvic dysfunction, plyometrics and performance enhancement for the elite athlete, injury prevention and performance enhancement for the older athlete. I am currently employed at Hematology Oncology Associates of Cape Cod in Falmouth, Massachusetts.”

James R. Meikle, M.S.W.: “I am a board certified orthopedic physical therapist, strength and conditioning, spinal disc herniations in astronauts who return back to earth after prolonged stays in space. I am also the sole owner and CEO of the World’s only certified orthopedic clinical specialist (only 3 percent of physical therapists in the country have achieved this specialty), a nationally certified pediatric manual therapist. I am certified as a selective functional movement assessment (SFMA) specialist, and I specialize in advanced manual therapy techniques, biomechanical evaluations and spinal dysfunctions. I have also taken advanced coursework in Dynamic Neuromuscular Stabilization (DNS) and pelvic dysfunction. I have also presented on topics such as back pain vs. pelvic dysfunction, plyometrics and performance enhancement for the elite athlete, injury prevention and performance enhancement for the older athlete. I am currently employed at Hematology Oncology Associates of Cape Cod in Falmouth, Massachusetts.”

Kath Goddard PT, DPT, OCS, OMT, CSCS: “I am a board certified orthopedic physical therapist, strength and conditioning, spinal disc herniations in astronauts who return back to earth after prolonged stays in space. I am also the sole owner and CEO of the World’s only certified orthopedic clinical specialist (only 3 percent of physical therapists in the country have achieved this specialty), a nationally certified pediatric manual therapist. I am certified as a selective functional movement assessment (SFMA) specialist, and I specialize in advanced manual therapy techniques, biomechanical evaluations and spinal dysfunctions. I have also taken advanced coursework in Dynamic Neuromuscular Stabilization (DNS) and pelvic dysfunction. I have also presented on topics such as back pain vs. pelvic dysfunction, plyometrics and performance enhancement for the elite athlete, injury prevention and performance enhancement for the older athlete. I am currently employed at Hematology Oncology Associates of Cape Cod in Falmouth, Massachusetts.”

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I am a clinical nurse. Things are going well for me and my family. After graduating from UNE, we moved to the DFW area.

My daughter Elyanna, who is 8, and we are living in Texas, and I now work at a pediatric hospital in the emergency room. Last summer, we moved to Texas, New Mexico, then up to Alaska without jobs or a place to live. A week after we got to Anchorage, we camped in a state park and decided to make the 3000 mile drive to northern and central California. We moved to Texas, New Mexico, then northern and central California. We decided to make the 3000 mile drive up to Alaska with Elyanna and her father.

I received my education by obtaining my RN license. I enjoyed working and gaining experience in an excellent trauma center for several years. Then, I met my husband Ronnie in 2012, and we were married in November on graduation day.

Jaime M. Dubois-Takekoshi '11: ‘I have gone back to school to become a family nurse practitioner, and will graduate this February!’

Valerie M. Henault '10, D.P.T. '11, and Shawn T. Erikson, D.P.T. '11: ‘We were married on a Casco Bay cruise in Portland, Maine. We met in graduate school in the same Physical Therapy class at the University of New England. Lucky, we ended up working together at the library for a work-study job, and while at the library we found ourselves doing more talking than working or studying. Fast forward to 2011 when we both earned our doctorate degree, then joined a physical therapy company. We moved to Texas, New Mexico, then northern and central California. We decided to make the 3000 mile drive up to Alaska with Elyanna and her father.”

Amy Davis, ‘Michael Campbell’ 10, and ‘Shawn Erikson’ 11: ‘We have served on behalf of the Indian Health Service since graduation, first for Northern Navajo Medical Center in Farmington, New Mexico, and most recently for Taos-Picuris Indian Health Center. We still own a home in Biddeford, Maine, but now for us it is the place we love living in Texas and all the things we get to do and experience here. We are planning on building a house next year and setting down in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.”

Joan M. Dubois-Takekoshi ‘11: ‘I have gone back to school to become a family nurse practitioner and will graduate from Regis College in May, 2016.”

2009

Steven Bughton’s $21,000 grant from the Small Business Association (SBA) through its Growth Accelerator Fund for companies included in the Commercialization through Innovation and New Technology (CINT) program. 

Erin Turner, Alzheimer’s: The next generation. The next generation is of the opinion that Alzheimer’s is a disease that can be cured. They believe that the next generation will find a cure for this disease. They believe that the next generation will find a cure for Alzheimer’s.

CAROLINE BRIGHT: ’I am very pleased to announce that we have a new position in the College of Graduate and Professional Studies at UNE: I am the program manager for the SciencePrerequisites Program. This program is designed to assist students in meeting prerequisite requirements for professional programs within the health fields. I started this new endeavor in May and am looking forward to the opportunity to make this one of the best science prerequisite programs in the country.”


Andrew Lands, M.H.A., M.P.H. has been appointed as the position of chief human resource for UCLA Health System. Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine. Applications are being accepted until the position is filled. Applications must be submitted by May 15, 2016.

Robert Bartlett, “I am proud to be a clinical nurse. Things are going well for me and my family. After graduating from UNE, we moved to the DFW area.”

From Maine to Morocco at www.une.edu/news and follow UNE on twitter, Facebook, and uonetweets.

2008 and 2011
IN MEMORIAM

1938
Phyllis Jennings Jackson
Westbrook Junior College
July 3, 2015

1945
Avi Borsen Simon
Westbrook Junior College
May 16, 2015
Barbara Sanderson Wells
Westbrook Junior College
September 9, 2015

1946
Geneva Frank Ashworth
Westbrook College
August 27, 2015

1947
Eleanor R. Dick
Westbrook Junior College
July 8, 2015

1948
Sally Brown Jones
Westbrook Junior College
June 6, 2015

1951
Lois (Scott Ambrose) Richard
Westbrook Junior College
May 15, 2015

1955
Patricia Ann Jordan
Westbrook Junior College
May 21, 2015

1960
Patricia Duffy Rossi
Westbrook Junior College
December 7, 2014

1961
Juan Lecotboua Bichetotta
Westbrook Junior College
May 26, 2013

1963
Mary McIntosh Marison
Westbrook Junior College
July 28, 2015

1965
John A. Coffin
St. Francis College
April 9, 2006

1966
James Duffy
St. Francis College
July 18, 2015

1967
Janet W. Burrus
Westbrook Junior College
May 23, 2015

1970
Lawrence P. Abbott
St. Francis College
August 22, 2015

1971
Matthew H. LaForest
UNE: College of Arts and Sciences
June 19, 2015

1972
Stephen M. Schmitz
UNE: College of Arts and Sciences
December 25, 2014

1975
M. Ben Hogan
St. Francis College
December 29, 2015

1976
Gay Hadden Watson
Westbrook College
July 20, 2015

1977
Samuel Henry Pennington
UNE: College of Arts and Sciences
August 3, 2015

1980
Bettsanne Norris Holmes, HON’02
Deborah Morton Society Inductee ’94
June 8, 2015

1981
William B. Jordan, Jr.
Westbrook College History Professor
July 11, 2015

1982
Louise Babyar Horn
Friend of frequent visitor to UNE in
honor of her daughter Brenda Fox
MacDonald ’80
February 20, 2015

1989
Roger N. Painchaud
St. Francis College
February 28, 2013

1990
Janet Powers Murphy
Westbrook Junior College
June 20, 2015

1995
Penelope Smith Andrea
May 29, 2015

2010
Roger N. Painchaud
St. Francis College
February 28, 2013

2013
James Dickinson
President, Westbrook College
June 30, 2015

2015
Pamela Marshall Foot
Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences,
College of Graduate and Professional
Studies
September 4, 2015

2016
Louise Babyar Horn
Friend of frequent visitor to UNE in
honor of her daughter Brenda Fox
MacDonald ’80
February 20, 2015

2017
Bettsanne Norris Holmes, HON’02
Deborah Morton Society Inductee ’94
June 8, 2015

2018
William B. Jordan, Jr.
Westbrook College History Professor
July 11, 2015
When James F. “Jim” Dickinson took on the role of president at Westbrook College in 1970, he brought an energy, optimism and thirst for positive change that transformed the school, positioning it for a wealth of success that is still felt today. His passing on June 17, 2015, saddened the University of New England community and all who knew him. Dickinson was 96-years-old.

Dickinson’s education began at Colgate University. After graduating in 1939, he went on to earn a master’s degree in French from Middlebury College in 1940 before obtaining his Ph.D. from New York University in 1950. In addition to serving as Colgate University’s first administrative vice president, he also instructed courses in French and Spanish there for 14 years.

Dickinson quickly built a rapport with everyone he came in contact with, cultivating close friendships with his colleagues, including Westbrook College icons Dorothy M. Healy, HA ’58, and Sean Richard F. Bond, HA ’70. He stayed highly involved with the student body throughout his seven years, asking for their input about policies and addressing issues that concerned him. Commonly referred to as “Dr. D,” he took pride in knowing the names of all 500 students on campus.

“He was a man who felt today. His passing on June 17, 2015, saddened the University of New England community and all who knew him. Dickinson was 96-years-old.

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Upon arriving at Westbrook College, formerly known as Westbrook Seminary, Dickinson wasted no time before advancing the College’s academic programs continually improved under Dickinson’s leadership. While other colleges faced dwindling enrollment and increased debt, Dickinson expanded the College with the addition of a new Art Gallery, which continues to bring imaginative and forward-thinking exhibitions to students, faculty, staff and community members. He also worked hard to ensure that the cost of tuition and fees wouldn’t continue to climb as a result of inflation, helping to secure $70,000 in new scholarship funds for students.

The admiration and respect he held for students during his tenure was mutual; this was most evident upon his departure from Westbrook College in 1977, when the student body dedicated the yearbook to him. “Like the immortal Don Quixote, he is the gentle good knight, assuring us that chivalry is still alive and that caring for others is as precious as a smile,” they wrote. “Other men dream dreams. He surprises us by making the impossible dream possible.”

This dedication to students stayed with Dickinson throughout his life, and in his estate plans, he contributed gifts for two scholarship funds at UNE. The first gift significantly increased the Dr. James F. and Catherine Rich Dickinson Endowed Scholarship, which is given annually to a returning student who has achieved academic excellence and whose character and qualities of student leadership reflect an enjoyment of life and people.

Dickinson’s second gift established the Dorothy M. Healy Endowed Scholarship, honoring his generous commitment to scholarships.”

He died, he shared with us that he was tremendously impressed with the growth and progress of UNE,” reflected Bill Chance, vice president of Institutional Advancement. “We will miss his unerring support of Westbrook College and our students, which will continue through his generous commitment to scholarships.”

Dickinson enjoyed life to its fullest with a smile on his face, a wink in his eye and a story ready to tell. He touched the hearts of many and was a beloved inspiration to his family and many friends. His legacy lives on at UNE through his generous gifts that will benefit the University and its students for years to come.

“Jim was a long and loyal supporter of Westbrook College and, subsequently, of UNE. Just before he died, he shared with us that he was tremendously impressed with the growth and progress of UNE,” reflected Bill Chance, vice president of Institutional Advancement. “We will miss his unerring support of Westbrook College and our students, which will continue through his generous commitment to scholarships.”

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Community members joined UNE faculty, staff and students at UNE’s sixth annual George and Barbara Bush Distinguished Lecture Series, presented by Nancy Gibbs, managing editor of TIME magazine, and Michael Duffy, deputy managing editor.

The lecture, titled “The Presidents Club: Inside the World’s Most Exclusive Fraternity,” discussed the partnerships and rivalries shared by the last 13 United States presidents. During their presentation, Gibbs and Duffy shared rare photographs of former presidents working together, explaining that the nation’s leaders often solicited advice from one another when faced with difficult issues.

Former President George H.W. Bush and his wife Barbara were both in attendance, prompting Gibbs to note what a unique and special moment it was to be in the presence of such a prominent figure in America’s history.
The University of New England welcomed three new members to its board of trustees earlier this year: Mary Herman, Gary Locarno and Gloria Pinza.

Mary Herman, founder and principal of Mary J. Herman Consulting, has worked as a public policy consultant, lobbyist and volunteer in the health care, social services, nonprofit, education and governmental sectors throughout her career. She has extensive experience as a board member for a variety of nonprofit organizations including the Augusta Family Violence Project, the Development Committee of the Maine Women’s Fund and the Maine Women’s Lobby in 2014, and last year she received the Crandall Spirit Award from the Maine Women’s Leadership Council.

Locarno graduated from UNE precursor St. Joseph’s College and went on to pursue his J.D. from New England Law. His wife, Jayne Enos, is a professor at the University of Maine Law School and has served as an adjunct professor at the University of New England from both a personal and academic perspective,” says Locarno. “As the parent of a student who graduated from UNE, I know first-hand that the educational environment is the best possible learning experience.”

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Gloria Pinza is an intellectual property attorney and the managing partner of Pinza Arwood LLP. Prior to joining Pierce Atwood, Pinza spent six years as a partner at Weisman Wolf, a California entertainment law firm that she co-founded in 1987. She is a former adjunct professor at the University of Maine Law School and has served as a panelist and speaker at seminars regarding intellectual property and entertainment law, entrepreneurship and multimedia projects.

Pina commented, “Under the leadership of President Ripich, the University of New England has flourished and is now leading nationally with some of its programs and approaches. In my work with business all around the state and the region, I know that higher education is an extremely important issue for Maine and all of New England. UNE is a great example of providing access and opportunity to its students, and I am very excited to have a chance to work with President Ripich and the other board members to help UNE continue its mission to provide students with the best possible learning experience.”

Pina is a current board member of Maine & Company and has been listed in The Best Lawyers of America for Intellectual Property Law from 2007–2015. She received a B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

“Having accomplished individuals who have generously agreed to share their expertise and time with UNE at a critical time in the University’s growth and development,” says UNE President Danielle Ripich. “I value their guidance and look forward to working with them as we move forward.”

The full list of University of New England board of trustee members is available online at www.une.edu/president/trustees.
“Anything for UNE!” — That was the enthusiastic response from Eric Cressey, a 2003 graduate from UNE’s Exercise Science and Sports and Fitness Management program, when asked to be interviewed for a portrait.

There certainly is no shortage of enthusiasm when it comes to Cressey. Since graduating, he’s been busy fulfilling all of his energy into building his business, Cressey Sports Performance, from the ground up. With a laundry list of accomplishments under his belt, including being a published author, setting powerlifting records and training major league baseball players, Cressey clearly took his education at UNE and ran with it — literally.

Based on his credentials, some might think that a career in sports performance was always part of Cressey’s plan. In actuality, a series of unfortunate events served as the catalyst for his career path. Although he aimed to pursue an educational foundation, he credits the UNE’s Exercise Science and Sports and Fitness Management program as well as a Sports and Fitness Management program, and the versatility allowed me to attack things from two different angles,” Cressey recalled.

While Cressey’s classes at UNE provided him with an educational foundation, he credits the faculty members he learned from and the internship experiences he held for helping shape his direction. While attending UNE, he spent several years working at a local gym in Kennebunk, gaining hands-on experience in a fitness environment. He also completed an internship at a health care facility in Southern Maine where he realized that clinical exercise physiology was not the route he wanted to pursue. “In addition to acquiring a ton of useful new skills, I also realized that internships can serve as strong referral sources for us. Business has mostly grown from word-of-mouth.”

Conveniently by an intense desire to learn as much as he could about the strength and conditioning industry, Cressey spent a great deal of time speaking with faculty members who nurtured his passion, challenging him to think outside the box, participate in independent studies and to never write. “The biggest things I took away from UNE were the ability to be challenged, the ability to learn and the importance of getting outside of your comfort zone,” he explained.

Fueled by this, Cressey went on to graduate school at the University of Connecticut where he began working with athletics and conducting research. After earning a master’s degree in kinesiology with a concentration in exercise science, he started building his professional reputation by working with young baseball players. As his clients experienced exceptional results, people began to take note of Cressey’s skill. “Many of them went on to play division-one baseball, and I started getting phone calls,” Cressey explained. “High school players went to college, then they eventually became pros, and they served as strong referral sources for us. Business has mostly grown from word-of-mouth.”

And it certainly has grown. He established Cressey Sports Performance (cresseysportsperformance.com) in 2007 at a location in Hudson, Massachusetts. Today, 85 percent of his clients are baseball players, including members from all 30 Major League Baseball organizations who travel to train with him during the off-season. In 2014, his business expanded when he opened a second location in Jupiter, Florida. But Cressey hasn’t limited his skill to just baseball players — he trains a diverse demographic of individuals, from youth athletes, to Olympians, to 80-year-old adults.

Never one to sit on the sidelines, Cressey also practices what he preaches to his clients in the gym as a competitive powerlifter. He is consistent in his abilities, ranked among the Powerlifting USA Top 100, holding state, national and world records. His level of fitness allows him to work with an educational foundation, he credits the faculty members he learned from and the internship experiences he held for helping shape his direction. While attending UNE, he spent several years working at a local gym in Kennebunk, gaining hands-on experience in a fitness environment. He also completed an internship at a health care facility in Southern Maine where he realized that clinical exercise physiology was not the route he wanted to pursue. “In addition to acquiring a ton of useful new skills, I also realized that internships can serve as strong referral sources for us. Business has mostly grown from word-of-mouth.”

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It’s been a jam-packed 12 years for Cressey, and he’s showing no signs of slowing down anytime soon. Thanks to this UNE graduate’s bounty of energy and an endless thirst for learning, the future is looking mighty bright for Eric Cressey and the clients he serves.

* UNE now offers majors in Sports and Recreation Management, and Applied Exercise Science.
More than 200 guests converged on UNE’s Portland Campus for the 54th annual Deborah Morton Society Convocation and Awards Ceremony, which honored Patricia E. Ryan, former executive director of the Maine Human Rights Commission; M. Michelle Hood, FACHE president and CEO of Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems; and Barbara M. Trafton, former Maine State Senator.

The ceremony also recognized Nursing students Melissa C. Brassard ’17 and Kelli M. Sousa ’16, who received Deborah Morton Endowed Scholarships.
CAPTIONS:

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Deborah Morton Steering Committee Chair Meg Baxter, DMS '07, addressing the crowd at Convocation.

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Background image: Deborah Morton Endowed Scholarship recipient Melissa Brassard with her parents, James Brassard and Lisa Weed.

Bottom images from left to right: Deborah Morton Society Convocation guests; Deborah Morton Society Convocation President Danielle N. Ripich, Ph.D.; Anita Talbot, Lois Galgay Reckitt, DMS '13; and Barbara Goodbody, DMS '04.

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President Danielle N. Ripich, Ph.D., leading the Deborah Morton Society Convocation procession.