UNe president reflects on tenure, retirement

By ALAN BENNETT

BIDDEFORD — It’s been 10 years since you recruited Danielle Ripich to inquire about her interest in the University of New England.

Ten years later, the university that she came to know has transformed from a small liberal arts college to a large, diverse institution offering undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs.

“I think sometimes it’s good for change, she said. “Change is the future … I always thought of ourselves as a group that was always moving forward.”

Ripich, who has both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in speech pathology from Cleveland State University, is a professor in the arts and sciences, and a dean of the College of Health Professions at the University of South Carolina. She had said she had gone to Maine once before, but not until now that she could see how I could contribute to (UNE), Ripich said.

“We’re sort of cutting edge — Maine is a place where people are basically modest, and we haven’t gotten ourselves into too many lives. We’ve always kind of done our work. And it’s turning out to have been wonderful for the school, for the human being you are at this point in time."

She also credits the city of Biddeford with the university’s success.

“I think the growth and the positive changes that are coming in Biddeford have the ability to help our students and others become more vital and unique in the engagement that I found.”

“I think it’s immeasurably better than a decade ago when I arrived, and I think it’s also a part of the university that there is a lot of support and interest in engagement with the city,” Ripich said.

“We have a lot to offer and we know that they love us, and they have many places to go and things they want to do, and we want to be part of that.”

By TAMMY WILLS

SANFORD — Ahhh, selfie — those selfies snapped by anyone with a smartphone. They can be fun, and they’re popular on Facebook and other social media pages with a great regularity.

Sanford Parks and Recreation director recreation coordinator Lori Blouin took to the idea, and suggested that people in Sanford and Springvale have a chance to offer and had an idea. She figured that people would enjoy a fun visiting the 11 areas, take a selfie and perhaps win a Fitbit. For their trouble.

“We have all these wonderful parks and have a picture of someone taking a selfie in a national park,” she said.

So Hegarty began looking online for parks and community munities had selfie contests, and the contest turned out to be quite a few, including some of the "scaven- ger hunt" variety. Hegarty said Parks and Recreation director Marcello Blouin took to the idea, and the selfie contest was born. All pictures must be taken on the month — June is National Parks month month — to be eligible to play.

All ages are welcome, and those who post photos will be highlighted on the Sanford Recreation Facebook page. Hegarty said the contest is out to turn a into a hit and a winning name or two will be drawn, depend- ing on the number of photos received. The contest ends June 30.

Here’s the link of the sites and the locations that must be included:

• A skate park selfie at Sanford County Park
• A selfie of the picknick table at City Park
• A basketball court selfie at Eaton's Park
• A beach selfie at Springvale Rec area
• A selfie at the baseball field at Holdsworth Park
• A selfie at the minor league field at the Sportsplex
• A selfie at the baseball field at the Sanford Sportsplex
• A selfie at Sanford’s Memorial Field
• A selfie at the Maine State Fair

Sanford, Springvale picture-perfect for selfie contest

By Justin Chenette

05-26-16

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