

Note: Beginning March 23, 2020, the University of New Hampshire suspended in-person classes and closed the campus due to COVID-19. No further full issues were published for that academic year, rather the students posted articles directly to the web throughout the Spring and Summer. The following pages are pdfs of the posted content.

On the Spot: Health & Wellness resource nurse Kristine Kahr

Posted by Caitlin Staffanson | Mar 28, 2020 | News | 0 |

The logo for the University of New Hampshire (UNH) is displayed in a large, black, serif font. The letters 'T', 'N', and 'H' are stacked vertically and are underlined.

Health & Wellness at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) was first alerted about Covid-19 on Jan. 10. The staff were made aware of a “cluster of viral pneumonia cases of unknown cause” in Wuhan, China. They had contact with many of the university’s international students as they returned from winter break and began to field questions from students, parents and community members. Shortly after being alerted, the traffic flow of the building was changed to separate students with respiratory symptoms and/or fever from those without symptoms. A temperature check and brief survey need to be completed by anyone entering the building.

While classes have moved online for students and faculty, Health & Wellness still remains open for those who remain on or near campus. Their hours of operation including the pharmacy are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. They will no longer be open on Saturdays and will no longer be open until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Instead of walk-ins, if students have questions, Health & Wellness would prefer they call (603) 862-9533 to discuss their concerns.

Kristine (Kris) Kahr, a health resource nurse at Health & Wellness, said that since Covid-19 was announced they’ve been fielding a lot of questions from students and parents. She references the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) guidelines when answering phone calls about the virus. Contrary to other healthcare facilities around the world, Health &

Wellness did not have an influx of students prior to the university's spring break and the announcement of a global pandemic.

"At work, we are all in N95 masks, wearing gloves and wiping surfaces, door handles, pens, light switches regularly," Kahr said. "Health & Wellness has an incredible housekeeper who has been very attentive to an extra thorough cleaning every night. I am wearing clothes, shoes and a coat to work that I can take off and leave in my garage; I have a laundry basket in the garage. I take a shower when I arrive home and then pick up the laundry basket and launder my clothes. I am wearing the same thing every day, laundering it every night."

Although Health & Wellness hasn't been extremely busy, they do have staff in the building until May 15, and others who are working remotely online and over the phone. While Health & Wellness is taking necessary precautions during this pandemic, they are not technically testing for the virus. Kahr said that they do have the ability to collect a specimen, but that testing is being done at the New Hampshire State Lab and LabCorp.

"If someone is experiencing symptoms of concern, I would recommend calling Health & Wellness first to discuss their symptoms and recommendations can be made on how to proceed," Kahr said.

The Health & Wellness website is being updated daily and contains lots of useful information regarding Covid-19 and responses to FAQ's. Health & Wellness is following the CDC and New Hampshire DHHS guidelines.

"For those not taking it seriously, watch the news," Kahr said. "It is not just impacting those over 60 or with pre-existing conditions. It seems to be a higher percentage of young people affected in the U.S."

Release of 'Animal Crossing: New Horizons' worth the wait

Posted by Ciarra Annis | Mar 29, 2020 | Arts | 0 |



The game of the decade was released last week, I'm calling it now. "Animal Crossing: New Horizons" was released on the Nintendo Switch, the latest iteration in the Animal Crossing series that has come eight years after the release of its predecessor "Animal Crossing: New Leaf," and it was well worth the wait.

"Animal Crossing: New Horizons" takes place on a formerly deserted island that tanuki Tom Nook has acquired to develop into a personal island paradise. You take the role as one of the first villagers moving onto the island to settle it. The other inhabitants are two random animals who will hopefully win your heart. I started with Dom, a little pink ram who loves to work out, and Renée, a pink rhino wearing a sailor shirt. As your island grows and develops, you can invite more and more villagers to come live on your island, in all varieties of animal species and personality. I managed to find my favorite villager, a smug little gazelle named Lopez, on one of the other islands you can travel to a few days in on the game.



“Animal Crossing: New Horizons,” like all in the series, runs on real-time and operates off of the time set on your console. Each day, something new will arrive on your island if you’ve put the work in the day before, and the music and island scenery gradually changes as the day goes on. Progression, for the most part, is linear, but you aren’t rushed to go onto any sort of path and you can really take the time to stop and smell the roses, or whatever flower your island started with. Of course, if you are not patient, this can make it hard to fully enjoy the game.

Luckily, “New Horizons” has included a new system that gives players little quests to work toward that earn “Nook Miles,” one of two in-game currencies. There are smaller daily quests that are simple, such as catching a certain type of bug or talking to your fellow villagers. There are also long-term goals, such as catching 40 fish in a row or selling weeds. This helps to give it a slightly more structured feeling. When I used to play “New Leaf” I would constantly get a little lost, not sure what goal to work on next. Here, if I’ve done whatever has been requested of me for the day, I can go about and focus on earning “bells,” the other game currency that allows you to buy clothes, furniture and upgrade your island’s infrastructure.



In terms of common time-filling activities, if you are wanting to stay on your island and need to acquire bells, the two main ways are fishing and bug-catching. Bug-catching has been more fun for me overall, even if it currently doesn't seem to be as lucrative as fishing. It's not that it's easier, in fact, it can be hard to track down some bugs and is more dangerous than fishing, but I like being able to run around the full island instead of just along the shoreline. Most bugs in the game are chill, waiting to be caught to be put into the museum and pampered until the end of their buggy days. The only exceptions to this are tarantulas, which spawn at night and you must carefully approach lest they attack you, and wasp nests that fall from trees and will unleash a swarm of them on you.

One thing that did "bug" me was the fishing mechanic. I love fishing in video games a lot – or at least I've warmed to it more recently – but there is nothing more frustrating than casting your line and having the fish turn away right as the bobber lands. That said, there are good times to be had when you and a group of friends get together on one of your islands while it's raining and try to get the rarer fishes that spawn, even if it can be a little stressful when you're the last to catch one and everyone's standing around clapping as you pull out another sea bass.



You can play this game entirely single player, however, there are a few online options that allow you to connect and play with friends, including visiting each others' islands via the airport, which is run by two dodo brothers. You can send mail and gifts as well, which led to my first overly-strong emotion while playing the game.

My dear friend sent me a gift and I almost teared up from how kind the message that was sent along with it was, until I realized that was simply the default message sent when one buys an item through Nook's Shop. Well, the sentiment was still there at least, because he gave me a t-shirt and a poster of my favorite villager and for that I am eternally grateful. You can erase the default messages and put your own, such as when I got doctor's masks available to buy in my own shop and wound up sending one to each of my friends with a gentle reminder to please social distance. Just remember to be respectful and follow Nintendo's code of conduct.

Customization isn't just limited to the messages you send. You can also customize your island, building bridges and terraforming it to your heart's content. Your house is free to be decorated, as is the rest of the island, saving for villager houses. Certain decorations have the ability for you to choose a different look for them through the customization option of workbenches. You can even change the color of the tools you make. My favorite part of it all is that I can make an island tune and hear my villagers sing it anytime I talk to them. Currently, they're all singing a high pitched version of the Tetris theme song, which, as we all know, is an absolute bop.

To unify the island, you can also make a town flag, but that is slightly more difficult. To make a town flag, you must make a design through the game's drawing mode or use a tool to scan a pre-existing image into the game (there are guides out there for this). The bright side is that through this same interface, one can design their own clothes, if they can't find any that are just absolutely perfect.

The characters of the island are iconic. Long-term fans of the game will recognize most of their favorite villagers of games past in “New Horizons,” though there are also a few new villagers thrown into the game. In past games, the online community for fans of “Animal Crossing” set up an underground trading ring, trading bells for access to villagers who they hoped would move into their own village. I haven’t yet seen such a strong market for trades like this yet, but I’m sure it will come. People who have been playing the games for years have gotten attached to their favorite villagers and miss them when they move on. It’s genuinely impossible for me to dislike any of the villagers currently in my village, even though I’d really like to find my old villager Diana out there in the waters of the sea. I tried to get Rhonda, a white rhino, to move out, but that effort only lasted half a day and ended when she said she looked forward to being friends. It makes me shudder to think where I will be if I don’t manage to get Diana by the time I hit the limit of 10 villagers. I don’t think I’ll be strong enough to evict anyone from my island. When it comes down to it, the villagers are the soul of the game, the main attraction.

At its heart, “Animal Crossing: New Horizons” is a sweet and genuine game, where you can escape from the terrors of the day to decorate your own island and home, dress up your character in a wide variety of outfits and befriend colorful animals each with their own personalities. And really, isn’t that just what we need right now?

Students and faculty reflect on first week of remote learning

Posted by Madailein Hart | Mar 30, 2020 | News | 0 |



The first week of online learning at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) has ended and it has been met with mixed reactions from students and professors. UNH President James W. Dean Jr. announced on March 18 that all in-person classes would be canceled for the rest of the semester due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The university has continued to send emails to students and faculty with updates about any changes being made to the school.

Most professors and faculty have positive reactions to how online learning is going.

“It is a major adjustment, but I think it is working well – for me and the students,” associate professor of history Jason Sokol said. “We are all happy to see each other and to be studying history together. The class meetings have given us all a slight sense of normalcy and routine during a very challenging time.”

“Most of our professors are already experienced teaching online, so none of this was frightening or alarming to them,” said Siobhan Senier, the coordinator of UNH’s women’s studies program. She added that Zoom sessions have been working well in smaller, upper-level courses. On top of this, other professors are utilizing other tools outside of Zoom. “Other professors are using a combination of asynchronous methods, including discussion boards and email conversations. Prof. [Joelle] Ryan has set up a Facebook group for their disability justice class,

where students are sharing and commenting on disability justice in light of COVID-19, and that's been really effective."

With other, more hands-on classes, professors and faculty have had to get more creative. Jennifer Moses, the chair of UNH's art and art history department, teaches a three-hour painting course and has had to figure out how to teach her students without being able to walk around the classroom and help them as they work. Different strategies that she has tried out this week include a discussion group for students to upload their work, a Box invitation to see each other's work and Zoom meetings. Although Moses has never taught an online course before, she finds it to be an "enjoyable challenge" that has given her new ideas when it comes to teaching.

"The biggest challenge is figuring out how to get this all organized and trying to figure out how best these students can work on their own without me spelling things out," Moses said. "So far it seems like everyone is really excited, actually, to be working on their own."

Moses also said that making this transition is easier with 2-D work, and teachers who usually work and teach with 3-D mediums, like sculpture, ceramics or woodworking, have had to think outside the box for their students to get the best experience out of online learning. Moses explained that the 3-D faculty have started studying an artist and then make work out of household items in relation to the artist they are studying, a sculpture professor has started using 3-D modeling and in-home installations, and the ceramics faculty is having students construct projects out of paper.

The student showcase that usually serves as a student's final project has also been canceled and Moses and her faculty have been working to see if they can do the showcase online along with videos about the artist's process and experiences. Moses said that she knows how disappointed her students are that they have to miss this big event, and has been trying to point out all the positives an online exhibition could bring such as a bigger audience and practice for applying to exhibitions outside of UNH.

UNH's Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems (ANFS) has run into similar problems with classes that usually involve hands-on experiences. Andrew Conroy teaches the Cooperative Real Education in Agriculture Management (CREAM), along with "Careers in Animal Sciences," "Dairy Cattle Selection," and the "Daily Cattle Disease Seminar." While his Careers in Animal Sciences class has moved online almost seamlessly, Conroy is disappointed that students in his other class won't be able to get the hands-on experience with cattle that they expected.

In his Dairy Cattle Selection class, specifically, the students work towards the "Little Royal," which has been a UNH event for 67 years.

“When students start out with a cow, it doesn’t know how to walk, it doesn’t know how to lead,” Conroy said, “and they take the whole semester as a project to clip and lead.” He added that students prep the cows on their own time and at the Little Royal they show their cow to a professional judge. Unlike the student exhibition within the art department, the Little Royal isn’t able to be held online or at a later date.

Other teachers in the ANFS department, like Jesse Stabile Morrell and Vanessa Grunkemeyer, who have fewer hands-on classes than Conroy, said they are trying to give students more agency by asking their opinions and worries on how classes should be run.

“I’ve been trying to enroll my students in trying to troubleshoot their final presentations,” Grunkemeyer said. Questions she and her students discuss include “How can we, as a group, come up with something that meets the spirit or objectives of our course?,” “How do we do group presentation meaningful on Zoom?,” “How do we make sure that all members of the group are held to the same standard?,” and “Who do we invite to see these presentations?” Grunkemeyer added that she’s “really been leaning on group problem solving, making sure students have a voice in any adaptations I need to make.”

Along with the support that teachers feel they are giving their students, the professors in the ANFS, women’s studies, arts and history departments have felt supported by both other faculty members and the UNH information technology (IT) department.

“Campus IT folks have been amazing, offering mentoring and communication multiple times a day,” Senier said. “Department chairs have offered individual and team support. The provost and deans have daily tried to reassure us that this is a work in progress, that we all have students’ well-being and success uppermost in our minds, and that we will get through this.”

“My wife, Nina Morrison, who teaches in the Department of Theatre and Dance... has given me advice on online teaching,” Sokol said. “Without her, this would be truly impossible. Dee-Ann Dumas of the COLA Geeks has also provided extremely valuable advice.”

“In our College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, the dean’s office, the department chair, everyone is super busy but they are really responsive and have demonstrated care,” Morrell said. “I’ve been reminded of how many great people I work with.”

Not all students share the same opinions as their professors, however. Sustainable agriculture major Kyle Blume, a veteran, said that he feels like students aren’t being asked about their own education and sometimes when teachers do ask how students are doing, the undergraduates don’t advocate for themselves, resulting in teachers thinking that their students are fine.

“Students are expected to adapt to whatever the professors want to do,” Blume said, adding that he knows there are conversations happening at the upper level of UNH faculty in regards to this

new student situation, but feels that students are not being heard during these discussions. He also expressed concern that other undergraduate students are not doing well due to their study habits possibly changing, inability to make it to Zoom class meetings if they have to take care of a family member, or simply just can't focus during an online class.

This sentiment was echoed by sophomore political science and justice studies dual major Gabby Corricelli and junior linguistics and women's studies dual major Emmalyn Casteris.

Casteris said that the first week of online learning has been more difficult than expected.

"I thought online classes would just be the same as regular coursework but with no lectures, but I'm not learning anything," Casteris said.

"I am not a fan of online classes," Corricelli said, "and wish UNH would be more understanding about how difficult it is for a student to transition to them."

"The biggest thing I would want is some understanding from professors on work that was already late or something," junior anthropology and philosophy double major Becky Holland said.

"Because of this change I have to reshape my entire life, and I lost my whole academic support systems and routines, so I'd want them to be more understanding than they would have been before. I'm working on all my overdue stuff, but also on all my current work, and then adding on the stress of this whole situation and the domestic tasks I'm taking on? It can be a lot, and I know that profs are doing their best but I'd want them to know that my personal best isn't going to be the same as it was."

On top of students dealing with their own personal troubles during this time, others have found that some teachers are having a hard time with a new online format.

"My biology teacher was supposed to post work for us Wednesday and didn't and we are currently supposed to be taking a quiz as we speak but also never posted that. Our TA can't even get in contact with him," senior sustainable agriculture major Tim Fischer said on Friday.

"Communication with my professors has been really difficult so figuring out what I have for work and when it's due is really difficult," Casteris said.

"The only problem I'm facing with lectures via Zoom is the professors change sheets too fast so I don't have the time to write everything down," junior mechanical engineering major Oscany DeJesus said. "So far the professors have suggested going back and rewatching the video if we missed something which is incredibly annoying because students shouldn't have to take extra time out of the day to keep up with what he does in lecture."

Some students have expressed mixed emotions between being disappointed that the year is already over and understanding why this move to online classes needed to happen during this pandemic.

“It’s honestly nice to be able to just stay in in the morning and watch a lecture on my laptop. As far as actually learning the content though, I feel like being in person with a professor... is much more effective at imparting knowledge to me,” said senior mechanical engineering major Derick Boisvert. “On top of that, as an engineering major, all of my labs have been canceled which definitely sucks. Furthermore, it’s been tedious trying to download software that I originally used to just access at the computer cluster in Kingsbury. All in all, there will be an adjustment period, but I think we’re all handling it as well as possible!”

Senior animal science major Marina Santos agreed that students are trying to handle this situation as best as they can. On top of that, she said that she understands why the university had to make this decision, as bringing students back from spring break could pose a high risk of spreading COVID-19.

Santos has also observed, however, that some of her fellow students are losing motivation.

“It’s like, ‘what’s the point of taking classes?’” she asked, referring to the mindset of other students. “Everyone’s angry, everyone’s disappointed... I don’t feel like a real college student anymore.”

“Everyone I’ve talked to has mentioned they are struggling with motivation to do school work,” junior English major Nathalie Cumming said. “I think a lot of people who already deal with depression or procrastination are having a hard time finding a reason to complete schoolwork right now because we’re all so anxious and bored.”

Santos said that it was helpful for her to see other students trying to help each other in the UNH class groups on Facebook, such as offering beds or rooms if people can’t go home. “I want to tell other wildcats that you’re not alone, because I wish someone said that to me when this was happening,” Santos said, “I know it feels like a personal attack, but everyone is going through this together.”

Unlike the faculty, who have had other professors and IT departments to lean on, Santos said she’s disappointed that there hasn’t been more of an effort to bring students together, although she noted that most of her professors always start their class with a “how are you doing today,” making her feel less “abandoned.”

Senior journalism major Nicole Cotton said that her professors “have been amazing and completely understanding of their students’ needs and have adjusted the syllabus.” Cotton added

that “this is a learning curve for everyone and although I’m obviously sad knowing I won’t ever sit in a classroom at UNH as an undergrad again, I’m glad that we all have each other’s backs.”

“Overall I would say I’m pleasantly surprised with the state of classes at UNH since the shutdown,” junior history and economics dual major Daniel Frehner said. “There’s of course no comparison to meeting in person, learning face-to-face just inherently requires paying more attention, but classes seem to be functioning decently overall.”

Many students, including Casteris, DeJesus, Blume and Corricelli say that they wish the semester was pass/fail to take some of the pressure off and make this an easier transition.

State-level COVID-19 update

Posted by Anna Kate Munsey | Apr 1, 2020 | News | 0 |

The logo for TNH (The New Hampshire) is centered within a rectangular frame. It consists of the letters 'T', 'N', and 'H' in a large, black, serif font. A thin horizontal line is positioned directly beneath the 'N' and 'H'.

While much information regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) is constantly changing, state and local leaders including the University of New Hampshire (UNH) are being proactive about these times and what they necessitate.

State of New Hampshire

As of Friday, March 27, the state of New Hampshire is under a stay-at-home order. The order, issued by Governor Chris Sununu, calls for all non-essential businesses to “end in-person and public-interacting operations,” per a tweet from Sununu on March 26. Sununu has clarified that this is neither a shelter-in-place nor a border-shutdown situation.

“We cannot stress this enough – you should stay at your house unless absolutely necessary. Of course, we will not prevent you from leaving your home to go on a walk, go to the store, or if you are going to work. It will take sacrifice, but NH is resilient & we will get through it,” Sununu said in a tweet on March 26.

Town of Durham

On March 21, Town Administrator Todd Selig explained the action he and several others had taken regarding COVID-19 in an email to Durham residents.

“Earlier today, Town Council Chair Kitty Marple, Chair Pro Tem Kenny Rotner, State Senator Martha Fuller Clark, and Mr. Selig sent a request to the NH Commissioner of Health and Human Services requesting that she recommend to the Governor the issuance of an immediate “shelter-in-place” order for the State of New Hampshire in order to effectively combat the COVID-19 pandemic,” he wrote. Since then, Sununu has not issued a shelter-in-place order, but he has issued the stay-at-home order, effective through May 4.

In an email to *The New Hampshire*, Selig discussed how he thinks COVID-19 has affected Durham so far and how the new stay-at-home order could change things. He explained that while there is so much still unknown regarding COVID-19, ideally social distancing strategies in New Hampshire will be able to help “flatten the curve” before hospitals are overwhelmed and doctors do not have adequate supplies for all patients. Selig discussed another unknown factor of COVID-19 – whether its spread would slow in the summer similar to the spread of influenza. He said that whether or not this was the case, social distancing measures will continue to be taken through the summer and second half of 2020.

“Perhaps outdoor activities in small groups would be able to resume in summer. Maybe restaurants would reopen, at least partially with decreased numbers of tables and new occupancy limitations. But large gatherings would likely still be banned. No Major League Baseball, no crowded NH beaches, no overflow crowds at the Whittemore Center arena or the new UNH Football Stadium, etc. Sports leagues might resume in the summer but without crowds, and TV shows like American Idol might forgo studio audiences. Stores will probably have to continue to cap the number of shoppers allowed in at once. Large crowds will likely be a definite ban for some time,” Selig said.

“My understanding concerning the downside of a closer-to-normal summer is that a resurgence of the disease in six months or so might be a strong possibility (though not guaranteed) — in essence, a second wave of illness to some degree in the fall. If that came to pass, new social distancing measures would need to be implemented, similar to what we now have in place, or if people who have been infected do ultimately develop an immunity to COVID-19, perhaps social distancing requirements could be eased to some degree. By fall, hospitals would hopefully be in a much stronger position concerning things like having adequate protective measures, supplies, masks, and ventilators on hand to deal with a surge,” Selig said.

Selig closed with, “This is a hard time for UNH, for Durham’s Main Street, and for all of our residents and businesses locally. No one knows exactly what the future holds. What we do know is that until a vaccine is developed and distributed, which will take 12 – 18 months at the fastest, we have entered a new normal.”

The University of New Hampshire

Sununu is working in conjunction with UNH to assist where possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, per a tweet from UNH, part of the Hamel Recreation Center has been transformed into a space for “overflow for hospitals and as quarantine housing for health personnel” with the New Hampshire National Guard. This is at the request of both Sununu and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

“We’re offering resources in support of drive-thru testing & @UNHDining to provide meals for those on campus,” the tweet added.

Additionally, UNH shared a video on social media with the caption “Our faculty and staff joined together to welcome back @UNHStudents with open *digital* arms and positive encouragement.” The video was a collection of positive messages encouraging students and helping stay happy and healthy during this time.

On March 25, President James Dean spoke in a video message on Twitter and Instagram about commencement, which has been a topic of speculation since the shift to remote learning for the remainder of the semester was announced. He said that he has heard concerns from students and understands they do not want commencement to be cancelled or “virtual.” Dean said that while commencement will not happen as normal, various postponement options are being considered. Additionally, the message noted that students could send their commencement ceremony ideas over email.

“In the meantime, stay safe, please be healthy, and wash those Wildcat paws,” Dean said.

Both the state of New Hampshire and UNH have numerous web pages that are updated as new information becomes available regarding many aspects of COVID-19. These are resources students and residents can turn to for answers and advice.

UNH Faculty Senate passes pass/fail motion

Posted by Benjamin Strawbridge | Apr 2, 2020 | News | 0

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The logo for The New Hampshire, consisting of the letters 'TNH' in a large, bold, serif font, with a horizontal line underneath the letters.

The University of New Hampshire's (UNH) Faculty Senate passed a motion on Tuesday encouraging a "pass/fail" course option for all interested students and professors for the rest of the Spring 2020 semester, one of many moves made by the UNH community as they attempt to accommodate a student body uprooted by the unprecedented coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and adapting to a fully-online learning experience. The motion still needs to be approved by President James W. Dean and his team before implementation.

The motion, acquired by *The New Hampshire* from a university professor who formerly attended the Senate meetings as an audience member and requested anonymity because the motion has yet to be approved by the university, states that students have until April 28 to request a "pass/fail" format for "any and all Spring 2020 [undergraduate] course(s) in progress that has (have) not ended at the time of this motion's approval, and all such courses would follow established policy for P/F," while individual courses must inform students and UNH administration by April 10 on their decision whether or not to adopt the format. Procedures for courses opting into the format are encouraged to be "developed and communicated by the Registrar's Office as soon as possible."

Per the text, the Faculty Senate is encouraging interested departments and programs to make their "pass/fail" policy as "liberal" as possible and "accept P [pass] as fulfilling major requirements

whenever possible.” A “pass” grade in “pass/fail” courses will also count toward all degree requirements including Discovery courses, Bachelor of Arts (BA) language requirements, writing intensive courses, and all majors and minors except for “courses in academic programs that already have a minimum grade requirement and decide that they would like to maintain that requirement for the spring 2020 semester.”

Despite the motion’s flexibility, it also reads that, until April 28, students are only permitted to drop one course they are currently enrolled in, which will be marked as “W” on their transcripts; the option does not apply to courses where a student has “already been assigned an F for having broken the rules of academic integrity” within this semester. In addition, a student cannot use the “pass/fail” option to repeat a course.

Meanwhile, it also stresses that responsibilities for enforcing either a “pass/fail” format and/or a minimum grade requirement, as well as Spring 2020 advising, fall on participating departments and programs.

When asked about the status of the motion following its Senate approval, Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior Vanessa Druskat wrote in a March 31 email to *The New Hampshire* that the motion must go before “various levels” of university leadership before it reportedly lands on the desk of UNH President James W. Dean, Jr., and his team.

“There are likely to be motions from other groups and other opinions received by the President before any formal decision is made,” Druskat added.

The university has yet to release a formal statement on the motion or when it could be approved or implemented.

The motion passing in Senate has thus far yielded “mixed feelings” from students, according to graduate student and public policy major Evan Kelly, who wrote in a March 31 email to *The New Hampshire* that student responses to the motion, such as those from his classmates and friends, depend on their ability to take part in the altered and near-completely online learning environment from wherever they currently reside.

“On one hand they’re in a similar situation as me in that they are worse off academically as a result of this situation,” he said. “But on the other hand, we have already done a lot of work this semester and don’t want to see that invalidated.”

Kelly emphasized that his “similar” predicament stems from personal concerns over GPA and his ability to make up for lost time, writing that the coronavirus pandemic and an “unprecedented life situation” have set him back by as much as two weeks.

“My hope is that since this is such a universal event, that employers will see the dates on my pass/fail semester and understand the circumstances behind it,” he wrote. “...I think it would be unreasonable for UNH to expect its faculty and students to perform as if this is a normal situation.”

The graduate student added that “a lot of people” could potentially see declines in their GPAs thanks to the virus, suggesting that UNH “would rather just put the issue to rest rather than deal with further-disgruntled wildcats.”

Despite the impact of the pandemic, Kelly expressed optimism that UNH can return to a “semi-normal operation” next fall, predicting that the “pass/fail” accommodation will only be temporary. He wrote that officials nationwide are “improvising” at the moment and do not intend to make the system a “precedent” when the pandemic ends.

Nevertheless, Kelly stressed that the recent interest in adopting the format, especially from a displaced student body, proves how institutions like UNH are “much more flexible” than people give them credit for.

“In more stable times we speak about things like GPA’s and taxes as if they’re inalienable facts of life, but once the situation becomes more dire things can change very quickly,” he wrote. “I think this will be a good thing to remember when we want changes to the system in the future; that all those things that we consider immovable can be moved if people really wanted them to be.”

An update regarding UNH's pass/fail motion

Posted by Benjamin Strawbridge | Apr 3, 2020 | News | 0

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The logo for The New Hampshire (TNH) is displayed in a large, black, serif font. The letters 'T', 'N', and 'H' are all uppercase and are underlined with a thin horizontal line.

Less than two days after its Faculty Senate passed a motion encouraging the implementation of a “pass/fail” course system for the remainder of the spring semester in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) emailed its response to the motion, and its plans to implement the temporary system, to the UNH community. Students will be able to change any “letter grade course” to a pass/fail grade.

The April 2 email, sent from Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Wayne Jones and authored by Faculty Senate Chair David Bachrach and University Registrar Andrew Colby, reiterated the terms of the motion – which *The New Hampshire* detailed in a Thursday, April 2 report – while stressing the April 28 deadline for undergraduate students and the university’s commitment to “quickly” develop the new system for use on WebCat; the university stated that they expect to begin the process “early next week.”

The “pass/fail” system does not apply to graduate courses or courses in the UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law, according to the email.

The email additionally stated that the Faculty Senate based its decision to pass the motion on three “objectives:” maintaining “equity” among the student body and for individual abilities to complete their degrees, providing “flexibility” for faculty as they alter their courses for the new

system and “new modes of instruction while not inadvertently taxing students,” and ensuring “simplicity” and “clarity” on the policy front to “help ease concerns, confusion and stress on the university community.”

Bachrach and Colby encouraged community members to refer to UNH's COVID-19 FAQ webpage and encouraged students to speak with their academic advisors for more information regarding the changes, disclaiming in the email that it was not designed to provide “specific guidance” on how courses should proceed or whether they should adopt the “pass/fail” motion.

“There are important considerations for undergraduates to weigh to determine whether a change is appropriate, especially for major requirements,” the email read. “We urge everyone to read very carefully the guidance available and, most importantly, for undergraduates to talk with their academic advisor about the choice.”

COVID-19: Residential Life to practice new methods of community

Posted by Ian Lenahan | Apr 3, 2020 | News | 0 |



As a result of the decision by the University of New Hampshire (UNH) to remain in a virtual learning setting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the university's Department of Residential Life is left without a major aspect of its everyday structure- the vibrant residence hall communities.

However, though the vast majority of students in on-campus housing have moved their belongings out of their residence hall living assignments, Residential Life is planning on ways to virtually continue interacting with students.

In an email sent out to all campus resident assistants (RA's), UNH Director of Residential Life Ruth Abelmann announced the department's intentions to remain active in students' lives through online programming and check-ins to mirror the department's in-person initiatives.

“Our RHD’s [residence hall directors] are starting to plan out what a virtual residence hall can be – it takes some imagination and ingenuity to turn this concept into a reality. We are ready to take this on so that we can continue to be connected with students and bring community and useful information to our students during these strange times. We have been talking about the three C’s- connection, community and curriculum- as we plan for the coming months,” Abelman wrote.

According to Joey Hitchcock, RHD of Hubbard Hall, he and the other 21 university RHD’s will continue to focus on the department’s annual educational curriculum blocks, teaching about topics such as personal health, campus diversity, academic and student leadership, etc. They have also begun to brainstorm more interactive programming that students will likely respond to, such as social media trivia and quizzes, pet show-and-tells and virtual bingo, to name a few.

Hitchcock said that, under the current circumstances, it’s as important to develop active programming aimed at maintaining connections with students as it is to educate on different curriculum topics.

“We need to provide students with opportunities to interact with each other, because they may not be getting that at home,” he said.

Additionally, Hitchcock stated that he aims to provide a Zoom link for one-on-one conversations with residents should they feel the need to seek him out. As everyone tries to “figure out what our new reality is,” Hitchcock is keeping in mind those students who may not feel comfortable in their current environment away from campus, regardless of reason.

“It’s important to get them the resources they might need for things we don’t know about in that moment,” he said.

Haaland Hall RHD Halie Laviolette has been meeting regularly with her RA’s and Hall Council representatives online, checking in with them and going over ideas on how to keep connecting with other Haaland residents.

With a variety of ideas on virtual programming for any residents willing to participate (such as making humorous videos on TikTok, a method she’s already begun using) Laviolette is confident that students will continue to look to her and other Residential Life professionals for support during this time away from campus. Like Hitchcock and other RHD’s, she plans on potentially offering Zoom “office hours” or phone calls with any student seeking comfort.

“I hope that students still see me as a support system. Bottom line is all the hall directors want to be there for students and that won’t change with all that’s going on,” she said. “My hope is that they take us up on that. There are students who I have great relationships with will continue to be engaged virtually, and I think the ones who may not be as present in the building kind of already

have their groups but if they need it, I hope they find comfort in reaching out. I think we'll still do great work."

In her email to all campus RA's, Abelman noted that, since RA's have their room and board fees covered but are no longer on campus, they are not expected continue working in their roles if they don't wish to. She also noted that any RA who wishes to continue reaching out to their residents is certainly allowed to.

"That said, we would never discourage you from reaching out to your residents to connect, check in, offer support and perhaps even pull your floor together. This is totally up to you," she wrote.

Laviolette is confident that the wide majority of RA's selected for this academic year will be willing to continue their role from a distance.

"We try and hire people who are invested and people who care, so I don't foresee anyone dropping this and not talking to residents or not reaching out to them. We normally hire people who are helpers. RA's will probably feel odd or strange if they're not going out of their way to do those things," she said.

Nora Biron, a senior human development and family studies major and second-year RA in Alexander Hall, has enjoyed Residential Life's efforts so far. Although she plans to remain active with under her RHD's supervision and continue to collaborate with her four co-RA's, she sees two sides to the idea of students participating in virtual programming.

"On one side, by the end of a school year RAs and RHD often struggle to get engagement from students because students are facing burnout and the future/summer is on their minds. In addition to the physical distance between the staff and their residents, I can see the response rate being low," she said. "On the other side, people have created amazing bonds in their residential community and are faced with anxiety of the unknown following the COVID-19 university shutdown. I can see many students hanging on to those relationships when looking for support or even a distraction."

Under such uncertainties, Biron applauded Residential Life's efforts to move everyone out of housing so efficiently and their desire to keep up with connecting with their students.

"I personally think that Residential Life is doing the best they can in such an unprecedented time. I have been talking to a few friends who work at different institutions across the country and every school seems to be responding differently; no one expected this to happen and I trust the decisions Residential Life has made to support their students," she said.

Connor Mathews, a junior mathematics major and second-year RA under Laviolette in Haaland Hall, has already begun speaking with residents on his floor on

continuing his role throughout the remainder of the semester.

“These are unprecedented and stressful times for everyone and the adjustment to a new way of life and personal family will be at the forefront of student’s minds. I, like many RA’s, have taken the time to reach out and keep in contact with my residents to let them know I am still in my role as being an RA for them and someone they can always reach out to or ask questions,” he said.

Additionally, Mathews praised Laviolette for “getting the ball rolling” in her outreach to Haaland’s residents.

“She remains consistent in sending out a weekly update email for the building, although the information in them recently has been concerning the transitions off-campus and to online work. She has made it clear to everyone though that the hall staff is still available to answer any questions they may have or if they just need someone to talk to,” he said.

Williamson Hall RHD Kristi Leclerc, who oversees 16 RA’s, one assistant hall director (AHD) and nearly 450 students, has been looking for silver linings amongst the campus’ new normal- one without many students present. Despite the sadness of the situation and in seeing students move out, Leclerc credits her staff and the entire Residential Life department for “thinking on our feet” and still caring for each other amidst the stress of the pandemic.

Leclerc credited Abelmann and other Residential Life administrators for their flexibility and concern for students and community members in such a time of unease.

“In general, I think Res[idential] Life is good at adapting and problem solving. While this transition has been challenging, I was really impressed and grateful to hear about everyone’s ideas about the virtual residence halls, student engagement, and how we can support the university and the community at large,” she said. “Ruth and our other supervisors have been very supportive of us, as well as focused on students and their families. So far, the student perception has been positive!”

On top of the department’s planning for new ways of remotely engaging with students, members of the Residential Life team have been thrown curveballs in their job routines in recent weeks. For the university’s scheduled spring break room checkouts in every residence hall, RA’s, RHD’s and senior administrators had to comply with health standards and wear gloves as they went from room to room. In collaboration with UNH’s Department of Housing, Residential Life implemented an impromptu move-out schedule for students to retrieve their belongings from their living assignments between March 22-30. Now, in an effort to save money in utilities, all 22 residence halls will be powered down. As a result, all 22 RHD’s are moving to the on-campus Gables Apartment Complex for an indefinite period.

Despite the new standard for members of the department, Abelmann praised her team for their response to the COVID-19 pandemic relative to the university.

“We are a very strong team, we work to build this team at the start of every year, and the result is that we know how to come together under really challenging situations,” she said. “RHD’s are already adapting to implementing virtual residence halls with the same priorities that drive their work year-round: Connecting to students, building community and implementing an educational curriculum focused on student well-being.”

Abelmann’s message to students in these bleak times of uncertainty? Though our vision is blurred by a hazy, unknown future, the key to making it through is the practice of positivity.

“Hopefully, they will feel like their residence hall didn’t fizzle because of the changes due to COVID-19. Hopefully they will realize you can have hope, stay connected and support each other just as students do all year long in their halls,” she said. “That life can throw us off our course and it is up to us to adapt and adjust so that we can ground ourselves, accept what is happening, make the best of it and maybe even see the silver linings, which I have no doubt there are many. But we won’t see them if we don’t look for them.”

For more information on UNH’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit the university’s website for up-to-date information and resources.

TNH's Letters from Quarantine: Caitlin Staffanson

Posted by Caitlin Staffanson | Apr 3, 2020 | Opinion | 0 |

The logo for TNH, consisting of the letters 'TNH' in a large, black, serif font, centered within a thin black rectangular border. A horizontal line is positioned directly beneath the letters.

Hey TNH readers!

I hope you are all doing well.

While these past few weeks have been a new experience for all of us, I've been spending a lot of my time in quarantine thinking about the different experiences we are all taking on. Many of us are stuck working from home, whether that is for school, a job, or both. Some of us are completely alone in quarantine, while others have family, friends, or a significant other we are with. No matter how you are spending your time, it's important to realize some of us are struggling more than others.

My time in quarantine has been spent with my four incredible roommates. I feel incredibly fortunate to be spending time with them and am cherishing every second in our off-campus apartment. I am from the Midwest, so going home right now is a very challenging option. The more I think about home, the more difficult it gets to be here in New Hampshire and so close to the campus I've spent nearly every day on for the past 2.5 years; however, my roommates and I are making the best of our situation.

Since quarantine has started, I've been thinking a lot about other people's experiences. While this experience is not easy for anyone, there are people struggling immensely. Some of us are more likely to catch this virus that is keeping us all in quarantine. I cannot even imagine how scary this time is for them. There are people in unsafe living situations and my heart breaks for them. There are people struggling to provide food for themselves and/or their families. Unemployment is soaring and the end is unknown. Mental health is a concern for many of us. It's also important to remember that while we are in quarantine, there are many people who are working to fight this pandemic or are an essential worker who don't have the option to stay home – every day is a new battle for them.

My wish for you all during this time is to find a little yellow. The one thing I've shared with my family and friends from the start is yellow is a happy color. A thing you can find some positivity in amidst a darker time. We can be kind to one another whether that's through social media, a financial donation, a phone call to someone you cannot see for a while or supporting local businesses online. I also hope you save some yellow for yourself. My wish is that during this time, no matter how difficult it gets, that you and others can find something to benefit yourself. It's OK to be selfish. Maybe, this is finally the time for you to work out because you just haven't found the time prior to this. Maybe, it's finally taking some time to focus on your mental health and finding ways to de-stress and relax. For some, it'll finally be getting the time to work on the project they've been putting off for months. Others may take this time to focus on getting their grades up. Yet some of us may take this time to do absolutely nothing, which is perfectly fine.

The point of my letter to you all is that no matter how you spend your time in quarantine, find some hope, find some yellow and share it. This is not an easy time for any of us. Every day we face our own struggles. My hope is that no matter how difficult it gets for you; you find something to hold on to, to get you through each day. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Best, Caitlin Staffanson

The Adventures of Tracy and James!

Chapter 9: Shifting Sands

Posted by Zach Lewis | Apr 4, 2020 | Arts | 0 |



Our four heroes believe they have discovered the heart of Prospero the Wizard. Will they be able to harness the information within or will their plans hit a few bumps? Find out below!

“It’s a diamond?” Ozburtle the Wizard says. He holds the diamond next to the eternal green flame torch in Tracy’s hand. “I wasn’t expecting a diamond.”

“Is it Prospero’s heart? I mean, was it, or, did we find the right thing?” James asks. A visceral thud is heard throughout the chamber.

“Maybe. It might have something to do with all that rumbling,” Ozburtle the Wizard says. The ground beneath the four heroes swishes like the back of a purring cat. “It definitely feels like we have the right one,” Ozburtle tosses the diamond up in the air and catches it again, “or at least an important diamond with all of this fuss.”

“I thought you said we wouldn’t be cursed?” Tracy asks.

“This isn’t a curse,” Ozburtle the Wizard says. He side-steps a statue of a golden woman wielding a spear that crashes into the ground. “It’s a booby trap. It’s dumb tech, well, it’s not magic at least. There was a string attached to the diamond that I just ripped off. I totally disregarded a little note that said ‘Ye who pulls this string is in for a reckoning!’”

“Why would you do that?” James asks.

“I thought that since we were all good with the curses, you know, I didn’t even think about booby traps. Now quickly,” Ozburtle the Wizard says as he adjusts his vestments and hat, “let’s run.” Ozburtle sprints across the rumbling ground. Tracy, James and ZoopZoop follow his lead.

“Can’t we just transport out of the orb with the diamond?” James asks. The pathways are now littered with jewels and gold coin.

“We’re not really inside Orby the Orb, noooo, this is a more like an astral projection into this realm, yes, that’s what it’s like. It’s not a simulation at all,” Ozburtle the Wizard says. “What ever gave you that idea?”

“You did, you said—“ James says as Ozburtle interrupts him.

“I said it was *basically* like a simulation, or something to that effect. Any ideas or assumptions that you made based off that is your own. We can’t take the diamond with us because, technically, we aren’t here,” Ozburtle the Wizard says.

“It’s like our consciousness is downloaded – well, uploaded – into this realm, our physical bodies haven’t moved though,” Tracy says she slides on the golden detritus like she was wearing socks on a kitchen floor.

“*Beep!*” ZoopZoop says atop Tracy’s shoulder.

“That’s right ZoopZoop,” Ozburtle the Wizard replies, “it is like virtual reality except if we lose our consciousness here, we won’t be able to regain it back on Romduppleschwoop 4, at least the Romduppleschwoop 4 we’re actually on. So, for our purposes let’s just pretend we’re here in reality, because we are, but not really.”

The four heroes take a sharp right turn. “I can harness the energy from the diamond and gather the map if it is indeed Prospero’s heart, but I need a place that’s less earthquakey,” Ozburtle the Wizard says.

“If we don’t have a map, do you know where we’re heading?” James asks. He hops over the crumbles of a former water fountain. The bow and arrow of a former cherub is still intact.

“Intuition, my boy, sheer intuition,” Ozburtle the Wizard says. The ground beneath the treasure whips back like a taught wire being released and the four heroes are flung through the Emperor of Khazaduul’s treasure chamber and land in front of a solid steel door in the middle of what appears to be the edge of the room. Stone wall stretches as far as the eye can see with the sole

exception of this door. A crude wooden sign with hand-drawn white lettering above the door states *Exit*. Slightly below are the words *This isn't a trap*.

"Well that definitely makes me feel like it is a trap," James says.

"*Beep!*" ZoopZoop says.

"Well we can't stay here," Tracy says. She pulls a joint out of her pocket and lights it with the green flame.

"All three of you are correct," Ozburtle the Wizard says as he takes a drag from Tracy's wacky tobacky stick. "But we have no other choice. Into the door." Ozburtle grabs the handle and pulls. The door doesn't open. He pulls again. Nothing. "What's wrong with this door?" he asks.

"Maybe it pushes open?" James asks.

"Gadzooks! Brilliant deducing, James," Ozburtle the Wizard says. The four heroes squish into each other as the flotsam and jetsam of the deteriorating chamber fills up the entire area. Ozburtle pushes the door open. He, Tracy, James and ZoopZoop spill into the next room as the door slams shut behind them.

Inside, Tracy, James and ZoopZoop stand up and walk forward. Ozburtle stays, sits crossed-legged and spies through the keyhole at the destroyed treasure room. Ozburtle watches it snap back to its former appearance, before they had even step foot in the space. "Maybe it was a magic boobytrap? That goes into the notebook for sure," Ozburtle pulls out a black reporter's notebook from the vortex pocket of his cloak. It has a sticker on the front that says *top secret*.

"Um, Ozburtle," Tracy says. She tugs at his cloak.

"Not now Tracy, I'm making a note in my notebook," Ozburtle the Wizard says.

"I think you should see this," James says. His attention is directed away from the wizard.

"*Beep Beep!*" ZoopZoop says.

"Fine," Ozburtle the Wizard says. He shoves his notebook back into his inside vortex pocket. "What couldn't wait five seconds for me to write down... Oh my god."

Ozburtle investigates the room for the first time. "This is unusual," he says as he strokes his beard. "This is peculiar indeed."

Mad about books: 'The Wife Between Us' by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen

Posted by Madailein Hart | Apr 4, 2020 | Arts | 0 |



"The Wife Between Us" by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen quickly became one of my favorite books, especially after part one. I would highly recommend listening to this through an audiobook because the back and forth of Vanessa and Nellie is done especially well and adds another layer to the story itself (although that definitely stands on its own). There were moments where I was literally gasping out loud when motives were revealed, a plan went awry, and at each of the ends of the book's three parts. It's suspenseful and it plays on the reader's assumptions of story characters and tropes.

I can't give too much away, but the story follows Vanessa and Nellie and their relationship with the handsome, rich and successful Richard. Vanessa feels abandoned by him, but Nellie feels safe and secure for the first time in a while. As Nellie puts it, "Richard fixed everything." Vanessa just sees his new fiancé as her replacement, and she is determined to break the two up. We see Vanessa after divorcing from Richard, living with her aging aunt with none of the comforts that his money used to provide: clothes, fancy vacations, country clubs and more. She doesn't seem to have a support system to fall back on in her time of need, as memories of her previous marriage keep popping up.

"In my marriage," Vanessa says, "there were three truths, three alternate and sometimes competing realities. There was Richard's truth. There was my truth. And there was the actual truth, which is always the most elusive to recognize."

Slowly we see the motives of each character reveal themselves, and no one is who you think they are. The people were well-developed, giving attention where it needs to be and ending with some air of mystery, but in a satisfying way that didn't take away from the two main characters and their motives. Not only do we see these three characters but we are also introduced to Samantha, Maureen, Charlotte, Mrs. Keene, Frank, Lucille, Emma, Duke and others. All of these secondary characters are used as hints and pointers to the "truth" that Vanessa talks about. These characters were a bit more 2-D (with the exception of Maureen and Emma), but I personally didn't mind because it was the three main characters that were the focus.

The beginning is a bit slow, but I believe the authors do this deliberately to set up the backgrounds of all the characters and establish a connection with the reader before anything shocking happens. Once I got past part one, I couldn't stop listening to the audiobook. Although the authors say "assume nothing," I thought I had everything figured out at least three separate times, only for Hendricks and Pekkanen to throw me another curveball. I liked that the surprises were not meant to just be purely shocking but challenge the reader's assumptions in a way that makes sense with the story. Even at the very end, where I had pieced things together and found out I was right, it gives a feeling of, "I can't believe I figured that out," instead of, "Oh, I knew that was going to happen."

This is a great starter book for anyone who wants to get into the thriller genre or for anyone who already loves thrillers, psychology, suspense and mystery.

Members of 'Seacoast Mask Makers' join together for a common cause

Posted by Hannah Donahue | Apr 4, 2020 | News | 0 |



In the midst of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) has struck those in need. Because of this, residents of the Seacoast have come together to combat this issue.

When founder Javi Kalback became aware of this shortage, they knew they could make a difference in this time of need. Inspired by wanting to provide for healthcare workers, caregivers and correctional facilities, Seacoast Mask Makers was formed on Facebook and gained traction quickly. While the group was originally founded to service hospitals, they investigated other organizations that displayed a need for PPE, like face masks.

“We went from about 30 people on March 21 to about 1200 3 days later,” Seacoast Mask Makers public relations (PR) coordinator Sarah Lachance said. At the time of this writing, there are 1,472 members who donate materials, make masks and help in other ways through the Facebook group. As of March 31, Seacoast Mask Makers had donated nearly 5,000 masks to places along the Seacoast like Riverside Rest Home, Strafford County Department of Corrections, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Police Department, various essential employees and more.

While local hospitals are still using existing supplies and are not yet in need of the mask donations, Lachance said "If and when hospitals have a greater need, we have the process and "machine" ready to help supply them." According to Lachance, each day they are receiving more requests from organizations for masks after seeing the impact that they have had so far on the community. The members of this group aim to make a difference, and without them, many people on the Seacoast could be left without proper PPE.

While COVID-19 has interrupted the lives of people internationally, the members of Seacoast Mask Makers have taken this time as an opportunity to help those in need and were more than willing to take time out of their days to make masks. Whether they were immunocompromised, unemployed at the moment, or they were concerned members of the medical communities, each member had a reason for joining the group. Some members had never sewn before and took this opportunity to learn because it meant helping others in need.

Trish Derrickson is a first-time sewer that joined the group but was able to jump right into making masks because of Seacoast Mask Makers' guidance that is provided within the group.

"I had no idea how to use a sewing machine, let alone sew a surgical mask before I found this group. I desperately wanted to help our frontline workers somehow and Seacoast Mask Makers not only taught me how, but also became a streamlined entity that organized production, supplies and delivery thanks to a few amazing people," Derrickson said. The page includes instructions on different types of masks that they accept as donations and the materials that can be used, as well as video tutorials to teach those like Derrickson.

For those not interested in sewing the masks, there are other ways to get involved, including cutting materials, transporting from donation "hubs" to organizations, and more.

"This group is incredible. Everyone can contribute no matter what their skill level. Everyone is supportive to get the job done," Wendy Harrington, another member of the group, said. "The work and efforts of the stitchers, runners, organizers and donators have created something special here. We all feel it and are driven to provide needed protection to those on the front lines in our communities. We won't stop until masks are everywhere they are needed."

Chrissy Mack, also a member of Seacoast Mask Makers, is self-employed but due to the pandemic has not had much work coming in. With two teen sons at home, making masks has been a way for her to get through this while feeling a sense of community.

"I have no money coming in and had to file for unemployment and food stamps. I pulled out my sewing machine and started making masks. It is helping to get me through a really difficult time. I feel less helpless because I'm helping others," Mack said.

Seacoast Mask Makers has made many of its members feel less alone during a time of social distancing and isolation and has brought numerous people together towards one common cause.

“I have several friends who are nurses and they asked me if I could sew some cloth masks for them, as their supplies were running out. I jumped at the chance to give back to my community, and to feel like I’m doing something productive during this frightening time. The camaraderie is amazing, and it really helps with the isolation,” Jennifer Reed Decker, a member of the group, said. “I am so proud of my fellow seamstresses and also of those vital members of the group who don’t sew but help out in every other way. We embody the true spirit of American values. Pitch in, do what you can, help your neighbors. We got this!”

The Seacoast Mask Makers has no plan of stopping anytime soon, as they still have several organizations requesting donations. For those interested in getting involved, Lachance recommends joining the Facebook group and viewing the tutorials to get started and become part of “and a very supportive, motivated and engaged community.” For those looking to donate materials to Seacoast Mask Makers, they are currently in need of 100 percent cotton fabric and elastic and can be contacted at seacoastmaskmakers@gmail.com and you can visit their website at seacoastmaskmakers.org.