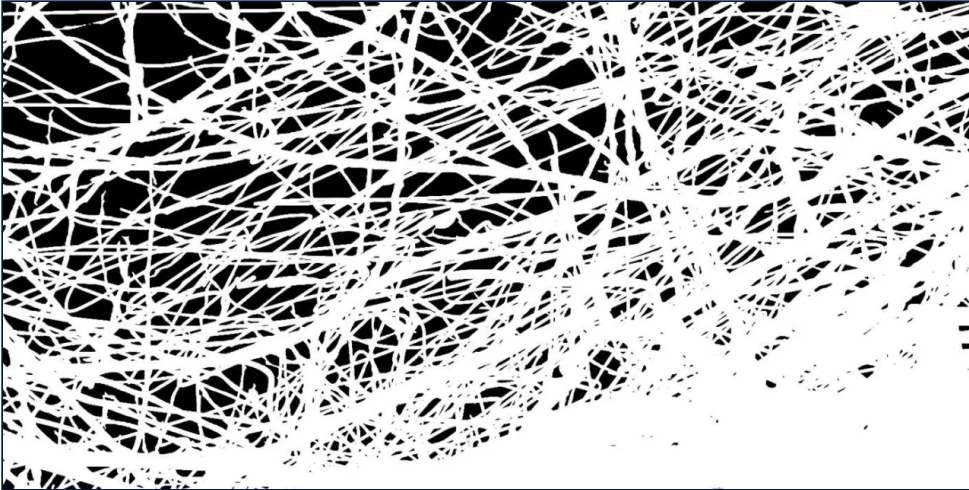


Note: Beginning March 23, 2020, the University of New Hampshire suspended in-person classes and closed the campus due to COVID-19. No further full issues were published for that academic year, rather the students posted articles directly to the web throughout the Spring and Summer. The following pages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

Mad about books: 'In A Dark Dark Wood' by Ruth Ware

Posted by Madailein Hart | Apr 29, 2020 | Arts | 0 |



WARNING: Do not read this book at night because I couldn't put it down and when a roommate came into my room I jumped a foot in the air. When I finally put the book down, I had to sleep with the bathroom light on. While the beginning of "In a Dark Dark Wood" is rather slow, setting up characters, locations and motives, the creepiest parts are in the middle when some footprints are discovered.

Let's backtrack. "In a Dark Dark Wood" by Ruth Ware, follows Nora (or Lee or Leo, depending on who's asking). She gets invited to a bachelorette party (also known as a Hen) of an old friend who she hasn't spoken to in ten years, Clare. This party is being held remote Northcumblerland, a house that is owned by the aunt of the maid of honor, Flo. Flo is determined to throw Clare the perfect party, despite only six people showing up for the weekend. The house is known as "the glass house," as there are windows all around but no curtains to shut the world out. There may not be a need for curtains, considering there aren't any other houses for miles around, and the only thing you can see out the windows are the woods surrounding the property.

Along with Nora, Clare and Flo, other party members include Nina, a sarcastic doctor, Tom, a playwright, and Melanie, a new mother. Nora constantly asks herself why she came to this party, what she was doing, what she is trying to prove and to whom- herself or Clare?

Weird things start happening at the house. When Nora goes out for a run in the early morning, she sees footprints leading to the kitchen to the garage, but everyone in the house insists it wasn't them. Then the only landline dies, leaving the guests with no cell service and no other way to call people. The bachelorette activities include going to a shooting range and playing with an Ouija board. With the house covered in windows, Nora can't help but feel like they are being watched.

On the second night of the party, someone is murdered. We don't know how or why until much later in the book, and the identity isn't revealed until the middle. What I enjoyed is that you think it's fairly obvious who did it, but at the same time Nora's recollection of events puts doubt into the reader's mind, and even then, the reader has to figure out the motive.

The chapters go back and forth between the party and afterward, when Nora is in the hospital trying to remember how she ended up there. She has a head injury, and she was allegedly in a car crash, but no one can remember why.

Despite the fact that this book was fairly standard for a thriller, I could barely put it down and it was so enjoyable to read. Ware said in an interview with Simon and Shuster that she was inspired by Agatha Christie, "with a finite cast of people in a remote house they can't escape from." One thing that bothered me is that the drama and secrets between certain people were from high school, and now everything from then is coming out 10 years later at this bachelorette party, which just seems unrealistic and juvenile to me (I would hope that any drama from my high school days stays there, I don't know who would want to carry that with them.)

What creeped me out the most was the footprints, and when someone points out "We wouldn't have even known they were there if not for the snow." Something about that sent shivers down my spine.

This is a good introduction to thrillers and mysteries for those who haven't read many, and Ware is great at setting up characters if you like more character-driven books.

Why quarantine has made us fans of Netflix's Tiger King

Posted by Caitlin Staffanson | Apr 29, 2020 | Arts | 0 |



If you haven't watched it, you've definitely heard of it – Netflix's top 10 documentary series, "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness." For those who may not know, "Tiger King" follows the lives of two big cat owners, Carole Baskin and Joseph Maldonado-Passage, better known as Joe Exotic. Baskin and Exotic have a long-time feud due to differing ideals on how big cats should be raised and cared for. Not only do viewers learn of interactions between Baskin and Exotic, but the docuseries also highlights many of the interesting characters involved with these two big cat owners.

The plot of the series is based on a murder-for-hire plan on Joe Exotic's end of the feud; throughout the series he makes it clear, he wants Carole Baskin out of the picture.

Baskin is the owner and operator of Big Cat Rescue in Florida and is a lobbyist against operations like Exotic's. Her work revolves around ending the ownership of wild animals for leisure or to show-off in a zoo-like setting. After watching, many people would likely agree with Baskin's reasoning; however, it becomes harder to stand-by her work when the series reveals some skeletons in her closet.

Exotic, who lives in Oklahoma owned the Garold Wayne Exotic Animal Memorial Park. He is quite the attention seeker, doesn't keep his opinion quiet and likes to over share on social media. Anytime Exotic could belittle or antagonize Baskin, he did. From threatening her in videos to making a company that had a logo so similar to Baskin's that it ended in a lawsuit.

Exotic owned his zoo until his former business partner, Jeff Lowe, took it from him due to some sketchy business deals from both ends. Lowe is still benefitting from this zoo takeover, despite some jail and court time himself. Due to the murder-for-hire plot and many charges brought against Exotic which landed him in prison, staff from Exotic's zoo have either stayed with Lowe or cut their ties with those involved in big cat ownership all together.

The series could have focused solely on big cats and the differing opinions from Baskin and Exotic; however, directors Eric Goode and Rebecca Chaiklin include all aspects of their lives from past to present. The drama and source of entertainment these people gave the directors allowed for the series to explore many avenues of their lives. What started as a feud between Baskin and Exotic, ends in picking sides or choosing a new path for many people involved with big cat owners. Viewers even began to pick sides, but for some, "Tiger King" was merely a source of entertainment during a time where most of us have been asked to remain indoors.

Many of us have been quarantining for weeks and "Tiger King" has offered us a unique distraction from our reality. While a majority of the series is appalling, the twists and turns the plot offers keeps viewers hooked from episode to episode. It's hard to wrap your head around all the things this docuseries throws at viewers; most of the concepts are things many of us have never even thought of. While it is educational, "Tiger King" gives viewers an entertainment aspect that lasts far beyond the series' last episode. Now, there are memes surfing all social media platforms, it's a topic of conversation through our social distancing, and keeps the viewers interested in what will happen next to Baskin and Exotic?

The cost of parking violations to UNH

Posted by Grace Purdy | Apr 30, 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, bold, serif font. A thin horizontal line is positioned directly beneath the 'N'.

Almost every student at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) with a car on campus knows the feeling of walking back to their car and seeing a bright yellow envelope stuck under the windshield wiper of their car. Parking tickets have long been an issue at the university, to the point where getting tickets is made into jokes and posted on student-run social media accounts such as Barstool UNH on platforms like Twitter and Instagram. Students at UNH have made it clear that parking on campus is a major and costly issue that they are passionate about.

According to UNH Transportation Services, between \$400,000 and \$600,000 is brought in each year from parking violations. The number one parking violation on campus this past year was expired meters. Parking tickets can cost from \$10 for a failure to display a permit or \$20 for an expired parking meter, to upwards of \$500 for more serious violations. Parking permits for students cost \$75 for a commuter or moped pass, to up to around \$1200 for an off-campus private parking pass. Transcripts, diplomas and/or course registration may also be withheld for unpaid parking tickets.

Kaya Cadagan, a junior neuroscience and behavior major at the University of New Hampshire, has been issued approximately \$400 in parking tickets. "It's a hassle getting your tickets appealed, and they deny your appeal even if your reasoning is valid," she stated. "The holds on my account makes it stressful when I need to sign up for classes, which is more important than paying a \$50 ticket on top of a 20k tuition that I already have to pay."

“I think parking tickets in general would decrease if they reduced the overall meter parking rates. \$1.75 an hour [for the parking meter] is overpriced, especially when there are [commuter] students who need to drive to every class and stay on campus all day,” Cadagan said.

Abby Tetreault is a sophomore biomedical science major at UNH, who paid a total of \$1000 to park her car on campus. “It’s frustrating to hear from friends at other schools where parking was significantly less and way more available on campus. I feel like students are constantly begging the university to make this issue a top priority and it continues to be pushed away.”

Dirk Timmons, the director of transportation services at the university stated that the funds obtained by the University goes to pay for the upkeep of the bus transit system on campus. “It goes to offset the student fee. Buses are very expensive to operate; they cost about \$6 per mile to operate and the money goes right over to transit, which helps keep the student transportation fee down.”

“I think there’s a disconnect [between the students and parking services]. I understand that tickets need to be issued, but a lot of the people on this campus are students, and the tickets we give are expensive,” said Samantha Coetzee, a sophomore journalism student at UNH who used to work in the transportation services office. “For example, on Main Street in Nashua an expired meter ticket is \$10, and here [at UNH] it’s \$20, which is ridiculous. Ticket prices shouldn’t be that high considering how much we pay for parking passes.”

Timmons said the transportation office is willing to work with students who believe they should not have gotten a ticket. “Students that get tickets are encouraged to come in and talk to me or talk to the manager, and try to figure out what they did wrong, and get suggestions to avoid a ticket next time,” Timmons said. “Also, I would recommend students to subscribe to our parking news, which goes out every Friday and says what lots are going to be closed, anything about the winter parking ban and snow emergencies. It really does help inform people.”

“We really are here to communicate and educate; we don’t enjoy writing tickets.”

More college seniors face early end to their final semester

Posted by Kenley Stevenson | Apr 30, 2020 | News | 0 |

The logo for TNH, consisting of the letters T, N, and H in a large, bold, serif font, with a horizontal line underneath the letters.

College students across America have been sent home because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. For many, this just meant packing up and moving off of their campus a few months earlier than expected, but for seniors, this was a final goodbye to the life they came to know and love as a college student.

It was spring break, and college students all over the country were out and about living the vacation they've had planned for months. But, while laying poolside at a resort in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, senior at Roger Williams University (RWU), Sarah Wurzer, got a notification on her phone that would change life as she knew it. Students were no longer able to return back to campus after break, for the rest of the spring semester.

"We were out of the country, not paying attention to the news so we didn't realize how bad the problem really was here. At first, we were kind of in denial about our school being closed," Wurzer said.

What does this mean for Wurzer? She would have to leave her final few months of college without any form of closure, unsure if she would be able to return to campus for her items. What was supposed to be a relaxing and fun-packed trip in Cabo ended in a whirlwind of emotions for this group of seniors.

In an email from RWU President, Dr. Ioannis N. Miaoulis said “The possibility that I have to cancel commencement is ... difficult for me.” As of now, seniors at RWU are planning to graduate remotely.

“We worked so hard for four years and now are not getting any celebration or recognition,” Wurzer said.

Maddie Proctor, a senior at American University (American) in Washington D.C., is in a similar situation as Wurzer. As of Monday, March 30, American canceled their plans for commencement and announced they will be holding a virtual ceremony instead. “I know it’s the right decision, but as a senior it’s still hard for me to accept that I don’t get to walk as a graduate,” Proctor said.

Other schools, such as The University of New Hampshire (UNH), are planning to postpone their graduation ceremony so seniors will still get to walk across the stage. Cassie Haskell, a senior journalism major at UNH, left for spring break knowing the following two weeks of classes would be taught remotely. Just a few days into her break, UNH decided to move online for the entirety of the semester.

“I never thought all my years of school would end like this. As a senior there are so many things I was looking forward to in my closing months of being an undergraduate, and I wish I could have received more closure on the year,” Haskell said.

Reminiscing on her time at UNH, Haskell said she will mostly miss all the friendly faces she sees on her walks downtown or from class to class.

Holden Miller, senior at Bucknell University (Bucknell) in Pennsylvania, too received the news that his school would no longer allow students on campus for the remainder of the semester. Upon hearing the news, he said, “I think we were all in shock. One of my friends broke down and it was pretty upsetting.” Miller was forced to pack up his house and head back to New York in under a week.

As of now, Bucknell’s commencement has been moved to the weekend of July 17.

Schools from California to New York have all faced similar closures, such as Ohio State University, University of Florida and Cornell University. Even Harvard gave students only five days to pack up and move out.

With such abrupt endings to their final college semesters, seniors all over America have been feeling hopeless, heartbroken and disappointed.

McGregor volunteers committed to helping the community

Posted by Julia Stinneford | May 7, 2020 | News | 0 |



McGregor Memorial Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the primary emergency ambulance service for Durham, Lee, Madbury, and the University of New Hampshire (UNH), has begun having able and willing volunteers stay on or near campus to help fill shifts during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

McGregor is a primarily volunteer organization, and many of its EMTs are UNH students. According to Tyler Silverwood, attendant EMT and sophomore biochemistry major, during other periods of time when students are not on campus, such as the summer, volunteer hours decline and coverage is not consistent. "The initial concern was that the same would hold true during this pandemic," Silverwood said, "when most students have moved away and the community would need us the most."

To combat this, McGregor told its volunteers that if they were able, they would be allowed to come back and live on campus. Silverwood said, "Everyone who still lives close enough, or who has moved [on campus], has really stepped up and kept us fully staffed...we have even been able to consistently fill a third ambulance when needed."

Silverwood called his decision to stay with McGregor a “no-brainer.” He said, “With the PPE [personal protective equipment] and training they provided, I felt safer going on a confirmed COVID-19 call than I did stopping for coffee or gas.” He said he was more concerned with contracting COVID-19 and then transporting it between work and home, so “the second that we were offered housing in Durham, I let them know that I was interested.”

Ayla Wamser, another attendant EMT and a senior biomedical science major, said, “I am fortunate enough to be in a position to help people in this time of need. I would never turn my back on our community, certainly not when they need us the most.”

Maria McMillan, an EMT and crew chief for McGregor and a junior clinical psychology and public health major, said “There wasn’t a whole lot of decision making involved for me...know I had the skills and training to keep giving back to the community, I couldn’t stay away.”

According to McMillan, UNH has offered on-campus housing in Eaton House and meal plans to the student volunteers, allowing those without residence nearby to stay close “without having to commute and put our families and loved ones at risk.”

Silverwood said that the accommodations are providing them with “almost everything we need,” adding that Stillings, the only campus dining hall still open, has been giving the volunteers free meals. “It’s take-out only, and we wear masks when we’re inside,” he said. “We still occasionally go out to eat at the Big Bean or Hop & Grind, or take advantage of the free coffee offered by AJ’s.”

Wamser, one of the volunteers who lives nearby already and as such is not living in Eaton House, said, “UNH has been wonderful in allowing McGregor personnel a place to live on campus. As a UNH student, Durham resident, and EMT, the community has been fantastic in its support.”

But the EMTs said that life on campus was far from normal. Silverwood said, “It’s exactly like you think walking around the empty streets of Boston or NYC would feel right now – there’s almost no one around and most of the buildings are closed and their lights turned off...One of the strangest parts is seeing the rec center completely walled off, with all the beds inside, just waiting for patients.”

“It’s an eerie feeling to see the campus so silent,” Wamser said. “Even in the summers or on school breaks, you still have the quiet buzzing of students around campus.”

“Quite honestly, it’s surreal,” McMillan said of the empty campus. “Apocalyptic, almost.”

McGregor, according to Silverwood, McMillan, and Wamser, has adapted very well to pandemic conditions. “Since the start of the...outbreak in China, McGregor has been closely monitoring the

pandemic,” Wamser said. “All personnel have been provided training on proper PPE usage and managing COVID calls.”

McGregor volunteers now have CAPRs, helmets with air-purifying respirators, in case of suspected COVID calls. On all other calls, they wear surgical masks and face shields, just in case, and ask that patients wear masks as well. “We are lucky to have a sufficient supply of PPE,” Wamser said. “The community has been incredibly gracious in donating items such as scrubs, hand sanitizer, and homemade masks.”

Silverwood added that McGregor has “more than enough PPE to stay safe during the pandemic,” saying that their PPE availability and training might be “among the best in the country.”

The volunteers are also making adjustments for staying safe even when not on calls, wearing surgical masks in the station and maintaining a distance of six feet. To help the EMTs with social distancing and minimize their risks, they have temporarily moved to Putnam Hall on campus, which is “much larger” than their normal station on College Road, according to Silverwood.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, the workload of McGregor EMTs has not substantially increased, according to Silverwood. “Surprisingly, our call volume has been relatively low,” he said. “Many people don’t want to go to the hospital. This makes sense for minor injuries, but our concern is that people are staying home with heart attack or stroke symptoms, and not calling 911.”

Despite this, McGregor EMTs are keeping the station “fully staffed,” according to Silverwood. “I think we actually set the record for most volunteer hours ever in March, and we expect to beat that record again this month.”

Wamser said, “I hope the community can feel comforted by the fact that McGregor will continue to provide the same high-quality service that they always have.”

“Everyone at McGregor shares a passion for giving back to the communities that give us so much,” McMillan said. “We have received an overwhelming outpouring of love and support from the university and surrounding communities, and it makes the work that we are doing that much more rewarding.”

Buying in bulk: Smart or selfish?

Posted by Aqeel Hisham | May 10, 2020 | News | 0 |

The logo for TNH, consisting of the letters 'T', 'N', and 'H' in a large, black, serif font. A thin horizontal line is positioned directly beneath the 'N'.

Store shelves have been stripped of bare necessities by customers amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Items ranging from boxed/canned goods, hand sanitizer and toilet papers are scarce due to high demand during this pandemic. While some believe that buying in bulk would be a smart move to practice self-quarantine, others disagree, claiming that it is selfish.

Tyler Francoeur, a warehouse selector at Hannaford Distribution Center in Portland, Maine admits that he practices buying in bulk for certain items when he shops for groceries. “I work at the distribution center, I see what happens behind the scene,” he said. Francoeur explained that the distribution center is facing shortage of products in their storage. “High demand, low supply; we can’t keep up and there is nothing we can do about it,” he added.

Like any other shoppers, Francoeur struggles when it comes to finding necessities. “I buy in bulk because it is cheaper in the long run. It is a smart idea if you don’t overdo it,” he said. He believes that grocery shoppers should only buy necessities to last them for three weeks, anything more is just being inconsiderate.

Kate Moore, a Kennebunk shopper, said her family is focusing on only buying items they need and not what they want during this pandemic. “We make a [grocery] list to stay on track and not buy unnecessary things,” she said. Moore explained that price is the biggest factor for her family when buying groceries. “We try to be strategic about what to buy and when,” she added.

“One of the biggest transitions for my family is buying products of different brands and substituting certain products with others,” she said. Despite that, Moore believes that buying in bulk can be a good practice if done correctly. “You can save money and it is really useful for items that you use frequently,” said Moore. She added, “It is also great to save time because you do not have to go shopping as often.”

On the other hand, buying in bulk has been a regular practice for Kennebunk natives, Gabriella Kudas and her family. “My family loves to buy in bulk because we are a family of six,” she explained. Kudas said her family does not make any list when they grocery shop and they buy in bulk because it is cheaper that way.

Kudas said that this pandemic has taken a toll on her family. “We are limited to the amount of food at this time because of the scarcity; it is difficult because of how large my family is,” she added. Moreover, the increase of price for high demand products have made it harder for this family of six to shop for their needs without being price sensitive.

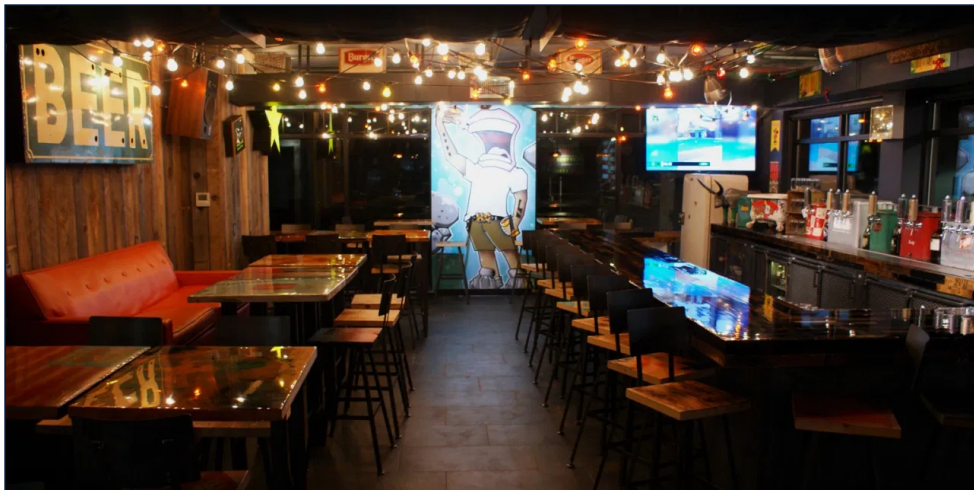
According to the market intelligence company *Numerator*, “9 in 10 consumers have changed their shopping behavior as a result of the coronavirus.” Kailee Lazaros, a student at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) who resides in Hudson, Massachusetts, said her family has shifted from their traditional shopping habit to buying only what they need.

“My family does not believe in bulk buy,” said Lazaros. She explained that daily necessities such as paper plates and paper towels have been bought by her family in bulk before but not anymore. “We make a [grocery] list and only go to the store if we need a lot of items,” she said.

Lazaros added that her family’s biggest issue is buying high demand products such as meats and frozen foods. “Some people choose to buy in bulk and others, like my family just buy what we need in the right quantity,” she said.

Durham's Hop + Grind featured on 'Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives'

Posted by Evan Edmonds | May 10, 2020 | News | 0 |



Downtown Durham-based burger joint Hop + Grind was in the spotlight after being featured last Friday on Food Network in a takeout edition of Guy Fieri's "Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives."

The new episode aired on Friday, May 1, and enlisted the help of a few chefs that have previously appeared on shows with restaurateur and Food Network presenter Guy Fieri. They sent components of some of their latest dishes to his home kitchen, for him to cook, eat, and judge himself.

The chef with the best dish at the end of the episode would get their name on a \$500 dollar donation to the Restaurant Employee Relief Fund (RERF), created to help restaurant industry employees in need of financial assistance during the extenuating circumstances of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Among these selected chefs was Bobby Marcotte, executive chef and owner of two Hop + Grind locations, in Durham and Peabody, Massachusetts, and executive chef of Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery in Raymond, New Hampshire.

Marcotte announced on Facebook live he would be featured on the new takeout episode last Tuesday, and also took the opportunity to thank both Food Network and Fieri. He said in an email

to The New Hampshire that Guy is "CRITICAL" in times like these.

"Guy has always focused on the little guys but it's not JUST the little guys. It's the mom and pop joints who do it right, are focused on quality but also support and are supported by their communities. These are the restaurants that are going to dig us out of this," Marcotte said.

With the restrictions on restaurants being loosened in the coming weeks, Marcotte said he doesn't think having them opened with restricted capacities is much better than leaving restaurants in their current state. "I think it may actually get harder before it gets easier," he said, due to the food supply chain being so "out of whack."

Although it "may sound crazy," Marcotte said balancing Tuckaway Tavern and the Hop + Grind locations during this hectic time has been "FUN." He said he thrives on pressure, and the circumstances have forced him and his staff to think and improvise, "exactly what we are trained to do in this industry."

Fieri introduced "Bobby the butcher," with a mass unboxing from the butchery at Tuckaway Tavern. In addition to what was sent for the show, Tuckaway Tavern has sent the same packages to over 100 people to enjoy and cook along during the episode. Fieri received so much meat that he exclaimed, "it's like Christmas!" and then began on the first dish of the episode, one of Marcotte's Hop + Grind burger creations, the "Karate Pig" burger.

Hop + Grind is known for its "funky infused patties," as Fieri said. The "Karate Pig" is an Asian dumpling themed burger with a pork base, topped with soy glaze, spicy and salty house made "dojo sauce," and Marcotte's "quick-like-ninja kimchi." Fieri's first reaction to the finished product was "dynamite, man." He said the burger does a good job of capturing similar flavors, and that the "Karate Pig" is a "stir fry, Chinese takeout, all in a burger combo."

"We knew that 'Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives' takeout was going to be crazy," Fieri said during the episode, "this just solidified the entire reason we did this. Outstanding."

Marcotte appeared through video chat with both his "Triple D All-Star Tournament" and "Triple D Triple G Tournament" championship trophies in the background, in each of which he beat one of the other chefs featuring in the episode—Chef Peter Campbell from Red Wagon Pizza Company, and Chef Domenica Catelli from Catelli's Restaurant respectively.

Marcotte said the competitive nature between him and the other chefs has helped him "professionally and personally," the challenges keeping him "motivated and hungry."

When the time to decide a winner came, Campbell said "he's [Marcotte] got enough trophies Guy." Fieri gave Campbell the victory for his Cuban sandwich inspired pizza, to which Catelli said, "at least it wasn't you, Bobby."

Marcotte said his biggest success is his staff. "I could not be more proud of the passion they all bring to perform every day for all of our businesses. They are truly the best, which in turn only puts us on top as well. EXTREMELY proud and thankful for every one of them!"

Rylee Saunders, a sophomore biomedical science major at the University of New Hampshire, has been working at Durham's Hop + Grind since August of 2019 and said it's "basically like a family." According to Saunders, they "all have a passion for what we do, and what we're all about at Hop + Grind."

What they're all about is the food experience, and it says so on their website. The food at Hop + Grind is all scratch made, "how grandma used to do it." The creations at Hop + Grind "push the limits" of the kitchen environment to make creative options for customers to enjoy, like the "Karate Pig" and many more familiar favorites in burger form like the "Parma Sutra" (chicken parmesan style) or the "Bomb Diggity" (steak bomb style).

Marcotte said his most frequently asked question is how he comes up with his ideas, and it's the "lamest" answer he can give. "They just come out of the blue much like when artists suddenly grab an easel and start painting. An idea hits and I run to the kitchen," he said.

Hop + Grind and Tuckaway Tavern are now focused on shipping and takeout, according to Marcotte. Curbside pickup is available at Hop + Grind daily from 12-8 and Tuckaway Tavern is offering in-store pickup as well as door to door shipping.

To help the already eight million restaurant workers and more in the U.S who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19, visit the RERF website to donate or find out more.

Meeple Tabletop Gaming Syndicate transitions to online

Posted by Evan Edmonds | May 10, 2020 | Arts | 0 |

The logo consists of the letters 'TNH' in a large, black, serif font. A thin horizontal line is positioned directly beneath the letters.

In wake of social distancing due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), seacoast board gaming group Meeple Tabletop Gaming Syndicate (paired with the UNH organization of the same name) has switched their weekly Friday night meetings to online.

The change was announced on March 27 on the group's Facebook page. Instead of the typical in person meetings, the group meets Friday nights on their Discord server, which is open to the public.

Discord is a voice, video, and text communication app that provides easy access for people to chat one on one or in larger groups. Jake Hewins, junior business administration major and publicity manager of Meeple Tabletop Gaming Syndicate, said the club is now run through their Discord server where they communicate through voice chat, and a host will screen share the game of choice for the entire group to view.

According to Hewins, the group has had to adapt to online, but their new method of meetings has been effective. "Attendance is understandably lower, but quality is just as high," he said.

Standard group meetings that take place in the wildcat den consist of a wide variety of games: "board games like House on the Haunted Hill to party games like Secret Hitler to trading card

games like Magic the Gathering,” Hewins said. Now most users can run their typical games with “no problem,” but some activities haven’t been as active, like the Magic the Gathering card game, because it felt “very cramped to play without a big table,” (like at the wildcat den).

Hewins was studying in Washington D.C this past semester and was unable to attend weekly meetings, but he said he’s “excited to be able to talk to my friends again and play board games virtually as though I had never left.”

Junior Sydney Drea said that the virtual gaming nights have become the highlight of her week. Like Hewins, Drea said the meetings help her stay connected to her friends while people must be apart, and it gives her something to look forward to every week.

While they can’t be the typical meetings in person, “the laughs and human connection is just the same,” Drea said.

Meeple Tabletop Gaming Syndicate welcomes “any and all levels of gamers” and their events are open to everyone.

The link to their Discord server can be reached here: <https://discord.gg/2rfpmJJ>

Take A 'Journey' With Me

Posted by Ciarra Annis | May 10, 2020 | Arts | 0 |



TNH

It might be an understatement to say that everything kind of sucks right now. In this dark time, Sony offered a small light in the form of the Play At Home initiative, giving away two free games on the PlayStation 4 to encourage gamers to stay inside and away from the essential business of GameStop. "Journey" is one of these offerings and one I have been long familiar with, back when it first released on the PlayStation 3.

Its gameplay is reasonably simple. You play as a little cat-like wanderer and have to get to a mountain. You primarily walk there, but occasionally you jump, and as you go through the journey you can even glide for a bit. But for a game that runs only around two hours, it is an incredible experience, one that I now find myself struggling to describe without giving something away that could ruin it. Perhaps even saying that much is ruining it a bit, giving you an expectation that can't be matched. All I'm saying is this game makes me feel things, though I cannot articulate what it is other than a sense of nostalgia and being lost but found again. Overly sentimental? Perhaps. I first played this game in 2013 on my PS3, and though I haven't played it since that first time, starting up the game felt a bit like coming home.

One of the standouts of the game is the level design. From the open wide deserts that the player starts in to the more narrowed ocean-adjacent areas later in the game, there is a beauty that reminds you that games can be an art form just the same as any painting. The fact that the world is so pretty makes the fact that you really only walk, chirp at things or jump seem like a nonissue. Who needs complicated gameplay when you have such stunning surroundings?

It is not a game that begs to be rushed through. While you do have an end-goal and a set path to follow, going off the beaten path and exploring the world around you can reward you with little symbols of light that can make the scarf that you wear longer, letting you float for an increased period of time. Even more, it is not a one and done kind of game either. I have found myself returning to the game again and again, even if the story and levels are the same throughout. As you play again, your character's robes change slightly, denoting you as a more experienced player compared to the blank red robes that you start with.

The other standout is the soundtrack. When a game such as this lacks dialogue, it is carried by the musical backing that follows the player on their trek and Austin Wintory, the composer, more than delivered. The orchestral cello-heavy soundtrack uplifts the game's environmental beauty. There were multiple parts in the game where the music seemed to respond directly to a change or event in the game. I have found that the soundtrack of a game that makes me stop and appreciate it is few and far between, simply because it is often something that goes on droning, independent of what I'm doing in the game other than setting a barebones atmosphere. Wintory created something more than just music to give the gamer a basic understanding of the setting around them, he created a score that cannot be divorced from the game it is featured in, being the main crux behind my emotional attachment to the game. Even listening to the soundtrack as I write this makes me want to play the game again so I can relive the moments that each note conjures. If I can ever detangle it from the experiences of the game, it would make an incredible soundtrack to study to as well.

With this much praise of an aspect of a game I don't usually put much weight on (perhaps to my own loss), it should come as no surprise that Wintory received numerous awards for it, including a BAFTA Game Award. The soundtrack was also the first video game soundtrack to be nominated for the Grammy's 'Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media' category, though it lost to "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo".

The title encapsulates the heart of the game perfectly, it is a journey through emotions and the art of visual storytelling. What the game lacks in complexity of gameplay and length, it makes up for in an evocative emotional experience that has not been replicated in a game since. "Journey" is available for both the Playstation and computers running Windows.

In our virtual world – Meditation through Zoom

Posted by Caitlin Staffanson | May 10, 2020 | Arts | 0 |

The logo for TNH, consisting of the letters 'T', 'N', and 'H' in a large, black, serif font. A thin horizontal line is positioned directly beneath the letters.

During a time of isolation and quarantine, our regular day to day schedules have been changed to reflect a virtual world. Feelings of anxiety, loneliness, depression and more have become extremely high. While these feelings and states of being can be normal, during this time there are still resources available to help cope and improve overall well-being.

The Durham Public Library and Jiong Jiong Hu teamed up a few years ago to provide Mindful Meditation classes to the Durham community. When the stay-at-home order began, Hu wanted a way to safely provide her services to the community; she now hosts her classes via Zoom each Thursday from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. until they can return to in-person classes safely.

“Jiong Jiong’s Mindful Meditation workshop was one of the first programs I booked for September 2018 as part of Durham Public Library’s Wellness Wednesday series that fall,” said Jess Ross, the adult services director at Durham Public Library. “It was instantly popular with our patrons of all ages and we have continued to host her workshops on a monthly basis since then, as her own and the library schedules allow.”

Hu explores body and mind wellness practices and has attended meditation workshops around the country to expand her knowledge and practice; which she then shares with the Durham community free of charge.

“Mindful meditation to me means how to maintain my life and how to live,” Hu said. “How to live life with the best qualities possible without having to go anywhere, be someone different or to do different things. Rather, it seems like you are coming back to a place you know that gave you the safety, kept you grounded, gave you the comfort, gave you the joy and set you free.”

Hu started sharing her meditation at the Waysmeet Center in 2012 and then at the Durham Public Library in 2013. She started these classes because she found it helpful within her own life and she wanted to offer her community the opportunity and accessibility to have a taste of it without having the concern of finances.

“Jiong Jiong is one of the loveliest people I have ever met and someone who people naturally gravitate toward,” Ross said. “She radiates kindness, empathy and a genuine interest in contributing to her community and the world.”

There are about 20 people currently interested in the virtual meditation, but week to week the amount of people varies depending on their schedules. Hu knows that people won't be able to attend every class but encourages them to come when they can and when they need it for their own practice and well-being.

“Mindfulness has become a more popular word now days in all the fields including schools,” Hu said. “Mindfulness is not a concept, it is not. It is a practice.”

To join these classes, the best way to get the Zoom link and remain updated on Mindful Meditation classes is to contact Hu through her email hujj61@yahoo.com. All participants need is a means to log on to Zoom electronically and an hour to practice mindfulness.

“Mindful Meditation is a great way to clear your head, breathe intentionally and focus on how your body and mind are feeling,” Ross said. “I have found it really beneficial for tension and stress relief and Jiong Jiong does a fantastic job leading the workshops.”

UNH students to receive CARES Act grants

Posted by Benjamin Domaingue | May 11, 2020 | News | 0

|

The logo for the University of New Hampshire (UNH) 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'.

On Friday, May 8, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Wayne Jones Jr. released a statement from the University of New Hampshire (UNH) outlining the impending CARES Act disbursement from the federal government to students.

The CARES Act, or the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, provided \$2 trillion to affected individuals, industries, and higher education institutions. According to NPR, universities and higher education institutions received more than \$14 billion in funding. The University of New Hampshire was one of the many schools that applied for funding.

UNH received \$11,647,555 in total in funding, with \$5,823,778 of that disbursement determined to be the minimum allocation for emergency grants to students.

In his email Provost Jones detailed how a quick survey would be sent from financial aid, providing a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$700 to each student who qualifies. Students had to have previously completed the FAFSA in order to receive funding, as per the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education mandates how each grant is to be used for emergency expenses as a direct result of an institutional disruption. They may not be used to pay students if they

continue to work under standard payroll or work-study.

The UNH Office of Financial Aid provided a two-question survey over email to students who completed the FAFSA. The office inquired about transportation costs, child-care costs, living expenses and academic expenses.

UNH provides important points for students on their website for any concerns. Students who receive funds will not have to pay them back, as they are a one-time grant. It does not eliminate or replace financial aid.

The process is completely automated, with the Office of Financial Aid determining the amount a student is paid immediately after responding to the survey. They will continue to provide emergency funding until the funds run out.

The UNH's method of disbursement is simple when compared to other New Hampshire universities. Franklin Pierce University (Rindge, NH), requests students to explain their request for grant aid. They ask students to provide documentation of incurred expenses after their disruption on March 13th.

The CARES Act has also allowed UNH to provide unused work-study funds into temporary grants for students in need. UNH has averaged out a student's hours worked and paid out their work-study funds until the conclusion of the spring semester or until their award runs out. Students who drop out due to the pandemic also do not have their time away from school deducted from their Pell Grant and subsidized loan eligibility. All student loan and interest payments are also deferred until September 30th, 2020.

International students, DACA recipients, and online-only students are ineligible for this funding. To help these communities being excluded, UNH has established the Student Emergency Financial Assistance Fund, which relies on donations in order to provide aid to students in need. Students who are ineligible for the CARES Act funding remain eligible for the Student Emergency Financial Assistance Fund can contact the Dean of Students, John Kirkpatrick for their application.

Students should complete the survey by June 1 if they are concerned that they will incur emergency expenses in the near future. The Student Emergency Financial Assistance Fund is consistently available to students in extreme need. Students and faculty can donate to this fund through a payroll deduction or a one-time donation.

Students should add their direct deposit information in WebCat in order to receive the funding from either fund as soon as possible. If a student does not have direct deposit information on file, a mailed check will be mailed to the student's mailing address within two to three weeks.

Young's Restaurant to permanently close

Posted by Evan Edmonds | May 15, 2020 | News | 0 |



After 104 years in business, Young's Restaurant in Durham will not be reopening after their initial closing in March and the space will be up for lease.

Owner Kenny Young, who will be 63 in June and has been a part of the family that has owned the business for the last 52 years, said he had to ask himself as a business owner if he had the energy to make all the necessary changes to keep Young's going in the midst of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Out of his options, permanently closing Young's and becoming a landlord was the best scenario in front of him. Young said it has been an emotional time with a lot of sleepless nights, but that emotion comes from looking back at his years of positive experiences coming to an end.

"I love people," Young said, "the [restaurant] business is always about people." According to Young, missing the people he's been in contact with his whole life, the connections, and the community will be the hardest part. "Some of the finest people I've met are from Durham and UNH," Young said.



Over the years, Young's has fed University of New Hampshire (UNH) sports teams and taken care of them. During break when the men's hockey team was still playing, Young said, they would feed the team two to three times a week.

Young has been working at the restaurant since he was 11 years old. One of his memories he said stuck out to him was working the cash register while former UNH men's hockey coach Dick Umile was still a student. Young recalled the 13 years working alongside his father and said, "I'm lucky."

For the restaurant's next chapter, Young said he hopes whoever takes over brings a "young energy," and caters to both the Durham and University of New Hampshire communities. He said he hopes the space will continue to embrace the combination of those communities, whether it be local adults and students or UNH families.

Young's helped the community and the people helped Young's as well, and that is how he hopes he and his family and their restaurant will be remembered – for their impact in a positive way.

As for himself, Young remains focused on "Ken's Backyard Greenhouse," his own personal garden and greenhouse, and has been collecting more recipes while thinking about marketing the idea. Lately he has been using the greenhouse to grow fresh produce and sent over \$1000 worth of it to the Crossroads Homeless Shelter in Portsmouth.

Young said he still wants to offer himself as a worker. He said he's not ready to slow down yet, as he's a "young 63," and looks forward to continuing his passion being connected with nature by hiking and growing.

On behalf of himself and his family, Young said, "we thank the Durham community for supporting us many decades."

At the news of Young's Restaurant's final chapter, individuals from the local communities have shared their fondest Young's memories over the years.



Durham Town Manager Todd Selig said in an email "Our community is incredibly appreciative of the truly wonderful landmark restaurant the Young family and their dedicated staff have provided for generations of Durham residents, UNH students and staff, and visitors alike for many decades."

Durham resident and manager of Town and Campus Richard Many said he began working in Durham stores in 1976. He said for 11 years he would always stop at Young's for his coffee. Starting three years ago, Many began joining the group of veterans who met every Tuesday morning for breakfast at Young's. He said he recalls one Monday near Veteran's Day when Young bought the whole table breakfast.

Deborah Savage-Rerick Curran moved to Durham originally in 1967, and recently moved back six years ago with her husband. She said it was a tradition for her family to go to Young's on Sunday after church, and that it's been a special place in their lives for over 50 years. She said her dad worked at UNH and would go to breakfast to catch up with the people from town. "One morning he didn't go and someone there actually called our house wondering if he was okay because he wasn't there for his breakfast," she said.

Kristin Ann said she worked at Young's while putting herself through nursing school. Ann said Young made it possible for her to work and go to school. "I met the most wonderful people while working there, famous people, parents dropping their kids off for college, local people, all with a smile and a story to share," Ann said.

As Young's mother Anette once told him, "nothing is forever." The hub that was Young's Restaurant where "student, 'townie', and stranger come together daily to eat and socialize" will be gone, but never forgotten.

The way Young sees it, he said, is "when one door shuts, another opens."

Students react to UNH in-person fall semester announcement

Posted by Aubrey Benoit | May 15, 2020 | News | 0 |



President of the University of New Hampshire (UNH), James Dean, sent an email to students and faculty announcing in-person instruction for the fall 2020 semester. Students are filled with mixed emotions. UNH, alongside 18 other institutions within the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) and the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) plan to transition away from the Zoom calls, online exams, and strict technological communication that make up remote learning with the health and safety of students, staff, faculty and community as their top priority.

Students are eager to return to campus and experience the life they had as wildcats before being sent home in March and transitioning to remote learning. They are anxious to know what August holds, but appear excited to be back in Durham.

A rising UNH sophomore and English major, Avery Vine, is planning on returning to campus. She realized that UNH students are being given an opportunity many other universities may not choose to give out in the fall semester. However, Vine does have some worries. "I'm worried

about the restrictions,” Vine said. “Since most of it is unknown, I can’t help but wonder how life is going to change on campus, for better or for worse.” She is most curious to how dining halls will operate with so many students relying on their dining plans for food.

“I’m sure everyone will be wearing masks around, but other than that I’m hoping for the same normal experience that we enjoyed this previous year,” Vine said. Vine is most hopeful that tailgating can continue as it is one of the most memorable traditions held at UNH before football games. “Since it is a mass of people all in very close quarters at this time, I can’t help but think it will be discouraged or maybe not even allowed. We’ll just have to see how everything develops over time,” Vine said.

In his email, Dean said there will be “a robust coronavirus testing system...ample masks/face protection and sanitizer, [and] options and flexibility for education.” Classes will be offered in a blended format to ensure access for everyone, “students can choose to stay home, be on campus and go to class, or be on campus but only attend some classes in person” and that they will “provide appropriate accommodations to those employees who are at higher risk for the coronavirus.”

Dan Joyce, a rising sophomore at UNH majoring in Mechanical Engineering, is wondering how social distancing will look by August. “Will we have to wear masks all the time and socially distance like we are now?” Joyce asked. Overall, Joyce loves the UNH community and said, “the setting feels like home.” If he could wish for anything to resume it would be the Dairy Bar and school sporting events like the hockey games. Joyce said, “I think it will be different and a little uncomfortable,” but nonetheless, he is excited to go back to the place that feels most like home.

There are some students who are debating if they should stay home and not go back to campus for the semester. Jackie Weik, Communications major and rising sophomore at UNH, is undecided in her return. “I’d love to go back and see all my friends, but obviously things are going to be very different. In reality when you’re going to a big state school you’re essentially paying for an experience and if I’m not able to get as close to what I expected as possible then I’ll most likely be staying at home,” Weik said.

Weik is enrolled in classes such as photography and exercise science that do not transfer well online. She doesn’t have access to the darkroom for her photos or a gym to complete her labs in. Weik also wants to be able to take advantage of all the other resources she pays for such as the Connors Writing Center and the Diamond Library.

“Worst case scenario I think class size limitations will be put in place, most likely no tailgating, hockey games potentially played with no viewers and possibly no SCOPE concert, but I hope we get as close to normal as possible,” Weik said.

Weik worries that people will be irresponsible, and the second wave of the coronavirus will end up hitting the community harder than the first. To ensure the best health for the community, Weik is curious to what the university will change in regard to class size, sporting events, dining halls and social gatherings.

Currently, President Dean can only answer so many questions with the coronavirus state health-regulations changing so often in New Hampshire. For an example, Governor Christopher T. Sununu of New Hampshire announced just last Friday that the stay-at-home order will be extended until May 31. “The people of New Hampshire have taken this epidemic incredibly seriously,” said Governor Sununu. “We have all played a small part in flattening the curve and slowing the spread of COVID-19. We all know you are healthier at home, and that continues to be true, but we are also taking steps to reopen our economy in a smart, step-by-step approach that is supported by facts, science and data,” said Sununu.

Another rising sophomore and English major, Amanda Moore, is decidedly returning to campus this fall. “I think returning to in-person classes in the fall will be a really optimistic time. Although there will be changes, I think students and faculty will be excited to come back together.” However, many of her worries lay with the thought of the virus resurfacing because UNH will become a densely populated area. Moore is also anxious about how class structure will resume with so many restrictions dependent on social distancing.

“It is very important to me to be attending college in person. I am obviously attending university to learn and earn a degree, but the college experience as a whole is something that I cherish. College is supposed to be some of the best years of your life, and I would hate not to be able to experience that. I also think I learn a lot better when I am being instructed face to face and have opportunities to collaborate with peers on assignments,” Moore said.

Moore stressed the importance of learning from in-person instruction. Moore has found a lot of room for error with internet problems and site errors, which she has discovered not only does it disrupt class time, but it also can cause stress for due dates. Also, it’s not only the technological part that stresses Moore. “I find that there are a lot more distractions when learning online and it has taken a severe toll on my motivation,” Moore said.

Todd Leach, Chancellor of USNH said, “The vibrance, creativity, talent, and impact of our students, faculty, and employees who inspire our mission to the State of New Hampshire are missed, and we are working diligently to restore safe frameworks that will enable the return of our communities and their impact on our local economies.”

Despite the reopening of UNH’s campus, the university is confident that it can continue to operate remotely in the future if they need to. Susan Huard, Ph.D. and interim Chancellor of CCSNH said, “This Spring has shown us how adeptly our faculty, staff and students can adjust to changing circumstances. Higher education supports strong communities and our state’s economy in so

many ways through fulfillment of our public mission, and we will continue providing the opportunities that our residents rely on to sustain a high quality of life in the Granite State.”

A longing to return to UNH campus, worries of what the future will look like and a combination of questions about social regulations all entertain the heads of UNH students with their ability to now return for the fall 2020 semester.

'Innocent Country 2' by Quelle Chris: A review

Posted by Caleb Jagoda | May 15, 2020 | Arts | 0 |



Fate, kismet, destiny. It's got a smorgasbord of different names, but countless people seem to believe in it; this idea that *everything happens for a reason*. There's no scientific way to prove it, or to distinguish if it's actually a sham and everything is just a series of never-ending coincidences. As the beloved Forrest Gump once said, "I don't know if we each have a destiny, or if we're all just floatin' around accidental-like on a breeze, but I think maybe it's both. Maybe both is happenin' at the same time." However, if fate ever was or is real, then it had a heavy hand in the timing and release of Quelle Chris & Chris Keys' "Innocent Country 2," the duo's eloquent, ethereal follow-up to their 2015 release that displays a tender refusal to give up despite life's hardships and a pulsing belief in the indefatigable spirit of art and keeping close to your loved ones through trying times.

According to Quelle Chris, "Innocent Country 2" was created long before the pandemic tore across America, forcing people into their homes, away from their jobs and into subsequent difficult situations. COVID-19 has placed many hardships on the shoulders of hundreds of thousands of people, closing down businesses, threatening the health of family members and accumulating heaping amounts of stress onto our already-weary brow lines. And just like clockwork, in the middle of one of the strangest and most strenuous years in recent memory, Quelle Chris & Chris Keys released their jazzy brainchild on April 24 like a heaven-sent reminder to keep faith despite mounting duress.

"Innocent Country 2" is brimming with heartfelt, diaphanous production, with almost every instrument on the album being played and produced by Chris Keys. From the bouncy piano rhythms of "Living Happy," to the touching flute riff on "Graphic Bleed Outs," to the hissed lo-fi sermon of "Mirage," Keys constructs an aural landscape that embraces the listener with the warmth of a grandmother's hug. It's jazzy, slick, comforting, original and beautiful—and most importantly, it's the perfect backdrop for a melancholic, yet hopeful Quelle Chris, who gives one of his most serious and confessional performances to date.

Quelle Chris has always been a hip-hop weirdo; he's one of those people that you're thankful exists because of his refusal to color in the lines. From the intricate quirkiness and self-love of 2017's "Being You is Great, I Wish I Could Be You More Often," to the biting social commentary and humorous satire of 2019's "Guns," the Detroit-bred artist has always displayed an innate ability to only be himself despite the trends of the present day. Often showing shades of Quasimoto-DOOM-Soulquarian-Stones-Throw influence, Quelle borrows from this storied lineage but stays uniquely himself, crafting enveloping albums that look reflexively at both his flaws as an individual and the problems with our society at large. With "Innocent Country 2," Quelle shows us yet another side of his ever-evolving artistic toolbelt, this time opting for neo-soul-esque, collaborator-filled jam sessions with Chris Keys that feel exceedingly natural and gorgeously optimistic, even while acknowledging the pain that he's attempting to parse through in his attempts to live a fulfilled life.

On the indubitably fun "Living Happy," Quelle dies in the beginning of the song, ascends to heaven where he does every dance trend imaginable (including the Charlie Brown, the stanky leg and the Cat Daddy) and reflects on a carefree youth where his uncle gave him the advice to "let some feelings go" in order to live happily. Meanwhile, on the Nelson Bandela and Mosel-assisted "Black Twitter," the three artists confide in the pride of black culture with playful bars about their love of all things black, from coffee and tea to birds and cats, to heartwarming proclamations like "Beautiful black baby boy, the world is ours / Beautiful black baby girl, all twinklin' stars." Across the album, there's this gleaming sense of hope and belief in one's identity, family and creativity despite the setbacks looming in the road ahead, which include breaking up with the evil ways of the world ("Outro / Honest"), doubters and critics ("Make It Better") and even capitalization of the black experience ("Bottle Black Power BUY THE BUSINESS"). Regardless of these difficulties – and maybe because of them – Quelle, Keys and their many collaborators double-down on a message of beatific soul-power and the healing salve of art.

"Innocent Country 2" reaches its peak and sustains a streak of elevated magic across the five-track-stretch of "Sudden Death," "Make It Better," "Graphic Bleed Outs," "Mirage" and "When You Fall..." to close out the album. In these five songs, Quelle and Keys dig at the pith of the album with thundering moments of lyrical sincerity and spiritual, out-of-body instrumentals. There are 10 additional artists featured across these five songs—yet somehow, each act is slotted into the mood and message of each song like a hand in a glove, never feeling out of place or adding commotion to the listening experience. "Mirage" may be the best example

of their simultaneously light and heavy-hearted musical conjuring; Earl Sweatshirt and Denmark Vessey trade sanguine verses about the fragility of time (“The bitter sweetness of times I wish to capture / Abandon reason for the slime of greener pastures”) and believing in oneself above all else (“The sweetest get-back is being completely free, completely me / The smell of burnt sage, let the seasons reap / Don’t overthink it, breathe deep frequently”) before Big Sen delivers a sermon-like spoken word performance over the bare crooning of Quelle Chris’ vocals to top it all off. It all amounts to a touching, heart-warming, incandescent light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel opus that feels like, “a rap clinic held inside a church now converted into a basement speakeasy, where dime sacks and bootlegged rye were given to every parishioner,” as Mello Music Group’s website coins it.

*“What’s gon’ come to pass is what’s gon’ come to pass. All that voting and all that s***—you can do that, that’s cool, but that ain’t gon’ stop it. It’s—It’s already on the way, you know what I’m saying? Just buckle up. Have a good time, you know? Security is largely a superstition. It does not exist in nature. Life is either a grand adventure or nothing, baby. Go have your adventure, ‘cause I’m having mine.”*

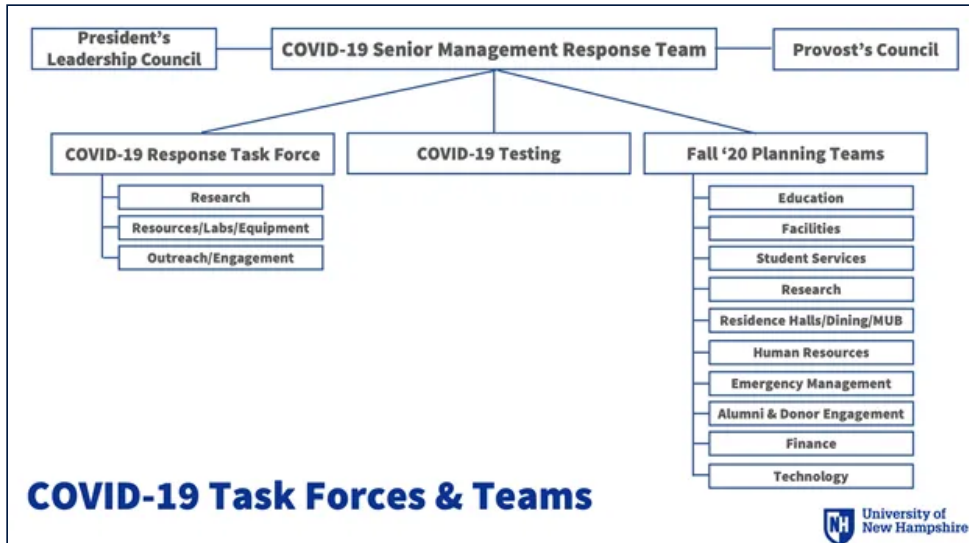
- *Big Sen, “Mirage”*

Quelle Chris and Chris Keys could not have released “Innocent Country 2” at a better time. Confiding in art – getting lost within the walls of our own head with the assistance of an enveloping piece of music – is extremely important to the soul when being pushed to its limits. The expression of pain and endurance and elation and tear-jerking moments in art is all we have; it’s an avenue to both communicate feelings and to receive them, to feel catharsis in our shared humanity through better or worse. To make and consume art is to feel human when external circumstances threaten to take that away. When the world needed honest and spellbinding art more than ever, Quelle Chris and Chris Keys delivered a poignant, timely, timeless, soulful deluge for the ages that won’t be forgotten anytime soon.

UNH to hold in-person classes for fall semester

Posted by Benjamin Domaingue | May 15, 2020 | News | 0

|



University of New Hampshire (UNH) President James W. Dean, Jr., along with the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) Board of Trustees, announced on May 8 that it will reopen UNH's campus for the fall semester of 2020 amid the uncertainty of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Dean reaffirmed that the situation remains unclear and much is still to be determined, but the health and safety of the students, faculty, staff and the community comes first with reopening the Durham campus.

As a result, multiple task forces have been created across the campus and have identified key issues to prevent in order to prepare for students to return.

The key issues include having a robust testing system in place, as well as a contact-tracing system in order to quickly identify and isolate potentially exposed students and adhering to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. The testing system will be in place for the beginning of the school year, as well as throughout the remainder of the year.

Dean described how UNH will continue to ensure that it will continue to maintain heightened cleanliness of common academic spaces. He also said the university will continue to be able to provide adequate masks and hand sanitizer to the community.

According to Dean, the university will provide adequate resources such as face masks/protection and sanitizer to students but it is imperative for students to remain vigilant in their efforts to limit the spread of the virus in order to remain on campus for the entirety of the semester.

Students who are in high-risk health groups, as well as any student who chooses, will have the option to have a parallel online track provided for their coursework. Students may choose to attend every class in person, participate online, or a mix of both.

Employees at risk may also continue to work remotely until the situation subsides.

Dean's email raised much excitement from UNH students, one of them being Sarah Aznive, a sophomore history and art history major.

"I was very excited to see that we're going back," Aznive said. "I definitely feel like there will be a lot of change to slow down the possibility of another COVID-19 spike. Hopefully, we can make these adjustments because I know a lot of kids want to go back for good."

In his statement, Dean stated his confidence that UNH leadership will be able to accommodate students and faculty with the arrangements required to sustain a healthy working environment.

"This won't be easy, but given how well the UNH community responded to the pandemic this spring, I am confident we can do this—together."

New Hampshire House finds temporary new home

Posted by Anna Kate Munsey | May 29, 2020 | News | 0 |



Until the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the New Hampshire House of Representatives had met outside of the State House's Representatives Hall only once – during the Civil War.

The current 394 House members will meet and conduct business at the University of New Hampshire's (UNH) Whittemore Center on June 11. The Senate will also historically meet outside of their own chambers, in Representatives Hall, which seats 400 people.

House Speaker Stephen Shurtleff wrote in the weekly House Calendar about the plan. "We understand for many of you that coming to a House session in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic can be frightening. Please know we will be taking all available precautions for your safety." He noted that House members will have their temperature taken when they enter and will be given a surgical mask to wear while inside the Whittemore Center. Additionally, Shurtleff advised House members to wear soft-soled shoes due to the potentially slippery parts of the floor in the Whittemore Center, and said that firearms are not permitted on campus.

"Collaborative work is ongoing between the State House staff and UNH to ready the arena for this historical event. The Whittemore Center arena's design makes it a safe venue," said UNH Chief of Police Paul Dean in an email. "We will follow all safety protocols in accordance with the state's COVID-19 universal guidance."

Rep. Judith Spang, of Strafford 6 district, was pleased with the decision to meet at the Whittemore Center. “I think it’s wonderful. I’m very proud of the New Hampshire House, that they have overcome what seemed to be an insoluble problem – of getting a place where 400 people could get together, respecting social distancing – I just didn’t think it was going to be possible... And of course, that my very own University of New Hampshire was able to solve the problem, makes me feel even prouder.”

Rep. Marjorie Smith, of Strafford 6 district, was also enthusiastic about meeting at UNH. When asked about whether the plan had been generally agreed upon, or if it had been more partisan, Smith noted that she could not generally answer that since she had been in isolation in Durham since March 13. Because of this, she said she has not had many opportunities to have informal conversations with other House members. “From the conversations that I have had, and from what I have been able to read, that I think there is generally a very positive response because all of the members of the House, or the overwhelming majority of the members of the House, have been really looking forward to when we would be able to meet together and continue to work on the people’s business,” she said.

“This session is really going to be a high point of how we’ve addressed the problems that have come from the virus,” said Smith.

The House last met in mid-March and will use the Whittemore Center for one day. Dean said the space will stay set-up until July 1, should there be a need for additional meetings.

UNH Football as high as No. 15 in preseason FCS rankings

Posted by Cameron Beall | Jun 8, 2020 | Sports | 0 |



Amid the Wildcats two-year playoff drought, they are expected to once again make some noise in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) and add another playoff appearance to Sean McDonnell's resume. UNH has entered the rankings at No. 15 and No. 17 in the Athlon and HERO Sports Preseason Top-25 polls after only reaching the 22nd spot in 2019.

The team had to say goodbye to a handful of talent on both sides of the ball, but the program has a reason to believe they can climb even higher than they did just one season ago. UNH has welcomed back head coach Sean McDonnell, the winningest coach in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), who also has the most playoff appearances in the FCS. Second-year quarterback Max Brosmer will also head into 2020 with a year of experience under his belt and a young, talented offense around him.

Coach Mac is back in the saddle after a one-year hiatus where Ricky Santos took the role of interim head coach. McDonnell holds an all-time record of 154-95 as head coach of the Wildcats.

Brosmer explained how Santos excelled at connecting with the players in 2019 and for being as successful as he was being put in such a tough position. He also noted that Mac is the rock of the program and will command the respect of the voters like the polls have shown to this point.

“Mac is the root of UNH football. There’s a different feeling when he walks into the locker room and onto the field. It’s that effect that he has on us that gives UNH football a different view in the voters eyes.”

Brosmer was recently named the Male Rookie of the Year at the 2020 UNH Senior Showcase. The Georgia native was forced to learn quickly last season as he was thrown into the fire just two quarters into his first season – he proved to be up for the task. He was named the CAA Rookie of the Week twice and helped lead the Wildcats into the national rankings multiple times in 2019.

UNH said goodbye to their leading rusher and pass catcher from last season with the likes of Evan Gray and Malik Love graduating this spring. The absence of Gray and Love will be noticed; however, some of the team’s most talented offensive weapons still remain heading into next season.

UNH will welcome back two-thirds of their three-headed running back monster from a year ago. Junior Carlos Washington Jr. fell just short of the team rushing title with 601 yards. In an open field, there aren’t many guys who make defenders miss quite like Washington.

Sophomore Dylan Laube is also a part of this group and may be one of the more versatile players in the conference. Laube rushed for 285 yards and averaged 23.28 yards on kick returns; perhaps his most impressive numbers came as a receiver though. He was second on the team in receiving behind Love averaging nearly 15 yards per catch, and 41 yards per game. The dual-threat back totaled 412 receiving yards and hauled in four touchdowns in 2019.

Along with the running backs, two of the top-three wide receivers will be returning to Durham this season. Junior Brian Espanet and sophomore Charles Briscoe III will head the wide receiver unit this fall. Espanet led the team in receiving touchdowns with five and Briscoe ranked third in yards per catch at 12.42.

The defense won’t be as lucky when they return to camp in the summer. The unit has lost five defensive starters as well as a senior captain. Among those who won’t return include Prince Smith Jr., Isiah Perkins, Pop Lacey, Cameron Brusko, Josh Kania and Michael Balsamo. These players helped lead their group to the second-best scoring defense in the conference only allowing 20.1 points per game.

After a season where the defense handled much of the load en route to a 6-5 record, the roles may be reversed this time around. Despite featuring the lowest scoring offense in the CAA in 2019, Brosmer remains confident that the offense will be equipped to handle more a of responsibility this season if they are called upon.

While he agreed the skill positions will be key, he specifically praised his offensive line and how excited he is to play behind them.

“Coach Miller has been doing a really great job with them, I’ve been joining their meetings,” explained Brosmer. “I’m excited to get back with them ... we’re going to be scoring a bunch of points this year.”

In addition to an extra year of experience for Brosmer and his cast, he has been working with some of the best in the business to help make gains in his own game. Brosmer has been taking part in quarterback camps over the past year with his personal coach, Quincy Avery. The sophomore has been working alongside the likes of Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson, former second round draft pick DeShone Kizer and 2020 Heisman Trophy frontrunner Justin Fields of Ohio State.

Brosmer explained how training with Fields, who comes from one of the most notable FBS schools in the nation, has helped push him to become a better player.

“He gives me something to look at and compare myself to,” explained Brosmer. “The throws he’s making, I’ve got to be able to make those throws too. He provides a lot of good insight defensively as well...just seeing the field through his eyes really provides a good look for me”

The Wildcat admitted that he struggled with reading defenses and knowing exactly where the ball needs to go as a first-year quarterback. This specifically is something that Brosmer is hoping to tighten up in his game and has been studying film to make sure he’s ready to go for week one at the University of Kansas.

Listen to the full interview with Max Brosmer on Spotify:

Listen to the full interview with Max Brosmer on Apple Podcasts:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/interview-w-max-brosmer-unh-football-17-preseason-ranking/id1516959291?i=1000476858152>

Opinion: We all need to do more to support students of color at UNH

Posted by Katie Hoppler | Jun 10, 2020 | Opinion | 0 |



Many of the people I follow on social media are my classmates at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), and the vast majority of them are posting about the Black Lives Matter movement right now. My peers have been sharing petitions to sign, places to donate, books to read, lawmakers to email, podcasts to listen to, pictures of protests, and list of black-owned businesses. I am really happy to see this material on my social media feed. But now, I am asking my followers and every student posting about the Black Lives Matter movement to put their money where their Instagram posts are and actually support students of color when they return to campus.

It is no secret that UNH lacks diversity. NH is the third whitest state in the country and over 80 percent of the UNH student population is white. Many of my fellow white classmates who are posting about the Black Lives Matter movement have complained about the lack of diversity at our school and say that they wish they were at a place with "more culture" like New York, Boston, or Eugene, Oregon. However, many of my white classmates who complain about these things fail to take advantage of the cultural resources and groups that *are* available at UNH.

There are many organizations on campus that work really hard to share their culture with others. A lot of the time they are ignored by the 80 plus percent and are only attended by people of color

and their friends. It is offensive when white people complain about the lack of diversity at UNH and then don't make any effort to engage in the diverse set of experiences and educational events that the people of color on campus have to offer.

College is probably the only time students will be exposed to these many resources and it is really disappointing that the majority fail to take advantage of them. Here are a few examples: The Diversity Support Coalition supports six student organizations (Black Student Union, Alliance, United Asian Coalition, Mosaico, Hillel, and the Native American Cultural Association). According to The Beaugard Center's website (formally known as OMSA) these groups collaborate on "programs, events, and community building promoting diversity, social justice, equity, and inclusion" where "any UNH Student is welcome". Delta Xi Phi is a multicultural sorority that recruits every semester. The Memorial Union Building (MUB) hosts talks and brings in nationally recognized speakers who discuss race, culture, and other social issues. The MUB also has an international education week and regular cultural connections talks where students share global stories. There are all these organizations and many others that I did not mention that host events throughout the year where students can educate themselves on the world outside of Durham, New Hampshire. But these events are blatantly ignored by the majority of the white student class.

The issue is not that these organizations do not promote their events. They advertise at literally every single table in the dining halls. They write their event in the corner of the whiteboard in almost every academic building. There are posters put up on bulletin boards throughout campus. RAs send texts to their whole floor of residents. Students are aware that these types of events are happening, the majority just choose to ignore them. They choose to stay in their own white bubble but somehow still complain about UNH's diversity.

I am also not perfect and need to do a better job supporting these organizations myself. But I am hoping that you will join me in changing this. Read the Holloway Common fliers and add a few events you find interesting to your calendar to attend that month. Try and convince some of your friends to go with you. If you can't find anyone to go to these events with you, still go. Be vulnerable and be open to learning new things. These events do not only allow you to educate yourself and become a better ally, but your attendance simply demonstrates to UNH and to these organizations that you care. It shows the university that students are interested in learning about people of color. High attendance means more funding for these organizations from UNH.

Right now, UNH students do not spend their week worrying about whether or not they will get into an event like the Black Student Union Fashion Show, Diwali, Chinese New Year, Carnival, or a MUB talk. These events are open to all. Instead, UNH students spend their week worried about whether or not they're going to get into an exclusive party where white fraternity brothers and sorority sisters rap the N-Word.

Claiming that you don't have the time to go to these events is not a valid excuse. If you can find the time to go to fraternity parties every weekend, then you can also find the time to support students of color on campus. If you can find the time to go to football, hockey, and soccer games, then you can also find the time to support students of color on campus. If you can find the time to play BINGO in the MUB, then you can also find the time to support students of color on campus. If you can find the time to go work out at the Hamel Recreation Center, then you can also find the time to support students of color on campus. If you have the time to be in any club, then you can also find the time to support students of color on campus. If you have time to post a black square or anything about the Black Lives Matter movement, then you also have time to support students of color on campus.

It is not a matter of whether or not you have the time to support these organizations. It is whether or not you care enough about students of color to actually do so. Next year I plan to do better, and I challenge you to do the same.

Ciao Italia has successful opening weekend

Posted by Evan Edmonds | Jun 15, 2020 | News | 0 |



The new restaurant Ciao Italia Ristorante + Mercato, offering authentic Italian cuisine, opened in Durham last Saturday.

The Ciao Italia team and owner Doug Clark are preparing to open up a portion of their indoor seating in conjunction with phase two of Governor Chris Sununu's social distancing guidelines on June 15th. Ciao Italia currently has five tables available for outside seating as well as the option of curbside pickup through their website. When indoor seating comes into play, Clark said they'll be able to accommodate another 40 percent of their 106 available seats.

The restaurant had a successful opening on Saturday, quickly receiving as many as 25 online orders at once. The decision was made to shut the website down and allow the kitchen to catch up, but Clark said overall there was a great response from the public.

The transition from the first to the second day was very smooth, according to Clark. They have it down to a science, he said, where they can maintain as many as ten online orders at a time, properly pacing the kitchen to have the most success. In addition to the streamlining of the ordering process, Clark said they are also working on tweaking certain menu items to adjust to the takeout style and ensure customers get the best value.

Customers also have access to the Ciao Italia market, where they offer general goods including dry pasta, breads, meats, cheeses and more.

Ciao Italia took the place of The Knot Pub that closed in the spring of 2019, but Clark said he intended this restaurant to be a change of pace from Durham's other restaurants.

Clark said that while Durham used to be a 50-50 divide between adult residents and students of the University of New Hampshire (UNH), that has changed to be overwhelmingly students in the last 10 to 20 years.

"Durham was an amazing town before the university," Clark said. He said Durham has lost its identity as a town, and he wants to reclaim some of Durham for its residents: "to recolonize Durham village with adults."

According to Clark, Ciao Italia is one of the first steps to turning Durham into a "metropolis," with the addition of four adult restaurants, one being a more American style spot that he plans on opening in the future.

Clark said he welcomes the students to Ciao Italia, but said it is an upscale adult restaurant above all: he said he wanted it to be diverse from the types of restaurants that are available in Durham, and said it is a great place for students to bring dates or their parents.

Clark called Ciao Italia a "teaching restaurant," and he said the intent behind the spot is to provide an experience that is both traditional and authentic Italian – and to show off more than just pasta and red sauce.

There is no Chicken Parmesan on the menu, for example, because it is a more "Americanized" Italian favorite. Instead, a few of the most popular items so far include a Bolognese with meat sauce, linguine with peas and prosciutto or spaghetti with pesto.

Ciao Italia's menu options include the traditional Mediterranean style of eating, in multiple courses. They offer smaller pasta portions as well as medium sized salads, allowing customers to try different items without becoming too full.

The recipes and concepts come from famed chef Mary Ann Esposito, who signed a licensing agreement with Clark for the use of the name and the craft.

The cellar that formerly housed The Knot Bar will be used as a wine cellar, according to Clark, as well as a function hall to hold tastings and eventually cooking programs based on Esposito's teachings. Clark said these events won't be up and running until next fall.

The main floor of the building has been entirely remodeled to fit the traditional and authentic Italian feel that Clark was going for. He said the market entrance was meant to be a transition from the streets of Durham to the Ciao Italia experience – something like Florence or Rome. The restaurant also has a brand new 1000 square foot kitchen.

Clark said Ciao Italia also plans on maintaining a relationship with UNH's Hospitality program with short term opportunities for experience as well as longer term semester long internship programs. Clark said he hopes to hire the "best and brightest" UNH has to offer.

"We are so excited to be a part of Durham and the surrounding communities and we're looking forward to showing everyone what Ciao Italia has to offer," UNH senior health management and policy major and new Ciao Italia employee Casey Clickener said.

Looking ahead to whenever restaurants can open fully again, Clark said he expects the takeout business in general to be more prosperous than it has been in the past. He appreciates the business he feels it will bring, but doesn't want people to miss out on the Ciao Italia experience.

Sununu lifts stay-at-home order for NH

Posted by Benjamin MacKillop | Jun 16, 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, bold, serif font. A horizontal line is positioned directly beneath the 'N' and 'H'.

On Monday June 15 at 11:59pm, New Hampshire's stay-at-home order that first went into place on March 27 officially expired, and was replaced with a stay-at-home advisory, allowing a majority of the economy to begin to reopen.

As a result of this, numerous sectors of the New Hampshire economy that have been shut down since the start of the pandemic will begin their first stages of reopening. Among those scheduled to reopen this week are multiple recreational businesses and activities including amateur and recreational sports, bowling alleys, entertainment centers, gyms, museums and pools. In addition, the new order allows for the reopening of movie theatres, performing arts, and amusement parks starting on June 29.

While the reopening is certainly a good sign, it certainly does not come without added risks. With large gatherings of people in entertainment centers and amusement parks, of which many visitors are coming from out of state, there is certainly risk of greater rates of infection.

Despite this, there is some hope that the policies put into action by the state government as a condition to reopening businesses, namely greater sanitation practices and an emphasis on mask wearing, could turn the tide in overcoming the pandemic.

A team of California and Texas researchers found that consistent mask wearing was the greatest single factor in preventing spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). There is also some evidence that suggests consistent mask wearing by a majority of the population, even in situations where social distancing and other measures are lacking, can prevent a widespread resurgence of this pandemic.

This is giving a lot of optimism to many New Hampshire businesses that heavily rely on summer tourism in being able to complete their summer season without being shut down early. With tourism being the second largest industry in New Hampshire, it has been a chief concern of the governor and legislature to make sure the tourism industry can reopen in some regard on time.

While the reopening of businesses and a reintegration of a “new normal” for social life being obvious positives for the people of New Hampshire and the UNH community, there are some downsides, especially for those benefiting from COVID-19 relief. Under executive order 51, Governor Chris Sununu is ending the protections against evictions and foreclosures that came to be as a part of COVID-19 relief. In addition, with many businesses reopening, unemployment benefits are beginning to be lost by many who had been previously laid off as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These combined with the ending of federal support for unemployment, set to expire on July 31, could have serious consequences for those unable to go back to work, and those in sectors that have been seriously damaged by the pandemic.

Despite the problems that might arrive as a result of the continued reopening of the economy, it is certain that many, if not most people are happy finding a new semblance of normalcy in these troubling times.

Rumors circulate about fall semester COVID-19 requirements

Posted by Hannah Donahue | Jun 17, 2020 | News | 0 |



A petition being circulated online and across various social medias quickly gained traction and sparked concern among University of New Hampshire (UNH) students and their families. The petition was based on rumors regarding face mask enforcement during the fall semester due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

A screenshot of an email from a concerned student claimed that Ruth Abelmann, director of Residential Life, said all UNH students would be required to wear face masks at all times while on campus. If someone was seen not wearing a mask, they would face being reported to the UNH Police Department (PD). The screenshot also claimed that non-UNH guests would not be allowed to stay in residence halls overnight and suggested that IDs would be checked to ensure that they are students at UNH.

This screenshot prompted a petition, started by Dominic Borrelli, a senior environmental and resource economics major, that addressed this rumor and encouraged students to sign it in opposition to the claim. The petition's description listed that students' "civil liberties are coming under attack on the University of New Hampshire campus this upcoming fall. We, as not only

students but free citizens of the United States, do not want to live under the unnecessary rule of constant police surveillance.”

After more students and their families became aware of the rumor, Chief Paul Dean of the UNH Police Department released a statement addressing the rumor:

“Based on false information, there is a petition circulating claiming that students will be under police surveillance this fall and will get in trouble for not wearing a mask. Again, the petition is based on false information. The university will continue to follow state and federal health guidance, to include when and where masks should be worn, and it is our expectation that every member of our community should be prepared to follow recommendations. In no circumstance will police officers enforce the wearing of a mask.”

In an email exchange with Abelman, she explained that the rumor began after a meeting with the resident assistants (RAs) for the upcoming school year. The purpose of the meeting was to offer RAs a chance to connect and prepare for what a physically distant semester may look like. While Abelman did not say that students are expected to call the police on others who are not wearing face masks, she did say that it “will likely be that students are expected to wear face coverings in all public spaces at the start of the semester.”

If the expectation of masks in public places were to be made official, however, Abelman made sure that the RAs know that they always have support to back them up if students do not comply.

The rumor of face masks also comes after Durham town administrator Todd Selig issued an order effective May 28 that all Durham town residents wear cloth face coverings in public spaces in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. More information about the administrative order can be found on the Town of Durham’s website.

As for the rumor of non-university students not being allowed overnight in the residence halls, Abelman did say that there is a possibility of this, but it is her hope that RAs will still be able to create a positive community for their residents.

While UNH has yet to release exactly what precautions will be taken and put into place during the fall semester, they will be cooperating with the New Hampshire state guidelines to ensure a safe environment for all students to continue their education on campus.

Black Lives Matter protest and march garners community support

Posted by Shawn Latulippe | Jun 17, 2020 | News | 0 |



A Black Lives Matter protest and march at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) organized by UNH students was estimated by the UNH police department to have had about 300-500 people in attendance last Sunday.

The protest began at Thompson Hall, where college students spoke about their personal experiences with racism and called on everyone at the protest to make a change and not only listen to them, but to look at themselves and hold themselves and others accountable for their part in racism or being a bystander to racism.

The organizers put together a video on the scoreboard at the Wildcat Stadium, stating that at UNH “many serious racist incidents have been overlooked by students, faculty and staff.”



In the video, there was a slide from an anonymous UNH student that said that “UNH takes the opportunity to post pictures of the 1% to create this narrative of diversity that does not exist.”

Nelson Thomas, a speaker at the protest and a UNH class of 2020 graduate, said that one important thing about the future of the movement is to “make sure that it doesn’t end with today,” and said there needs to be zero tolerance for hate and bigotry going forward. He said that it starts with holding one’s self accountable and others accountable and more specifically, holding UNH responsible for their problems with racism.

“This is a powerful day and a powerful moment, we just did concrete change,” said Thomas.

Donnett Sackie, a speaker at the protest and UNH class of 2019 graduate, talked about the struggles that his black friends have experienced with the police.

“The thing about this is I’m an African, I’m not an African American. In Africa we respect police, we can even buy police which is not good in itself, but the police are there to protect you, they are there to make you feel safe – that is not what I have experienced in America,” Sackie said.



Elijah Lewis, a speaker at the protest and a UNH human development and family studies graduate student, said that something needs to change and explained that white people are both part of the problem and part of the solution. He said the protest showed that people were standing up and emphasized that this was something that was needed.

Lewis started his speech by listing off names of victims of police brutality such as George Floyd, Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, Natasha McKenna, Breonna Taylor and others.

“These people will never be forgotten and they will always be with us. The problem is that all the names that I listed could have been any one of my brothers or sisters, and that makes me weak to the core,” Lewis said.

Elana Zabar, a senior community and environmental planning major said that it is really important that white people should at this moment “be here and listen, just listen.”

“Some of us here may think that what they do will not have an impact but I’m here to tell you that it will and that whatever you do to help the cause will have an impact no matter what. We are going to be the change by the way we live, the conversations we have, and how we treat people day in and day out.”

Paul Dean, chief of the UNH Police Department, said that the police worked with the UNH students to make sure the peaceful protest went smoothly. They helped to provide masks, water,

and a bullhorn for the march and worked with UNH athletics to use the scoreboard for the video. Chief Dean said three officers, including himself, were at the march. No arrests were made and it was a peaceful protest and march.

Julian Maduro, a speaker at the protest and a UNH student talked of her personal experiences with racism. She started her speech with a statement that her mother told her growing up.

“Don’t be angry, don’t cry, don’t show emotion, be a statue, don’t talk about politics, don’t wear a hoodie, straighten your hair, if they say something that hurts you, that butts you, just laugh, don’t make anybody uncomfortable. These are some things that my mom used to tell me growing up,” Maduro said.

Since that moment, Maduro has developed anger towards her mother’s statement, but also a greater understanding of it as well.

“It used to make me so mad...I grew up in the bubble of my mother’s arms so when she said don’t speak up all I heard was let them make you quiet. What I didn’t know is that her mother said the same things to her. What I didn’t feel is the pain she feels knowing that even though she fought for this decades ago, I would still have to fight. What I didn’t know is that my mom would rather me be quiet, uncomfortable, miserable as long as it meant I was still alive.

What I didn’t hear is the black mother in her chest cracking at the thought of her children making themselves into bigger targets.”

Marianna Miller is a junior UNH environmental conservation and sustainability major. She said that “it is great that so many people showed up” and emphasized that one important thing that people need to do: educate themselves on issues, and as a white person, acknowledge white privilege.

Emma Pryor-West, a speaker at the protest and UNH student said in her speech, “Think about your life, do you ever think, ‘she’s only here because she’s black?’ Was that ingrained into our society? That they don’t deserve to be here because they’re black? Their skin makes them thugs, do I look like a thug? I can barely kill an ant. I’m serious, I don’t like them. But, every time we sit here, we work harder, we work stronger, because we know that when we go out if we don’t have a perfect 4.0, they’re not going to look at our resume. We know if our names are written on the resume, they’re going to throw it out. We know our teachers look down at us and we fear that, we fear the police, we fear our peers’ silence, we fear our professors, we fear our administrators, because the system is against us.”

Cache Owens-Velasquez welcomed as new director of The Beauregard Center

Posted by Anna Kate Munsey | Jun 22, 2020 | News | 0 |



In January University of New Hampshire's (UNH) Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) moved to a new space. Now in June, the cultural hub on campus is not only a new director, but a new name.

On June 6, Dean of Students John T. Kirkpatrick announced the changes in a statement. First, OMSA has been renamed The Beauregard Center, after a student named Aulbani J. Beauregard who passed away in early 2019.

"All who knew her were cheered by her effervescence, good will toward all and the sheer joy she found in life. She was a force in our community, refreshing to see in a first-year student," wrote Kirkpatrick. He said both the naming of the Beauregard Center and the magnolia tree planted in her memory "are fitting ways to honor Aulbani's deep commitment to equity, justice and good will in a troubled world."

Additionally, Kirkpatrick announced Caché Owens-Velasquez, the search committee's top choice, as The Beauregard Center's new director. Owens-Velasquez earned her doctorate in Urban and Regional Analysis from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Charlotte, has a background in community planning and urban development, and has focused on the areas of education, inclusion, equity, and cultural responsiveness.

Owens-Velasquez, who is originally from Green Bay, Wisconsin, will be making the move from Charlotte to the Seacoast area later this month, along with her wife, Cynthia, 10-year-old son Jonah, and her three rescue dogs. She said the whole family is excited about the move. "It's going to be a new chapter not just for me, but for all of us," she said.

A key part of Owens-Velasquez's position at UNC-Charlotte was working to foster university-community partnerships. This included neighborhood improvement research projects – she described following the lead of marginalized community members in Charlotte, and working a lot in predominantly African American neighborhoods that were low income and had been marginalized by the city in different ways. She said, "they brought the 'lived' experience and their day-to-day expertise and we brought our technical expertise and theory and tried to merge those two together to work on some neighborhood improvement research projects."

She said she is excited about the idea of fostering more connections between the Beauregard Center and the Seacoast community. "I really want to make it a resource not just for everybody on campus but for the Seacoast community, that if there's a need or a desire to talk about something equity- or justice-related that people think of the Center as a go-to resource," she said.

For the past few years, Owens-Velasquez has been teaching a class at UNC-Charlotte that focuses on both critical thinking and citizenship, and asks students to analyze and discuss social justice issues and complete a community-based project. She described the skills she had developed as a result, including "facilitating difficult conversations" and "creating safe spaces for different points of view." She said, "I think bringing those skills to UNH, especially in the climate that we're in right now, I think that that's something I hope to put to good use."

In her free time, Owens-Velasquez likes to create art and loves watching stand-up comedy with her son; "I always say in my next life I would try to get on Saturday Night Live," she joked. She has recently begun baking, after watching The Great British Baking Show. "I've been telling people, there's gonna be a lot of sweets in the Beauregard Center once I'm there because I've started to convince myself I'm a great baker," she laughed.

Owens-Velasquez said she is very excited to work with the Beauregard Center's staff and students. She said this is an exciting time to come into UNH, where there are a lot of senior leadership positions that have been newly filled or are in the process of being filled. "We're in a time where the country as a whole has a renewed focus on justice, and so I'm just really excited

to dig in to some of these really complicated issues and lift up voices of students at UNH who maybe feel like they haven't had as much of a voice in the past, to really engage in that work in a time when it's so important across the whole country," she said.

She plans to begin engaging with faculty and students starting with a lot of listening, and getting to know the projects and initiatives that have been going on already, so she is able to offer as much support as she can. Owens-Velasquez says she is always open to ideas and thoughts from others, and plans to have an open door.

"I really hope that we can go in a direction that would make our namesake proud, I never got to meet her but I've just heard so many amazing things about her spirit. I would hope that the Center could be a national model for how universities can play a key role in working towards equity and justice," she said.

President Dean announces COVID-19 fall semester roadmap

Posted by Evan Edmonds | Jun 23, 2020 | News | 0 |



In an email to the University of New Hampshire (UNH) community, university president James W. Dean delivered the “Roadmap to an On-Campus Experience,” and provided more details to the current list of guidelines regarding UNH’s coronavirus (COVID-19) safety processes for the plan for an on-campus fall semester.

While the list will continue to evolve as the fall semester grows nearer and public health conditions change, President Dean explained the current framework in place to allow for a “flexible, in-person fall 2020 experience designed to keep our community safe, ensure access and quality for our students, and move our community forward.”

President Dean listed some of the key points as follows:

The fall semester will start as planned on August 31st (24th for the UNH law school). Pending faculty senate approval, the fall holidays will be used as instruction days and students will not return to campus after Thanksgiving. The last ten days of the semester including both classes and exams will be conducted remotely after this period.

Residence and dining halls will be operating at a reduced density of 50% or less. There will be no triples or quad rooms and two of the residence halls will be reserved for quarantine space.

Visitors and members of the UNH community will be required to wear masks or other coverings during class, labs and in public areas. Masks will be provided for those who don't have one.

UNH will impart an "extensive public health campaign," regarding face masks, hygiene, health monitoring and social distancing. "Health screening and monitoring will be required for all faculty, staff and students," as well as "a strict 'stay at home when ill policy'" that "will be in effect at all times." The Student Rights, Rules and Responsibilities Handbook will be updated in accordance with these changes.

President Dean wrote, "living and learning on campus is a right and a privilege that will be lost for students that don't adhere to these guidelines."

Dean linked UNH's COVID-19 (coronavirus) page which includes more in-depth details and further reasoning behind the planning. It also includes individual links detailing how UNH plans to support undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff, and the community. Focal points of this page include:

Creating COVID-19 ready campuses: providing on-campus testing for everyone on campus as well as comprehensive tracing in partnership with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

Deliver flexible, blended academic instruction: concluding face-to-face classes on November 25th and conducting exams remotely (pending faculty senate approval) and providing a mixture of in-person and remote coursework with increased flexibility for remote learning.

Align resources for success: UNH is increasing cleaning and disinfection of public areas and increasing access to health and safety supplies.

While these are the UNH guidelines and policies currently in place, they are subject to evolve and change, and UNH is prepared to pivot when necessary for the good of the community. Dean wrote that the university will continue to monitor the public health situation over the next month and send updates when necessary.

President Dean welcomes members of the UNH community to join a town hall Zoom meeting on Tuesday, June 23 at 4 p.m. The webinar can be reached at this link: <https://unh.zoom.us/j/97241231316>

UNH Global cancels fall 2020 study abroad

Posted by Benjamin Domaingue | Jun 26, 2020 | News | 0

|



In an email to students, the University of New Hampshire's Global Education Center announced their decision to cancel all fall 2020 study abroad programs in accordance with their International Travel Risk Policy.

"It is with sadness and disappointment that UNH is announcing the cancellation of all student international travel programs and experiences for the Fall 2020 semester in accordance with our International Travel Risk Policy. The U.S. State Department Global Health Advisory Level 4: Do Not Travel remains in effect due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Applications for January and Spring 2021 remain open with the hope that education abroad programs can resume next year."

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the United States Department of State updated their Global Health Advisory to Level 4, encouraging individuals to refrain from any and all international travel.

According to UNH's International Travel Risk Policy, student travel is prohibited in areas the U.S. Department of State deems a Level 3: Reconsider Travel or a Level 4: Do Not Travel.

This decision comes following the university's decision to cancel all summer study abroad programs as well. Many international borders remain closed, with most rejecting tourist and student visas for international travelers.

According to UNH's Global Education Center, 25 students are impacted by this decision for the Fall 2020 semester.

Despite the Global Education Center canceling international travel for students, Study Away U.S.A. programs remain open and available for students to participate.

The Global Education Center has delegated numerous responsibilities to program providers in dealing with students who have been impacted by this decision. Students are urged to contact their Approved Program providers in order to request a refund for their deposit.

According to the Global Education Center's landing page, students are urged to speak with their advisors about their course requirement eligibility if their experience was cut short or canceled. Students are not guaranteed to satisfy their course requirements should they be restricted from the full study abroad experience.

"Please discuss your individual situation with your Academic Advisor, IA Advisor, Language Advisor, or Honors Advisor."

As COVID-19 cases were on the rise in early 2020, the Global Education Center recommended that students register for classes at UNH in the fall in the event that their study abroad programs get canceled to ensure academic continuity. For students who did not do this, they must register and find space in available classes. Students will now have to wait until July 8th in order to register for courses, as the announcement came after the May 4th deadline for regular registration.

Applications for study abroad for January term and spring 2021 remain open, however the university continues to monitor and assess the pandemic, and will adjust accordingly.

Beth Kilinc, the administrative director for education abroad at the Global Education Center was asked how drastic the financial impact of the cancellation of Study Abroad would be to UNH.

"This decision was determined by UNH policy, U.S. Dept. of State Travel Advisories and travel policies of other countries. Finances were not a factor."

The Global Education Center did not disclose the impact on finances for the University.

According to *The New York Times*, by July 1, the European Union is slated to reopen its borders as the spread of COVID-19 has slowed dramatically since March.

Officials continue to debate on what travelers should be accepted abroad. One such list in consideration would ban Russian, Brazilian, and American travelers, citing their failure to contain the spread of COVID-19. Should the European Parliament vote to restrict American travelers, it could prove problematic for future Study Abroad Programs at UNH. The list is said to be revised every two weeks based on data from the respective countries.

This benchmark is based on the average number of cases per 100,000 citizens in the EU, which is 16. The United States currently sits at 107.

According to a report from *The Washington Post*, seven states have reported their highest number of hospitalizations since the pandemic began. The United States is beginning to see a rise in COVID-19 cases across the nation, which could severely impede international travel for students in the future.

University faculty express concerns over reopening

Posted by Benjamin Domaingue | Jul 13, 2020 | News | 0

|



Throughout the community of the University of New Hampshire (UNH), a letter has circulated from over 200 members of faculty and staff frustrated and concerned over the university's lack of communication regarding the reopening plan.

The signatories included Molly Campbell, the president of UNH Lecturers United, the subsidiary of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the union that represents university faculty and staff. Numerous tenured professors, untenured lecturers and university graduate faculty were also .

The letter outlines faculty concerns on the reopening plan outlined by University of New Hampshire President James W. Dean Jr. Despite the University's effort in order to safely reopen for the fall 2020 semester, one of the biggest concerns being the lack of information provided to staff.

"Still, we are deeply troubled by the lack of information, sometimes even contradictory information, we have been receiving about everything from population density to PPEs," the letter said. "We write to express concern about UNH's response, with multiple considerations in mind."

The university has committed to numerous changes in operation in order to accommodate on-campus living, such as reduced dorm capacity, enhanced cleaning, limits on gatherings and the use of face masks.

Despite these changes, faculty feel increasingly unsafe returning to campus. Siobhan Senier, chair of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies Department, outlined the original draft of the letter. Though she is appreciative of the university's efforts, she is concerned that should restrictions relax, the coronavirus (COVID-19) will spread across campus.

"I do believe that the University is working hard on things like cleaning the buildings, putting distancing protocols in place, and stocking up on PPEs. But everything we are seeing in the news suggests that, when you relax restrictions, you see another spike. Social distancing seems especially difficult for young people, and universities obviously bring thousands of young people into close proximity."

It is increasingly becoming more apparent that young people are refusing to follow social distancing guidelines, at least in Durham, NH. In a report by *The Union Leader* on May 27th, Durham Police reported an increasing number of students living off campus refuse to follow rules regarding social distancing and self-quarantining.

Though landlords and police are attempting to work with students, neither party has the authority to enforce quarantining rules, unlike the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The town of Durham also has no authority to enforce face mask wearing or social distancing, as the authority can only come from the state.

Though young people, on average, feel they have less risk in contracting the virus, the faculty are becoming increasingly worried.

The university has committed to providing reasonable accommodations to staff as a result of COVID-19 under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Though the university has made this commitment, many are concerned their accommodations will not be approved.

In an email with Catherine Morran, the lead negotiator with UNH Lecturers United, she expressed concern with the merit of UNH's commitment to faculty accommodations.

"Individual members of the faculty don't have concrete answers about whether they will be teaching remotely or face to face. Faculty who have requested accommodations do not know if those will be approved or not, or what the accommodations will be. It is now six weeks before the first students return to campus, and faculty do not have a clear indication of whether we need to design classes for a real or virtual classroom. I am absolutely certain that the faculty can teach

outstanding classes in the fall — but we do this best when we have the ability to exercise our judgement on how best to deliver our course content while also managing risks to our health and our families.”

Faculty have had little input on the original reopening plan announced by President Dean. Some colleges have begun to work on their own version of a blended format.

Michelle Dillion, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts (COLA), has begun to work with faculty within the college in order to establish their track for a safe reopening.

“Given the pressure on classroom space (as a result of the reduced capacity in classrooms due to physical distancing guidelines), we have made the decision in the college that all of our lecture courses with a 70 or higher capacity will be online/remote synchronous (with asynchronous recording accessible.)”

Though the university and respective colleges are working to ease faculty concerns, one thing remains clear. Faculty have had little say in decision making in regards to the reopening plan.

“We are asking you to *let us do our jobs*. We know our own situations; we know how we can deliver our content to our own students, in the most appropriate modality for this unfortunate context. Without that decision-making power, many faculty are frustrated, anxious, and angry. We want to teach our students, and teach them well. Trust us enough to do that,” the letter said.

Faculty are feeling increasingly ignored by the UNH administration and the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) Board of Trustees. The reopening protocols have been determined by administration with little input from staff, those at most risk from contracting COVID-19 from students.

The original signatories of the submitted letter will remain anonymous in fear of retaliation from the UNH administration.

The university has yet to respond to comment on the content of the letter.

UNH requests students sign consent agreement

Posted by Benjamin Domaingue | Jul 20, 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, bold, serif font. A horizontal line is positioned directly beneath the 'N' and 'H'.

On Friday, July 17 University of New Hampshire (UNH) President James W. Dean Jr. requested that students sign and submit an informed consent agreement regarding on-campus programming in order to return to campus. Students have the option to accept and sign the agreement, or deny and forego their on-campus education and activities in the fall.

The agreement includes the policies and protocols students are expected to follow upon returning to campus life. These protocols include wearing masks, physical distancing and other common risk-mitigation practices.

“While none of us can ensure each campus will be free from the risk of contracting COVID-19, by working together we can manage and mitigate the risk,” said Dean in the email.

UNH has continued to follow protocols set by the state of New Hampshire, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New Hampshire’s Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS).

Students and community members are expected to wear masks or cloth face coverings while in class or in public common areas. While wearing a mask, students are expected to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet between each other.

Following NHDHHS protocol, large gatherings and events should be avoided. UNH announced in a press release on July 17 that the fall sports season has been postponed, as well as the cancellation of Homecoming Weekend and Family Weekend that were due to take place October 2-3 and October 10-11, respectively.

Frequent hand-washing will be encouraged throughout the day as per UNH's UNH Together public health campaign that was announced in an email to the UNH community on July 14.

Students, faculty, and staff will be subject to pre-arrival testing and are required to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test before arrival. The form did not specify a timeline for when students need to receive a negative test. In a Q&A with President Dean and UNH Police Chief Paul Dean, as well as members of the Durham community, UNH leadership outlined their desire to receive a waiver for students to use self-test kits when arriving at campus, which are 94% accurate, compared to a 97% accuracy of the deep nasal cavity test.

Students, faculty, and staff will be subject to routine testing throughout the semester, as well as contact tracing from the University.

Students, faculty and staff will be subject to temperature screenings and mandatory self-monitoring of symptoms. Students, faculty and staff are required to report any symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to a presumptive or confirmed positive to UNH Health and Wellness.

Campus community members who test positive for COVID-19, are symptomatic or were in contact with an individual who has tested positive will be subject to isolation and quarantine protocols.

Students may be required to execute waivers of liability if they desire to participate in certain events, extracurricular activities, or university functions.

Tuition will remain the same regardless if students participate in their courses in-person, in a blended format, or online.

The informed consent agreement omits certain protocols that are otherwise listed on UNH's COVID-19 webpage.

Students will have an expanded move-in time frame, beginning August 10th and concluding August 31.

Students have the option to decline the informed consent agreement, however, they will be unable to participate in on-campus activities, including classes. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students who cannot attend physical courses due to a medical condition under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

UNH maintains the right to transition ~~back~~ to remote learning at any point should the need arise.

In a briefing from Governor Chris Sununu, the University System of New Hampshire has received a \$19 million grant from the state of New Hampshire, with the university receiving an undisclosed percentage of the grant to be used for student safety.

In a financial projection update from UNH President Dean on June 16, UNH posted a \$30 million loss, as well as a \$10 million operating deficit for FY21. Much of the loss is attributed to the \$27 million refund given to students for on-campus housing, meal plans and mandatory fees due to COVID-19. Though much of this cost was offset by the CARES Act, the university has continued to spend on their reopening plan in order to create a safe environment for students to return to campus.

UNH has reduced dorm capacity by 50%, removing all triples and quads from each residence hall. Graduate housing is no longer provided, as graduate hall Babcock and undergraduate hall Adams Tower West will be used for COVID-19 quarantine housing.

UNH also aims to maintain to-go and order ahead options for their dining halls and will operate under CDC recommendations.

In a job posting from UNH, the facility is looking to hire over 60 new housekeeping and cleaning staff in order to meet cleaning demand. Many communal water fountains have been removed in order to lighten the workload for residential housekeepers and to limit the spread of COVID-19.

If students have any questions regarding the reopening plan or the informed consent agreement, students are urged to contact President Dean's office via email as soon as possible. Students have until Friday, July 24 to agree to or decline the informed consent agreement.

UNH Announces the Postponement of all Fall Sports

Posted by Cameron Beall | Jul 20, 2020 | Sports | 0 |



The University of New Hampshire Department of Athletics has announced the postponement of all fall sports for the duration of the fall semester in a Friday afternoon press release. Programs that are affected by this announcement include men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, field hockey, women's volleyball and football.

"It is with a very heavy heart that we are announcing the postponement of all fall sport programs due to the COVID pandemic," said Marty Scarano, UNH director of athletics.

Scarano noted that the programs have been working with the university along with the America East Conference and the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) to try and work out a plan that would best suit the athletes, coaches along with the other involved parties. He explained how his fellow athletic directors and conference commissioners met daily to discuss possibilities of ways to get the student athletes on the field this fall.

As of three weeks ago, Scarano said that he and his colleagues felt confident enough in the trend of the virus that they would have been able to move forward with sports beginning this fall.

"The pandemic had somewhat flattened, certainly here in New Hampshire and the national trend was fairly positive, and then when the pandemic took the awful turn that it did after the Fourth of

July it became increasingly obvious that we weren't going to put our student athletes in as good of a position as we had hoped relative to their safety and welfare, and it probably was going to stress the resources of the university. In many ways it wasn't the right thing to do," Scarano said.

UNH President James Dean, along with other presidents within the conferences, played a heavy hand in the final decision as well. This was the first time the presidents had intervened to such an extent in the CAA according to Scarano.

Postponing some of the team's seasons while moving forward with others was never in the discussion according to Scarano, "it was always going to be all or nothing," he emphasized.

Amidst the discussions that took place over the last several weeks, the school had been preparing for a multitude of scheduling options for each program. Some of the ideas included "pods" for the soccer programs consisting of a north and a south division.

An option that was on the table for football was a double round robin that would've had the Wildcats playing the universities in New England twice.

"The fact is that we would've rather play something than nothing," Scarano said. "But as it all played out with COVID and the trends, it wasn't going to work, which is why we made the decision last week that we were going to pull the plug on it."

The press release from UNH's Department of Athletics noted that the school and league affiliates are looking into the possibility of moving fall sports to the spring semester. Scarano admitted that it's going to be tough, but if the trends of the virus can start to consistently drop then he remains confident a season can be played in the spring.

"It'll be quite something to witness if we can pull it off. We don't want any of our athletes to lose this year of competition, so we're all going to work like heck to get the fall sports on the field in the spring. That's our number one ambition and we're going to embark on that right away and start working on that."

As for the winter sports, whose seasons usually kick off towards the end of the first semester, their season remains up in the air. The school along with the Hockey East conference have already begun discussions about the season. Scarano wouldn't rule out sports like hockey and basketball starting on time, but the door is very much open to those being pushed beyond the new year.

Events that have coincided with UNH football in the past are Homecoming Weekend and Family Weekend, both of which have also been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These events were originally scheduled for Oct. 2-3 and Oct. 10-11.

Provost's Office seeks student consensus on fall semester

Posted by Benjamin Domaingue | Jul 20, 2020 | News | 0

|

The logo for the University of New Hampshire (UNH), consisting of the letters 'T', 'N', and 'H' in a large, black, serif font. A horizontal line is positioned directly beneath the letters.

The University of New Hampshire's (UNH) Provost's Office for Academic Affairs released a survey on Wednesday, July 15, to students within an email inquiring on the student consensus on the fall 2020 semester.

This one question survey requested student opinion on whether or not students would prefer to return to campus for in-person classes, take their classes remotely or were unsure.

The survey was not anonymous, with the students having a deadline of July 22 to give their input.

The survey is intended to allow for UNH to adequately prepare for the fall 2020 semester by determining what courses can and should be held remotely. Courses that use labs or have extensive fieldwork will most likely remain in person. Courses that can be held remotely and/or are too large may remain digital.

Students have the ability to check what courses will be held remotely or in person on WebCat and on the UNH courses website, as well as contact their advisors to request a change to their schedule on WebCat. Students will be able to modify their registration beginning July 22.

Erika Mantz, the executive director media relations and spokesperson, outlined the administration's reasoning for the lack of anonymity in the survey.

"We have heard from students with underlying health conditions or other personal reasons who want to try to complete the fall semester remotely. We wanted to give them the opportunity to self-identify and provide information that directs them to academic advisors for support to help them plan their curriculum so that they can graduate in a timely manner."

With this, the university is holding courses in person, in a hybrid format, and remotely. However, each individual college has a responsibility to set their own standards.

"We offer online classes every semester. This fall, courses will be in person, blended and online. There is no exact percentage and it will depend on the needs of each individual college as they try to build the best curriculum for our students," said Mantz.

UNH also believes that this data will help to keep the institution on track to be prepared for students returning in the fall.

"We are on track to be ready for the fall. The purpose of the email was to respond to the request for some students for the availability of being remote. Remote instruction could come through an online course or through a blended course where students are zooming in. Not all courses will be available remotely."

However, this information is contradictory from President James W. Dean Jr.'s email regarding the reopening of the university sent to students on May 8. In this email, Dean outlined that greater flexibility would be offered with each course.

"There will be **options and flexibility** for your education. Classes will be offered in a blended format to ensure access for everyone. Students can choose to stay home, be on campus and go to class, or be on campus but only attend some classes in person," the email stated.

According to the Office of the Provost, Wayne Jones Jr., certain classes will not be blended, preventing students from staying home to prevent infection. Students will not have full flexibility in their coursework if they remain at risk but attend courses that involve labs or fieldwork.

This adjustment to the fall 2020 schedule is just another investment UNH has made to keep students safe. In a Q&A with Durham residents on July 16, Dean outlined that students will be provided with self-testing kits, mandatory testing before returning to campus and regularly throughout the semester, as well as a mandatory mask requirement where social distancing isn't possible and in public spaces. Students who do not follow guidelines will be given a warning or sent home, and in severe cases be separated from the university.

For further information on the University's response to COVID-19, visit unh.edu/coronavirus.

UNH announces comprehensive COVID-19 testing and tracing program

Posted by Anna Kate Munsey | Jul 27, 2020 | News | 0 |



The University of New Hampshire's (UNH) latest announcement regarding plans for the fall semester is a comprehensive program for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing.

On July 23, UNH Chief of Police Paul Dean and Senior Vice Provost for Research, Economic Engagement and Outreach Marian McCord announced the plans in an email to students, faculty, and staff. Together, Dean and McCord co-chair the UNH Testing and Tracing Committee, which formed in preparation for the fall semester.

"The UNH testing and tracing program is a collaborative public/private effort between our amazing faculty and staff in partnership with the State of NH and commercial medical providers. This collaborative approach allows UNH to achieve the best possible outcome for a successful testing program," said Dean in an email with *The New Hampshire*.

UNH students, faculty, and staff will be tested before returning to campus, upon arrival during the week of Aug. 24, and then regularly throughout the semester. "We are building one of the most comprehensive testing programs of any university in the nation—we believe this will help us improve the health and safety for everyone."

“As top tier research institution, UNH has relationships with national suppliers. These relationships allow UNH to maximize efforts to acquire the needed resources and standup a state of the art testing lab,” wrote Dean.

The first step of the program is the “pre-semester testing” that students who plan to be on campus will complete prior to arrival. UNH, in partnership with ConvenientMD and Quest, is providing this COVID-19 testing for free to students. There will be multiple options for location and modality to accommodate students of different areas and needs. Testing will be available as a drive-through on each campus, at selected locations around New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts, and there will also be other options for students living outside these areas including mail-in testing kits or testing at one of Quest’s test centers or partner labs across the country.

Students must be tested for COVID-19 no earlier than eight days before arriving on campus. In an effort to address concerns of the extended waiting time for test results that has been reported throughout the country, UNH has “received a commitment from ConvenientMD and Quest that test results will be available for UNH students within 3-5 days after they receive the sample.” The results will then be sent directly to the student and university. Students who test positive are required to remain at home until they are cleared to return to campus. All diagnostic test results, both from the university’s lab and any external partners, will be managed confidentially, in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA). Both positive and negative COVID-19 tests will be reported to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), who will then perform contact tracing.

Additionally, UNH is working to develop a “state-of-the-art testing lab and COVID-19 screening program that will serve all students, faculty and staff in Durham, Manchester and Concord.” This lab will be in operation in time for the arrival of students to campus. Testing at this lab for students, faculty, and staff will begin Aug. 24.

The lab will use a “real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction” (RT-PCR) test similar to that used by the DHHS. This will require regular screening of the entire university community “with students as often as twice per week in the first few weeks.” People will be required to swab their noses, using a nasal swab, and then drop off these samples in secure locations at designated times.

In terms of contact tracing, UNH will work in conjunction with the NH DHHS. Details of this plan can be found here. The email states that UNH students should have a plan for potential quarantine or isolation before arrival to campus. Such spaces are available on Durham’s campus, should students need.

Students who may be infected with COVID-19 will be contacted by UNH Health & Wellness, and called in for an evaluation. Students who have COVID-19 symptoms should also contact Health &

Wellness immediately. Close contacts, defined as roommates and other individuals who have been within 6 ft. for a period of 10 min. or longer” will be identified by trained personnel and will be expected to quarantine for 14 days following exposure to the positive case.

More information on pre-arrival testing will be sent out soon. “Student behavior and compliance is absolutely essential for a successful in person campus experience. Students who don’t comply face losing their privilege to be on campus for the semester,” said Dean.

UNH holds town hall On COVID-19 policy, students frustrated

Posted by Benjamin Domaingue | Jul 27, 2020 | News | 0

|



On Thursday, July 21, Vice Provost of Academic Affairs Wayne E. Jones Jr. held a town hall with University of New Hampshire (UNH) students and parents on the Student Confirmed Consent Agreement (SICA), and UNH's reopening plan, which received over 915 questions from the student body.

In addition to Jones, the town hall was hosted by Nicholas Fitzgerald, Student Body President, University Vice President for Finance and Administration Chris Clement, Director of PACS Dr. Shari Robinson, a representative of the Senior Vice Provost of Student Life and Chair of Student Life Committee reopening, University Police Chief Paul Dean and Marian McCord, Senior Vice Provost for Research. Fitzgerald moderated and presented the pre-picked questions for the Q&A portion of the town hall.

McCord outlined UNH's coronavirus (COVID-19) testing and contact tracing plan and discussed certain expectations for students as they plan to arrive on campus. Students must show proof of a negative test before returning to campus.

"The university has contracted with two providers to provide testing either through a facility or by mail. We have written guarantees in our contracts for lab capacity to receive results within two to

five days. Students can receive a diagnostic viral test from their doctors or a state facility that collects swabs from the nasal cavity and the oral cavity.”

The university will have multiple locations available to students in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Students out of these areas will be able to receive a test by mail.

“We’re working with a national provider called Quest, where they can match students’ home addresses with the availability of local testing. They have a partnership with Walmart where they can share testing capacity with them. If that is not the optimal solution, they could receive their test by mail supervised by a medical professional online where they can send their test to a lab.”

Students concerned about their medical privacy had their fears quelled as McCord continued to outline testing procedures.

“This data is sent to Health and Wellness, it is HIPPA protected.”

McCord outlined the following steps after students begin to move in on August 10.

“When you return to campus, you will receive a bag of testing supplies, trained in proper sample collections and techniques, you will collect a sample by swabbing your nose, you’ll return your swab in a secure location on campus or close to campus.”

Students continued to express concerns over the prospect of a self-test, as they will not be independently verified immediately after collection. However, even if students test positive, they remain free from quarantining until a second round of testing.

“If you test positive in this regular screening, Health and Wellness will request you return for a subsequent test. Students who test positive again will quarantine in the dormitory or at home. Close contacts within 6 feet for over 10 minutes will be asked to quarantine as well.”

Should students test positive in a second round of testing with the pharyngeal swab from Health and Wellness, they will be required to quarantine, either in their apartment or in one of the two dormitories allocated for quarantine housing. UNH Police Chief Paul Dean outlined the quarantine process.

“We will provide you the opportunity to access your classes virtually, we’ll have telemedicine, tele-mental health, regular medical staff to check on students, 24-hour security, meals, and snack will be delivered to students. We will ask you to make a go-bag so you can quickly take it to your quarantine site if it happens.”

Students will have their basic necessities taken care of. However, the claim that students can access all of their classes remotely contradicts the University’s official stance, which outlines how

approximately 60% of courses are face-to-face only.

Students will have ample access to personal protective equipment (PPE) upon arrival. The university has obtained a stockpile for the entire UNH populace.

“We have secured a stockpile of PPE, we have over 1 million disposable masks. Each member of the University of New Hampshire, students, faculty and staff, will be given a box of 40 masks, which can be worn for 5-7 days each. We are going to ask you to bring three cloth masks as well.”

Chief Dean did not comment on how the university plans to enforce and discipline those who refuse to comply with the mask mandate on campus, nor did he comment on the legal ramifications of the potential town-wide mask mandate proposed by Todd Selig.

Should students run out of their PPE, there will be an ample supply on campus. Dr. Shari Robinson outlined potential ramifications for students who may forget their masks when travelling across campus.

“There will be available disposable masks everywhere on campus. You will be respectfully reminded to wear a mask. If not, you will be given a mask. If by some reason you refuse, that will lead to an educational, teachable moment with the dean of your college.”

Students have expressed concerns over billing. According to Chris Clement, billing has been front loaded in order to maintain current financial aid for students, and as to not have to adjust each student’s award based on federal regulations.

“There will be a reduction in billing. We are really hoping we make it all the way to campus without having to shut down. We want to make sure we get this right that there will be a reduction during the fall semester. Be patient with us.”

Provost Jones reiterated that the university’s primary goal was to maximize financial aid for students and minimize adjustments due to COVID-19.

“The best thing we could do for students to maximize financial aid, minimize disruptions was to stick with the original plan and then do credits at the end of the semester.”

As for the SICA, students have worried about its legal ramifications in regards to individual liability should a student contract COVID-19. Provost Jones explicitly stated that the SICA was not equivalent to a legally binding liability waiver.

“We had no interest whatsoever in creating a liability waiver. In New Hampshire, you have to explicitly say it’s a waiver. We just want everyone to be informed.”

The panel expressed that campus life as students return will be extremely different as the community adjusts to the new normal. However, Dr. Robinson believes regular social programming can continue between community members, albeit with certain restrictions.

“Res. life will continue to engage in virtual programming. We will have a lot of outdoor recreational activities. We are standing tents and tables all across campus so you’ll be able to socialize in small groups.”

Students wanting to exercise and socialize within many of the university’s main buildings will still be able to as well, barring certain restrictions throughout each building.

“Campus Recreation, the MUB and Student Union will be open under certain modifications. Our dining halls will be open under certain restrictions. Food will be served, all food will be take-out regardless of a meal plan. Seating is 50% or less. Only one take-out container will be used. Special dining needs will be accommodated.”

Following the administration detailing how UNH plans to operate, Nicholas Fitzgerald was tasked with moderating a Q&A with the administration with questions presented from the audience, which can be found at the end of this article.

An additional point was made by Chief Dean for returning employees and students in the Durham area. The university will be hosting drive-up testing for students, faculty and staff in Durham.

From 8 am to 4 am on Tuesday July 29, Wednesday July 30 and Thursday July 31, UNH Durham will be hosting drive-up testing at Wildcat Stadium behind the new home stands only for faculty, staff and students arriving on campus the week of August 3. Registration is required prior to arrival for testing.

From 7 am to 7 pm the week of August 12, testing will be available for students moving in until the UNH lab is up and running on August 24. Students may also pick-up their self-test kits.

The webinar concluded with Provost Jones urging students to continue to check their emails. University administration will be emailing in increased frequency as the return to campus continues to approach.

Though the university answered many questions, the student body remained frustrated with the lack of transparency from University administration.

UNH People’s Parity Project (PPP), a student organization based at the UNH School of Law, hosted a student debrief immediately following the official UNH webinar.

The town hall was moderated by UNH Law students, who requested to remain anonymous.

The purpose of this town hall was to serve as a student debrief and discuss the next steps for students regarding the Student Informed Consent Agreement (SICA) and UNH's COVID-19 policy.

One primary concern of student's was the lack of enforcement mechanism in students who refuse to comply with policies. Many fear students who refuse to comply will not be reprimanded.

Students continued to vent their concerns over the lack of transparency from university administration, who they believed have pressured students into signing the SICA under a tight deadline.

Despite Provost Jones stating it is not a legal document, many UNH Law students fear it may still act as a waiver in a court of law.

In a statement to *The New Hampshire*, Joshua Marshall, a representative for UNH PPP and a rising second-year student at UNH Law expressed his concern for the SICA in its current form.

"In emails to students, statements to the media, and again in Thursday night's town hall, the UNH administration continues to mislead students as to the meaning of the informed consent agreement. They keep saying: 'it's not a waiver, it's an informed consent agreement' and leaving it there. Sure, but an informed consent agreement that has students expressly assume the risk of exposure to COVID-19 on their campus could still have significant legal implications, like it feels like lying by omission to leave that out, and it could be at the expense of students' lives. By simultaneously asking students to sign an express assumption of the risk and lobbying Congress for additional liability protections through its representative, ACE, the university seeks to absolve itself from responsibility if it negligently infects us with the coronavirus."

The University System of New Hampshire (USNH) is represented by a lobbying firm, the American Council on Education (ACE), which has continued to push for blanket university immunity in Congress.

Marshall believes the university should remove the final paragraph on the SICA, such that students may agree to the university's COVID 19 policies without absolving the university of its responsibility to protect students.

"Personally, I want the assumption of risk language removed. I want the students to have a legitimate open forum to air all of their questions. The PPP and Graduate Student Senate are continuing to compile student questions, which we should not have to do."

Students have continued to push back against the reopening plan, with online petitions circulating calling for prorated tuition, the further extension of the SICA deadline, among other things.

Student concerns remain unaddressed even as UNH pushes to reopen. As the deadline approaches for the SICA, many students are considering taking a gap semester or taking their courses remotely as UNH pushes to reopen its campus without addressing their concerns over safety and transparency.



Q&A session – moderated by Student Body President Nicholas Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald: “Has UNH done modeling for an outbreak on campus and can that data be made public?”

McCord: “We haven’t done our own modeling but we have been following modeling from literature and different locations across the country.”

Fitzgerald: “How will students obtain those testing kits and how often will they be tested?”

McCord: “They can obtain them when they are moving into the dorms. We are building capacity on campus to hopefully test everyone twice a week. We are looking at how to adjust testing in terms of risk, taking into account an individual’s risk level based on where they live relative to campus.”

Fitzgerald: “Will other students be allowed into their friend’s dorms even if that friend is living in a different dorm?”

Dr. Robinson: “We are trying very hard to institute a no-visitor policy. We are not saying our students can’t hang out, but unfortunately, no outside visitors in the residence halls. UNH students may visit each other’s dormitories though.”

Jones: "The campus is not a police state but we are trying to limit the number of visitors to campus."

Fitzgerald: "Can students get out of room and board of housing now due to COVID?"

Clement: "We have to put an end date on that which makes sense, but I need to double-check with my colleagues, but the short answer is yes. We are doing hospital-level cleaning. We are cleaning high touch areas and bathrooms twice a day. We are effectively doubling housekeeping staff."

Dr. Robinson: "The first time you have to be reminded, no harm no foul. But if you are engaged in repeated failure to comply, we are going to take a much more serious stance that will result in removal from campus. You will still have access to your classes, but you will lose the privilege to participate in the campus life."

Jones: "Not participating in our public health plan is equal to alcohol violations on campus."

Dean: "I know that if we do this, we'll be successful. If you're sitting there, you know if you'll follow the rules. It is okay to take your classes online and gradually come back."

Dean: "We don't have the confidence in the testing outside of the United States. We will have to find a way to test you when you get here" in regards to the international students.

Fitzgerald: "Will Hamel Rec and the Student Union be open for students or will it be limited?"

Dr. Robinson: "They will be open with limited capacity and specific modifications in place."

Jones: "Wear your mask, wear it all the time if you have to. It is perfectly appropriate to ask someone to put their mask on and the only response should be 'thank you.'"

Fitzgerald: "Who could a student go to if they feel their professor is not doing a good job once classes are online."

Jones: "Faculty are working hard to prepare for you. If a student is having an issue, they could reach out to the department chair or the Dean's office and have a conversation. I would hope that the first thing the student does is to have a conversation with the faculty member."

Fitzgerald: "How will transportation work on campus?"

Clement: "We will have an increased number of busses on the campus connector lines. The ridership is so low on the weekends to Newmarket, it is just not financially or sustainably correct."

We will have lines from Portsmouth to Dover on the weekends. There will be more to that in the coming future.”

Jones: “We will update the FAQ with questions if they are not up there already. We have received 836 questions that’ll be grouped and answered.”

Fitzgerald: “What is the student interest in returning to campus?”

Jones: “3-10% that will not return to campus. 10% may want to defer or are thinking about it. 80% want to return.”

Fitzgerald: “How will partying be held on or off-campus?”

Jones: “We are asking students to get together in a smart way, about 10-15 people. Why not get together with those that you live with?”

Dr. Robinson: “The students will decide whether or not we get to stay together this semester.”

Dean: “We have been working with the town twice a week so we can have synergy. Education, education, education when it comes to this with me and my team. We are going to talk about those things. If you’re trying your hardest in a group with a mask on and socially distancing, everything will be fine. Parties where everyone is close and has been drinking, that’s what will ruin it. If we have a surge that overwhelms our capacity, we will be forced to shut down from the state.”

Town of Durham adopts mask ordinance

Posted by Anna Kate Munsey | Aug 5, 2020 | News | 0 |



“Wearing a mask is easy; no more difficult than a shirt, shoes, or remembering your notebook for class!” wrote Town Administrator Todd Selig in an email with *The New Hampshire*.

The Town of Durham has passed a mask ordinance, impacting residents and visitors of Durham, as well as the University of New Hampshire (UNH) community as they prepare for their return to campus for the fall semester.

Emergency Ordinance #2020-11 “requiring the wearing of face coverings under certain conditions within the Town of Durham” was passed unanimously by the Durham Town Council on Monday night and is effective immediately.

Employees and customers of all businesses and restaurants, patrons in town buildings, and pedestrians in certain zoning areas when unable to social distance are expected to wear a mask.

Circumstances where people are not required to wear a mask are when seated at a restaurant or to temporarily verify their identity and/or age. Additionally, children under the age of 10 and those with proof of medical exemption are not required to wear a mask.

Situations where masks are not explicitly required but are strongly encouraged include when using public recreation lands, when entering a residential complex of greater than two units and

when inside or outside common areas within such buildings.

The Durham Police Department will have masks available for those who are stopped for non-compliance and do not have a mask with them. Should someone still refuse to put on a mask, there will be a fine of \$100. The second offense will be a \$200 fine, and third and subsequent offenses will be \$500.

New Hampshire is the only state in New England that does not have a statewide mask mandate, as Gov. Chris Sununu has left the decision to require mask wearing up to each community. The city of Nashua has already passed a mask ordinance, and towns including Hanover, Keene, and Portsmouth are considering taking similar measures.

On May 28, Durham issued Order #7, a request that residents use cloth face coverings in certain situations within the town. The key distinction is that this was simply a request that residents wear masks, and lacked enforceability. Following this order, the use of face coverings in Durham was less than was desired, according to the Council Communication for the proposed ordinance. Given all of these factors, and in anticipation of the thousands of students that will begin arriving in Durham next week, the vote was a relief for many residents.

“Numerous community members have communicated with Town officials that unless mask wearing is mandated within downtown establishments, they will avoid downtown Durham and shop elsewhere out of a fear for their own health,” Selig wrote in the working draft of the ordinance.

Modifications can be made to the mask ordinance while it is in place and it will automatically stand repealed on Oct. 2, but can be reenacted if the emergency still exists.

In terms of legal authority, the Durham Town Charter states that emergency ordinances may be passed by a two-thirds vote of the Town Council “to meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or the public peace.”

The university will be notified of non-compliance cases involving UNH students. The university has a strike system in place for those who repeatedly refuse to follow mask guidelines from the town, university, or both. The first offense will be considered a learning experience, and the second offense may result in removal from campus.

Durham’s mask ordinance will be a collaborative effort with UNH’s plans. In terms of mask-wearing enforcement, the UNH Police will focus on campus and the Durham Police will focus on off campus, wrote Selig.

The university is requiring students to wear masks while in buildings and in public common areas, in addition to maintaining a physical distance of six feet when possible. Situations where students

do not have to wear a mask on campus are in the case of medical exemptions, in their own office or residence hall room, and outdoors when able to maintain a distance of greater than six feet.

There will be a COVID-19 hotline to report situations of non-compliance or other dangers to the university. "Anyone blatantly disregarding public health expectations will be addressed. If students violate those expectations a second time, they could be required to leave campus and continue their classes remotely," according to a UNH FAQ page.

UNH has asked students to bring three reusable cloth masks to campus, but every UNH community member will also be provided with approximately 40 surgical masks.

"UNH wants you back. Durham wants you back. Students want to be back. So everyone involved must conduct themselves in a way that will give our collective community the best likelihood of avoiding a local COVID outbreak, which could bring in-person UNH learning to an abrupt end. It's vital that UNH students social distance, wear a mask, and refrain from participating in large gatherings," wrote Selig.

Opinion: UNH Students – The University and Durham want you back. You want to be back. Do your part to keep us all safe.

Posted by Todd Selig | Aug 7, 2020 | Opinion | 0 |



As the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and the Town of Durham prepare to welcome back the UNH student body to campus and the community this month, the rate of coronavirus (COVID-19) infections around the nation continues to increase. This latest spike in the spread of COVID-19 is marked by one particular difference: young adults are getting infected at much higher rates than they were during the spring. Why is this the case? According to The Hill on July 18, “Younger Americans eager to get back to their social lives are increasingly responsible for the spread of the coronavirus, risking their own health and that of their family and friends under what health experts say is the misguided impression that the virus cannot cause them harm.”

NPR’s Nurith Aizenman reported on July 24 that for weeks, the U.S. COVID-19 pandemic has largely been driven by spiraling outbreaks in the South and West, but some forecasters indicate Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states could soon be in deep trouble again, too. The warning comes from researchers at the PolicyLab at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, which has built a model to provide longer-term forecasts for every U.S. county. Here are two takeaways:

- The virus is marching up the East Coast. In recent weeks there's been a noticeable trend of rising cases moving northward from Florida up travel corridors like I-95.
- New England is at risk. Transmission rates in New Haven are clearly increasing. The state of Rhode Island has increasing transmission. In the Boston area, we're seeing the same patterns we saw a couple of weeks ago in Philadelphia. We now have an outbreak on Cape Cod. And we're seeing more of the virus in New Hampshire.

It's all too clear that COVID-19 continues to steadily move through the population, filling hospitals to capacity and resulting in a state-by-state rush to stem the tide. Around the U.S. and in our case, here in Durham, we need everyone, and particularly UNH students, to modify their behavior to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

As more people recover from COVID-19, many will find their ordeal may not end when the infection is over. It can result in prolonged illness, even among young adults without underlying chronic medical conditions. Examples of prolonged complications include: fatigue, headache, insomnia, chest pain, cough, joint pain, vertigo, skin rash, brain fog, shortness of breath, heart arrhythmia, hypertension, and more. Lois Parshley from Vox reported on June 12, "It is a true roller coaster of symptoms and severities, with each new day offering many unknowns."

Sadly, locally we have witnessed highly concerning behavior among young adults in Durham throughout the summer and the majority of these young adults are UNH students. Whether it is in backyards at off-campus rental units or in large student gatherings downtown, students have largely not been physical distancing, have not been wearing masks, and have gathered in large groups.

Residents who live next to off-campus student rentals and who shop downtown, at Hannaford, at Rite-Aid, at D-HOP, etc. have grown increasingly concerned as young adults have disregarded public health advice and ignored the recommendations emphasized by both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) along with state, local, and Durham officials. Pong tables have been observed at multiple locations. Large gatherings have occurred all too regularly, and physical distancing has not.

In other college communities across the nation, the behavior of students in residence for the summer has resulted in super spreader fraternity parties, which have worried Durham leaders and residents. Recent coronavirus outbreaks have been linked to fraternities at universities in Washington, California, and Mississippi, and some experts predict it may be an example of what's to come as many colleges reopen for in-person classes beginning in August. A potential result of this irresponsible behavior nationwide is that colleges and universities may well have to abandon their plans to bring students back to campus for the fall term.

UNH and Durham leaders have been working tirelessly together since the spring to devise a responsible plan to reopen campus this fall for the approximately 15,000 students enrolled. UNH wants you back. Durham wants you back. You want to be back. But everyone involved must conduct themselves in a manner that will give our collective community the best likelihood of avoiding a local COVID-19 outbreak, which could bring in-person learning to an abrupt end. So, we invite you with an open hand to join our team. It's vital that UNH students physically distance, wear a mask, and refrain from participating in large gatherings. To this end, mask wearing is now required in the town of Durham by local town ordinance, just as it will be required on campus by UNH.

Don't squander all that we have planned and achieved to make in-person education possible for UNH this fall. Our collective health as a community depends on it.

Learn more at [#unhtogether](#).

—

About the author: A UNH Alumnus, Todd Selig has been the Administrator for the Town of Durham since 2001. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Durham.

UNH hosts student-led virtual town hall

Posted by Shawn Latulippe | Aug 14, 2020 | News | 0 |



During the University of New Hampshire (UNH) student-led virtual town hall on Tuesday evening, staff from the university stressed the importance of students wearing masks and practicing social distancing to ensure a safe semester. Representatives from the Student Senate discussed the upcoming opening of the UNH campus, and members of UNH staff answered questions regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Student Body President Nicholas Fitzgerald, Student Body Vice President Tyler Silverwood and Student Senate Speaker Igor Campos Garcia started the town hall by asking the UNH staff about further details in regards to COVID-19 testing of UNH students, what UNH expects of students in the upcoming semester and how the university plans to keep its students and staff safe.

Peter Degnan, the medical director of Health and Wellness, said that the first step is asking all students eight days prior to their arrival on campus to be tested. Once students have a negative test, they can then be on the UNH campus. He said off-campus students will be given self-testing kits so that they can test themselves twice a week and will be tested on days that correspond to their major and college. On-campus students will be tested based off of their residence halls and their resident assistants (RAs) will be able to help them determine when to be tested.

In the case that a student tests positive for COVID-19 before arriving on campus, Degnan said that their respective state health department will ask them to isolate for 10 days. Once the student tests negative for COVID-19 and are cleared, they can then return to campus. If a student tests positive during the semester, all of their close contacts will be informed that they have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Close contacts are defined as roommates and other people who have been within six feet for a time period of 10 minutes or longer. The student will then be assigned a case manager from the state of New Hampshire to check in on them, and they will have the option to live in one of the designated dorms on campus to quarantine or go home to quarantine until they are cleared to return.

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Wayne Jones said that New Hampshire has kept numbers low so far during the pandemic with 316 active cases and 8 active cases in Durham, and he hopes they will be able to keep positive cases down. He also said there will be new tags about classes on MyCourses/Canvas that will show students whether their class is online, in-person, or a hybrid class.

When asked about how bathroom usage will work in the buildings on-campus and in the residential buildings, the Director of Residential Life Ruth Abelmann said that although students can't wear masks when they shower or brush their teeth, they will be required to wear masks in hallways and common spaces. According to Abelmann, there will be set capacities enforced by RAs for the bathrooms to allow for social distancing. In a student's own dorm room they will not be required to wear masks. She said that they are also putting an emphasis on cleaning the bathrooms more often than usual and they will also shut down the bathrooms and clean them if a student in the dorm tests positive for COVID-19. She also said that even in the case that UNH closes, a COVID-19 positive student would not have to go home until they are cleared.

Dimond Library will be open, Jones said, but there will be social distancing procedures in place such as spacing computers farther apart and they will be expecting users to help clean and wipe down the computers and workstations before and after they use them. Zeke's Cafe will not be open in the library for the upcoming semester, according to Jones.

Senior Vice Provost for Student Life Kenneth Holmes said he hopes everyone coming to campus knows that they must wear masks and said students who refuse to wear masks or repeatedly forget to wear masks will be held accountable.

"It's about safety first," Holmes said. He said there will also be a system in place for people to report others for not complying with wearing a mask or social distancing. Additionally, it is now required to wear a mask in public in the town of Durham, and those that fail to do so will be fined. Community members of Durham and UNH will also be able to use a link to report others for not wearing masks in public.

Director of Community Standards Matthew Keegan said that the police will not be called on a student not wearing a mask. Their first step will be to ask the student to comply. There will be a three strike policy, according to Keegan, where the first strike will have a student meeting with their respective college dean, then being put on probation if a second meeting occurs. If there is a third offense, they will no longer be allowed to take in-person classes and could be evicted from housing if they live on-campus.

“Everyone’s a part of this, just wear a mask,” Keegan said.

Abelmann said that wearing a mask “is just what we need to do.” She said that quarantine dorms, such as Babcock Hall or Adams Tower, will be very isolated, which is why they provide students the option of quarantining at home.

Keegan said that the link for reporting people not wearing masks can also be used to report people for having larger gatherings without social distancing. If the state of the pandemic improves, between 15 and 25 people can gather. As far as parties off-campus, they are unaware of what the Durham police will do to respond to large gatherings of people.

Abelmann said they will be encouraging people to spend time outside where they can let people be together and have fun in a safe environment.

“Wearing a mask is something we all should do,” Jones said, “when in doubt have your mask on and minimize your risk.”

Jones said there is a system in place where the campus will be classified at green, yellow, orange, or red, with green meaning normal operations and red meaning a complete shutdown. Yellow would be having face-to-face classes with restricted operations, and orange would be remote learning but still with on-campus living. Pertaining to a question about what happens if all of the quarantine dorms are filled, Jones said if that happens, the campus will have likely already gone from orange to red, and in that case the university would most likely have already been shut down. He also said that they will be monitoring the number of cases and capacities of quarantine housing to ensure that they will not get to that point.

Degnan said that students’ test results for COVID-19 will always be confidential but they will update everyone on the number of cases on campus. This confidentiality is in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), meaning a patient’s medical records are confidential. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, their professors will be informed that they are not able to attend classes and then it is up to the student whether they want to tell their professor about their diagnosis or not.

Executive Director of Student Engagement and Development Stacey Hall said that the dining halls will be open this semester but with some changes. They will be takeout only, and students

can order their food in advance and will be served food by the dining hall workers. There will be prepackaged food items like salads, and they will no longer use finger scanners to access the dining halls and will instead have to bring their ID cards to swipe in. She also said that for people with allergies or other dietary restrictions, the best dining hall to go to will be Philbrook Dining Hall or Stillings Dining Hall. Students can order online and specify the allergies they have and the food they would like to order. She also said that UNH dining is working right now to put together a video on how it will all work.

“We will be successful if we come with the right attitude,” Holmes said. He emphasized that to be successful everyone needs to come together and follow the rules in place to keep everyone safe. He said they will continue to send updates to students and parents and work toward having a safe semester.