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The future of American politics

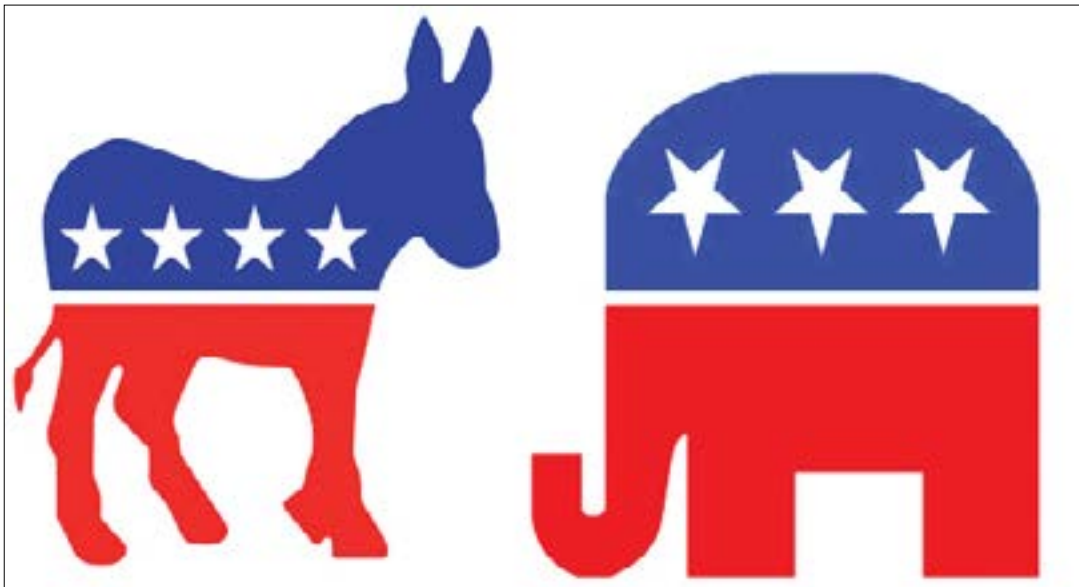


Photo courtesy of Smithsonian Magazine

By Anna Kate Munsey
MANAGING EDITOR

Despite the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, political engagement in the 2020 election broke records.

From a vast Democratic primary field of over two dozen candidates, where longtime politician Joe Biden was ultimately nominated, to an incredibly unique incumbent Republican president, Donald Trump, there were many possible outcomes of the 2020 election. Of course, we now know the facts with certainty: Donald Trump lost reelection, and Joe Biden won the presidency. Democrats lost 12 seats but maintained control of the U.S. House, and with wins in both Georgia runoff races, they have just barely gained control of the U.S. Senate. The U.S. Supreme Court, as of the nomination of Justice Amy Coney Barrett, holds a 6-3 conservative majority.

What does all of this mean?



Photo courtesy of Fox9

And, how did we get here?

For many, 2020 was a call to action. Whether spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, a renewed racial justice movement, or strong feelings about either Biden or Trump, young people turned out to vote.

Andy Smith, the director of the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Survey Center and a professor in the political science department, notes, “most people don’t care about politics most of the time.”

Elections are generally the time where partisanship is most prevalent, and people pay the most attention to politics.

This was the case for college-aged people in 2020, many of whom were voting for the first time in a general election. Tufts University’s Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) projects that between 53% and 56% of voting-eligible young people voted in the 2020 election. This is a significant increase compared to the 2016 election,

where they projected between 45% and 48%.

College students are “coming of age” in a new political climate due to advancements in technology. Between the 24-hour loop of cable news, the constant connection of social media, and the ease with which information is produced, altered, and spread, it’s quite easy to feel overwhelmed. Generations before did not consume news in the ways that Generation Z does, and therefore did not interact with politics in the same ways.

For example, Generation Z has experienced half of the country’s impeachments. Constantly televised and trending on Twitter - suffice to say, this was a very different experience than that of the impeachments of Richard Nixon or Andrew Johnson.

Following the second impeachment of former President Donald Trump, some were noting that it was the “most bipartisan impeachment” in U.S. history, with 10 House Republicans and all 222 House Democrats voting to impeach on Jan. 13. However, the U.S. Senate now finds themselves in a predicament. Scholars have questioned the constitutionality of conducting an impeachment trial of a president no longer in office. Smith believes it is unprecedented. “To me it’s vengeance, it’s retribution. But it’s not doing the things that Biden says he wants to do

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Return to campus guide



Photo courtesy of the University of New Hampshire

By Caitlin Staffanson
ARTS EDITOR

As the University of New Hampshire begins their return to campus, students are being asked to follow all guidelines outlined by the university. Over the past week, UNH students have been sent an overwhelming number of emails regarding the testing procedure and rules for a safe spring semester which begins, Feb. 1. Below, the emails and guidelines provided by UNH are broken down as a comprehensive return to campus guide.

HOUSING:

For students living in on-campus housing, move-in is taking place over the course of four days, Jan. 27 through Jan. 30. The first day of school for students is Feb. 1. On-campus housing restrictions remain the same as were stated during the fall semester. Students will not be allowed to have any non-university guests or family members enter the residential halls. As stated at the beginning of the year there is a limit to

the number of students allowed in dorm lounges and common spaces at a time and the dorm kitchens have been closed for the year. All rooms will remain at single or double occupancy regardless of the size the space may offer.

The housing teams has been working closely with the Dean of Students’ office and the COVID-19 testing compliance team throughout winter break to make sure expectations are as clear as possible for students and so that the entire transition is smooth.

“Housing and residential life have been carefully planning fun events and programs that align with our safety practices,” said Victoria Perkins, the interim director of housing. “We want very much for students to enjoy their time living on campus, while feeling very comfortable knowing that we are making their safety-first priority. Housing and residential life have also been a part of the planning to ensure

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Photo courtesy of the University of New Hampshire

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In the midst of an up and down COVID-19 and injury plagued 2020-21 season, UNH gets two points in a weekend set with Merrimack.

UNH COVID-19 lab receives grant

After a successful first four-plus months of operation, the UNH COVID-19 testing lab will get a \$4 million grant to help function and expand.

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Spring semester food guide

Staff Writer Evan Edmonds gives a rundown on the state of UNH and Durham's dining situation, including particulars on the all new "rise + grind." Read for more information on Durham's "Restaurant Bingo."

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What's the *Weather?*

Jan. 28

32/7
Snow

Jan. 29

20/8
Partly Cloudy

Jan. 30

24/7
Sunny

Jan. 31

30/18
Mostly Sunny

Feb. 1

33/29
Snow

Feb. 2

34/27
Snow

Feb. 3

36/23
Partly Cloudy

Weather according to weather.com

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But you can find new content *daily* at

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CORRECTIONS-----

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE MADE AN ERROR, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT *THE NEW HAMPSHIRE'S* JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS AND PRACTICES, YOU MAY CONTACT EXECUTIVE EDITOR JOSH MORRILL.

Politics
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ing the things that Biden says he wants to do to heal the wounds in America. It's going to sharpen those wounds, and that's a problem Biden's got - he's got to walk this line between a base that is out for blood, out for Trump, and the longer term good of the country. I don't think it's good for the country to do stuff like this. It makes us look like a banana republic when we start prosecuting our former presidents," he said.

In his inauguration address, President Biden emphasized the importance of unity. "To overcome these challenges — to restore the soul and to secure the future of America — requires more than words. It requires the most elusive of things in a democracy: Unity. Unity," he said.

However, the United States is far from a country united. A November 2020 article from

the Pew Research Center outlines partisanship in the U.S., providing data to suggest that "Americans have rarely been as polarized as they are today."

So, what does the state of political polarization today mean? Where does American politics go from here?

A December 2020 Gallup poll found that 25% of Americans surveyed considered themselves Republicans, 31% considered themselves Democrats, and 41% considered themselves Independents.

For many young people, it can be hard to conceptualize exactly what the current state of politics means, how the system works, and what political history tells us about current events. Smith said the 2016, 2000, and even the disputed 1876 presidential elections had some similarities to today.

Some have speculated that there's potential for a third major political party to form, and Smith thinks there will be a push from some for this

creation. He noted that political operatives who make their living in the business of politics might try to capitalize on this debate. Since Republicans are currently the minority after losing the presidency and the Senate, one might assume they are more likely to consider this move. However, in examining recent history, third parties are generally unsuccessful and are seen by some as "spoilers" of the party they are drawing voters from.

Smith said, "the question is whether or not the Republican Party leadership, and the elected officials within the Republican Party, split off... And third parties cause the party that they split off from to lose or disappear... Republican leaders are going to look at that and say, 'Well, we don't want the party to go away, we don't want to lose our elections, by splitting off our vote.'"

The question many are wondering - what's next for former President Donald Trump? As

he headed home to Mar-a-Lago, he told supporters "we will be back in some form." While many have wondered if Trump will run again in 2024, Smith thinks Trump's career in politics is largely over.

"I think he's done largely because he wasn't able to deliver what a political leader has to deliver - and that's win," he said, noting that Trump "lost the presidency, lost the Senate."

Trump and his message appealed to many Americans - 74,223,744 general election voters, to be exact. One likely option for the Republican party is to refocus. "They want Trumpism without Trump... That would be a powerful political movement. Trump didn't create Trumpism, or, you know, the Trumpsters. He just saw where they were going and got to the front of the line, which is what good politicians do - they sense political power and get out in front of it and try to marshal it," Smith explained.

As young peoples' lives start to get busy with the start of another semester, it seems likely they'll pay less attention to politics and the goings-on in Washington, D.C. "If I were to say one thing that I would want students to take away is think long term. Remember that this has happened before. We all like to think that this time is different. Most of the time it's not different. Most of the time it is the same as it's been before. Because there are fundamental reasons that things go this way. But my biggest concern is that we start messing with the foundations of society, foundations of politics and political society in the United States, because of short term political issues," Smith said.

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and residential life have also been a part of the planning to ensure that the Wildcat Pass is more comprehensive, more user-friendly, and that the policies around testing compliance are strict but manageable for every student."

TESTING PROTOCOLS:

Like last semester, students must have a valid Wildcat Pass to be anywhere on campus. The testing guidelines outlined by the university are the necessary steps for a student to have a valid Wildcat Pass come Feb. 1. In the last email sent out by Kenneth Holmes, the Senior Vice Provost of Student Life and Kate Ziemer, The Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs, the two provided a quick checklist for students. The list of reminders included:

Signing the Wildcat Pledge, which is a required step for students. The Wildcat Pledge states, "This confirms your

commitment to participate in regular COVID-19 testing and follow all federal, state and university public health protocols around physical distancing, face coverings and gatherings. If a student does not sign the pledge, they will not have a valid Wildcat Pass and will not be permitted on any of our campuses. All employees are encouraged to sign the pledge to show support for our students and the university's #UNHTogether campaign." Students are required to answer one yes/no question that asked, "Do you agree to uphold the Wildcat Community Pledge and follow all guidelines? Students: This includes Student Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities?" This is the first mandated step into achieving a valid Wildcat Pass.

As for pre-arrival and arrival testing, there are different rules for students who do not live within a 90-mile radius of the university. For students who live outside the 90-mile

radius, they were required to have a Quest Diagnostic self-testing kit sent to their permanent address. If the student's result came back negative, they were asked to prove this and then select an arrival date for testing and test pick-up. Students who live in a 90-mile radius of the university were able to schedule an appointment at the Whittemore Center between Jan. 19-24, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. These students picked up a self-testing kit and were asked to complete it and drop it off at any UNH testing drop-off location. Students could also upload proof of a negative test result; however, the university made it clear that this option was at the expense of the student. Those who continued to test throughout winter break and J-term were asked to keep testing and were not required to set-up a pre-arrival test. All students were then asked to pick a date and time for an arrival test and to pick-up their testing kits for the spring semester.

Everyone is required to update their profile for their Wildcat Pass and sign the quarantine attestation.

Students then confirm their regular testing schedule with the university based off their college. If the two days per week that their college is required to submit tests does not work for this student, they may file a petition to change dates with a valid reason.

The testing schedule is as follows:

College of Health and Human Services: Monday and Thursday mornings

College of Life Sciences and Agriculture/Thompson School: Monday and Thursday afternoons

College of Engineering and Physical Sciences: Tuesday and Friday mornings

Paul College of Business and Economics: Tuesday and Friday afternoons

College of Liberal Arts: Wednesday and Saturday mornings

Carsey, NRESS, Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs, Continuing Education or no college designation: Monday and Thursday afternoons

Finally, everyone must make sure they have a valid Wildcat Pass. If your pass is invalid, the website will tell you what needs to be fixed or completed in order for your pass to be validated.

On Jan. 20, the university went from an orange mode of operation back to yellow. The yellow mode of operation is known as "restricted" and means that cases are low on and off campus, and that the campus is in full operation with a student focus. All restrictions put in place by UNH are in the best interest of students, faculty, and staff so that the university can remain open for in-person/hybrid learning for the spring of 2021.

State Republicans push to change election laws affecting college students

By Ben MacKillop
STAFF WRITER

In the first weeks of the 2021 legislative session, Republican lawmakers in Concord proposed multiple bills that would change voting in New Hampshire, especially for college students.

One of these bills, HB86, has received national attention for its attempt to limit the ability for college students, especially those who are out-of-state, to vote in elections. HB86 would end same-day voter registration in New Hampshire for both general elections and primaries. Only 21 states currently allow some form of same day voter registration.

HB86 would also make college students registering to vote with a university address attest that they qualify for in-state tuition, effectively not allowing

out-of-state college students to vote in New Hampshire elections.

This continues a push by GOP lawmakers to stop out-of-state college students from voting in New Hampshire elections. In 2017, when Republicans previously had trifecta control, the GOP pushed a bill which would have required all voters to have proof of a domicile in order to vote in state elections. This would have required out-of-state college students who live in university housing to have car registration, a driver's license, or another proof of domicile in New Hampshire in order to vote.

Both of these efforts in HB86 directly affect voter outreach for college students in New Hampshire, a demographic that has been largely successful for state Democrats. Use of same day voter registration in combination with get

out the vote and ride sharing efforts have been at the core of voter outreach for college students.

In 2016, over 30% of ballots cast in Durham general election were done via same day voter registration. In 2020, only 17% of votes cast were done via same day registration. However, over half of the ballots were cast absentee, many of which were at UNH-sponsored early voting events.

The second controversial bill proposed by GOP lawmakers, SB43, would change New Hampshire election law to allocate electoral college votes by congressional district, the same system that has been used by 2 states - Maine and Nebraska - for decades. Senator Bill Gannon, the sponsor of the bill, told NHJournal that, "The current winner takes all system disenfranchises sometimes a majority of a New Hampshire

district's voters."

While this bill would not have changed the results of the New Hampshire election in 2020, if the system had been in place in 2016 Donald Trump would have earned one of New Hampshire's four electoral votes.

Electoral college reform has been a controversial topic for many years, especially following the 2016 election where Donald Trump won a

wide electoral college victory despite losing the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes. If the Maine/Nebraska system proposed in SB43 was put in place in every state, presidential elections would look very different and in recent years typically skew for Republicans.

If the district model had been in place in each of the

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Photo courtesy of POLITICO

2020's COVID-19 semester in review

By Josh Morrill
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The fall semester of 2020 took a toll on so many in the UNH community; students, faculty and staff alike. The threat of COVID-19 has minimized Wildcats' old lives to a distant memory that we can only reminisce upon.

Limited exposure to friends, classmates and colleagues has left these same Wildcats a little more self-aware and a little less social. Having to swab your nose with a nine-inch Q-tip and signing consent agreements suddenly became societal norms.

UNH begrudgingly integrated itself in Zoom culture, turned dorms into quarantine centers and tried to come together as a university, all while doing their best to stay apart.

Despite the challenges and wildfires of chaos, something beautiful happened. You got through it. You got through one of the most mentally and physically challenging semesters any college student could experience. In celebration of the great accomplishment, let this serve as fall 2020's eulogy.

The summer of 2020 might have been the buzzkill of the century, bringing challenges upon the Wildcat community that weren't foreseen just a few months earlier. However, so many incredible developments throughout the semester stemmed from groundwork done in the summer.

For starters, the ability to have an in-person education at UNH was truly a miracle considering the state of the country from March up until August when classes started. May 15 was the first day that UNH President James Dean announced that the university would be holding in-person activities in the fall, as he unveiled a series of task forces

that had the job of keep the campus as safe and healthy as possible. This is also when the actual logistics were beginning to be planned in terms of personal protective equipment (PPE) for students and how the process was going to work. Easing some Wildcats' anxiety, Durham also became one of the first towns in New Hampshire to issue a mask ordinance, something that Governor Sununu would later enact on the state level. This was essential, as 15,000 people coming into a community at the end of August would've spelled trouble without one.

UNH, trying to become more transparent with their students and faculty, released information that they would have an all-new state of the art testing facility to start the fall semester, and that they would produce same-day results through the facility. They later provided a daily-updated dashboard with cumulative results as well, breaking down which groups of people tested positive that day and various relating statistics.

Even with all the new COVID-19 reform, there was a level of reservation within the Wildcat community, as no one had been through a pandemic-filled semester.

The first few weeks of classes quickly acted as the COVID-19 feeling-out process for all the new procedures for students and faculty. Early in September, the "Wildcat Pass" was both presented to and required for UNH community members. Its purpose, which is to an individual's level of adherence to the UNH COVID-19 guidelines, hasn't changed. But, the frequency at which it is required has severely ramped up since its disclosure.

In this feeling-out period there wasn't a shortage of hiccups. A residence life event

turned into a mask-less ice cream soiree, the first COVID-19 cluster surfaced in a fraternity house and the university lost 250 tests on the first day of self-testing. It wasn't exactly what UNH pictured when they envisioned the first few weeks going, but the recovery was swift.

Just a few weeks after the seemingly never-ending issues surfaced, UNH announced that they would be able to test nearly 4,000 students and faculty members in their testing facility with the turnaround time being within 48 hours. This proved to be one of, if not the sole reason that the university made it to Thanksgiving with in-person activities, as the monitoring and maneuvering through positive tests was much easier.

The early struggles weren't limited to UNH, as businesses throughout Durham continued to struggle, even with the increased business during the school year. The number of businesses to go under have hit double-digits, with the most notable name being local staple Young's Restaurant. Other Durham mainstays like Scorpion's Bar and Grill and Franz's Food have told The New Hampshire that their adaptation to the challenging times with new methods has been key.

With over a month of experience within the new rules and regulations, UNH enjoyed a much calmer month in October. With most of the COVID-19 management in place, much of the university's focus turned to the Nov. 3 general election between Donald Trump and Joe Biden, as well as other important state and local down-ballot races.

The UNH testing facility was also starting to get national recognition by this point, as N.H. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Gov. Chris Sununu and other politicians started visiting the

university and facility for their campaign events.

Near the end of the month, Oct. 29 precisely, Provost Wayne Jones announced the university's intentions for the upcoming spring semester. The intentions centered around the premise that UNH wants to keep much of the fall procedures in place going into 2021, but with enhancements to help with student engagement inside and outside of the classroom. This reform could come by way of expanding the capacity of face-to-face interaction with student organizations or clubs, as well as various classroom changes.

The schedule heading into the spring is also much different, as there is no spring break, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It will be replaced with two Fridays without classes (March 19, April 16).

Throughout quarantine early in 2020 and throughout the summer, Dr. Anthony Fauci and the Center of Disease Control (CDC) often mentioned that an upturn in cases could happen during the winter months. This certainly turned out to be true in November for the Wildcat community, as the designated quarantine dorms nearly hit full capacity.

The university hit a new high in active cases on November 6 (60 cases), and it continued to rise from there, getting to twice that number just a week later.

Before departing for Thanksgiving break, there were 27 students that had to be involuntarily removed from campus because of COVID-19 regulation noncompliance, so on top of the severe struggle with containing the virus, students limped to the semester's finish line.

November wasn't a complete dumpster fire however, as the brand-new Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was proven to

be more than 90% effective in prevention of the virus. Both Health & Wellness Medical Director Peter Degnan and various students told The New Hampshire that their excitement for the vaccine was plentiful, but they still had reservations and wanted to get more information. This later proved to be a monumental development as both Pfizer and Moderna, an American Biotechnology company, have vaccines authorized for use in the U.S.

UNH stuck their fall semester landing pretty gracefully in December as there were no further hiccups as they got everyone home safely. The state of N.H. did update their travel restrictions however, as the quarantine time for travelers was cut to seven days if there was a negative test administered on day six or seven. There were several other clauses within the approval.

UNH has also opened its spring semester doors in "yellow mode" for the spring, much like it did a semester ago, allowing there to be students in dorms, full campus activities with a student focus and for student organizations and clubs to meet in a limited capacity. Since March 11, 2020, when UNH first announced that in-person operations would be delayed until two weeks after spring break because of the fast-spreading coronavirus, there has been an endless list of developments that the Wildcat community has had to endure.

When sifting through all the mental and physical debris of fall 2020, one thing is for sure: everyone in the Wildcats community should be proud of the sacrifices they made and the resilience that they showed. With that being the case, the new semester poses its own unique and challenging obstacles, ones that will need to be approached with the same diligent attitude.

Updated 'Wildcat Pass' causes student difficulty

By Aqeel Hisham & Ben Domaigne
STAFF WRITERS

Starting this semester, the technology of the Wildcat Pass is said to be improved and usage is expected to be ramped up to ensure the safety of those in the University of New Hampshire (UNH) community.

On Monday, Jan. 11, UNH President James W. Dean sent out an email stating that all students must sign the Wildcat Pledge in order to return to any UNH campus and must have a valid Wildcat Pass. The Wildcat Pass system proves students' have turned in their two tests for coronavirus (COVID-19) each week and ensures they have tested negative. The Wildcat Pledge is a document that explains

the expectations and rules that students must follow during the spring 2021 semester at UNH amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

By signing the Wildcat Pledge, students would agree to adhere to all protocols set by UNH such as participating in regular COVID-19 testing, wearing face coverings at all times, and maintaining physical distancing.

According to a public LinkedIn post by UNH Vice Provost of Innovation and New Ventures Marc Sedam, the new technology will "not only say whether it is valid/invalid, but provide the reason why directly in the app. All participants will receive an email and text message if a sample hasn't arrived in the lab within two hours of its expected time and given instructions on how to fix it. And we're still committed to

a 24 hour turnaround time for results."

However, these new features caused errors for some students when it came to taking the steps necessary to have a valid Wildcat Pass, such as proof of a negative test, the quarantine attestation, an updated profile and a signed Wildcat Pledge.

Although UNH stated that students' Wildcat Pass will be valid within 24 hours after students have signed the Wildcat Pledge, some students' Wildcat Pass remained invalid even after a few days.

On Jan. 17, justice studies and political science student Nicholas Crosby voiced his concerns on a Facebook group consisting of UNH seniors called "University of New Hampshire Class of 2021." In his post, Crosby said, "Anyone else having a problem with

their Wildcat Pass being invalidated because it states that you haven't signed the pledge? I keep signing the form each time it keeps getting invalidated and don't know if it's me or if anyone else experienced the same issue."

Within a few hours of posting this question, Crosby received several replies from other students stating that they are facing a similar problem.

The Wildcat Pass has seen stricter enforcement as students begin to arrive. Now, students, faculty and staff are required to maintain a valid pass to access any campus facilities. Students are now required to have a valid pass in order to pick up their COVID-19 tests for the spring semester.

This updated profile requires students to update their local information in order to

aid UNH in contact tracing. The quarantine attestation form requires students residing outside of New England to certify that they have been in quarantine for at least 14 days.

But even after completing all four forms, students like biomedical science major Lauren Schoeller still did not manage to receive a valid Wildcat Pass. In the same Facebook post by Crosby on Jan. 17, Schoeller commented, "Yes, I have the same problem (invalid Wildcat Pass), even though I signed the pledge and submitted a negative test." Schoeller further clarified that she would send an email to the UNH COVID response team if this issue remains unresolved.

Students are encouraged to reach out to the COVID-19 Hotline at 603-862-2020 if their pass is invalid.

UNH COVID-19 lab's \$4 million grant

By Ben Domaingue
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Chris Sununu announced a \$4 million investment into the University System of New Hampshire's (UNH) COVID-19 testing infrastructure.

"We are grateful to the governor's office and our congressional delegation for their support of this work with funding from GOFERR (Governor's Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery) and the CARES Act," said Marian McCord, senior vice provost for research, economic engagement and outreach, and co-chair of the UNH Testing and Tracing Committee

in a press release.

This announcement comes days after New Hampshire reported a previous single-day record high of 1,187 infections on Dec. 11. The current single-day record high is 1,266 on Jan. 3.

In late December, UNH began partnering with nearly 30 long-term care facilities and shelters to provide COVID-19 testing. As of Jan. 11, the lab has processed over 3,000 tests in addition to the university's winter break testing program.

UNH estimates the lab will soon have the capacity to process over 6,000 samples per week for the state, in addition to the nearly 4,000 samples

processed per day for the university community during the semester.

UNH targets its sample turnaround at about 48 hours, well within the three-day target for effective contact-tracing, according to a recent study in *The Lancet*.

UNH continues to work with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to assist in contact tracing.

"The department's partnership with the UNH COVID Testing Lab is ensuring faster test results, which helps facilities quickly isolate people testing positive, contain the spread of the virus and protect

the health of their residents and staff," said DHHS Commissioner Lori Shabinette

UNH's in-house COVID-19 lab has been hailed as a model for other colleges and universities in the United States. In an interview with *The New Hampshire*, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen said she was "very impressed with the state of the art lab."

Shaheen also noted UNH's ability to "expand the testing if they partner with other places."

UNH has used its COVID-19 lab as a primary means of surveillance for the virus, as well as testing wastewater to track potential infection hotspots.

UNH began testing students

twice a week at the start of its fall 2020 semester, and has continued to test students on the Seacoast during its winter break. UNH plans to continue testing students twice a week for its spring 2021 semester, beginning Feb. 1.

UNH continues to report daily COVID-19 test results online as well. As of UNH's latest report on Jan. 26, its lab detected 46 positive cases within the last seven days as pre-arrival and arrival testing has been underway.

The Governor's Office and the University of New Hampshire have not responded to *The New Hampshire* for comment by time of publishing.

Faculty members receive Spencer grants

By Julia Stinneford
NEWS EDITOR

Three University of New Hampshire (UNH) faculty members received grants from the prestigious Spencer Foundation for education research. UNH College of Liberal Arts (COLA) Dean Michele Dillon expressed her pride and said she was "excited" for the faculty awarded in a UNH Today announcement.

The Spencer Foundation is the only national foundation focused solely on funding education research. Founded in 1962, the foundation's intention, according to its mission statement, is to "investigate ways in which education... can be improved." Since the beginning of its grant making in 1971, it has awarded grants totaling over \$500 million.

The three UNH recipients this year are Elyse Hambacher, Andrew Coppens, and Kabria Baumgartner, all members of the COLA faculty.

Hambacher, an associate professor of education, is focusing her research on "the use of justice-oriented perspectives to improve equity in elementary education and in the preparation of pre-service and in-service educators." In other words, Hambacher said, she is "interested in understanding how White teachers and administrators in mostly White school districts think about and enact their commitments toward racial justice in their work."

The grant from the Spencer Foundation will allow Hambacher to conduct research into how education professionals in two predominantly white school districts "engage with concepts of race, anti-racism, and whiteness."

Hambacher applied for this grant over the summer of 2020, when protests were widespread across the country in the wake of the killing of George Floyd and the country was facing a racial reckoning. Hambacher said that these events emphasize "the crucial work of White

teachers in predominantly white communities, so that white people can act as agents of change against racism."

She arrived at this research topic after collaborating on a review of literature for race-visible teacher education and finding that "very little research pertained to preparing White teachers to address race and racism in predominantly White school communities"—as opposed to preparing educators to work with students of color, a topic which Hambacher found had much more research.

"If society is to combat systemic racism, teachers in predominantly White communities must be prepared to educate their students about race," Hambacher said.

Part of Hambacher's motivation to study this topic was spurred by her experiences at a culturally diverse high school in Miami, FL. Witnessing what she described as inequities there inspired her passion for social justice.

"I am truly honored to receive such a prestigious award," Hambacher said of the grant itself. "I applied for this grant because I believe in the importance of the work and I'm grateful for the Spencer Foundation's financial support which will provide me the time and energy to work on a project I'm passionate about."

Coppens, an assistant professor of education, along with doctoral student Sarah Jusseume, will be utilizing his Spencer Foundation grant to explore how young people - especially first-generation college students - from rural areas navigate the process of pursuing higher education and the messages they receive about it.

Jusseume said, "Our work is designed to understand how culture influences students' identity and sense of self and also how they resist dominant and strongly ideological messages about what they should do and instead work to construct new possibilities for themselves."

Coppens and Jusseume

are working to explore "how rural youth navigate different, and often competing messages about what they should do with their futures," as Jusseume put it. They are conducting this work with the support of a research team including associate professor of recreation management and policy Jayson Seaman, associate professor of human development and family studies Erin Sharp and assistant professor of recreation management and policy Cindy Hartman.

"We are interested in exploring how they work to maintain a connection to home while also finding a sense of belonging at university," Jusseume said. "This feeling of being 'in between' two different worlds can lead to a feeling of disconnection from both home and school settings."

"These students are on a path for which there is no clear map, leaving them to write new stories or narratives which differ from what is traditional or expected," Jusseume said.

Coppens said that many first-generation college students from rural areas have many differing experiences with going to college, with some enjoying their chance to leave their hometowns and others feeling torn between a sense of belonging at home and the opportunities of higher education. "Unfortunately," Coppens said, "the message that many rural first-generation students likely get is that one's future after high school is an either/or - stay vs. leave."

With that in mind, Coppens said, "We are excited to learn how these students are transcending the either/or to find ways to be and do more than just one thing; we think having a background in rural communities might even help students to do so."

Jusseume believes that this research is vital to supporting these students and helping institutions support these students. Researching how youth from rural communities navigate the challenges of balancing expectations about

their futures "will help institutions better support all students but specifically highlight the important work rural youth and communities are doing to re-configure rurality and rural identity into a strength instead of a deficit," Jusseume said.

This last point about rural identity is central to the research, according to Coppens. He said that many Americans have disparaged rural communities and see rural experiences as less societally valuable. "There's so much writing out there that disparages rural families and communities, whether political scapegoating or otherwise, based on very narrow or misleading evidence," Coppens said.

As such, he said, "We're trying to find evidence to reverse that narrative by studying what rural first-generation students are doing to not only succeed in college, but also to do so in ways that reinvest their knowledge and skills in rural livelihoods."

Both Coppens and Jusseume have experience researching and working with underprivileged communities, including Indigenous and immigrant groups and multilingual students. Additionally, Jusseume herself is a first-generation college student who went through many of the same experiences as the rural students in their research, including feeling "disconnected and out of place, never really connecting on campus." This, they said, has greatly informed their research.

"My hope," Jusseume said, "is that this project makes a positive impact on how colleges support non-traditional students and highlights the unique strengths that they each bring to university."

Jusseume believes that receiving the Spencer Foundation's funding means that "they are acknowledging the importance of rural and first-generation student identity and its role in positive academic outcomes," especially due to its "long history of funding critical and significant educational

research."

Coppens similarly said that the Spencer Foundation "is often on the cutting edge of educational research and is led by several absolutely brilliant thinkers in the field," and that its funding of this particular project is indicative of the need to invest research into similar topics of global importance.

"Many of us are in one way or another displaced, especially for those of European- or African-heritage in the US," he said. "So, finding ways to sustainably reconnect to relational networks, community, and land is becoming an existentially important task for all groups. The many varieties of rural communities worldwide may have a lot to teach in this respect."

The final UNH recipient of a Spencer Foundation grant is Kabria Baumgartner, an associate professor of English and American studies. She will be utilizing the fund to help support a research and book project about Robert Morris, a prominent 1800s thinker on African-American education.

"My research aims to explore the history of Black educational justice and to consider how these ideas might be fruitful today as we work to democratize public education," Baumgartner said.

Baumgartner said that she'd always been fascinated by education, by "the idea that education is a great equalizer; education is a civil right; the link between education, democracy, and citizenship; and the Northeast as the cradle of public education."

In her research, she said, "I aim to probe some of these ideas further, to complicate them, and think about how we can ameliorate educational inequities."

"It is a huge honor to receive this prestigious grant from the Spencer Foundation," Baumgartner said. "The Spencer Foundation has supported my research in the past, and I remain grateful."

UNH builds simulation center to address healthcare worker shortages

By Isabelle Curtis
STAFF WRITER

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) recently announced the development of the College of Health and Human Services' Health Sciences Simulation Center (HSSC). The simulation center will be located off Waterworks Road next to Gregg Hall. Construction has already begun and is set to be completed by August 2021.

The over 20,000 square foot structure will include offices, classrooms and "fully equipped simulation labs that mimic hospital, clinic, primary care and other health care settings."

Michael Ferrara, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, stressed the importance of simulations for preparing students for the healthcare field as they allow students to "experience problem solving and skill development in a safe and supported environment," and let faculty assess student performance to ensure they have the skills needed to graduate.

The HSSC will also encourage interdisciplinary cooperation as students majoring in health and human services, including nursing, occupational therapy, athletic training and health sciences, will all have opportunities to work in the center and with each other during simulations.

"[Interprofessional education] is more important now than ever, as new technologies and efficiencies are introduced into the healthcare environment and demand that healthcare professionals understand how

they interact with each other to provide the best care possible," said Ferrara. "It's imperative that health care professionals from all disciplines have the knowledge and ability to coordinate a patient's care plan so that the care provided is safe, equitable and high-quality."

A typical simulation experience will begin with a student, or a team of students, being given a report about the patient before entering the 20-30-minute scenario. In the simulation room, the student will have access to health records, as well as all the medications and equipment to manage the unfolding scenario. A nurse will be able to control the high-fidelity mannequin's voice and "physiologic parameters" in response to how students interact with it, according to Ferrara.

Gene Harkless, associate professor and chair of the department of nursing, also explained that child, maternity, critical care and short-term (acute) care mannequins whose vitals can be changed, and different procedures can be performed on, will also be available to give students a full range of care experiences. Actors may also be used depending on the scenario.

The simulations are recorded so students and faculty can review performance during the debriefing session.

In addition to the simulation rooms, there will be labs where students can practice basic skills, such as suturing, inserting IVs and examining tissues (biopsies).

The development of the HSSC is the result of the

\$9 million given to UNH in 2019 by New Hampshire to address the state's healthcare worker shortage. According to a December 2018 survey, over 2,000 healthcare worker vacancies existed in hospitals and community mental health centers across New Hampshire. This situation has only worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Harkless credits the shortage to the shifts in the type of care available, such as the rise of at-home care, and the high level of medical skill required for many treatments. Another problem is New Hampshire's rapidly aging population. It is estimated that

by 2030

"We have an issue of trying to make sure that the workforce matches the demand," explained Harkless.

Nevertheless, the additional space the HSSC provides will allow the university to expand the nursing program with the goal to graduate about 130 nursing students from UNH per year.

Harkless expressed excitement for the expansion of the program and asserted that there has been no shrinkage in enrolling students due to the pandemic. Rather, many UNH nursing students have gone out to help during COVID-19 as

nursing assistants.

"I think [the pandemic] really brought everyone together in order to meet our social mission to provide life-saving services and leadership during this time. Nurses, historically if you go back to Florence Nightingale, were the original infection control workforce, and we're really proud of that heritage. We do stand on the shoulders of nurses who, over generations, have cared for those with infectious diseases," said Harkless.



Photo Courtesy of UNH Today

What you should know about the COVID-19 vaccines

By Evan Edmonds
STAFF WRITER

In December 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved two vaccines recommended to prevent coronavirus (COVID-19), the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and the Moderna vaccine. Entering the new year with the pandemic still prevalent in everyday life, students and community members alike can inform themselves on both vaccines here.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says the vaccines help individuals develop the immunity they need against the virus without developing the illness. They are mRNA vaccines, meaning they don't use live forms of the virus in the vaccine, they use a harmless piece of the "spike protein," in the virus therefore there is no risk of contracting COVID-19 from them. The CDC labels them as the "new approach to vaccines," prompting an individual's body to

develop the necessary protein found on the surface of the virus, and allowing the body to build its own immunity to the virus with it.

Both of the approved vaccines involve two sets of shots, to be administered the second time three to four weeks after the first. The most common side effects include pain, swelling or redness in the area where you get the shot, and chills, tiredness or headaches (which are more likely after the second dose of the vaccine), per the CDC.

According to Harvard Medical School's Coronavirus Resource Center, the Moderna vaccine has a 94% success rate in preventing COVID-19, while the Pfizer vaccine reportedly reduced the risk of COVID-19 by 95% - according to results published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Natalie Swisher, University of New Hampshire senior and biomedical science major, is an EMT at McGregor EMS, the 911 ambulance provider that covers UNH, Durham, Lee

and Madbury. She received the Moderna vaccine on Jan. 5 and said in an email that it went "incredibly smooth." Swisher got the vaccine at Exeter High School, waited in her car the entire time, and was set to leave after 15 minutes. She noted some initial arm soreness but no other symptoms about ten hours after administration.

"I would 110 percent recommend anyone and everyone get the vaccine if they're able to do so. Any steps toward a more normal future are ones I'm willing to take, especially ones that make working on the ambulance safer for myself as well as patients," Swisher said.

She registered through the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) online through the CDC. Moderna was chosen for her when she arrived - it is the easier of the two vaccines to transport, per CNN, because it can be moved in a normal freezer rather than a "super cold transportation network." Swisher said the arm pain faded completely after two days, and she's had no other

symptoms. She was able to go about her day like normal afterwards, she said.

Stephen Mackenzie, 63, got the Pfizer vaccine because it was the first one available to him. He reported the same arm soreness as Swisher, and noted he'd expect the other side effects (chills, tiredness etc.) after his second administration, if he were to experience them at all.

Mackenzie said he was "anxious to get it," and jumped on the opportunity as he's a Medication Nursing Assistant at Saint Ann Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Dover, N.H., but noted it was unfortunate that his wife wasn't able to yet.

The CDC encourages individuals to get the vaccine even if they have already had COVID-19 and recovered, considering it is unknown how long natural immunity (from being infected) of COVID-19 lasts. Harvard's Coronavirus Resource Center says the vaccines can prevent you from becoming sick, but it may not prevent you from infecting

others.

According to The New York Times vaccine tracker, 20 more vaccines are in "phase three" large-scale efficacy tests as of Jan. 14.

The CDC records 23,540,994 doses have been administered in the United States, with over 44 million doses distributed as of Jan. 26. The CDC is using v-safe, a symptom tracking smartphone tool, to allow patients who received the vaccine to document their symptoms for the CDC's records.

NHPR (New Hampshire Public Radio) reported in its COVID-19 tracker that 79% of available doses of the vaccines have been delivered to vaccination sites in New Hampshire, with 85,771 doses currently administered.

Inauguration Day fashion: Explained

By **Hannah Donahue**
CONTENT EDITOR

It is without a doubt that the inauguration of 46th President Joseph R. Biden was a historic day, but what drew the international attention of onlookers was the fashion of the day - and the statements they held. From President Biden and first lady Jill Biden to Vice President Kamala Harris to Lady Gaga, the meaning behind what everyone wore took center stage.

President Joe Biden

In true American fashion, President Joe Biden arrived at the Capitol building for the inauguration ceremony wearing a navy-blue suit designed by Ralph Lauren - a fashion house that has represented the American dream since its launch in the 1960s. Lauren, who served in the U.S. Army for two years, was born in the Bronx to parents of Jewish immigrants from Belarus. Since then, the label has grown into one of the largest fashion corporations to date with over a billion dollars' worth of revenue. Lauren has dressed political figures throughout the last 54 years in business, from Nancy Reagan to George W. Bush to Michelle Obama and on.

President Biden's hopeful inaugural address aligned perfectly with the story behind his outfit for the occasion, he said, "together we shall write an American story of hope, not fear. Of unity, not division. Of light, not darkness. A story of decency and dignity, love and healing, greatness and goodness. May this be the story that guides us. The story that inspires us and the story that tells ages yet to come that we answered the call of history."

Vice President Kamala Harris

With each of her outfits throughout Inauguration Day, Vice President Kamala Harris made a statement. Donning a camel-colored coat by designer Kerby Jean-Raymond of Pyer Moss to the morning's memorial service for the lives lost to the coronavirus (COVID-19), Harris represented the message that Jean-Raymond has long been sending on the runway. His collection, "American, Also," addressed the erasure of Black narratives in popular culture according to Vogue. The purpose-driven designer also made headlines in September of 2020 for his efforts to gather personal protective equipment (PPE) and gave \$50,000 in grants for small businesses affected by COVID-19.

Later in the day, Vice President Harris arrived at the inauguration ceremony in her signature pearls and a head-to-toe purple monochrome number - a dress and coat designed by Black designer Christopher John Rogers. The look is thought to be a not-so-subtle



Photo Courtesy of Associated Press

nod to suffragist organization National Women's Party. In a 1913 newsletter, they wrote "Purple is the color of loyalty, constancy to purpose, unswerving steadfastness to a cause."

In addition to its representation of women's rights, the color purple may have also been an acknowledgment of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to be elected to the United States Congress in 1968 and the first Black woman to run for president in 1972.

Following the inauguration ceremony, Vice President Harris wore a black sequin dress and tuxedo coat designed by Sergio Hudson to the "Celebrating America" event held at the Lincoln Memorial. In an interview with Harper's Bazaar, Hudson explained, "We kept the silhouette very structured and tailored, because that's who the Vice President is." He continued on to say, "But the liquid sequins give her glamour and shine, because her influence and the way she's broken barriers is a light for so many of us. She shines so we can all shine."

In the same interview, Hudson said he hasn't "seen an African American designer who's built a legacy brand," and that he's "not ashamed to say that's who I want to be. That's what I'm aiming to do."

As Vice President Harris is the first woman and first Black and South-Asian American to serve in this role, she championed Black designers in every outfit on a day that will go down in history.

First lady Dr. Jill Biden

First lady Dr. Jill Biden, similarly to Vice President Harris, was poised and manifested historical moments through her attire. At the COVID-19 memorial service in the morning, the first lady wore a purple coat and dress designed by Jonathan Cohen, a "new generation of American designers who is championing sustainability and

responsible design," according to Vogue. The sustainable designer falls in line with President Biden's plans for a more sustainable United States. The dress and mask worn by Biden were made from scraps of fabric from Cohen's studio. The deep purple color reminisced on the Suffragettes, but "more poignantly it's what you get when red and blue are mixed together."

At the inauguration ceremony, Dr. Biden wore an aqua blue monochrome outfit with a matching mask designed by American designer Markarian, headed by Alexandra O'Neill. In a statement Markarian said, "The color blue was chosen for the pieces to signify trust, confidence, and stability." Like Cohen, Markarian prides itself on its sustainable efforts in the world of fashion. According to Vanity Fair, each piece of Markarian clothing is made-to-order in order to reduce waste.

In the evening at the "Celebrating America" event at the Lincoln Memorial, the first lady emerged in an all-white coat and dress, each delicately embroidered with the federal flowers from every state. Uruguayan sustainable designer and friend of Dr. Biden Gabriela Hearst said in an interview with Elle that the inspiration was unity and the "blooming symbol to represent this message are the federal flowers from every state and territory of the United States of America." She explained that the "Delaware flower is positioned at the heart level of The First Lady, from there, all the other flowers branch out."

In addition to the message of unity, Hearst told Elle that she made sure to include something close to the first lady - her passion for teaching. "Inside of the coat, representing the lifelong calling and service of Dr. Biden as an educator is a hand embroidery on the lining with a quote from Founding Father Benjamin Franklin 'Tell me and I forget. Teach me and

I remember. Involve me and I learn.'"

Since the inauguration, Dr. Biden has said that she will continue to teach while balancing her duties as the first lady of the United States. She will be the first first lady to continue her career while serving in the White House.

Former first lady Michelle Obama and Former Secretary of State & first lady Hillary Clinton

Former first lady Michelle Obama made a striking appearance alongside former President Barack Obama at the inauguration ceremony in an outfit designed by Sergio Hudson. Similar to Vice President Harris, Obama's ceremonial attire consisted of a monochrome purple - except in a deep shade of maroon. Obama is familiar with Hudson's work, having worn his designs many times in the past. The former first lady is known for her tradition of wearing clothing by emerging, young Black designers and Hudson is no exception.

Former Secretary of State and former first lady Hillary Clinton also wore all purple, a similar shade to that of Vice President Harris. Clinton's outfit was designed by Ralph Lauren. The various shades of purple worn to the ceremony echoed a call for unity and reflected on women's suffrage.

Youth Poet Laureate
Amanda Gorman

22-year-old Amanda Gorman made history at the inauguration ceremony as the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history. Her red headband and bright yellow coat by Prada - which she said in an interview with Vogue was a nod to Jill Biden previously praising her for wearing yellow on a separate occasion - caught the eyes of many, but it was her jewelry that stood out the most. Her ring, by the brand Of Rare

Origin, was a birdcage that was believed to have paid homage to Poet Laureate and civil rights activist Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." This ring was a gift to Gorman from Oprah Winfrey, who also sent Angelou gifts to wear for her address at Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993.

Lady Gaga & Jennifer Lopez

The female singers of the inauguration ceremony, Lady Gaga and Jennifer Lopez, also had outfits that made statements. Lady Gaga, who was invited to kick off the ceremony with her rendition of the National Anthem, wore a Schiaparelli Haute Couture gown paired with a large golden dove brooch. The star took to Twitter on the day of the event, sharing a photo of "a dove carrying an olive branch. May we all make peace with each other." She also sent out a tweet prior to singing, stating that her "intention is to acknowledge our past, be healing for our present, and passionate for our future where we work together lovingly."

Lopez wore a Chanel all-white outfit - the signature color associated with the Women's Suffrage movement. Singing "This Land is Your Land" at the Inauguration, her outfit paralleled the stand taken by many congresswomen during Donald Trump's State of the Union address, a message of solidarity.

The fashion moments that took place on Inauguration Day are only a first look at what is to come over the course of the next four years.

Election Law continued from page 3
past five elections Republican nominees would have gained 14, 33, and 64 electoral votes in the 2000, 2004, and 2008 elections respectively. In 2012, with the district model being

used, Mitt Romney would have defeated Barack Obama due to a 72-vote difference with the two systems. Contrary to these trends, Donald Trump would have actually lost 12 votes in his victory over Hillary Clinton.

Many progressives have instead supported throwing out the electoral college system altogether. In 2018, some NH Democrats introduced a bill for New Hampshire to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, an agreement

where each state pledges their electoral votes to the winner of the popular vote, once member states of the compact surpass 270 electoral votes. While the compact is currently at 196 electoral votes, it will be very difficult to gain support from

the remaining states, most of which have heavy Republican control.

As the 2021 legislative session progresses, it is in the interest of out-of-state college-aged voters to pay attention, as many bills could impact them.

International students unable to travel home



Shawn Latulippe/TNH Staff

By Aqeel Hisham
STAFF WRITER

For most college students, winter break calls for spending some quality time with family members or booking a trip to countries with lower legal drinking age limits. However, the reality of winter break amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is very different for all students, especially for international students.

While local students still had the option of going back home during winter break, most international students did not have the option to go back to their home countries. Many were stranded on campus due to most countries shutting down their borders because of the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases worldwide.

Yadanar Moe, an information systems and business analytics and finance major, said that there was no point in going back to her home country this winter break since she would be in quarantine most of her time there anyway.

“If I go back, I will have to spend two weeks in quarantine over there and two weeks in Durham, that is already a month!” said Moe. Additionally, Moe mentioned that when she was back in her home country of Myanmar last summer, she had to be in quarantine in a government facility for 21 days.

However, Moe stated that she has been spending her time wisely by being productive. “Since I am a senior and I am graduating soon, I have been applying for jobs,” she said.

“My mom has also shipped some canned food and spices and so, I have been trying out new recipes from my home country.”

When it comes to motivation, Moe stated that she doesn’t really feel the amount of time that goes by. “I just try to stay positive every day,” she said. But Moe claimed that one of her few achievements this winter break has been her ability to master her favorite home-cooked recipes and landing job interviews.

Though, she did mention that the hardest thing about spending winter break in Durham is that there is nothing to do around the college town. “Most students went back, and so Durham is like a ghost town,” she said. “It is also impossible to get out since it’s

so hard to get an Uber around here. It’s not like Boston where almost everything is within walking distance.”

But for junior Vlad Tkachev, going back to Russia over winter break has never been a part of his college routine. He said that even if he wanted to, it is safer to stay in one place considering the massive growth of COVID-19 cases and the constant change of rules by most countries regarding the closure of their borders.

Tkachev’s main advice to other students in his shoes is to always stay busy to better yourself. “I’d say having a routine to follow during times like these is very important,” he said. Aside from working out at the Hamel Recreation Center, Tkachev has been working in

the lab with Assistant Professor Arturo Andrade. “Working out and doing research in the lab certainly distracted me from these hard times,” he added.

Tkachev is proud of himself in taking the initiative to learn new skills during his time of leisure. “I’m proud that this winter break I learned a lot of lab procedures that I might use at my job after I graduate,” he said.

However, much like Moe, Tkachev said that the lack of entertainment centers in Durham such as a shopping mall or a movie theater has restricted his options of things to do. Both Moe and Tkachev are happy that classes will resume soon, and they can see their friends who will be back on campus starting this week.

@thenewhampshire



UNH spring semester grub guide

By Evan Edmonds
STAFF WRITER

University of New Hampshire (UNH) students returning to Durham for the spring semester marks a spike in business and busyness for local restaurants and campus dining halls.

The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has changed the landscape of dining over the last year: lunch and dinner rushes are slower, close-up tables and bars have been spread out, and college dining halls like those in Durham have been forced to adapt for the safety of faculty and students. Despite the adversity the restaurant and dining industry has faced and must continue to face in the midst of this pandemic, Durham's restaurants and UNH's dining halls have shifted their practices in the best interest of safety for their patrons.

UNH Dining has a COVID-19 FAQ page where common issues and concerns about dining halls during the pandemic are addressed. Standard protocols are in place to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, meaning distanced tables, frequent sanitization at high-touch surfaces, plexiglass barriers and more.

There have been some shifts to procedures: for example, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) doesn't allow for self-serve dishes in the dining halls, which has changed the meals that are being served. Many of the campus cafes have been closed, so Cafe Central has opened at the Whittemore Center, offering soups, salads, sandwiches, pizza and more. It will be closed for the start of the spring semester but reopens on Monday, Feb. 8.

Food orders from Wildcatessen and Philbrook Cafe are

now placed with Grubhub, where students can use Dining Dollars, Cat's Cache, or a debit or credit card. At both of these locations - 'Wildkitty' located at Stillings Dining Hall, and Philbrook Dining Hall's cafe, there's a plethora of hot foods available - subs, waffle fries and plenty more grab n' go items as well.

Starting on Feb. 1, the 'regular hours' of the UNH dining hall schedule begins and is as follows: Holloway Commons and Philbrook 7:15 a.m. to 9 p.m., Stillings 7:15 a.m. to 8 p.m., Philbrook Cafe 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Wildcatessen dinner 4 p.m. to 1 a.m., while breakfast is from 7:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. The full dining schedule including the hours of operation before Monday, Feb. 1 can be found under the winter hours page of the UNH Dining website.

The Durham Business Association is providing patrons a fun way to show their support for local restaurants in the beginning of this year. They have started a "Restaurant Bingo" game: a purchase of \$10 or more at a restaurant earns a punch on the card in that restaurant's square. When participants have a bingo, double bingo or a full card, they can drop off their board at the Town Hall, Freedom Cafe or Three Chimneys Inn and they will be counted in a random drawing every Friday for raffle prizes - including gift cards to participating restaurants. The restaurants involved cover a range of foods and types of dining, ranging from Ciao Italia to Wildcat Pizza to the Works or the Spot. Restaurant Bingo started on Jan. 15 and is going on through Feb. 28.

Durham's Economic Development Director Christine Soutter decided to try the idea in Durham and said she would love for students to get

involved in the game as well.

"We know that winter is a tough time for restaurants and the pandemic has added a layer of stress that is just painful. Anything we can do to encourage folks to support our great dining establishments is worth trying," Soutter said.

The full list of participating restaurants can be found on the Durham Business Association website. Any form of purchase counts for a punch as long as it's at least ten dollars: takeout, dine-in, delivery or gift card. Participants are encouraged to keep their receipts as proof for each punch. Students can pick up their bingo card at any of the participating locations.

Durham's restaurants are doing the best they can to accommodate the comfort levels and safety needs of their patrons. Many locations have adapted their menus and streamlined them for takeout options. Restaurant.org lists streamlined menus and an "overwhelming shift to off-premises dining" as a few of the top trends restaurants are taking in 2021. Another one of the growing trends includes alcohol to go, a takeout feature offered by Ciao Italia (beer and wine) and hop + grind (canned beers from local breweries).

The new coffee bar, rise + grind, from the owner of hop + grind, will open their doors this Monday, Feb. 1. On their Instagram page, they have shared a number of breakfast items in their test kitchen, including an Elena Ruiz sandwich on a bagel or a classic breakfast sandwich with maple sausage.

The Big Bean continues to offer takeout and has plenty of great options for grabbing breakfast to go, including creating your own breakfast sandwiches with plenty of combinations, and quality coffee with unique flavor options like dark chocolate and cinnamon bun.



Photo Courtesy of the Durham Business Association

While breakfast doesn't always translate well to takeout, the Big Bean does breakfast takeout right - even with something like an eggs benedict - ensuring that the hollandaise is still hot and fresh and the egg is still runny.

Campus favorite Ramon's Food and Coffee Cart will not be open for the start of the semester, but they plan on returning to campus the first week of April.

With students' return to campus marking another semester at UNH, it is important to continue supporting Durham's local restaurants during these tough times as much as

possible.

According to the Restaurant Performance Index, a monthly index that monitors the health and outlook of the nation's restaurant industry, it fell 0.8% in November due to the pandemic. Restaurant workers and owners continue to work incredibly hard and strive for safety and well-being of their patrons - so it's up to patrons to return the favor - and fill out those bingo cards!

“Veganuary” and beyond

By Shawn Latulippe
DESIGN EDITOR

Some people may have heard of a new internet trend called Veganuary, where anyone can participate and try to go vegan or plant-based for the month of January. It’s a sort of kickstart for veganism. Veganuary is an annual challenge run by a U.K. nonprofit organization that promotes and educates about veganism by encouraging people to follow a vegan lifestyle during January and possibly throughout the year. A vegan is a person who doesn’t consume any animal products or animal byproducts. I started to get the idea to participate in Veganuary in December. I saw ads on social media for it and thought I might give it a try after a month of eating junk food from Christmas cookies to chocolates to cakes. I thought my body might need a healthy cleansing of sorts. So I did my research and I decided on Jan. 1 to go vegan. The next day I decided to go vegan for good.

On Jan. 2 I had gone down a rabbit hole of documentaries on animal cruelty, climate change, and health problems that all came from eating meat, dairy and eggs. As I went from the documentary “Cowspiracy” to “What the Health” to “The Game Changers” to “Earthlings” I became increasingly certain that this was the path for me. Now all I needed was to learn how to cook.

The truth is I never imagined that I could go vegan. I love food, and I thought that going vegan meant never loving food again. But I was wrong. Through my short journey so far I have learned to cook vegan food staples like tofu and seitan and have experimented with different Indian and Thai curries from vegetable curries to soya chunk curries to potato and chickpea curries. And yes I know that sounds like a lot of curries, but I promise there have been other foods too. The one

reason I’d suggest anyone to try vegan curries is because of the amount of spice and flavor in them. Indian food specifically is great for going vegan or vegetarian because 20-40% of India’s population is vegetarian and many of their dishes rely on different spices to be flavorful, which means you can pick an Indian curry that may originally be made with chicken or lamb and you can substitute the meat for tofu or soya chunks. There are also many Indian foods with lentils in them that are originally vegetarian. I have also embraced a variety of other Asian dishes from fried rice, to stir fry, to miso soup with tofu. I’m planning on trying some vegan sushi soon as well. One of my favorite Thai foods that I used to get from Bamee was the Gra Prao made with chicken, but I recently tried it with tofu and it was just as delicious as the chicken version. I’ve also made vegan Mexican food, making quesadillas with tofu and vegan cheese, burritos and burrito bowls with beans, vegan cheese and some plain vegan yogurt as sour cream. With some guacamole and salsa on the side of course. There has also been a lot of oatmeal in my life and lots of smoothies and açai bowls as well.

I decided to go vegan for not just January but for the rest of my life after my devastation at the loss of my dog, Lucky. After she died I felt increasingly depressed and hopeless about life, then the idea of going vegan sparked something in me, it made me feel like although I couldn’t save her I could guarantee that other animals would be living happier lives. I found the best way to make myself feel better was to give my love to all animals. I felt a sense of hope with the realization that I would be saving other animals and treating them as I would treat pets like dogs or cats. My perspective changed and I decided there was really no difference between farm animals



Shawn Latulippe / TNH Staff

and dogs and cats, the only difference was my perceptions of them. This isn’t to say I would demonize anyone who isn’t vegan, it also isn’t me saying that I don’t understand how tasty meat, dairy and eggs can be. But for me, I find that my decision to go vegan has made me feel better and has given me a new purpose.

One reason I thought that I could never be vegan is because I didn’t like the idea of being a picky eater. I’ve always been the type to eat whatever someone gives me, so the idea of inconveniencing people intimidated me. But all doubts aside, I’m happy with my decision. Although it may be an inconvenience, it’s still worth it for the animals that I am going to save and the climate. My energy has been high since I started my new diet and the foods I’ve been trying have been far better than I expected. I’ve learned that the taste in food that I’ve always loved comes from the right flavoring and spices. I find if I season tofu like I used to season chicken it will taste just as good. I even have a new appreciation for fruits and vegetables and am more conscious of what I put into my body. I’ve even veganized meals that I used to eat often and find I enjoy the vegan versions more and more.

My main reason for this big lifestyle change is my love for animals, which I’ve realized is much stronger than my love for foods like fried chicken, eggs, and steak. I used to eat five or six eggs a day but I really haven’t been missing them. My second reason is my commitment to being more sustainable in the new year. I’m terrified of climate change.

The destruction of our planet and all the species on it has called me to action. I want a future for all life on Earth and for that to happen we must change our ways which are warming our planet at alarming rates. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, animal agriculture is responsible for 14.5% of greenhouse gas emissions, more than the combined exhaust from all transportation. This statistic alone shows the need for every person to lower or eliminate their meat and dairy intakes.

The last reason is health. A whole food plant based diet can prevent and even reverse heart disease, diabetes, high cholesterol, and various cancers according to multiple studies like the China Study by Dr. T. Colin Campbell and Dr. Thomas M. Campbell. At 21 years old I’m not too concerned about my health, but my dad, who had stage 0 colon cancer a few years ago, has decided to join me on the plant based diet to prevent the return of any cancer and to lower his cholesterol. He has already said he has more energy than before the change and is excited for the future. My mom has also decided to go vegan because of her love for animals. My brother likes the idea of it, but he’s having a hard time giving up chicken nuggets and mac and cheese. He’s a work in progress. My boyfriend decided to go vegan with me after watching “Cowspiracy,” he’s committed to the lifestyle to reduce his carbon footprint. He has also said that he likes how light his body feels and loves all of the food that we have made recently. Now it may seem like I’ve forced

everyone around me to go vegan and I promise that’s not the case, although I may have given them a little nudge in the plant-based direction. This lifestyle is something people have to choose for themselves, but if you feel you might be interested or saw a documentary like “The Game Changers” and want to give it a try, I encourage you to do your research to make sure you will get all of your vitamins and nutrients and see a doctor first if you have any medical concerns.

Although Veganuary is coming to an end, you can try veganism and vegetarianism whenever you want, just remember not to put too much pressure on yourself in the beginning. My stomach felt a little uneasy the first week but it feels great now, truthfully I think it’s because I had never eaten so many vegetables! If you are interested in the lifestyle give it a chance and also look up vegan chefs and influencers. One of my favorites is Tabitha Brown and I highly suggest looking her up on TikTok, YouTube or Instagram for some flavorful vegan food. All in all, I’m proud of being vegan for almost a month and I’m excited to keep trying new foods and vegan restaurants. To any who have recently tried to go vegan or are interested now, good luck and happy eating.



Shawn Latulippe / TNH Staff

The Promised Neverland: children defeating the odds

By Cee Annis
ARTS EDITOR

Generally speaking, I don't read descriptions before starting to watch a show if the trailer or cover image is interesting enough. Perhaps this is my greatest flaw, as I haven't learned my lesson despite being bamboozled by a book's cover in the past. But surely, I thought, as I clicked onto "The Promised Neverland" on Netflix, surely it is not going to betray my impressions, right?

Forget that all I know about it is that it is getting a crossover event with "Identity V," the game I've been playing religiously for months now and is definitely a horror themed game. I thought it was just going to be a cute anime about kids in a little idyllic paradise, maybe they get up to misadventures as they get adopted out but overall, a fun and cute show.

The first warning sign should've been when I saw it was rated TV-14 for fear, of all things. Now, what could be so scary about a bunch of orphans, I thought as I innocently enjoyed watching the children play games of tag and break house rules, as kids are wont

to do.

Then a child gets killed to be served as dinner for the literal demons who are in charge of the orphanage (and quite possibly the world at large) and I went, "Oh no." The fear of this being one of those shows that exist solely to torture and kill the cute characters was very prevalent as I hit next episode but slowly my worries were alleviated. Instead of being a torture-fest ala "Madoka Magica," the first season offers a gripping and suspenseful plot where you are allowed to fret and worry about the characters but also be assured of their temporary well-being.

The three characters at the heart of the story are the oldest children of the orphanage - Emma, Ray and Norman. They are the ones who first find out what really happens to the kids who get 'adopted' and are the ones who primarily are orchestrating the escape attempt. It's a classic trio scenario, Emma is the heart of the team, a hopeless optimist, while Ray's strength lies in technology and street-smarts and Norman's strategy is more reliant on booksmarts.

The older kids are portrayed as being super smart,

but not in a way that lessens the suspense regarding their situation. At their heart, they are still kids grappling with a seemingly unwinnable situation and at times, their naivety regarding certain situations puts their plans in jeopardy. They are very much in a game of chess against their mother. The first season kept me guessing until the end if their escape was going to be successful or not, or if they'd even get to the point where an attempt could be made.

The animation itself is fairly standard. If you've watched a lot of anime, I don't think there's anything to really be impressed by in terms of style. It does have a great way of depicting extreme emotions that I think is very visceral and adds to the overall dark tone of the show.

In terms of music and sound design, the soundtrack is amazing. The opening is something that I would've watched every episode, if I wasn't eager to get to the actual story. It's ripe with imagery and motifs that you can see carry over into the show. Something to note: I watched the English subtitled version. I cannot speak to the quality of the English dubbed



Photo courtesy of Clover Works.

version.

If you're interested in shows about children trying to defeat the odds, this one's for you. "The Promised Neverland" season one is streaming on

Netflix as well as Hulu and HBO Max. The second season has just started airing and is available from Funimation.

The Midnight Sky: a necessary futuristic film

By Allison Musitano
STAFF WRITER

The future can be as terrifying as it is exciting. As we all move through life anticipating what will come next as best we can, there are things that can easily fill us with dread. Among this is one of the most pressing issues of our lifetime: climate change. Even if the issue is not at the forefront of our collective consciousness, it is still something that looms over us all and worsens by the year. With that, the year 2050 sits ominously in the distance, marking a slew of predicted landmarks of irreversible damage to the environment and our planet. It should be no surprise that with this date, science fiction has begun to speculate how the world will be within the next few decades. One of the most recent examples of this is the late 2020 film "The Midnight Sky", directed by George Clooney.

Unlike other apocalyptic movies, "The Midnight Sky" leans more heavily into atmospheric moments than adventurous; however, the stakes in the film are still high. Augustine, played by George Clooney, is determined to race to another base across the Arctic in time to contact one of the last online ships- the Aether. Alongside this ship's crew, returning from their voyage to Jupiter moon K-23 and humanity's last hope for survival must brave the odds themselves. Admittedly, the film's pacing at times can be slow. The action that does happen seems fleeting

or overwhelming in spite of the film's build-up to these events. Yet there is something about the film that leaves the viewer lingering on the story.

One of the charms of "The Midnight Sky" is that it manages to ground itself much more into reality than other films of its genre. In science fiction, especially science fiction set in the near future, it is easy for creators to get ambitious with the technology they show in their stories, rendering the story more campy than poignant in the long run. However, the film manages to find a balance in its futurism. For instance, the crew constantly interacts with large holograms, the likes of which closely resemble our present-day VR but without the headsets. Other than that, and the crew's spaceship, the tech in the movie is rather tame and reflective of our modern world: snowmobiles instead of hovercrafts, shotguns instead of lasers. These elements may not drastically affect the film, but it's one of the ways that this film feels real.

Most admirably though, what has stuck with me most about this film is its ending (spoilers for the end of The Midnight Sky).

In short, it's not all that happy. By the end of the film, it is revealed that Earth has become inhospitable for human life. Mass radiation and sickness have forced people to evacuate underground or travel to space. The time for mitigating climate change has long since passed. And after presumably succumbing to illness offscreen, Augustine passes peacefully

while listening to Sully of the Aether, played by Felicity Jones, describing the beauty and potential of K-23. All that remains of the crew is the pregnant Sully and her partner, who set a course for Jupiter's moon as life continues onward, as the state of humanity outside of the pair is left unclear.

In light of other post-apocalyptic fiction, this ending seems to take a more sullen approach to the genre. There is no last-minute solution that manages to save Earth as we know it, no small sign that shows that (pardon the meme) "nature is healing" in spite of a literal apocalypse. Yet in a way, it feels like a necessary approach to the genre.

As an avid fan of both fantasy and science fiction, I tend to favor optimistic stories to what can be referred to as "grimdark"- dark stories that try to portray so-called gritty realities. These genres tend to be some much-needed escapism as well as metaphorical enough where characters triumphing over obstacles feels more rewarding than them failing. However, the bitterness of "The Midnight Sky" feels deserved. One of the film's strongest themes in the film is regret: Augustine regrets prioritizing his work over love and family and the opportunities he missed before the world fell apart. Although the degradation of the world is never explicitly explained in the film, only that mass radiation has contaminated the entire world, Augustine's regret can be a message for the audience and our world today: take action

now so we don't regret losing the world we could have saved. This is of course easier said than done. Even with our best efforts on an individual level, the common person alone cannot be responsible for saving the planet. But nonetheless, humanity needs to take action before we reach a catastrophic point of no return.

"The Midnight Sky" may not be a perfect film, something reflected by both critics and audiences alike, however it feels like a necessary film that shows us our potential future if we don't change our ways, but enough hope where change doesn't feel so far out of reach.



Photo courtesy of IMDB.

Opinion: the fallout from Trump's social media ban is just beginning

By Isabelle Curtis
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 6, thousands of demonstrators, many wearing “MAGA” merchandise and waving Trump 2020 flags, broke into the second floor of the U.S. Capitol building right outside the Senate chamber to stop the certification of the 2020 election results. The riot was the product of weeks of speeches and tweets from former President Trump claiming Joe Biden's victory was the result of voter fraud and encouraging his supporters to “stop the steal.”

A couple days later on Jan. 8, with only two weeks left in office, Trump was permanently suspended from Twitter. The former president was also banned from Facebook, Instagram, Reddit, Snapchat and Spotify, among others. However, these restrictions may be lifted now that Trump has left office. Facebook's oversight board is currently ruling on whether he should be reinstated on the platform.

In addition, Parler—a social media site favored by right-wing groups—was removed from Apple's App Store and Google Play. Amazon also stopped hosting Parler on Amazon Web Services because of policy violations against violent content. It is now hosted by Epik, and is expected to be fully operational by the end of January, according to Parler's CEO John Matze in an interview with Fox News.

The decision to ban Trump has put the spotlight on how much power big tech companies wield in an age dominated by social media.

Many have called Trump's suspension and the takedown of Parler a violation of free speech under the First Amendment. But the First Amendment protects citizens from the government limiting their free speech and does not apply to private media companies taking down content that violates their terms of service.

However, UNH senior lecturer of political science Tama Andrews explained that increased federal involvement could complicate the issue. In 2016, the government began to put pressure on social media sites to self-regulate after widespread misinformation during the 2016 election. This effort saw the founder of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, being summoned for multiple senate hearings.

Andrews predicts there could be a Supreme Court ruling on the issue in the next few years because of the court's tendency to protect “political speech.”

U.S. tech companies may also have to worry about rising bipartisan support for enacting anti-trust laws. Anti-trust laws were made to protect consumers from a handful of large companies dominating an industry and engaging in predatory business practices. Parler has already sued Amazon for refusing to host its site after the capitol riot and “argued that Amazon violated antitrust law by conspiring with Twitter, a major Amazon customer, to boot Parler just as it was gaining broader appeal.” A federal judge has since ruled in favor of Amazon.

Meanwhile, the Facebook company, which hosts over 4 billion users across its plat-

forms (Facebook, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, and Instagram), has been a focus of anti-trust concerns.

“We're going to see [tech companies] do more things that seem like they're taking responsibility [and self-regulating] because they are afraid of anti-trust action,” explained Michael Soha, UNH senior lecturer of communications. This is because companies don't want to risk government regulation by drawing negative attention to themselves like back in 2016.

Both Andrews and Soha agree that social media companies do have a responsibility to regulate content on their platforms, similar to how the TV and movie industry have editorial processes to limit inappropriate content or how other industries have consumer product safety standards.

Increased regulation on major platforms can reduce the spread of misinformation and mainstream exposure to extreme rhetoric. It also sends a message that hateful speech is not tolerated.

However, Soha warned that these measures are “not necessarily going to stop the radicalization” as people will turn to smaller platforms and conspiracies like Parler, QAnon or 8kun. He worries more moderate conservatives will become radicalized on these sites.

Nevertheless, Trump's ban from Twitter also has many wondering why he wasn't banned earlier.

The former president has not only broken Twitter's community guidelines before but has been very consistent in spreading false claims. In 2016, de-

spite securing the presidency, the Trump administration alleged there was widespread voter fraud to explain why Hillary Clinton had won the popular vote. The former president even set up the Voter Fraud Commission to investigate these allegations, but the commission disbanded a year later when no evidence of widespread voter fraud was found. However, a Politico poll found that 1 in 4 voters still believed the claims were true. The sowing of doubt in America's democratic elections primed the way for Trump's assertions of fraud in the 2020 election that would lead to the capitol riot.

“If you take that language and the things he's been saying for years very seriously, which his supporters do take seriously, then people are going to be willing to risk their lives,” explained Soha.

Soha also believes the rise of right-wing violence in recent years has contributed to the siege of the U.S. Capitol. He highlighted the 2017 white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, the 2018 synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh and the 2020 plot to kidnap Michigan's governor.

“There's this very clear trend that predates the Trump era, but has been really fueled in the Trump era,” he said. “The clear pattern that I think is important to focus on with [former] President Trump is his real reluctance to sanction extreme rhetoric and behavior, and it's something that I think we've gotten used to. The [former] president, himself, uses really extreme language we really haven't seen from a president.”

While private citizens who used extreme rhetoric were more

likely to be banned, Trump's status as president meant his statements were the subject of public record. This made him virtually immune to de-platforming. Soha explained that most political media experts expected Trump to be banned when he was a private citizen again.

This then raises the question: If it's not social media's job to curtail the president, then whose is it?

Soha thinks that social media should have done more to regulate the president by flagging tweets for misinformation, as was done on many platforms during the 2020 election, but he believes “the failure was a political failure and a failure of journalistic media.”

Journalistic conventions state that everything the president says is news, but when the president has unfiltered access to social media that is no longer the case. The focus should then be on factual reporting and not only stories that will boost ratings. It's an industry change that will take time.

Trump received little censure from the Republican party for his extreme rhetoric with the notable exceptions of the late Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT). Meanwhile, mainstream media's continual coverage of Trump amounted to \$2 billion in free advertising during his initial 2016 campaign. Soha also noted that Fox News, which has a mainstream outreach unlike Parler, also enables Trump's claims of voter fraud.

In the end, Trump's presidency may be over, but the consequences of his actions linger.



Photo courtesy of Yahoo Finance.



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From the *Editor's Desk...*

Relieve the Essential

After being sworn into office on Jan. 20, Joe Biden has made his first wave of executive orders.

These orders include the U.S.'s reintegration into the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, a treaty that the U.S. abandoned in 2017 under the Trump administration. The other directives pushed for the requirement of masks and social distancing on federal property, and to provide aid for underserved and underutilized communities across the country.

With many of the new efforts that Biden and his cabinet are rolling out, congressional support will be required. Heading the list of important issues congress will have to rule on is his COVID-19 relief plan, coined the "American Rescue Plan."

After the Georgia runoff results came back in favor of Jon Ossoff and Rev. Raphael Warnock, Democrats took control of the Senate, so it should be easier for the newly inaugurated president to get senate backing. However, Biden will likely need to get some support from some of the Republican senators that he worked with so closely with over the years.

Many of those senators have since been replaced, so that is more likely said than done. With a new wave of congresspeople making their way into office in tandem with the arrival of Donald Trump as commander in chief, it has created a tantalizing partisan divide in Congress that has stifled bill making and deal making that might be beyond repair.

Sen. Richard Shelby, a Re-

publican from Alabama has voiced that sentiment in recent weeks, stating that the senate has "become a lot more partisan," and that it will be harder to get a COVID-19 relief bill agreed upon because of it; especially since a \$900 billion stimulus package was just approved in December.

Biden's nearly \$2 trillion proposal includes \$1,400 for all households that qualified for the \$600 stimulus checks in December, and it would also fund efforts to distribute COVID-19 vaccines and help schools as well.

This bill will not pass as is. It doesn't have the necessary GOP support, which is a necessity because the left doesn't have a filibuster-proof majority in the senate; this is achieved with either 60 Republican or Democrat identified senators holding office at one time. But, there needs to be some version of the bill passed in a relatively swift manner.

While the money for individual citizens is a fantastic investment, there are more pressing overarching issues that need to be addressed.

A prominent example of this is the neglect of the small business aid throughout the pandemic. Under the CARES Act, American small businesses were given the Payment Protection Plan (PPP) to help ensure that some of their employees would stay on payroll, but this doesn't help their overall business stay afloat in any way. It was just throwing a bandaid on a waterfall of bankruptcy.

Biden's proposed plan, while not being perfect by any stretch of

imagination, does provide a \$15 billion lump sum that will be utilized as a new grant program for these businesses owners in addition to the PPP. They will be able to allocate this in necessary ways for their companies to start thriving again.

On top of the new grant program, \$35 billion will be an investment in some state, local, tribal, and non-profit financing programs that make low-interest loans and provide venture capital to entrepreneurs.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy in the U.S. and it has been sad to see many of them fail in such a challenging time. This is arguably one of the most important sections of the bill.

Biden's plan also includes near \$75 billion to allot towards vaccine distribution, vaccine application and COVID-19 testing facilities.

It's not rocket science to figure out that resources for vaccinations and COVID-19 testing are essential to kicking the financial rut our country has been in for over a year, but it's extremely important

This money needs to be portioned out, while maybe not in the exact fashion that it is currently laid out, but much in the same vein.

Josh Morrill
Executive Editor

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Josh Bauer selected 31st in MLS SuperDraft



PHOTO COURTESY GIL TALBOT

Former UNH Wildcat defender and 31st overall selection to Atlanta United FC Josh Bauer celebrates after scoring a goal for the Wildcats.

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

Former University of New Hampshire (UNH) men's soccer standout Josh Bauer was selected 31st overall to the Atlanta United FC in the 2021 MLS SuperDraft on Jan. 21. Bauer was the fourth pick in the second round after Atlanta United dealt the fifth and 32nd overall picks to D.C. United in exchange for the 31st selection and \$125,000.

Bauer expressed his gratitude and joy with Seacoastonline.com after hearing his name called and says that he's excited to get

started.

"I've been working so hard for this moment and to hear my name called is a dream come true," Bauer said. "I look forward to competing and making the most out of the opportunity I'm given. I am most excited about getting a chance to compete at the highest level of United States soccer. To be able to play the game I love this long has already been a blessing, and to continue my career in the MLS makes it even more special."

UNH men's soccer head coach Marc Hubbard had nothing but praise for his former star after seeing the news. He mentioned the

qualities that made Bauer so successful in Durham and the type of player that Atlanta United drafted with their second-round pick.

"We are very proud of Josh and his development in our program," Hubbard said. "From representing his home state to helping us win conference championships in the most successful three-year period in program history, we know Josh is ready for this opportunity. We are all very excited to track his progress and Atlanta United FC is not only getting a great player but a person of high character and work rate. He has definitely left the jersey in a much better

place than when he had arrived. Best of luck and continue to make New Hampshire proud!"

During his tenure with UNH, Bauer filled out his resume nicely being named as a first team All-American (2019), second team All-American (2018), Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) and America East defender of the year (2018, 2019), America East Tournament MVP (2018, 2019) and a first team Scholar All-American (2019). Along with all of this, he was the first player in school history to be a semifinalist for the MAC Hermann Trophy – given to the most outstanding player in college soccer.

In his three seasons with UNH, Bauer scored 10 goals, tallied 10 assists and played in 60 games with the team going 40-10-10 (.750 winning percentage). Bauer helped the team to back-to-back America East Championships and three straight NCAA Tournament berths.

Most recently he signed a contract with the United Soccer League as a member of Birmingham Legion where he appeared in three games.

Bauer joins Chris Wingate as the only other Wildcat to be drafted into the MLS. Wingate was selected 54th overall in the 2017 MLS SuperDraft to New York City FC.

Career Accolades

First Team All-American (2019)

Second Team All-American (2018)

ECAC & AE Defender of the Year
(2018, 2019)

America East Tournament MVP
(2018, 2019)

First Team Scholar All-American (2019)

MAC Hermann Trophy
Semifinalist (2019)



Wildcats earn two points in split with Merrimack

By Shaun Petipas
SPORTS EDITOR

After losing a tough series against UConn (5-6-2), the University of New Hampshire (UNH) men's hockey team was looking for a bit of an easier series against the Merrimack Warriors (2-7-1). That, however, did not end up being the case and the Wildcats were punched in the mouth right away by the Warriors.

The Wildcats technically split the series with the Warriors, losing the first game 5-2 and winning the second in a shootout after tying in regulation and overtime.

UNH came out sleeping in the first period against Merrimack allowing an early goal, just two minutes into the game off of a rebound opportunity. It only got worse for UNH as Merrimack buried another before the end of the period making it a 2-0 Warriors advantage.

Merrimack kept the pressure on UNH in the second period, but senior goalie Mike Robinson came up with huge saves to keep the contest 2-0 until Merrimack broke through two more times, making it a 4-0 game headed into the third.

The Wildcats finally showed up on the offensive end six minutes into the third period when the 'Cats went on the powerplay and senior forward Eric MacAdams buried the puck in the back of the net making it a 4-1 game. UNH showed a little bit more pushback later in the third when senior forward Patrick Grasso fired a shot that rang off the iron and, in the net, cutting Merrimack's lead back down to 2.

However, the late offensive push was too little too late for the Wildcats as UNH gave up the empty netter making the score 5-2 in favor of Merrimack.

Robinson ended with 31 saves on the night meanwhile

Merrimack's first-year goaltender Zachary Borgiel only had to make 16 saves on 18 shots to secure the win.

Head coach Mike Souza was not pleased with his team's performance in this bout.

"Our effort level is far from where it needs to be," Souza said. "We weren't hard on pucks, stick checking or in the right position. Not everyone but not enough guys playing the game the right way tonight. Merrimack outplayed us tonight, they did a nice job."

This loss marked UNH's fifth in a row as they have struggled lately finishing games against some of the league's top talent.

"For me it's nothing systematic, there's no 'ra-ra' speech," Souza explained. "It's just a matter of us playing to our standards. Quite honestly I have to do a better job and my staff has to do a better job because it's just not good enough right now."

Luckily for UNH they got a

rematch the next afternoon to prove that their effort level can improve.

The Wildcats started off slow once again allowing the first goal just six minutes into the contest giving the early lead to the Warriors. However, UNH's offense didn't sit idle as junior forward Tyler Ward scored his first goal as a Wildcat and tied the game at one.

The second period appeared to tilt in Merrimack's favor totaling 13 shots and burying one but UNH answered with just 30 seconds left in the period. Grasso was the savior headed into the third period with the score even at two.

UNH didn't do themselves any favors in the third period by obtaining a five-minute major penalty that gave extended powerplay time to Merrimack. The Wildcats stood tall as they killed off the major penalty and actually forced the game into overtime.

There was no decision in

overtime which marked this game as a tie in the standings, but for the two points in the Hockey East the two teams went into a shootout. There, Grasso scored once again along with junior defenseman Kalle Eriksson putting the pressure on Merrimack. Robinson gave up one but came up with a huge save at the end to earn the 'Cats two points they desperately needed.

Robinson showed up again in this one with 32 saves on 34 shots meanwhile Borgiel only had to make 21 on 23 shots. Despite being outplayed UNH found a way to squeak out of the series with two points.

The Hockey East has yet to release who the Wildcats will play next, regardless of the opponent they need to start stringing together some wins if they want to see some postseason action.



2	Game 1	5
2	Game 2	2
T/OT		
UNH wins shootout 2-1		



UNH falls in the standings after being swept by UAlbany

By Brackett Lyons
SPORTS WRITER

ALBANY, N.Y. – University of New Hampshire (UNH) women's basketball (4-11, 4-8 America East) fell in back-to-back games against the Albany Great Danes (4-6, 3-3 AE) over the weekend. The consecutive defeats were the Wildcats' first back-to-back losses since they faced Hartford a month ago when Kelsey Hogan's team dropped their first three games.

The first game of the series was one of UNH's weaker efforts of the season, losing by a final of 59-47. Coach Hogan has repeatedly praised the fight in her young squad, but the 'Cats were outfought on almost every part of the stat sheet.

UNH was outscored in every quarter and never seemed to get in a rhythm. Rebounding was the fatal flaw as the Great Danes pulled down 33 boards compared to the Wildcats 19. Albany capitalized on their rebounding edge with a 17-8 advantage in second-chance points. Behind the arc, UNH shot a less than impressive 1-of-9 and failed to keep pace with Albany's 7-of-20 three-point shooting.

It wasn't all bad for the 'Cats, however, Ivy Gogolin came to play with a team-high 16 points and six rebounds. The junior forward was perfect from the line on four attempts. The top free-throw shooting team in the conference had their second perfect performance from the stripe on

the season; UNH was 8-for-8 on the afternoon.

The guard duo of senior Amanda Torres and sophomore Hélène Delaruelle was strong once again. Torres finishes with 10 points and three assists, while Delaruelle had six points and five assists.

Coach Hogan gave an honest assessment of her team's struggles.

"Albany came out strong. They were hungrier and ready to play," explained Hogan.

On the team's rebounding struggles, Hogan said the team would need to study film and learn as much as they can. Hogan reiterated how young her team is and that it's a learning experience for improving the team's weaknesses.

Sunday's rematch was a much closer affair for the Wildcats. After not leading since a 2-0 advantage in the first, UNH stormed back from a 15-point deficit to take the lead in the fourth quarter. The fight in Hogan's young team was on full display. The youthful squad was determined to claw their way to a win. Unfortunately, the furious comeback ran out of fuel in the late stages of the fourth quarter and the Wildcats fell 63-50.

Coach Hogan was proud of the team's effort in the comeback but noted that the team lost steam in the fourth.

"We had some mental lapses down the stretch in crucial situations," said Hogan. "But proud of the effort from my young team."

The team is young, but it was once again the few veterans on the squad that shined brightest for UNH. Torres had one of her best performances of the season with 19 points, four steals, four assists and three rebounds. Torres was on the floor for 39 minutes and showed no sign of fatigue.

Backing up their senior captain was Gogolin and sophomore Brooke Kane. Gogolin finished with 13 points and four rebounds, while Kane added nine points and five boards.

UNH will have the next weekend off before traveling to UMBC for a two-game series on Feb. 6 and 7.



47	Game 1	59
50	Game 2	63



Wildcats split with UAlbany; fail to leap in standings



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE BRONNER

Redshirt first-year guard Nick Johnson running in transition against UAlbany in a performance that earned him his third Conference Rookie of the Week.

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

DURHAM, N.H. – After sweeping Stony Brook (7-7, 4-2 America East) last weekend in a series that was going to begin to dictate the direction of the Wildcats' (7-6, 6-4 AE) season, University of New Hampshire (UNH) men's basketball had an opportunity to jump into the top-three of the America East standings. UNH welcomed UAlbany (4-6, 4-4 AE) into Lundholm Gymnasium for a date with the Great Danes as the conference standings remain in flux.

UNH gutted out a 71-64 win on Saturday behind junior forward Nick Guadarrama and redshirt first-year guard Nick Johnson to improve their standing. Sunday, however, told a different story; UAlbany brought the energy and the Wildcats dug themselves a hole they couldn't climb out of. UNH now sits fifth in the conference but still has plenty of chances to make up ground.

Through the first half of Saturday's matchup the Wildcats built as much as a

15-point lead over the Great Danes. Head coach Bill Herrion noted that he thought his side played very well defensively through the first 20 minutes.

UNH was able to keep UAlbany at a distance for much of the second half as well before the lead began to dwindle. It wasn't until there was 9:17 to play when the Danes cut the UNH lead to less than 10 points; this is when the Wildcats began to feel the pressure.

UAlbany brought the deficit down to two points on three separate occasions in the final four minutes of action. Guadarrama and Johnson were able to hold off the comeback long enough to keep the win-streak alive on the first game of the weekend. Herrion noted postgame how important it is to win the first of these back-to-back games at this point in the season.

Herrion also explained that the Danes began to exploit his side defensively and find mismatches which is what led to the comeback from the other side.

Guadarrama led the way

for UNH scoring 25 points and grabbing seven rebounds while shooting 5-of-8 from distance. Johnson played at team-high 38 minutes and scored 18 with 10 rebounds – his first double-double of the season.

Johnson's performance on Saturday earned him his second straight America East Rookie of the Week, his third time receiving the honor. The rise of the Bronx native is coming at a perfect time for Herrion and his team as Herrion continues to look for a player to answer the offensive call in the absence of senior guards Sean Sutherlin and Josh Hopkins.

"We've got to get a few more players involved offensively. Everything we do obviously runs through Nick Guadarrama," said Herrion. "[Johnson] had a great weekend last week at Stony Brook, but we've got to get a little more offensive contribution from some people."

In the second of the back-to-back UAlbany brought all the energy and was able to get hot from the outside while UNH had a lid on the basket for much of the afternoon.

The Great Danes built as much as a 24-point lead over the Wildcats in the first half. They shot 56% from the field in the first 20 minutes including 50% from three-point range. UNH, however shot just 33% from the field and 17% from deep in the first half.

The Wildcats were able to get more shots to fall in the second half, but the story was mostly the same. UAlbany built the lead up to as much as 25 and never let UNH get any closer than 19.

UAlbany had five players score double digits in the 83-64 win. Junior guards C.J. Kelly and Antonio Rizzuto led the way with 23 and 16 points respectively.

The two leading scorers from Saturday for UNH – Guadarrama and Johnson – combined for just eight points on Sunday. Junior guard Marque Maulsby and redshirt first-year guard Blondeau Tchoukuiengo each scored 14 in the loss; Maulsby added four rebounds and three assists.

Herrion noted a handful of times last season that the team needed to learn how to win if they wanted to take that

next step. This was a point that he mentioned once again after being swept by UMBC at home a couple weekends ago. Getting down to the final stretch of the season Herrion believes his team still has room to grow in that department.

"It's a process that we still have to go through; we're still learning how to win," Herrion said. "We're getting to a point in the season now where it's almost February and every game has a bearing on where you are in the standings."

The Wildcats are still within striking distance of the top of the conference, but this loss will play big as they head into one of their tougher stretches of the season. The next three weekends they will face last place Binghamton (1-12, 1-9 AE), eighth place NJIT (5-7, 3-5 AE) and second place Vermont (7-3, 7-3 AE). The catch here is that each of these games will be on the road for UNH. The Wildcats will not play a game in Durham for a month when they will welcome UMass Lowell into Lundholm for the season finale on Feb. 27 and 28.