

The NEW HAMPSHIRE

The independent student newspaper of the University of New Hampshire since 1911

TNHDIGITAL.COM

Thursday, February 18, 2021

VOL. 110, NO. 49

USNH and CCSNH set to merge amidst financial struggles

By Ben Domaingue
STAFF WRITER

In a recent budget address, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu announced the merger of the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) and the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH).

Currently, the 11 campuses in New Hampshire remain under two systems, governed by two separate boards. The plan aims to merge the USNH's Board of Trustees with the CCSNH's Board of Trustees.

One of the primary aims of the move is to save money system-wide, as this move comes as the University of New Hampshire (UNH) faces a \$10 million operating deficit at the end of FY20. Much of this is due to the \$27 million in refunds provided to students when UNH transitioned to remote operations in March 2020 due to COVID-19.

In President James Dean's State of the University Address in Feb. of 2021, he noted the University's \$600,000 partnership with Huron Consulting, which analyzed over \$12 million in savings through layoffs in areas such as information technology, fleet services and the library.

The partnership with Huron Consulting was announced in September of 2019, with the process still ongoing.

In a letter to the university community in January of 2020, Dean noted the university was

in the preliminary stages of partnership, and as such he was not aware of how many positions would be cut.

"We recognize that eliminating positions is difficult and painful," Dean wrote in his letter. "Anyone who has their position eliminated will be treated with the utmost concern and respect; we are already exploring potential outplacement services. I want to reiterate that this is all in service of strengthening our ability to perform our core mission."

The number of cuts from Huron Consulting's findings have not been published by the university.

Even with university and system-wide budgetary shortfalls from COVID-19, Gov. Sununu believes this merger will ultimately save money.

"Each university and college will still maintain their own campus, their own brand, but this change will help open doors for our students and avoid each separate campus wasting time and money and frankly just competing with each other," Sununu said.

For example, a student beginning a degree at Great Bay Community College would be able to pursue research opportunities at UNH.

"Why shouldn't a student at Nashua Community College also be able to do a research and development project at the University of New Hampshire?" Sununu said. "Or why shouldn't a Plymouth State



Photo courtesy of Gov. Chris Sununu

student be able to take summer nursing classes at Manchester Community College? Allowing students the ease of creating their own pathway in education will be the defining characteristic of this modernized 21st century system."

Sununu also believes that the merger will allow the universities to work cooperatively in tackling crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The last year is the perfect example. Each system had to address the challenges of the pandemic individually, without the opportunity to jointly leverage resources as the institutions

worked to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19," Sununu said in a tweet.

The University System Board of Trustees supports this move from Gov. Sununu, believing it is the best possible way forward in offering residents affordable, accessible and diverse pathways to high-quality education.

"One of the hallmarks of the state's higher education systems is the diversity of mission and capability among its eleven institutions," the Board said in a press release.

Dean announced his support for the move, believing the

benefits of the plan are plausible.

"I am optimistic that this change will be positive for New Hampshire in general and for the University of New Hampshire," said Dean in a memo from the Office of the President.

Despite this, Dean reaffirmed that UNH remains his priority going forward, despite these ongoing structural changes.

"Of course, as this unfolds we will continue as always to focus on and pursue our mission, aspiration and strategic priorities," said Dean.

UNH to use Eaton Hall as additional quarantine housing

By Katie Hoppler
NEWS EDITOR

Approximately 20 Eaton Hall residents were required by University of New Hampshire (UNH) Housing to move to different residence halls to create additional quarantine housing amidst the ongoing spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) on campus.

Eaton House, a residence hall in "The Minis" that houses 50 students, will be converted to back-up quarantine housing. On Monday morning, residents of Eaton Hall received an email from the UNH Housing Department saying they would need to move out of their

rooms by the end of the week.

"To maximize the students we can accommodate, it is important for us to reserve back-up quarantine spaces in case they should be needed," the email said. Students will be moved into another single in one of the other Minis houses (Richardson, Hall, and Marston), or into another single somewhere on campus.

"I am, but know a lot of people aren't, being responsible and, unfortunately we have to pay the price," said sophomore English/Journalism major Ashlyn Giroux. She moved into Eaton House, because a single was available and wanted to live by herself

for the academic year because of COVID-19 concerns.

Eaton is the least populated residential community on campus and, according to an email from Housing and Residential Life, has the "ideal set-up and location" for back-up quarantine housing.

Students from Eaton House who wish to move off-campus will not receive a housing refund, said Rebecca Perkins, the interim director of Housing. "A safe and assisted relocation is what we are coordinating; Therefore, the option to move off campus instead and receive a housing refund is not offered," she wrote.

Giroux said she was disap-

pointed in the communication she received from Housing. After not hearing anything from Housing after the initial email on Monday, she along with some other Eaton House

residents, called Housing themselves to receive their room assignments.

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Photo courtesy of UNH

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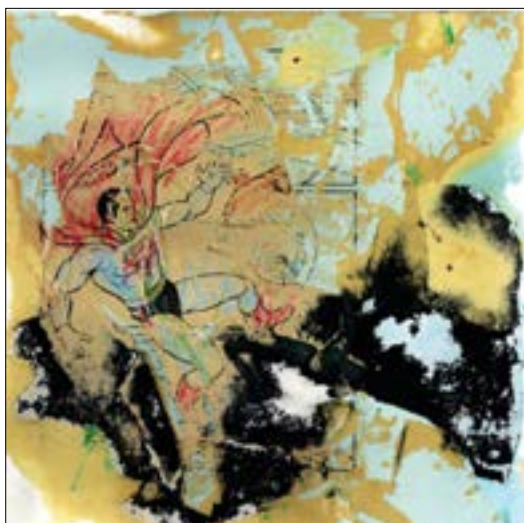
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UNH recently transitioned to Orange Mode due to a spike in cases. Staff Writer Ben MacKillop breaks down the numbers and what they mean.

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Feb. 18
29/22
Cloudy

Feb. 19
30/19
Snow

Feb. 20
34/14
Mostly Cloudy

Feb. 21
32/11
Sunny

Feb. 22
36/29
Snow

Feb. 23
41/30
Partly Cloudy

Feb. 24
44/28
Partly Cloudy

Weather according to weather.com

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The next issue of TNH will be published on

Thursday, February 25, 2021

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Giroux said the sudden move request negatively impacted her studies. “I had to email my professors and say, ‘Hey, I was just informed on Monday morning that I have to pack up and move out and relocate on campus in the middle of the week so sorry if I’m a little late on homework and discussion posts,’” said Giroux.

She also explained how

many students needed to miss class because Housing was only providing moving assistance from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., a time where many students have classes or labs.

“We’re not able to do work to our full extent because we have to figure out all of this, and it’s just very inconvenient and unfair for everyone involved here,” said Giroux.

Because UNH is currently in orange mode, residents cannot invite anyone other than the assigned Housing worker into

the dorm for moving assistance. Dee Dube, residence hall director of the Minis, clarified this in an email to residences that students can help carry boxes into their own residence hall but they cannot enter Eaton House.

Due to an increase of positive COVID-19 cases on campus, UNH moved into the orange mode of operations on Feb. 11. This change moved all classes online and implemented increased restrictions across campus. According to the UNH

COVID-19 Testing Dashboard, 1057 students, or 8.2% of the total amount of people in the testing system, are either in isolation or quarantine. Currently students living on campus who need to quarantine, or isolate do so in either Babcock Hall or Adams Tower West. By emptying out Eaton House, UNH is increasing the quarantine and isolation space on campus.

“The fact that we have so many cases on campus that we already have two big dorms full of quarantine and isola-

tion people that we need to expand to have 50 more spots that’s kind of ridiculous,” said Giroux.

“Ultimately, having these back-up quarantine spaces available to accommodate the maximum number of students who might need them, is critical to the mission of the University. By relocating, Eaton House residents are directly supporting that mission,” said Perkins.

University leaders emphasize student retention initiatives

By Anna Kate Munsey
MANAGING EDITOR

Already a leader in student retention rates for public universities, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) hopes to further improve in this area with a variety of goals and initiatives.

In the annual State of the University address on Feb. 9, UNH President James Dean re-emphasized the university’s four strategic priorities: enhance student success and well-being, expand academic and research excellence, embrace New Hampshire, and build financial strength. These four priorities aim to guide UNH to the overarching goal of becoming a top 25 public university in many important measures of academic performance.

“One of our most important student success initiatives is to enhance our already strong results for student retention. Our graduation rates are already among the top 50 public universities, and are steadily improving,” Dean said.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Wayne Jones gave an update on the “enhance student success and wellbeing” goal, including progress in student retention rate and new initiatives aimed to improve these numbers. The

overarching goal regarding student retention is to reach above 90% across all demographics.

Jones believes a key factor in improving retention is engaging with students early on in their college career.

The university’s orientation program, Wildcat Days, has been completely revamped, creating a more engaged experience. The “LinkedUp” app, which originated in Paul College, has been expanded to be used university-wide. Another successful effort to increase retention has been the “early alerts” pilot program, where hundreds of students received personal messages from faculty during the fifth week of the semester, followed by communications and appointments to check in with the students and provide the proper support resources. This program has been approved by the faculty senate, and will be implemented this semester for all new students - first-years and transfer students.

The College of Liberal Arts’ (COLA) peer-to-peer mentoring program is another example of this.

While student retention took a hit across the country, UNH saw a modest increase in the last year, from 85.7% to 86.4%. “I would submit however that we have far to go. We believe

that we should be above 90% - competitive with the best public universities in the country. In fact, in Durham this year, we hit 90% [retention] for in-state students. This goal is achievable if we remain focused,” Jones said.

Additionally, this semester the faculty senate will be reviewing a proposal to add greater emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion, and sustainability to the university’s Discovery program.

In addition to student retention, graduation rates and post-college opportunities are key parts of the “enhance student success and wellbeing” strategic priority. In 2020, 81% of graduating seniors had completed at least one internship - up 3% from the previous year. Career and Professional Success (CaPS) has continued to build partnerships between industry, faculty and nonprofit sectors to create internship opportunities.

In 2020, 91% of undergraduate students and 94% of graduate students were placed in postgraduate appointments or employment within three months of graduating. Additionally, UNH Law School has been ranked in the top ten of all law schools for successful job placement at law firms following graduation.

“UNH does very, very well with retention... student success is job one and UNH has an uncommon commitment to student success. I’ve worked at a number of different institutions and UNH really, really stands out. As a result we have a very good retention rate. However, it is an area where I think we could improve,” said Jones in an interview with The New Hampshire.

He reiterated the university’s goal to surpass a 90% rate of student retention across the university.

One group of students the university is targeting to improve retention is those with “Undeclared” majors. “So, we’ve been trying to create new pathways so that students can come in and explore and get into their major that they want to,” Jones said in an interview with TNH.

Another area of focus was first generation, low income, and students from marginalized communities and backgrounds. Some of these students are supported by the TRIO program, which saw a 97% retention rate, a program UNH hopes to expand.

Jones said that while the coronavirus (COVID-19) affects everything, it has not changed the university’s goals surrounding student engage-

ment and retention. “We want all of our students to succeed, whether we’re in a pandemic or not, and retention is the first step toward making sure that we get it, we get students to graduate in four years to making sure that those students find success after graduation,” Jones said.

The goals for improving student retention are both broad and targeted towards first-generation, low-income, and marginalized communities, as those are areas to move the needle more.

“I think there’s always a perception that retention is the faculty’s job, or it’s the advisor’s job... It’s really everybody’s job. I think we all want our community to be successful. Whether you’re a faculty member working hard to help your students be successful in the classroom, or you’re a staff member that’s helping them find the resources they need to be successful, or you’re helping serve food in HoCo, or you’re a friend, a peer, a junior helping out a freshman,” Jones said.

“I think it’s all of our responsibility, and when we start focusing on it in that way I think we as a community will do much better and that’s how we’re going to get above 90%,” he said.

UNH shifts to “orange mode” after rise in COVID-19 cases

By Aubrey Benoit
STAFF WRITER

“Rest assured UNH Housing remains open,” Residential Life stated. This past Thursday UNH announced a transition to orange mode due to a rise of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases within the campus community. Effective Thursday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m., President James Dean sent an email to all faculty and students with an official statement. “We are seeing a dramatic and sustained rise in the number of positive COVID-19 cases within the Durham community. As a result, effective 6 p.m. today, Feb. 11, 2021, the Durham campus (Manchester and Law remain in yellow) will transition to our orange mode of operation.”

The UNH COVID-19 Lab has seen an intense rise of cases from the start of the spring semester to now. On Feb. 1, 34 students, one faculty

member and two staff members tested positive. By Feb. 11, the day it was announced UNH would make the transition to orange mode, 236 students and 3 staff members tested positive. There have been 202 additional cases in less than two weeks of student’s return from winter break according to UNH COVID-19 Lab Dashboard. According to the COVID-19 Lab Dashboard, positive results in the first two weeks of the fall semester averaged to 36.6 positive cases per week versus the 172 averaged per week from the first two weeks of the spring semester. Cumulative data reflects UNH’s initiation of protocols starting in late July for regular screening through COVID-19 testing.

As of Feb. 17 at 8 a.m., there are 383 positive cases of COVID-19 at the Durham campus. Three of these cases belong to staff members, whereas the remainder of the

cases belong to students. There are over 1,000 students in isolation and quarantine, 428 being in isolation and 629 in quarantine.

What does “orange mode” really mean for the UNH community? It has been made clear by Dean that all courses are transitioned to fully online, temporarily halting face-to-face instruction, unless otherwise approved. Even though spectators were finally permitted to attend the UNH men’s hockey game on Feb. 12, the announcement of orange mode postponed the pilot program until further notice. All gatherings, on and off campus are limited to six people. Students living in on-campus housing are not allowed to visit other on-campus halls or apartment buildings- including Woodside and The Gables. Room capacity is lowered: three people for a double, two people for a single and only three additional

people for a suite or an apartment; guests are only allowed if they live in your specific, on-campus building. Bathroom capacity has also been lowered in residence halls.

As for off-campus students, they are completely forbidden from entering any on-campus residence halls or apartments.

Strict enforcements were made, and Dean also has safety suggestions that are not required, but strongly advised against. For example, on-campus students are expected not to visit any off-campus students at this time. It was also encouraged to not leave Durham unless it is for business, medical needs or groceries.

Bars and restaurants downtown remain open with regular COVID-19 restrictions.

Labs on Friday were allowed with full PPE, however moving forward, colleges will determine the viability of clinicals, fieldwork and intern-

ships as the UNH COVID Lab collects more tests this week. As approved, research and extension operations will continue as approved. Currently, Cooperative Extension and engagement programs are continuing as approved. The Dimond Library and all dining halls are running as usual. The Hamel Recreation Center, and Memorial Union Building (MUB) remain open, but with limited density and distancing. These new limitations are being closely monitored.

At this time, the University is not planning on issuing refunds to any students. Based on President Dean’s email on Thursday, the shift to orange is expected to be temporary. He is in high hopes that the situation will improve in a week; it accounts for two testing days for each student. The situation will

“UNH Get Hired” series replaces career fair



Courtesy of the University of New Hampshire
UNH students and potential employers meet at the Whittamore Center Arena for the Career and Internship Fair in 2018.

By Aqeel Hisham
 STAFF WRITER

Job searching is a daunting task for students and veterans in the working field alike. Combine that with the overwhelming feeling of attending a career fair with more than 150 companies present, students would normally feel flustered and not know where to begin.

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Career and Professional Services (CaPS) department at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) was unable to host its bi-annual career fair event in person. Despite this, CaPS made a quick recovery through critical planning last summer by transitioning the event online in the fall.

Taking both students' and employers' feedback into serious consideration, CaPS decided on an alternative this spring.

Instead of hosting one large career event with employers from different job fields in the middle of this semester, CaPS introduced their “UNH Get Hired” series, which includes five career events segregated across six weeks, categorized by different professional fields.

The dates of these series are as follows - Communication and Business, Feb. 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Engineering and Technology, Feb. 25 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Outdoor, Natural Resources and Agriculture, March 3 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Healthcare, Physical, and Life Sciences, March 9 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.; and Public and Social Services, March 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Director of Marketing, Communication and Engagement of CaPS, Tyler Wentworth, said that shifting such a large event with over 240 employers from in-person to online was an overwhelm-

ing experience not only for CaPS and students, but also for employers. “That’s a long list of employers and it’s hard to manage all the different job and internship postings [on Handshake] that are incorporated in such a large event,” he added.

Moreover, Wentworth said that based on previous feedback, students prefer smaller career events that are targeted towards their potential working field. “We’ve seen a lot of interest and really great turnout on some of what we call “boutique style” events. They’re more targeted student populations for specific industries, not just by college though, but by the industry that the students want to work in,” he explained.

The planning process for this series started around November, right after CaPS held their virtual career fair in the fall. The Director of Employer Relations at CaPS, Raina Sprague said that CaPS would

often do an “employer poll” where employers would give their feedback regarding any career events that they have attended. “The employers like the industry breakouts. They’ve been asking us to do this for a long time,” she added.

Aside from students preferring smaller “boutique style” career events, some of the feedback received from the virtual career fair last fall was about the short one-on-one meeting time that students get with their potential employers. In order to accommodate students’ schedules, these events were categorized based on job industry, and all of the events are open for all majors.

However, Wentworth said that CaPS had viewed this problem from a different approach. He said that CaPS has been looking at the schedules of students from different colleges to strategically plan these career events with the job

fields that are related to their programs of study. “We intentionally try to coincide them,” added Wentworth. “For example, PAUL College and COLA more or so have less classes on Friday afternoons and so we put the fairs that might be more apt to draw PAUL and COLA students during those times.”

The “UNH Get Hired” series will have a similar concept to the previous virtual career fair in the fall, providing students with both one-on-one and group sessions with their desired employers. Apart from these fairs, CaPS has also maintained its initiatives to help students prepare for these events by providing guide videos and also the “Resume Review Day with Industry Experts” event ahead of these fairs.

Students who are interested in participating in the “UNH Get Hired” series can find more information on CaPS’s website.

Orange Mode
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be reassessed routinely.

President Dean hopes UNH can go back to yellow mode operations, that is if UNH students, faculty and staff can slow the spread. Simple measures like washing your hands and wearing a mask are

important to stop spreading COVID-19, however limiting close contacts, not attending groups greater than six, submitting tests on time and staying within the Durham community are as equally important.

If the spread is not slowed down, there will be additional restrictions that could potentially be the end of athlet-

ics practices and games and assigned dining. Those in the research labs could be curtailed to level 4. Students could also be forced into red operations and close down campus.


“We are closely monitoring testing program results and preparing to pivot as needed to protect our community. There were no super spreader events

that led to our current levels, so we are optimistic that if we all do our part for about a week, we can get our infection rate under control and resume yellow mode operations. If, however, our testing results do not start showing a decrease in infections after about a week, then we will need to either enact further restrictions or move

to red, depending on the trends in the data,” UNH posted on the COVID-19 home page.

“Let’s take care of each other,” the university has stated at the bottom of their Coronavirus Updates and Guidelines page. Following the limited mode of operations expectations can help bring UNH back on track to yellow mode of operations.

UNH reports 433 active COVID-19 cases



UNH COVID-19 Test Results

Updated
02/17/2021 08:00 AM

Daily Information

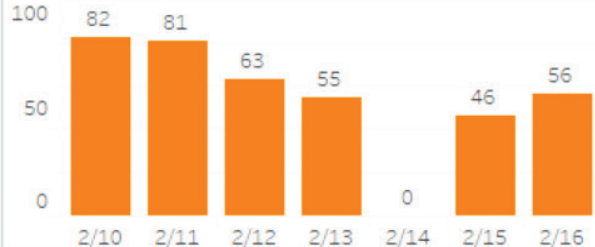
Active Cases
as of Close of Business 2/16/2021

Population	Total
Student	428
Faculty/Staff	5
Other/Contractor	0
Total	433

Student Isolation & Quarantine
as of Close of Business - 2/16/2021

Total in Isolation	428
Total in Quarantine	629
Isolating on Campus	97
Quarantining on Campus	52
Ended Isolation	27
Ended Quarantine	77

Positive Daily Tests
02/10/2021 - 02/16/2021



Average Daily Total Tests Conducted
02/10/2021 - 02/16/2021

3,366
per day

Past 7 Days - 02/10/2021 to 02/16/2021

Total Results	23,097
Positive Tests	383
Positive Tests as % of People Tested	3.00%

People Tested	12,774
Positivity Rate	1.66%

Testing Results by Population

	Negative		Positive	
Student	19,787	98.12%	380	1.88%
Faculty	691	100.00%		
Staff	1,664	99.82%	3	0.18%
Other/Contractor	572	100.00%		
Total	22,714	98.34%	383	1.66%

Testing Results by Location

	Negative		Positive	
UNH Durham	21,191	98.22%	383	1.78%
UNH Law	313	100.00%		
UNH Manchester	633	100.00%		
Other	577	100.00%		
Total	22,714	98.34%	383	1.66%

Spring 2021 Cumulative Results since January 25, 2021

People Tested

Population	Total
Student	10,770
Faculty	766
Staff	1,581
Other/Contractor*	706
Total	13,823

Testing Results by Population

	Negative		Positive	
Student	57,931	98.98%	599	1.02%
Faculty	2,420	99.96%	1	0.04%
Staff	5,527	99.87%	7	0.13%
Other/Contractor	2,007	99.80%	4	0.20%
Total	67,885	99.11%	611	0.89%

Weekly Trend Information since July 29, 2020

Courtesy of the University of New Hampshire.

By Benjamin MacKillop
STAFF WRITER

In the first week since the University of New Hampshire (UNH) transitioned to orange mode of operations, positive coronavirus (COVID-19) test numbers have dropped slightly, but remain at very high levels.

Following last Tuesday and Wednesday's positive test numbers of 75 and 82, respectively, that led UNH administrators to change to orange mode, the week finished with testing results totaling 81, 63, and 55 positive cases. So far this week, Monday and Tuesday testing results have produced 46 and 56 positive tests. While these numbers are going down compared to the all-time highs

from last week, they still remain far higher than even the biggest days from fall semester.

UNH administrators have not indicated a benchmark number of positive cases in order for the Durham campus to return to yellow mode. The initial plan was to reevaluate the mode of operations following "two complete testing cycles of students before we complete that transition," according to Provost Wayne Jones in an email. The UNH community should expect an update by the end of the week.

While the current number of active student cases – 428 following Tuesday's testing – is very concerning to UNH administration and the community alike, many students who went into quarantine or

isolation last week will begin leaving their 10-day quarantine in the coming days. With the current number of active cases, the UNH Durham community is now above 3% of all people tested receiving a positive result.

UNH has also been creating additional restrictions to control the capacity of quarantine and isolation dorms as a part of orange mode of operations. This includes no longer allowing off-campus students to quarantine or isolate in the campus dorms, as well as allowing students in on-campus apartments the ability to quarantine in their normal living spaces. In the past few days administrators have also made the decision to move students out of Eaton House (part of

the Minis) in order to use the building as additional quarantine space.

According to the COVID-19 testing dashboard there are currently 97 students isolating on campus (97 out of 240 Adams Tower West Capacity) and 52 students quarantining on campus (52 out of 170 Babcock capacity, not including additional space in Eaton House). UNH administrators have indicated multiple times that lack of space in quarantine and isolation dorms would lead to campus going into red mode, effectively shutting down for the semester. However, with the increased number of beds in Adams Tower West as a reaction to rising cases, and the assumption of Eaton House for quarantine space, UNH is

doing everything they can to avoid running out of space.

Despite the spread of COVID-19 on the UNH campus, overall COVID-19 cases in the state of New Hampshire and across the country generally have been going down steadily since highs in mid-January. The state of New Hampshire is currently averaging 350 positive tests per day, down more than 60% since mid-January where daily cases averaged over 800. COVID-19 cases attributed to UNH account for more than 15% of total cases in the state. Durham currently has 377 active cases, surpassing Manchester as the leading municipality in active cases.

@thenewhampshire

N.H. college students among last to receive vaccine

By Josh Morrill
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

For students at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), the last week has been a miserable case of déjà vu, and a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine provides a glimmer of hope.

It has nearly been 11 months since UNH closed their campus, sent their students home and went to all-remote instruction as the then-novel coronavirus (COVID-19) spread throughout the U.S. Since last March, Zoom calls, isolation and quarantine have become household words to young adults who are trying to build their futures. News of vaccines in production in November helped bring confidence back to the UNH community that normalcy was ahead, but despite this, most college students are far from it.

UNH President James Dean announced on Feb. 11 that the university would be transitioning to “orange mode,” a school-wide restrictive measure that prevents

students and faculty from engaging in face-to-face instruction. This isn’t quite the nightmare that students experienced in the spring of 2020, but it’s another hurdle that they are forced to overcome.

While the term “COVID fatigue,” as coined by Provost Wayne Jones in an email to UNH faculty, does not inspire confidence in the UNH community or assure them that the spring 2021 semester will continue in yellow mode, it gives a sense of where they are at in terms of dealing with the multitude of protocols that stem from the threat of the virus. While UNH tries to manage their number of cases by searching for a temporary solution, as a vaccine could be months down the line.

“Like many schools across the country, and our own experience in the fall, we are seeing an increase in asymptomatic positive COVID cases as the semester gets underway,” Jones said. “The rate of increase is higher than we have seen before and is NOT linked to so-called ‘su-

per spreader’ events, but rather smaller more informal gatherings off campus. Our students, like many of us, are experiencing COVID fatigue.”

According to the N.H. Department of Health and Human Services’ COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Plan, which was released on Jan. 16, college-aged people will not be able to receive the vaccine until May at the earliest. Exceptions include the medically vulnerable, first responders, high-risk health workers and staff of long-term care and assisted living facilities.

The plan consists of three phases, with the first focusing on those high-risk health workers and first responders (1A). The second part of phase one targets senior citizens, the medically vulnerable, corrections officers and residents and staff of facilities that house persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (1B). The second stage will span from March into May, with the available doses going to K-12 students, the childcare staff associated with them and people

aged 50 to 64. The moderately high-risk people under the age of 50 will follow, with everyone else after that. So, many college-aged students in N.H. and around the country will be the some of the last to receive the vaccine.

However, in a recent interview with Yahoo, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the chief medical advisor to President Joe Biden, stated that the vaccine distribution could take longer than expected.

“When we were talking about April, we were hoping that when you say available, you’re talking about to anybody beyond the layered priorities-- you know, the 1A, 1B, 1C,” Fauci said. “And then you get to the point where you say now anybody who’s anybody can wind up getting a vaccine. We were hoping that it would be by the end of April, but what has happened is that the doses that we were expecting earlier from the J&J likely will not be available for another couple of months after that.”

There have been national rumblings when it comes to a

potential requirement to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in order to attend certain colleges and universities in the U.S. It is still to be determined whether UNH will require the COVID-19 vaccine to return to campus in the fall of 2021.

Renee Mattei Myers, an attorney at Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC and legal correspondent for CNBC said in a recent interview that it is possible for schools to do this.

“Under everything that we’ve seen, and the guidance from agencies like the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Department of Education, it’s been stated that just like how [colleges] can require other vaccines like meningitis and measles and hepatitis for incoming students, that they could require this vaccine as well,” Myers said.

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or see TNH’s previous coverage.

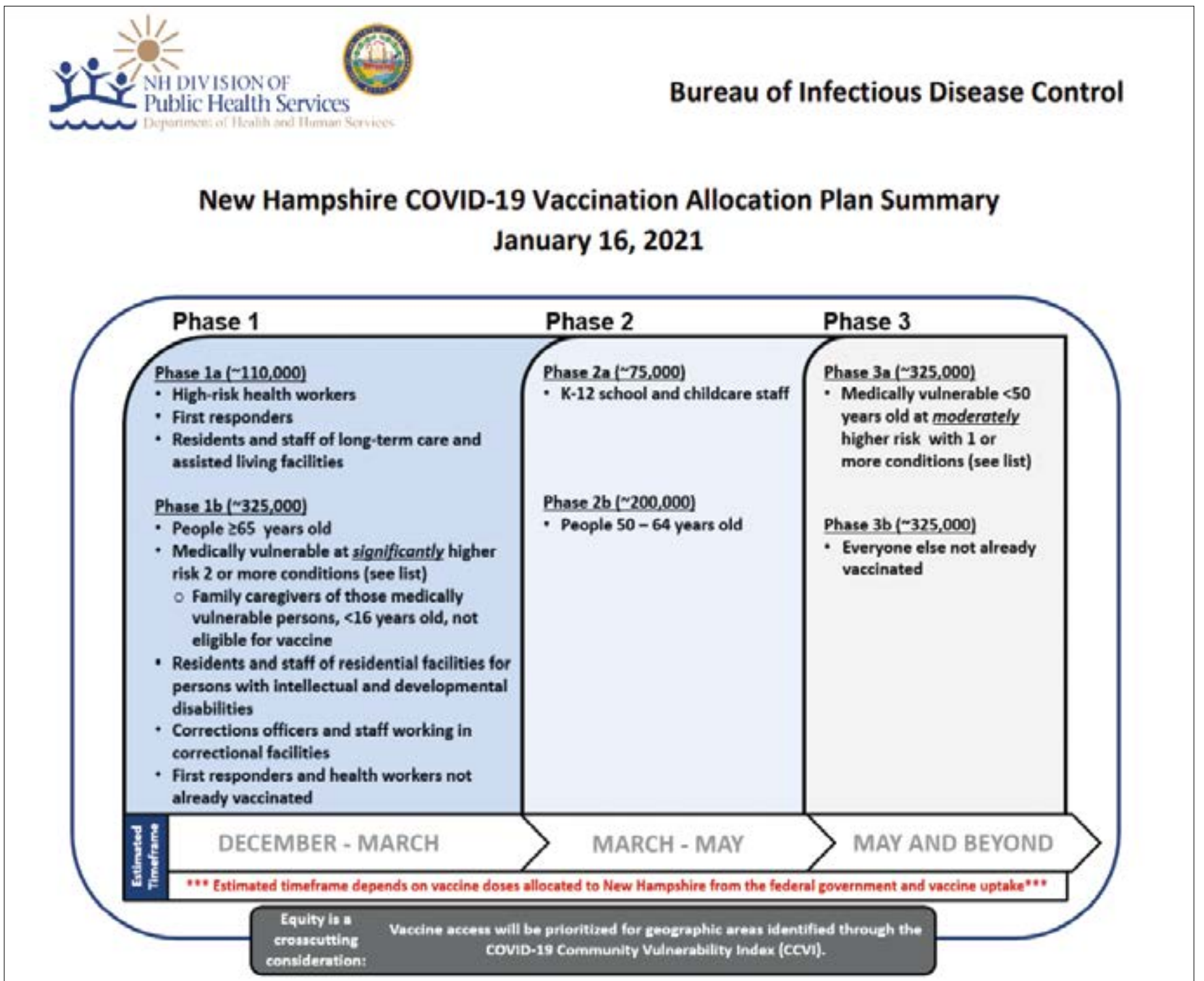


Photo courtesy of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

UNH announces new sophomore innovation fellowship

By Isabelle Curtis
STAFF WRITER

Beginning in fall 2021, sophomores at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) will have the opportunity to participate in a student fellowship through the Peter T. Paul Entrepreneurship Center (ECenter). The Shaw Innovation Explorers Program was made possible by donations from UNH alum David Shaw '73, CEO of Black Point Group; John Shaw, CEO of Itaconix; and the Shaw family.

The Explorer's Program strives to provide students with an "understanding of innovation through hands-on, high-impact experiences," opportunities to meet with "pioneering leaders" across disciplines and

participate in workshops about "innovation and start-up development," according to a UNH press release. Each student will also receive a \$5,000 scholarship.

"It's very unique. There's nothing like it in the country," said Ian Grant, executive director of the ECenter.

One thing that makes the Explorer's Program unique is that it's designed for sophomore students. Grant explained that UNH already has several programs for first-year students, such as the ECenter's Idea & Innovation Society and the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences' (CEPS) Innovation Scholars Program, but the university didn't want students to be "late in their junior or senior years, and then

not be able to apply to their innovation and entrepreneurial activities on campus."

UNH also hopes the experience and financial aspects of the fellowship may increase retention of students staying on for a second year. UNH's current student retention rate is 86%, 18% higher than the state average, according to the College Factual Website.

The Explorer's Program also differs from other programs by focusing on how applicants have proven themselves to be innovative, rather than just their academics. However, being innovative doesn't just mean creating a start-up company, said Grant, but applies to someone who's writing a song or specializing in healthcare.

"Innovation is a really broad term, which is why we're using the word 'Explorer,'" he explained. "We want someone who's curious."

This focus on innovation rather than just academics was inspired by David Shaw's own experiences at UNH.

"While my academic performance wasn't stellar, my experience [at UNH] strengthened my conviction and capabilities to seek game-changing opportunities through a life of purpose-driven exploration, discovery and curiosity," said Shaw in the UNH press release. "I learned how important it is to challenge conventional thinking and to ask 'what does great look like' in the quest to create exceptional value in the world. I found that attitude, persistence, adventurousness and courage were often the most important qualities for producing great outcomes and a fulfilling life."

Since his time at UNH, Shaw has founded IDEXX Laboratories and built dozens of science-based organizations that "generate billions of dollars of annual value to benefit their stakeholders and communities" in both New Hampshire and Maine. He has also given back to the community through his donations to Maine's Jackson Laboratory, the National Parks Foundation and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum. It is because of his business successes and philanthropy that Shaw was inducted into the UNH Alumni Entrepreneur Hall of Fame in 2018.

The specifics of the Explorer's Program are still under development, but the year-long program will have multiple phases. The 10 accepted stu-

dents will begin with a team building weekend. The goal is to encourage cooperation and create relationships that will continue after the program.

Students will then go on monthly off-campus trips to see different forms of innovation from glass blowing studios to commercial lobster boats. The students can pull from these experiences during a 3-day workshop focused on "idea creation and development." Shaw will also be on-site to help students refine their innovative concepts and introduce them to industry pioneers for a round-table discussion.

A speaker series featuring these pioneers will be open to all UNH students and Seacoast community members.

Grant hopes that students will walk away from the Shaw Explorer's Program with not only a set of unique experiences they can apply to their everyday life, but a new way of thinking thanks to their fellow students.

"That coming together [of people with different experiences and majors] is what creates an explosion of ideas," he said.

Students interested in applying to the Shaw Explorer's Program can find more information on their website. Application deadline is April 1.

The ECenter also encourages students to check out their other programs. The center will continue their idea creation boot camps every Monday and Tuesday. They will also be holding the i2 Passport Program which will give students a chance to win up to \$25,000 to pay off loans and tuition.



Courtesy of UNH Today.

Celestin hopes to educate community on DEI

By Caitlin Staffanson
ARTS EDITOR

Tejun Celestin, a junior business administration with finance and information systems and business analytics dual options major, took part in the final Zoom event for "Confronting the Racial Wealth Gap" series at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) on Feb. 11.

Celestin took part in the Q&A portion of the event alongside Associate Professor Harriet Fertik. The event description emphasized in detail how Marianne Wanamaker, an associate professor of economics at the University of Tennessee, was going to guide the final event and conversation in this three-part series.

"The post-Civil War South was replete with limits on Black economic mobility and understanding our current inequality struggles requires understanding the origin of these differences in the Reconstruction South. Patterns of racial inequality from 1865 through

today will be discussed. Could a different Reconstruction strategy have put the United States on an entirely different racial inequality trajectory?"

Celestin had hoped to be a part of this lecture series for a while and was able to take part in the final event. Professor Fertik and Celestin prepared a few questions they wanted addressed in the lecture series while also taking questions from the 40-person audience.

"Before, I thought it was only going to be a couple of questions," said Celestin. "I thought I would know a lot about this topic because over the past year I have been very interested in racial issues, but when I started listening to Professor Wanamaker talk about, I realized how little I actually knew."

While this event was a part of a year-long series, this specific one happened to fall during Black History Month. Celestin said it was not directly related to Black History Month, but the information was applicable and important for

everyone to learn about.

"The more I learn about this topic, the more I realize I don't know," Celestin said. "This event was really eye opening for areas I can start learning more about Black history."

Over the past year, Celestin has taken on the role as the diversity, equity, and inclusion chair for UNH's student senate. For Black History Month, Celestin has prepared a few events to get students involved and to increase education opportunities; however, the university's switch to an orange mode of operation is affecting what Celestin hopes to do for students.

"The commission was established last semester and a lot of it has to do with making UNH a more inclusive community," said Celestin. "One thing I worked on recently was meeting with UNH MECA (Middle Eastern Cultural Association) and UNH dining to better accommodate students that observe Ramadan because often the dining halls do not have the proper foods."

Celestin is hoping to bring in guest speakers over Zoom to help students and faculty

educate themselves on diversity in the workplace and in communities.



Courtesy of Tejun Celestin.

'Ciao Italia' rebranded to 'Ciao Trattoria and Wine Bar'

By **Evan Edmonds**
STAFF WRITER

Durham's authentic Italian restaurant Ciao Italia Ristorante + Mercato rebranded to Ciao Trattoria and Wine Bar and rolled out its updated menu this week.

The challenges of running a restaurant in the climate of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic have led owner Doug Clark to rebrand the restaurant and its style to both accommodate the Durham community's desires during the pandemic and stay true to the vision he had for the restaurant from the beginning. Ciao Trattoria and Wine Bar seeks to maintain an upscale, authentic image, maintaining lots of quality choices for food and wine, while now offering a more casual feel and added emphasis on frequent dining and takeout.

When Clark prepared to open Ciao Italia last year, he made all the necessary preparations to start a restaurant up in the midst of a pandemic. With the proper air quality systems, glass partitions between each booth, a weekly cleaning crew and more, Ciao Italia and its staff were prepared for the force of the pandemic.

However, the circumstances of the pandemic after a year have persisted, and while Clark said there have been plenty "glimmers of hope," Ciao Italia was not meeting the levels of its projected success. He said he believes the concept - a high-class, fully authentic Italian fine dining experience - would have worked in normal circumstances, but due to the unusual ones at this time "they had to make changes."

Clark still seeks to stay true to his original goal, he said, which was to bring an "adult restaurant" to Durham, where local residents and families can enjoy community and authentic Italian food. Those elements will remain, especially with the intent to form a full-scale wine bar in the future. It will remain a "civilized" place to eat, he said, with the fine dining experience still an option if patrons so choose.

The rebranding will bring down the high-class aspect of Ciao - meaning a more casual indoor setting, with new bistro lighting to bring more energy to the dining area. Clark acknowledged that the average price of a check at Ciao Italia was typically a bit more expensive for individuals and families to do often, so the new menu is set to offer more affordable and traditional Italian-American options as well to make it possible for patrons to visit



Photo courtesy of Doug Clark.

more frequently if they'd like.

Ciao Trattoria and Wine Bar will be offering Chicken Parmesan, a classic "non-authentic" option, as well as pizza regularly on the dinner menu as a means of meeting the public's requests.

In November, Clark introduced a new head chef, Spencer McMillin, who has helped Ciao adjust to the pandemic focused methods of business as well as transition into the rebranding period. Clark said McMillin has been great with implementing more takeout options and family meals. He said embracing takeout is necessary in times like these, and that McMillin's adjustments have "quadrupled," takeout business since he joined the team.

In a Facebook post, McMillin said they have "pivoted and reimaged" the restaurant. They hope to build a new client base and appeal to regulars by "lowering prices, adding creative, chef-inspired food along with familiar

dishes," he wrote.

McMillin told The New Hampshire, "right now, it's important to serve the community. Fine dining is expensive to pull off [for restaurants] and for restaurant patrons. What we're trying to do by rebranding is bring more people to our tables. We want to shed the fine dining reputation of Ciao Italia in favor of a more inclusive, inexpensive and family friendly format."

According to McMillin, a trattoria is a warm and inviting restaurant built with that emphasis on an welcoming family atmosphere - exactly what Ciao Trattoria intends to embody for the Durham community.

In addition to the new menu plan, Clark said Ciao Trattoria also plans on offering some new special nights to entice new customers. Some of these ideas include a \$10 spaghetti and meatballs take-out deal geared towards students, half-off wine Wednes-

days and pizza Thursdays.

Going forward, Ciao Trattoria will continue to add and adapt to accommodate the local community. Clark said he is "anxious for [COVID-19] to end," and looking forward to reopening outside seating when the weather permits. He said the outdoor igloo experiment was successful, as people did like it, but New Hampshire's weather, the wind in particular, made the igloo a challenging tool to use. Ciao Trattoria has also begun accepting reservations on OpenTable. While Clark said he prefers the "personal touch," of calling in to make a reservation, OpenTable makes it possible for people to make their reservation whenever they want throughout the day, even when no one is working.

Clark described running two new restaurants, the other being Clark's American Bistro, during the pandemic as a "very stressful" experience. He said the business between the two is generally

similar: when it's busy at Ciao it tends to be busy at Clark's American Bistro, and vice versa. He said new businesses don't qualify for the COVID-19 relief programs that are meant to help restaurants, which has been frustrating.

"All the programs require you to look at your 2019 revenue and compare it to 2020 and show that you're making less," Clark said. Since Ciao and Clark's weren't open in 2019, they don't have the numbers to compare to 2020's business during the pandemic, meaning they're left to fend for themselves without the benefits of these programs. "It's been a bit of a challenge," he said.

The new menu has kicked off this week, and as mentioned on the Ciao Trattoria Facebook page, Clark and his team "hope to continue to spread happiness and customer satisfaction to the Durham area."

The ARTS

18 February 2021

Dream, memory, history and Craig Hill

By Sean Gurl
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I had the opportunity to talk with Craig Hill about his current exhibit, Clusters, on display at 3S Artspace in Portsmouth. The eclectic mélange of comic, collage and culture is a trip.

"History, memory, and decay," are some of the goals of Hill's exhibition. "To create fictitious place, where dreams and psychedelia and youth culture" can come together. The exhibit will be featured through the end of the month.

Hill combines a lot in his work - comic books and counterculture, decay and growth. Dichotomy and synthesis run through every piece in the collection. Powerfully, he makes use of the images of the twentieth century, pop culture and comics, that, in his collages, become more like mirages of an imagined collective past.

In some pieces, namely Super Freaky Memories and Saturday Morning Flashbacks, memory is given chase. Like tattering posters on a wall, reduced in decay to their most basic communicable aspects - font, color, face, letter - the images from comic books and children's movies, television, look as memories feel. A now-obscure TV show that one watched only in a very particular place and time: Glenn Martin DDS, Beverly Hills Teens. Hill's exhibit shares an aesthetic with every vaguely remembered blurt out of a television, given significance and glory because it, somehow, stood out against the mélange of every other moment from youth. Significance, though, that is not neces-

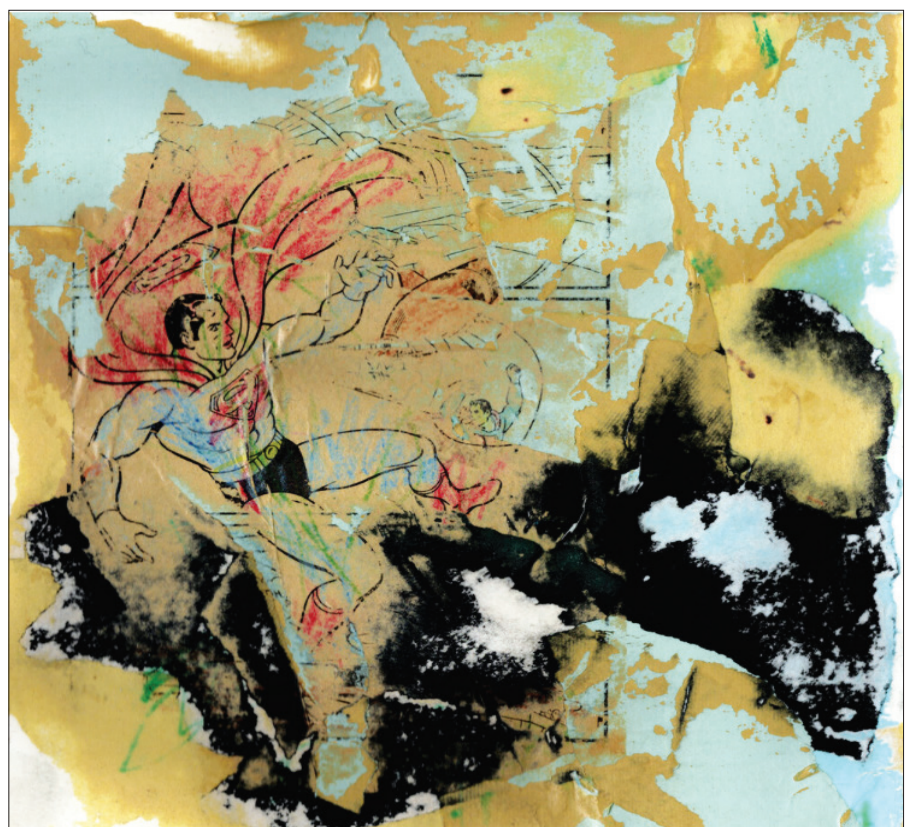
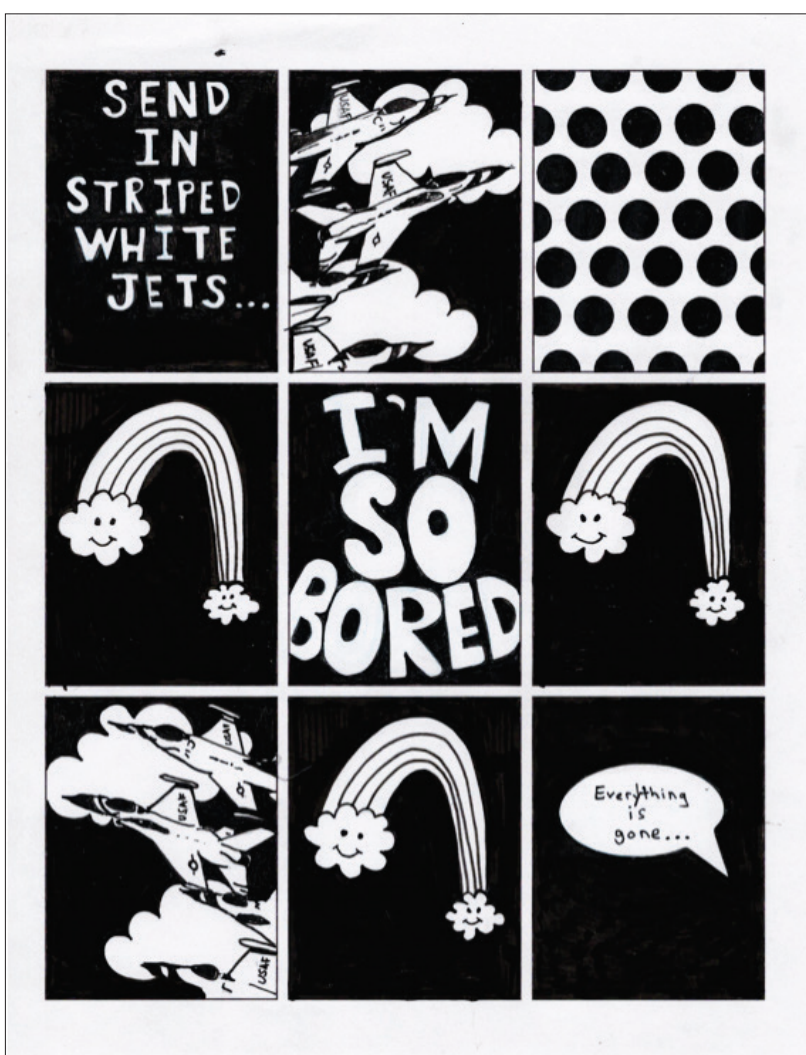
sarily founded. Those late night TV memories feel pregnant with meaning, but going back to watch the show might reveal nothing but a mediocre program that happened to strike the right place in the memory bank. Clusters leaves images as images, without attempting to assign them meaning, political, religious, etc., and hanging them out to speak for themselves, devoid of anything but their ability to stimulate word association.

Elsewhere in Clusters, Hill experiments with the comic book form, attempting to make it into poetry. These nostalgic, ethereal storyboards fit together in tenebrous narrative. A poetic influence of Hill's, Frank O'hara, has words that feel illustrative of Hill's comic poetry - blending youth with ambiguity. "Have you forgotten what we were like then/ when we were still first rate/ and the day came fat with an apple in its mouth."

The free associative, arbitrary collection is attractive and deeply nostalgic, pushing the viewer back in time into the choppy, elegant world of silent movies and cartoons. Hill calls you back to a childish, though not innocent, way of thinking, remembering, and dreaming.

Until the 28th of February, Hill will be on exhibit in Portsmouth and online at <https://www.galleryat3s.org/cluster>. It's a favor to your younger self to give it a look over, and it is, simply, fun to look at. It's not everywhere you can see Mickey Mouse, Steve Cannon, the Apollo 8 crew, and many others, working toward the same end. You can, this month on Vaughan Street, immediately next door to Barrio.

Photos courtesy 3s Artspace and Craig Hill



The Show Must Go On: Mask and Dagger's 'Tartuffe'

By Allison Musitano
STAFF WRITER

If you are familiar with the inner workings of theater, you have most likely heard this phrase at some point. In the quick-paced world of acting it's easy for things to not go according to plan: forgotten lines, a misplaced prop, set pieces falling down mid-scene. It is with this that those in theater have learned that flexibility is an absolute necessity when taking part in any production. But sometimes things go wrong in ways that are outside of our control despite our best efforts, like the consequences of a country in crisis and the negligence of others around us. So when the University of New Hampshire (UNH) went into orange mode of operations last Thursday afternoon in response to the rise of COVID-19 cases on its Durham campus, UNH's resident drama club Mask and Dagger was faced with the difficult decision of canceling live performances of "Tartuffe," their first show of the semester. However, quick-thinking, coordination, and flexibility managed to save the show.

Before the school year even started, Mask and Dagger began to plan on how to perform productions safely: "The Executive Board spent the entire summer trying to plan out how to do theatre that is going to be COVID-19 safe, and I would say that we have been pretty successful," says Bryson Badeau, president of Mask and Dagger. Such safety measures were seen in the club's Play in a Day production back in October, where mask-clad actors were able to perform for audiences via live streaming on Facebook. However, despite this, the expected yet nonetheless fast declaration of orange mode of operations at UNH left the organization in a difficult situation according to Badeau: "All of our directors have had backup plans for if we had to go completely remote, but

with the suddenness of Orange Mode and its proximity to opening night, it would have been impossible for us to move this show online."

While the show's live-streamed performances were canceled, not all hope was lost. On the day orange mode was declared, the members of Mask and Dagger acted fast.

"When we heard about going into Orange Mode, our president Bryson Badeau sprang into action to discuss our options with the Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department," said "Tartuffe" director Julia Sommers. Although at the time the Dean had granted the organization permission to continue on with their live performances, the tension of campus being put into orange mode left the members of Mask and Dagger on guard- and inevitably prepared: "We went into rehearsal knowing it may be our last chance to get the show on its feet, so we threw the actors into their costumes, gave them the props that had just been delivered in the mail, and recorded on a phone what was essentially a week-early dress rehearsal," continued Sommers. "The run went incredibly well and we left the theatre with our heads held high."

Performing the run-through was a challenge in itself: "Chaos. Pure chaos is the perfect term to describe it," said Reese Yeatman, one of Mask and Dagger's freshmen members who plays Valere in "Tartuffe." Prior to what would become the show's recorded performance, the production had not yet started tech or dress rehearsal, leaving the play's cast to give it their all: "There was a lot of anxiety, and the atmosphere at the performance was incredibly tense, knowing that it might be our first performance, and our last at the exact same time," he said.

It would be later that same Thursday night that the organization's executive board, after careful deliberation and

concerns over safety, decided to cancel the live performances and in-person rehearsals for the play. "The cast was disappointed but overall, we were all glad for the opportunity we had and the org's decision to keep us all safe," said Sophie Calderwood, secretary of Mask and Dagger who also plays Dorine in "Tartuffe."

Although the dress rehearsal recording has allowed for Mask and Dagger to share their hard work in the end, the organization's experience last Thursday remains bittersweet amongst members: "The theatre industry is suffering more than most other industries because of COVID," said Badeau, "We were finally able to find a way to do safe theatre, and we were stripped of what could have been an incredible show because careless people want to go out and party/go to gatherings without a mask on." While the number of new cases of COVID-19 has been lessening across New Hampshire over the past month, cases at UNH's Durham campus have been on the rise, a trend that has been attributed to large gatherings off campus since the start of the semester, to the frustration of many on-campus students. However, among this understandable disappointment comes an appreciation for having the opportunity to perform in-person, even if only for one night. "My favorite part of directing was just seeing the play come to life - we rehearsed on Zoom for so long that when we were finally able to work in-person it felt electric," explained Sommers. "Every member of the cast and crew gave their all and that's all a director could ask for."

Like many challenges, the cast of "Tartuffe" found themselves learning more about acting as well as themselves throughout their preparation for the show.

"It taught me more self-confidence," described Yeatman. "I struggled with

that for a long time as I could never seem to get a named role (Last time was 8th grade!) so when I saw my name on that cast list I was OVERJOYED! I finally felt capable as an actor. It taught me to believe in myself. Regardless of what happens in the future, I'll cherish getting this role for years to come."

"Julia Sommer was an amazing director and truly inspired me to a point in my acting career I don't think I've reached before. I also loved being able to be with my best friends in rehearsals and work together collaboratively to create such a beautiful piece of art," said Calderwood, "Even though we were masked, the passion behind every actor involved was enough to transport me each day to the world of this play--I truly could not be more grateful for such an amazing cast and crew."

"Tartuffe," an older classic comedy by Moliere, serves as a way to shake up Mask and Dagger's usual contemporary repertoire and to have audiences connect with older works of theatre. "Tartuffe is the strangest and most beautiful mix of tragedy and farce," described Director Julia Sommers, whose education is based in classical theater, "On the surface, it is a laugh-riot comedy, but dig a little deeper and you'll find incredibly deep and complex characters and storylines."

Interested viewers can purchase tickets for "Tartuffe" from Feb. 18 through Feb. 20 at the MUB ticket office where they will be linked to a stream of the show.

Special thanks to Mask and Dagger President Bryson Badeau '22, Tartuffe Director Julia Sommers '22, Mask and Dagger Secretary Sophia Calderwood '22, and Freshman Actress Reese Yeatman '24.

Photo courtesy Bryson Badeau



UNH celebrates Black History Month with AMPLIFY podcast series

By Isabelle Curtis
STAFF WRITER

In honor of Black History Month, the Bearegard Center and the Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP) are co-sponsoring AMPLIFY: Turning up the Volume on Black Voices, a virtual podcast & chat series.

The event will be hosted via Zoom every Friday this month from 2-3 p.m. Each week participants will listen to a podcast episode focused on Black experiences and will be invited to share their thoughts afterwards.

While the University of New Hampshire (UNH) hosts a variety of events for Black History Month, this is the university's first year putting on AMPLIFY. Erica Vazza, SHARPP outreach and training coordinator, explained the idea came to her while brainstorming ways to "engage [the] UNH community in a virtual format."

"I thought about how podcasts have been an incredible resource and form of connection to others for myself during this pandemic and figured there was something to that," she said. "The Bearegard Center & SHARPP's goal of the AMPLIFY podcast & chat series is to center and uplift Black voices

and experiences while simultaneously creating space for reflection, processing, community, and discussion."

Lu Butterfield-Ferrell, Bearegard Center associate director and coordinator of LGBTQA+ initiatives, also explained they intentionally chose podcasts that highlighted "different topics and intersections of experience" to focus on each week to capture the "varying experiences of Black folks."

The AMPLIFY series kicked off its first meeting last week with the New York Times' podcast "Still Processing." The culture podcast debuted in 2016 with hosts Jenna Wortham, who works for the New York Times Magazine, and Wesley Morris, the paper's critic at large. "Still Processing" focuses on a range of topics, from deconstructing male privilege to analyzing Beyoncé's Coachella performance. The featured episode for AMPLIFY, entitled "We Celebrate the REAL MLK Day," commemorated the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's death in 2018.

In the episode, Wortham and Morris examined the days leading up to King's death, including his iconic last speech "I've Been to the Mountaintop," and discussed how his ideals shifted after the "I Had A Dream" speech. Wortham and Morris also grappled with what it

would mean for the country to commemorate the day of King's assassination rather than his birthday.

"I think it would mean we'd have to ask what he died for in a way we don't have to ask what he was born for," suggested Wortham.

After the episode, time was set aside for participants to share their initial reactions and engage in discussion with prompts provided by the event organizers.

"The hour flew by," said Vazza. A little under 30 people attended the event, but she hopes that there will be higher attendance once people have settled into their new class schedules.

This Friday, AMPLIFY will highlight NPR's "Code Switch," a weekly culture and race podcast co-hosted by Shereen Marisol Meraji and Gene Demby. The featured episode, "What Does 'Hood Feminism' Mean For A Pandemic?" will focus on author Mikki Kendall's book "Hood Feminism" and how COVID-19 has effected women of color's "on-the-ground" brand of feminism.

Later this month, AMPLIFY will also tune into "Everyday Black History: Afro Appreciation," which focuses on the past and presents contributions of black men and women, according to

Vazza.

"We hope that people attend our mini-series and enjoy it so much that it encourages them to continue seeking out content, history, and heritage that centers Blackness and Black communities," she said.

Registration for the event can be found on Facebook or Wildcat Link.

The Bearegard Center and SHARPP also encourage UNH community members to check out UNH's Community Equity & Diversity Office's website for other Black History Month programs.

In addition, the Bearegard Center will continue its bi-weekly dialogue series "Real Talk" that covers a wide range of topics. They will also be holding the Being Better Workshop: Foundations for Allyship, Accomplishment and Community Change from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on March 6. More information can be found on their Facebook page and website with registration details.

SHARPP will also be hosting their Direct Action for Incarcerated Survivors Virtual Letter Writing series again this spring. More details on this and other upcoming events can be found on their website.

AMPLIFY: TURNING UP THE VOLUME ON BLACK VOICES

Brought to you by The Bearegard Center & SHARPP

A virtual podcast & chat series focused on centering Black voices and experiences.

Tune in this Black History Month to listen + learn. A new podcast will be featured each week followed by a facilitated group discussion.



Still Processing



Register in advance

Friday 2/5 2-3pm
Friday 2/12 2-3pm
Friday 2/19 2-3pm
Friday 2/26 2-3pm



SCAN ME

We'll be listening to the podcast together, transcripts will be provided! If you have questions or specific accessibility needs please reach out to Erica.Vazza@unh.edu

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Photo courtesy MUB



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The New Hampshire is the University of New Hampshire's only student-run newspaper. It has been the voice of UNH students since 1911. TNH is published every Thursday. TNH advertising can be contacted at tnh.advertising@unh.edu or by phone at (603) 862-1323.

One copy of the paper is free but additional copies are \$0.25 per issue. Anyone found taking the papers in bulk will be prosecuted.

The paper has a circulation of approximately 5,000. It is partially funded by the Student Activity Fee. The opinions and views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the University or the TNH staff members.

Advertising deadlines are Monday at noon. All production is done in Room 132 of the Memorial Union Building on Main Street in Durham.

Printing services provided by:



The New Hampshire is a proud member of the
 Associated Collegiate Press



From the *Editor's Desk...*

Acknowledge, educate, understand

Now, more than halfway through Black History Month, it's important to keep reflecting on personal responsibility and personal reform when it comes to race in America.

As a white, middle-class and fairly naive boy, I have never been put in situations that have forced me to consciously think about race and the effect that it has had on so many disenfranchised groups. I will never be able to understand what Black people or Asian people go through in America, but being educated is the first step to not being on the wrong side of the white fragility spectrum.

"Racism is not just the uncle at your family gathering with a Bud Light in his hand, muttering his stereotypical disdain with a certain race. It's not just a police officer that kneels on a Black man's neck and murders him. It's also the subtle deflections and defenses that are deeper within our learned social and mental habits; ones that can and should be changed."

Recently I've read and watched various essays and films to give myself a wider base of racial schooling that I didn't get in middle and high school.

One of the essays was titled "White Fragility," and is a modern take on the definition of racism and the role that white people play in how it's perceived.

The piece by Robin DiAngelo really made me think about what racism actually is. Growing up I always pictured a racist as a very loud, outspoken bigot that wasn't afraid to speak up about their uneducated ideals. After taking her words in, it helped me realize that some of the most detrimental racism is subtle.

DiAngelo's depiction of racism centered around the premise that many white people tend to automatically and unconsciously dismiss racial issues. It is a learned system of mental defense tactics that is hard to escape. That's why

we still have so many racially charged incidents in America despite the rise in awareness.

Without taking a step back to realize that as a white person, you are not the center of the universe and your experiences aren't the ones that every person goes through, many dismiss that racism still exists.

I've caught myself doing this in recent years, as I'm a white male that grew up in a rural, non-diverse area. I obviously understand that racism still exists, but I would subconsciously dismiss experiences that I didn't agree with because of my personal encounters with people of other eth-

nities. It's something that I've really had to consciously address and put energy toward, but it has made me a more understanding and educated person.

The term "white fragility" by definition embodies that idea, as it's the hesitancy and defensiveness white people have when confronted with very prevalent and relevant racial issues.

A film that I watched that stemmed off of DiAngelo's view of racism was Tim Wise's "White Like Me."

It has essentially the same focus as White Fragility, but it focuses more on the history of Black oppression.

There have been so many instances where government-administered regulations and laws have disproportionately negatively impacted people of color. For example, the Social Security Act of 1935 which established old-age benefits for workers, ex-

cluded those that worked in agriculture or domestic workers. Those workers were predominantly Black. Remnants of these laws and acts still exist in the 21st century, a travesty that needs to be addressed desperately.

In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act was unconstitutional, which allowed for states to enforce a coverage formula to ensure people of color got the chance to vote without any additional hurdles.

Even though this doesn't scream racism in the face of Americans, that's what it is. Just the fact that there is a "Black History Month" is a blatant sign that white people have had a stranglehold on society and the perception of race for centuries. There is no "White History Month" because every month is essentially that.

White people and majority races in other parts of the world don't have to determine when they should be able to celebrate their history and heritage because it's essentially done everyday.

I want to end this by saying that while I address many of the issues that white people possess, there are many white people that are trying to understand these issues and trying to be more educated. But, I hope that if you read this as a white person, you can realize that while you might not be "racist," that doesn't mean that it doesn't exist anymore, or that our education on race is complete.

Racism is not just the uncle at your family gathering with a Bud Light in his hand, muttering his stereotypical disdain with a certain race. It's not just a police officer that kneels on a Black man's neck and murders him. It's also the subtle deflections and defenses that are deeper within our learned social and mental habits; ones that can and should be changed.

Josh Morrill
 Executive Editor

Letters policy

We welcome letters to the editor and aim to publish as many as possible. In writing, please follow these simple guidelines: Keep letters under 300 words. Type them. Date them. Sign them; make sure they're signed by no more than two people. If you're a student, include your year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff: Give us your department and phone number. TNH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Bring letters to our office in Room 132 in the MUB, email them to tnh.editor@unh.edu or send them to The New Hampshire, MUB Room 132, Durham, NH 03824.

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Northeastern outscores UNH 10-2 in sweep

By Dan Marshman
SPORTS WRITER

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) women's hockey team (6-13-1) faced off against No. 3 Northeastern (15-1-1) on Saturday at the Whittemore Center. This was the first of two games between the Wildcats and Huskies over the weekend.

The Huskies struck first at the 2:38 mark off the stick of junior forward Alina Mueller. UNH struggled with penalties following the goal. Northeastern went on three power play opportunities in the first period leaving the Wildcats backed up against their own net.

Wildcats' head coach Hilary Witt said the Huskies time of possession makes it tough for the 'Cats to get opportunities in the offensive zone.

"Their offense is great, and they hold the puck really well," explained Witt. "It forces us to spend more time clearing the puck rather than setting up the offense."

Northeastern junior Chloe Aurard scored again for the Huskies at 12:41 pushing their lead to 2. They held a clear advantage in time of possession and had an 18-9 shot advantage over the Wildcats after one period.

The second period was an ugly one for both teams with a total of five penalties being called. The Huskies were able to convert one of their power play opportunities into a goal at the 6:18 mark off the

stick of sophomore defender Megan Carter. The Huskies held a significant advantage in the second with a 12-6 shot advantage. Heading into the third period, the Wildcats faced a three-goal deficit.

The Wildcats answered in the third period with a goal from first-year forward Chavonne Truter off the assist by first-year forward Nicole Kelly. It wouldn't be enough for the Wildcats to climb back into the game.

Northeastern was able to control the puck for most of the third period with UNH unable to generate goal scoring opportunities. The Huskies netted two empty net goals after UNH opted to pull junior Ava Boutilier from net. One goal came from Carter followed by another 39 seconds later off the stick of Aurard to pad the final score of 6-1. The Wildcats ended the game with six penalties called against them.

Coach Witt noted how the team needs to be better at staying out of the penalty box.

"The power play opportunities for them kill our momentum so we need to get better and our penalty kill needs to improve as well," said Witt.

The Wildcats had to have a short memory heading into Sunday's rematch against the Huskies on their home ice.

The first period of Sunday's matchup between the two teams was less memorable than the previous game. The two teams traded possessions and power play opportunities with the Wildcats drawing two

penalties in the opening frame. Northeastern had a 7-6 shot advantage after one period with the two teams remaining scoreless.

Boutilier was impressive in the first period stopping all six of the Huskies shots. Witt said the captain was exceptional all weekend despite the 6-1 loss on Saturday.

"It was really a 3-1 game on Saturday before we let it slip in the last ten minutes," Witt explained. "We felt like we could come out and put up a good performance on Sunday. The loss didn't affect our morale."

Huskies senior defender Skylar Fontaine scored the first goal of the game for the Huskies at 4:49 on their second

power play opportunity of the game. The Wildcats found themselves in another power play opportunity but Northeastern held the puck while shorthanded. Northeastern had a 16-6 shot advantage at the end of the second out shooting UNH for the fifth consecutive period.

The Huskies asserted their dominance in the third period showing why they're the No. 3 team in the nation. They pulled away from the Wildcats with three goals in three minutes starting with one at 9:42 from senior forward Tessa Ward. Aurard netted another goal at 10:47 followed by a goal from junior forward Micaela Sindoris at the 12:28 mark.

UNH got their first goal of the game when first-year forward Avery Myers found the back of the net at 16:25. The game ended with a final score of 4-1 in favor of Northeastern. Despite the loss, Witt was confident the team can use this as a building block for success down the stretch.

"We're still learning and as we head towards the end of the season, we'll have to face more teams with top tier players."

The Wildcats next opponent is yet to be announced following the cancellation of their series against the UConn Huskies scheduled for this weekend.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM PIERCE

UNH junior goaltender Ava Butilier makes a save against the Northeastern Huskies.

Celtics increasingly inconsistent as midseason approaches

By Spencer Marks
SPORTS WRITER

The Boston Celtics have lost five of their last nine games. Injuries seem to be lingering and their playstyle has been increasingly inconsistent. They have been relying on a couple of their top players to rack up the majority of baskets, yet, there have been games where that hasn't been enough to give them a win. Until Tuesday night's game against the Nuggets, the Celtics were .500 for the first time in six years at this point in the season. Many are asking if these factors are too much to cause the Celtics to start spiraling in the wrong direction.

After a two-game losing skid for the fifth time this season, Boston managed to knock off the 15-12, Denver Nuggets. This was a strong win by the Celtics as they had to overcome a lot.

Not only did they have to overcome a 43-point game by MVP candidate Nikola Jovic, but they had to do so with a lot of help from their bench.

The Celtics bench players

combined for 30 points in a game where it was needed. A notable name was rookie wing Aaron Nesmith. The Vanderbilt product scored nine points, four rebounds and had an electrifying fourth quarter play to force a turnover.

This is an opportunity that's been building for the rookie as head coach Brad Stevens emphasized his faith in Nesmith before Sunday's game against the Detroit Pistons.

"His work ethic is excellent. He's in the gym first every day. He works with Joe [Mazulla], and I saw great strides in him, even in those games where he played, and he had some mixed results. But you could see the difference in him from game one. When his time comes, when his opportunity comes, we want to put him in a position to handle that successfully," said Stevens.

Nesmith expressed similar words after Tuesday's win, when asked about his work ethic.

"I come in every morning, I try to be the first one in the gym," Nesmith said. "I get a lot of shots up, so that I can be ready when I get my chance.

I'm confident when I get the ball."

This win versus the Nuggets might have been the one the team needed to get back on track. However, it can be hard to support an idea such as that, when this type of victory has happened various times as of late. Just like their win against the Los Angeles Clippers after a tough loss to the Sacramento Kings, or a dominant win over the Toronto Raptors after losing two consecutive games to the Phoenix Suns and the Utah Jazz.

This is a seemingly repetitive sequence that has continued as the team went on to fall to the Atlanta Hawks by a final of 122-114 on Wednesday night.

Not only has Boston been inconsistent with their wins and playing style, but injuries have been lingering with a wide array of players. Even if it is just for a game or two, players such as Jaylen Brown, Daniel Theis, Marcus Smart, Tacko Fall and Romeo Langford have been ruled out in multiple games over the past few weeks. It's tough to say how different the Celtics situation would be right

now had injuries not taken over their roster.

After Sunday's loss to the Washington Wizards, Brown was asked if his team had hit rock bottom.

"It could be," said Brown. "It's up to the mentality of everybody, how we come in every day and prepare to work. If you let it be a rock bottom mentality, then that's what it's going to be. You come to play, then it'll show. And today we weren't very good."

These brutally honest words from Brown had to have been

strengthened by the fact that he is not getting much help on offense. Two consecutive games in a row Brown has scored over 20 points with only one other teammate with him. Meanwhile against the Wizards, everyone on the team besides Brown and Kemba Walker had 13 consecutive misses in 21 minutes.

The Celtics still sit in fourth place in the Eastern Conference. This unstable team might be able to make the playoffs at the state they are at right now, however, this effort will not fly when that time comes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES KRUPA
Jaylen Brown (left) shoots over Michael Porter Jr. (right).

Riverhawks handle Wildcats as season winds down

By Brackett Lyons
SPORTS WRITER

LOWELL, MASS. – University of New Hampshire (UNH) women's basketball (5-13, 5-10) dropped both games of a two-game series against UMass Lowell (UML) (11-8, 10-6) over the weekend. The Wildcats, who have exceeded most expectations this season looked more like what their preseason projections looked like in this weekend series. Neither game was close, and head coach Kelsey Hogan showed some frustration with her teams' performance.

In game one, UNH fought hard for the first six points of the game, holding Lowell without a basket for the first four minutes of action. The momentum swung in the latter portion of the first, however. Lowell came to life and exploded on an 11-0 run. UNH played with an impressively disciplined 2-3 zone throughout the first, forcing the Riverhawks to fight for their baskets. Unfortunately, some mental mistakes on inbound plays coughed up points and extended the UML run to 15-2. Senior guard Amanda Torres stepped up and kept the 'Cats close with a three and a driving layup; the first quarter ended 20-13.

Lowell's momentum carried into the second with five quick points in the quarter. More UNH turnovers in their own backcourt turned into points for the Riverhawks. A game that had felt close and competitive was suddenly a 31-18 ballgame. Coach Hogan was audibly frustrated with her team's performance and tried to turn things around in the huddle during a timeout.

The Riverhawks' full court press seemed to fluster the young Wildcats and turnovers continued to plague the team. A shot finally fell for the 'Cats as first-year athlete Adara Groman hit a three to end the half. The



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS

Freshman guard Adara Groman earned her first America East Rookie of the Week against UMass Lowell.

basket was little consolation for UNH, who had seen an early lead fall to pieces thanks to a 40-15 run from UML. 15 turnovers and 28% shooting left no secret in terms of the mountain Hogan and her team had to climb in the second half.

Things didn't improve much in the third quarter for UNH. UMass Lowell extended their lead to 50-23 with a little under five minutes to play in the quarter. The game slowed down for the rest of the third, and Lowell sat comfortably atop the Wildcats 57-29.

UNH seemed to accept their fate in the fourth and would have to swallow a 74-40 loss to open the series. UMass Lowell shot 54.7% compared to the Wildcats 29.8%. Groman was the only UNH player in the double digits with 10 points on 3-for-9 shooting, two of which were from three-point range.

Junior Ivy Gogolin took control for the 'Cats in the first

part of game two. Gogolin scored the first six points for UNH. Lowell was slow out the gate once again with only four points of their own in the first five minutes of play. The Riverhawks continued their press that was so effective in game one, but UNH countered early on. The Wildcats enjoyed success the rest of the first and ended the quarter ahead 18-14.

Lowell pushed back early in the second quarter. UNH only had one basket in the first four minutes and the Riverhawks took advantage tying the game at 20. Fouls were an issue in the second quarter for UNH. Hogan's team committed five fouls in the first five minutes putting Lowell in the bonus; they capitalized and took a 28-22 lead on a 16-4 run in the quarter. UNH managed two more baskets that quarter, but more fouls and Riverhawk free throws left the Wildcats down 33-26 at the half. Gogolin and

Torres were back to their productive selves as Gogolin had 10 points, and Torres wasn't far behind with seven.

UNH kept up in the first half of the third quarter but couldn't reel Lowell back in. The Riverhawks looked to pull away in the late stages of the third, but junior Mariah Gonzalez hit her first two threes of the season to keep UNH within seven. After a Lowell timeout, the Riverhawks came out organized and motivated. A quick run in the final moments of the third sank the Wildcats' deficit to 15.

UML picked up right where they left off in the fourth, pushing the lead to 20 before Torres hit a three to pull within 17. Torres then found sophomore Elena Delaruelle for a fast-break layup. Delaruelle added a free throw on the next possession and cut the lead to 60-46. That small run was the last gasp that Hogan's team could muster.

The Riverhawks pulled further ahead and smothered the Wildcats' offense. The press against Torres was particularly effective as she is the conduit for UNH's offense. Lowell looked to cut off any connection between the senior captain and her teammates. In the end, UML was able to cruise to a 73-52 win.

Torres and Gogolin were the only Wildcats in double digits, putting up 12 and 11 respectively. Torres also added five rebounds and two assists while Delaruelle finished with a team-best five assists. 22 turnovers and 20 fouls did their part in sinking UNH's hopes for a series split.

The Wildcats will travel to Maine (15-2, 12-2) this Saturday as the Black Bears sit atop the America East standings while the Wildcats sit in sixth.

Wildcats shutout UMass Lowell in first game of 2021

By Brackett Lyons
SPORTS WRITER

DURHAM, N.H. – The University of New Hampshire (UNH) women's soccer team kicked off their season with a 1-0 win over Northeastern (0-1) Sunday, Feb. 14. The game was the first fall sport to play this spring season following the delay of all fall sports due to COVID-19. The win was a comfortable one for the Wildcats despite the narrow score; the Huskies never looked like a real attacking threat.

UNH entered the game with plenty of question marks. There

are 12 first-year athletes on the roster, four of whom started. Northeastern had most of the possession and launched attack after attack into the Wildcats' end. Despite the possession, Northeastern didn't ever see a clean scoring opportunity. UNH was able to break out of their half midway through the first half and hold on to possession for long spells.

The first shot on goal of the Wildcats' season ended up in the back of the net. After Northeastern conceded a corner in the 20th minute, first-year midfielder Anna Hewlett whipped the ball into the box where it was met by the head

of first-year center back Alivia Kelly. Kelly's header froze sophomore goalkeeper Angelina Friel, and the header was fired just below the crossbar into the back of the net.

Neither team had many clear-cut attacking chances for the remainder of the half. But senior captain Francesca Picicci and sophomore Whitney Wiley each registered a shot on goal. The half ended with UNH leading in shots on target by a tally of 5-2.

Northeastern had a strong start in the second half. Much like in the first, the Huskies had lots of possession in UNH's half but little threat to the goal.

Again, UNH was able to flip the pressure and move into the Huskies' end. Chances came more often for UNH after the first 10 minutes of the second, but neither team could muster any more goals.

Northeastern only really showed urgency in the last five minutes of play. The final push was not enough, and UNH took home their first win of the 2021 season. The defense took home their first clean sheet of the season, and junior keeper Cat Shepard had three saves. UNH will look to improve to 2-0 when they face Merrimack College Thursday, Feb. 25 in Durham.



Torres set to return as Wildcats' leader in fifth year



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS

University of New Hampshire women's basketball senior Amanda Torres is averaging 12 points per game and shooting 42% from the three-point line.

By Brackett Lyons SPORTS WRITER

Amanda Torres is used to being the only player in her class. She arrived at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) in August 2017. The 5-foot-7 point guard out of Proctor Academy was the lone first-year athlete for the UNH women's basketball team. Four years later and Torres now helms the Wildcats as the sole senior.

Torres began her journey as the third point guard on UNH's depth chart. She had to fight for any minutes she could get during her first year. Torres averaged 2.6 points playing in 28 games but only starting nine that season. Head coach Kelsey Hogan noted that she saw Torres putting in the work but that the young guard struggled to get minutes. Hogan said things improved her sophomore year, but it wasn't until last season that Torres found her true self on the court.

"Last year she flipped that switch and took on a huge role for us, especially being a lockdown defender," Hogan said.

The breakout year was one that both Torres and the UNH women's basketball program needed if they were going to have success in the 2020-21 season. At the end of Torres's junior year, long time head coach Maureen Magarity departed Durham to take the reins at Holy Cross. Simultaneously, the team lost Ashley Story, who had led the Wildcats in points per game for the past two seasons. Torres was then the lone senior on a team with a new head coach, and a roster of mostly first-year athletes and sophomores.

Assistant coach and former UNH player Kelsey Hogan replaced Magarity and became the youngest head coach in college basketball. It seemed like fate that Hogan and Torres found themselves as the leaders of the Wildcats. While Hogan was a player, she met Torres, then a middle schooler, while assisting her AAU team.

"I was helping out the team and she was this little spitfire of a guard back in the day," explained Hogan.

Years later, it was Hogan who gave Torres her tour of the UNH campus. Hogan said she knew right then that Torres would have a great career at UNH. Hogan was there for Torres when she was new to the team, and now Hogan says Torres is there for her in her first year as head coach.

"I'll tell you that for me and going into my first year and having the relationship that I do with Amanda it's been kind of almost an easy transition, she's helped me in a lot of ways too just because I trust her tremendously on the court," Hogan explained. "She's that extra extension of the coaching staff on the court and so, I trust her so much on the court but also just trusting her off the court of not only doing the right thing but leading the way. So, it's been an easy transition. I'm so grateful and lucky to have a point guard and senior like her especially for my first year it's been a great one and I'm very grateful for her."

Leadership is not something that comes naturally to Torres, and she'll be the first one to tell you. But when thrust into the role, she didn't back down.

"I definitely am very soft-spoken I don't really talk a lot," said Torres. "So that has

definitely been the biggest change for me being a captain this year is not just leading by example but actually talking and using my voice in practice and in games."

Coach Hogan said that it takes time to get Torres out of her shell, and it isn't always easy for her to be the team's vocal leader. She always led by example, but as a captain and lone senior, Torres was left with no choice but to lead in every way. Coach Hogan is proud of how far Torres has come.

"She's kind of now breaking down those walls and barriers for herself and growing into that leader who's actually using her voice. Never mind showing those underclassmen, the freshmen, what the right way is but also tell them, tell them and instructing them more."

Torres's longtime teammate, junior forward Ivy Gogolin, said she saw unbelievable growth from her captain.

"Now she's adding that vocal leadership to her skill set so that's been awesome to see, we definitely need that," said Gogolin.

First-year center Paige Cote wasn't there to see Torres's journey and transformation into a leader. However, she has been one of the beneficiaries of it. Cote said she is incredibly thankful for the on-court command that Torres brings.

"She's definitely there to take control and rein us in and get us into our offense or whatever defense we need to be in," Cote explained. "So, I think that's kind of the most important role that she takes on the court is just being our leader and we can look to her to kind of figure out what we're going to be doing."

Torres has been integral to UNH's season this year. She leads the team in minutes (663), points (216), points per game (12), Assists (49) and Steals (42). She was also named the America East Player of the Week for the week of Dec. 7.

Her teammates and coach had no shortage of praise for the point guard. UNH currently sits at 5-10 in conference play – 5-13 overall – and sixth in the America East standings. Despite their record, the Wildcats have exceeded most expectations. They are one of only two teams in the conference to have a win against Maine (15-2, 12-2)

Torres embodies so much of the culture that Coach Hogan is building, and she lifts up so many of her teammates. It has been an incredible senior year for the point guard on the court. Still, in many ways, Torres didn't get a true senior season. The COVID-19 pandemic robbed her of fans in the bleachers and a somewhat normal schedule. Torres still has one more year of eligibility, and the question of whether or not she'll use it has been making the rounds. Thankfully for the Wildcats, Torres will be making a return to Durham next season.

Her coach didn't dance around the topic. Kelsey Hogan was adamant about having Amanda Torres as a Wildcat next season.

"Having that veteran, it's huge and Amanda has put in time put in the work to, never mind want another opportunity to come back but is definitely showing to us every single day why she's deserving to have another year so it would be great. It'd be phenomenal that's

for sure to have her back," said Hogan.

Torres's teammates were equally enthused with the prospect of having her as a leader for one more season. Gogolin has had three years with Torres and wants to make it four.

"Amanda brings so much to this team on the court, and especially off the court she's an amazing friend and such a kind person. So, having her around again, I think everybody would absolutely love that," Gogolin noted.

As much as her coach and team want her back, it wasn't up to them. Torres has heard the speculation and said she repeatedly talked with Hogan about the idea of a fifth year. Torres reciprocated the affections of her team when discussing a fifth and final season.

"I love all these girls like so much," She said. "I feel like when I look back at it, it's crazy that we have a few more games and then playoffs, if playoffs are even a thing. It's just kind of crazy that it's like already over with so I guess I'm definitely not ready [for it to be over]."

Torres said that Hogan's encouragement helped her make her decision.

"It was definitely a mutual decision, [Hogan] wanted it just as much as I want to. So, I think the plan is going to be for me to come back next year, which I'm really excited about," Torres explained. "I'm really excited that Kelsey has given me the opportunity to have another year and hopefully it will be more of a normal-ish season. But either way, I'm just super excited to have another year."

No. 14 UNH set to kickoff season in two weeks

By **Cameron Beall**
SPORTS EDITOR

DURHAM, N.H. – No. 14 University of New Hampshire (UNH) football is set to kick off their spring season in two weeks after having the fall slate postponed. The Wildcats will face a six-team schedule consisting of only Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) schools. After watching the departure of a handful of veteran defenders from 2019, head coach Sean McDonnell still thinks his defense can be a threat and will be supplemented by developing offensive talent.

The Wildcat secondary was the top unit for Coach Mac's program in 2019 led by Prince Smith Jr., Pop Lacey and Isiah Perkins. These three now hand the keys of that defensive backfield to preseason All-American senior Evan Horn. Horn is a player who Coach Mac has described as the best player on this Wildcat team. The All-American will be flanked by fellow safeties, junior Pop Bush and sophomore Max Oxendine. McDonnell gave high praise to both of those players from what he's seen throughout fall and spring camp.

"You feel really good about those three guys who are running the show back there right now," he explained.

Horn will be assuming the role of the leader on the

defense this year and that's a job that he says he's ready to tackle.

"I'm just taking it one day at a time," said Horn. "Whatever coach needs, I'll step up and be that guy for him."

After a season where defense was the clear calling card of the program, Coach Mac is convinced that can still be the case despite the players they'll be missing last time they took the field. McDonnell noted his confidence in the front-seven on his defense, citing players like senior Elijah Lewis and junior Niko Kvietkus. Other notable players on the veteran defensive front include senior Brian Carter and junior Gunner Gibson. Gibson, Kvietkus and Lewis were among the top-three on the team in terms of tackles for loss in 2019.

Many expect the defense to remain solid, but the real intrigue of this team will be on the other side of the ball. The team said goodbye to players like wide receiver Malik Love and running back Evan Gray, but retained the majority of their young offense.

McDonnell and Horn both remain confident that this offense has grown and will be able to take that next step. They aren't the only ones to think this as the Wildcats come into 2021 ranked No. 14 in the FCS – higher than any ranking they received in 2019.

"I think it all starts with

the quarterback position," said McDonnell. "I thought Max [Brosmer] did a hell of a job last year coming in as freshman and playing in all the games. He did a good job of putting us in position to win. The biggest thing that we've got to do now is as an offense is find out what we're going to be good at and keep pounding away at it."

It may not take UNH long to find their strength as they welcome back an offensive line which has been highlighted as a strength of the team by sophomore quarterback Max

Brosmer in the past. They also have the luxury of junior Carlos Washington Jr. and sophomore Dylan Laube coming out of the backfield. The running back tandem should play well as Washington is as dangerous as anybody in an open-field, and Laube has the ability to be an effective pass-catching back. Laube ranked second on the team in receiving yards in 2019.

Washington averaged 4.4 yards per rush a season ago while Laube averaged nearly 15 yards per reception.

"I feel really good about Dylan Laube and Carlos Washington Jr. I think they're as good as any one-two punch in this conference," explained McDonnell. "I think they'll give us some explosiveness on the offensive side of the ball."

The Wildcats will open up the season under the lights of Wildcat Stadium when they play host to UAlbany at 7 p.m. on March 5. They will also host Delaware and Stony Brook. The team will travel to face Villanova, Rhode Island and Maine.



CAMERON BEALL/TNH STAFF

Junior wide receiver Brian Espanet lining up for a play against the Maine Black Bears.

Wildcats swept by No. 18 Northeastern, fall to ninth place

By **Shaun Petipas**
SPORTS EDITOR

University of New Hampshire (UNH) men's hockey (5-12-2) and No. 18 Northeastern University (8-5-2) battled twice this past weekend. The Wildcats were unable to walk away from this series with a win and dropped two straight as they failed to capitalize on their special teams play which saved them the weekend prior.

The Whittemore center was supposed to welcome 500 students in to watch live sports for the first time in nearly a year. A day before the game, however, UNH moved into "Orange Mode" of operations not allowing students into the building and moving classes online.

In the first of the two contests the Wildcats got on to the board first just 11 minutes into the game when junior forward Angus Crookshank and senior forward Patrick Grasso broke in on a 2-on-1 and Grasso was able to sneak the puck around the Northeastern goaltender to make it 1-0 in favor of the 'Cats.

Northeastern battled back and tied the game on the powerplay coming from sophomore forward Aiden McDonough who went on to score two more later in the game. The tie didn't last long either as Northeastern sophomore Riley Hughes stuffed a rebound opportunity just 29 seconds later, making it 2-1 Northeastern headed into the second period.

UNH came out of the first intermission with energy but were unable to capitalize on powerplay opportunities. It wasn't until it was 4-on-4 when senior defenseman Benton Maass was able to wrist one into the back of the net, tying the game at two.

Northeastern regained the lead a few minutes later coming off of the stick of sophomore forward Michael Kesselring. The Huskies added on to their lead with McDonough's second goal of the game. UNH ended up outshooting Northeastern 12-2 in the period but was trailing 4-2.

McDonough scored his third of the night when Northeastern took a 5-2 lead. They didn't stop there as they tallied an-

other from Kesselring scoring his second of the night off of a rebound.

UNH stayed even with Northeastern in shots 23-23 but fell 6-2. Senior goalie Mike Robinson played two periods and made just six saves and allowing four goals. Meanwhile, junior Ty Taylor posted 11 saves and allowed two goals.

Late in the third period senior forward Eric MacAdams laid a blindside hit on Northeastern junior Marco Bozzo. The hit led to a five-minute major penalty, the ejection of MacAdams, as well as a one-game suspension for the senior.

UNH and Northeastern met again the following night and again the Wildcats fell to the Huskies, this time in a more competitive game.

The Huskies jumped out to an early lead just four minutes in from junior defenseman Julian Kislin who rocketed a shot from the point. Northeastern smelt blood in the water because they scored another quick one from first-year forward Gunnarwolfe Fontaine who scored on the powerplay just a minute after the first goal.

McDonough kept his hot streak going and found the back of the net once more on the powerplay giving Northeastern an early 3-0 lead.

Northeastern transitioned their hot first period into a quick start in the second period as Kesselring found the back of the net once more just 18 seconds in.

UNH showed life in this frame as Grasso one-timed a shot that found the back of the net just two minutes into the second period making it 4-1. The Wildcats answered again this time coming from junior defenseman Kalle Eriksson who buried a wrist shot and pulled the Wildcats within two. The Wildcats went 2-of-3 on the powerplay in the second period.

UNH could smell a comeback as just a minute into the third period junior forward Jackson Pierson one-timed a puck on the powerplay that ended up in the back of the net cutting the lead to one. UNH kept pushing and eventually tied it up coming off the stick of sophomore Lucas Hermann who jammed a puck in the back

of the net. The momentum seemed to be in the Wildcats favor and could have a chance to sneak out with a win, or at least a point. McDonough buried the game-winning goal, however, with just four minutes remaining.

It was a tough series for the Wildcats, but they never quit and that is something coach Souza is proud of.

"It says a lot, we've never questioned our effort or our commitment to winning," said Souza. "I thought they played their hearts out. Credit to Northeastern they have a talented team, and you give them anything and they're going to beat you."

He added "we're playing for the end of the year. I think you saw what our team is about, and they fought hard until the final horn."

UNH will now prepare for a home-and-home with Merrimack (3-10-1). The series will kick-off on Friday afternoon in the Whittemore Center before moving to North Andover for the second leg of the weekend.