

The NEW HAMPSHIRE

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CDC amends gathering requirements; UNH guidelines remain



Photo courtesy of *The Boston Globe*.



Photo courtesy of Paul Dean.

By Ben Domaingue
STAFF WRITER

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) amended its guidance detailing activities vaccinated individuals can now resume, such as attending small outdoor gatherings without wearing a mask.

These new recommendations outline multiple scenarios where individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can forgo wearing a mask. The CDC still urges vaccinated individuals to continue to wear a mask indoors and in crowded outdoor areas.

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after receiving the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The new recommendations say vaccinated individuals can participate in certain activities without a mask, such as walking, running or biking outdoors alone or with members of their household, attending small gatherings with fully vaccinated friends or family, or dining at outdoor restaurants with friends from multiple households.

Fully vaccinated people can also attend “a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event,” as long as they remain masked, according to an infographic from the CDC.

Gov. Chris Sununu recently lifted New Hampshire’s mask mandate, once again delegating responsibilities to towns, businesses and individuals.

“We will continue to encourage social distancing and the wearing of masks when appropriate. ... It’s just a good idea,” said Sununu.

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) still has a

mask ordinance for students in place for the foreseeable future.

“While at work, in class, and in public common areas, community members will wear a cloth face covering to help protect against the spread of the virus,” reads UNH’s guidelines on its COVID-19 webpage. UNH Police Chief and Associate Vice Provost for Safety and Risk Management Paul Dean continues to urge students to follow guidelines.

“I encourage the campus community to continue to be vigilant. Consider getting vaccinated, wear your mask, physically distance, and wash

your hands. Together, we can make a difference,” said Dean in a statement.

Durham, NH also has its own mask ordinance, which is slated to expire on June 5. Durham Town Administrator Todd Selig noted that while the town will continue to monitor guidance from the CDC, they do not anticipate any changes to the ordinance through June 5.

UNH plans to reopen fully in the fall 2021 semester, and continues to urge students to get vaccinated.

Recent N.H. House bills affect college students

By Evan Edmonds
STAFF WRITER

The New Hampshire State Legislature had “crossover day” on Friday, April 9, marking a number of House of Representatives bills moving over to the Senate that would have a direct impact on college students and the University of New Hampshire (UNH) community - here’s what you need to know.

Crossover is the day when both the House and Senate have the deadline to act on all their bills that have been

introduced, at which point they ‘crossover’ to the opposite governing body. Bills that don’t make the cut need a two-thirds majority vote to be resurrected.

The first among bills that would impact college students is HB319, which would require students to complete a civics test as a part of their diploma requirements. The decision was made by a single vote and would coincide with a previously passed bill that would require the same of high school students before they graduate - completing the test once in high school would make college students exempt from

taking it again.

Opinion among HB319 was divided, with some legislators

feeling it would trivialize civics knowledge and turn out-of-state students away from New

Hampshire universities, while supporters of the bill believed it would raise the value of a diploma and help create a stronger knowledge base among students.

According to WMUR, Rep. Michael Moffet (R-Loudon), the bill’s sponsor, said to other legislators “if you’re comfortable with - well, I hate to say it - ignorant, low-information college graduates,” that don’t know their state reps - to not vote for the bill.

Several bills were also



Photo courtesy of *Foster’s Daily Democrat*.

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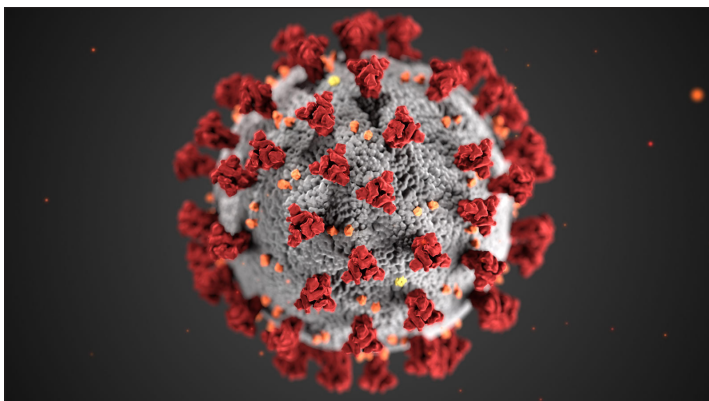


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But you can find new content daily at

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CORRECTIONS-----

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passed in New Hampshire to increase restrictions on absentee voting after last year's election where absentee voting was at an all-time high amidst the pandemic. UNH offered unique absentee voting opportunities last fall for the 2020 General Election to both encourage students to get out their vote and keep the campus and surrounding community safe.

House Bill 292 would require students to provide a copy of photo ID with their absentee ballot in the future if the address they want it sent to

doesn't match their address or domicile on file.

House Bill 593 would require individuals who vote in-person to have their photo taken at the polls if they don't have photo ID.

Both bills were reportedly passed with intent to be non-intrusive ways of ensuring people are who they say they are when voting, according to WMUR. Those opposed to the bill argued it could still make it harder to vote for elderly or disabled New Hampshire residents.

After so many claims of last year's Presidential Election being falsified and alleged voter

fraud, the New Hampshire Legislature saw an extremely high number of voter protection bills in addition to the two above. Politico reported shortly after the election in November 2020 that as many as 70% of Republicans polled didn't think the election was "free and fair."

House Bill 625 prohibits abortion in the state of New Hampshire after 24 weeks. In the past, Gov. Chris Sununu has said he is pro-choice and supports the decision of *Roe v. Wade*. If the Senate were to pass this bill, New Hampshire will be waiting to see if he upholds that belief.

House Bill 544 has sparked

plenty of controversy over the last few months. The bill's basic description, "an act relative to the propagation of divisive concepts," would prohibit topics like systemic racism or sexism from being taught in job training or in public education. It would limit and essentially remove the means of public discourse regarding these important, modern issues such as systemic racism in New Hampshire. HB544 is among the most viewed of New Hampshire's bills in process. Jeff Feingold wrote for New Hampshire Business Review that almost 80 New Hampshire businesses have openly op-

posed the bill as of the beginning of April. These businesses wrote a letter to Sununu and fellow legislators which said it would have "a chilling impact on our workplaces and on the business climate in New Hampshire."

Dan Weeks wrote an article describing the bill's potential negative effect on New Hampshire and United States history - going against the fabric of the "Live Free" state's very being.

These bills have all passed in the House and have now crossed over to the Senate for further review.

Nevada bill challenges N.H.'s spot as first state to hold primaries

By **Teddy Tauscher**
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

New Hampshire's status as the first state in the nation to hold presidential primaries is being challenged, this time by a bill in Nevada that would cause the state to hold primaries before New Hampshire. However, New Hampshire Democratic Chairman Raymond Buckley said while he is monitoring the situation he is not worried.

"We feel pretty confident that we will be successful once again," said Buckley. Buckley argues that NH takes its role seriously. "We look at

it as a responsibility, not just something that's fun." Furthermore, Buckley said New Hampshire has acted like a spring board for many famous political figures. "It has given a voice to a lot of candidates over the decades that never would have been national leaders," said Buckley. Buckley cites politicians like John F. Kennedy and Bernie Sanders of having benefited in this manner.

But New Hampshire's role in the primaries hasn't always been so important, said Andy Smith, a professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and

director of the UNH Survey Center.

In fact, Smith said the New Hampshire primary was only the first in the nation by accident. "The reason we chose an early date for our primary back in 1916 was that frankly we were cheap," said Smith. The date was decided so that it would correspond with town meeting day and therefore the town hall would only have to be opened up once.

At the time Smith said this wasn't a big deal. "Frankly nobody cared about the New Hampshire primary being first after that," said Smith. Smith said it wasn't until much

later that the rest of the nation started paying attention to New Hampshire primaries. "1968 was the first one where it really seemed to make a difference on who the eventual nominee was," said Smith.

The role of the media in the primary has also been important, said Smith. "Now the media use the entire nomination process as part of their programming as a way to focus everybody on the next contest to keep them watching TV," said Smith.

Smith doubts any change will come of the new push by Nevada, but if it did, he said it would have to come as a result

of a mandate by the parties. These parties, Smith said, could take away delegates from candidates who chose to run in an unsanctioned primary.

While New Hampshire has been a good predictor in the past, Smith said as of recently its outcomes have not been predictive of the national race.

"On the Democratic side the last three candidates who won New Hampshire didn't win [the nomination]," said Smith.

The New Hampshire Secretary of State is required by state law to set the primary date seven days before any similar contest in the nation.

Graduate seminar aims to create inclusive science community

By **Julie Bobyock**
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

The past year has been one full of difficult and significant events that will be remembered in American history - the ongoing pandemic, the Capitol insurrection, and the presidential election, to name a few. But after the killing of George Floyd, Black Lives Matter protests occurred across the world, calling for change of racially discriminatory systems. Ever since, individuals, companies, and universities have been making efforts to educate themselves and create anti-racist initiatives to dismantle systemic racism and implement sustainable change and justice for Black communities.

According to the National Science Foundation, only 9% of bachelor's degrees in science and engineering go to Black students. As a leading research institute in the sciences, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) aims to create and follow initiatives for a more inclusive STEM community. Professor for the Department of Natural Resources Serita Frey and doctorate student in the

Natural Resources and Earth Systems Science Program Emily Whalen are leading a graduate seminar titled "Anti-Racism in Science: Promoting an Inclusive and Equitable STEM Community."

In an interview, Frey detailed how students wrote letters to the leaders of the departments, demanding action be taken to stand with Black communities and establish justice at UNH. Frey, who is on the College of Life Science and Agriculture's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, established this seminar to take a step toward a more educated and just student body. Frey said, "White people are waking up and realizing we can't keep being silent and must be part of the solution."

The seminar meets once a week and follows a discussion-based learning style. There are different focuses throughout the semester, such as, "The Role of Science in Constructing 'Race' as Scientific Fact Rather Than a Political System," "Being Non-Racist and Anti-Racist- What's the Difference?" and "The History of Racism in the Environmental Movement." Each student is responsible for providing

resources and leading the discussion for one week, which provides the base of the course curriculum. Students have compiled numerous podcasts, readings, documentaries, and seminars that explore topics regarding racism, injustice in STEM, white fragility and how to be anti-racist.

Frey explained how students structure discussions differently. One in particular was structured as a debate- two environmental events, one that affected primarily Black communities and one that affected primarily white communities, were used as case studies; the students examined how the Environmental Protection Agency and other government agencies responded to each event to understand how environmental issues are unequally approached in largely Black versus white populations.

Doctorate student in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment Lara Munro, who is currently enrolled in the seminar, said, "I really like the seminar's structure. Generally, we've been able to structure the time so that we can all talk about the readings in smaller breakout rooms and debrief together. It's

really interesting to see how the discussions vary between smaller groups because we all pick up on different aspects of the materials as we go through them."

In response to what she has learned so far, Munro explained that what she has found to be striking is how interconnected and long-lasting certain attitudes and policies are. An example she cited is how redlining practices and neighborhood segregation led directly to environmental injustice, due to historically Black neighborhoods being close to industrial complex and landfills that release toxic chemicals.

"This then creates a cycle of poverty as their housing is devalued because of toxic particles in the neighborhood and the residents have more health problems and related medical bills," Munro said. This is a very very very simplified example of a really complex issue, but I think that it illustrates how decisions made decades ago are still felt as well as how intertwined environmental and societal issues are."

UNH laboratories are also taking action to establish and sustain more educated and anti-racist science communities.

The Wollheim and Ernakovich lab, as well as others, have read and discussed papers such as "Ten Simple Rules for Building an Antiracist Lab" by Bala Chaudary and Asmeret Berhe and have implemented frequent discussions regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion into lab meeting routines.

In order to create a just and inclusive STEM community at UNH, everyone must engage themselves in these critical subjects if substantial change is to occur. Munro recommended taking the seminar or getting involved in a similar course if offered in the future. "I think that it's really valuable to think about who built the scientific field, where our ideas come from, and how that might still affect who feels welcome in our institutions or the field. It's also exposed me to voices and ideas that I wouldn't have necessarily come across otherwise, which also highlights how much everyone stands to gain from adopting an anti-racist perspective," she said.

For resources on anti-racism and to learn what individuals can do to establish justice, visit <https://libraryguides.unh.edu/racialjusticerresources/action-education>.

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The year in review: New Hampshire politics

By **Anna Kate Munsey**
MANAGING EDITOR

In more ways than one, it's been a historic year for New Hampshire politics.

A slew of political candidates and incumbents visited Durham, and many - such as Sen. Ed Markey, Rep. Ilhan Omar, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Rep. Chris Pappas - held student voting events and campaigned for President Joe Biden at the Freedom Cafe. The New Hampshire published several voting guides and voter education tutorials, working on our student voter education initiatives. The 2020 election was widely discussed on the national level, but the state and local elections had their own fair share of excitement, as well.

N.H. House convened at the Whittemore Center

For the first time since the Civil War, the New Hampshire House met outside of Representatives Hall in Concord. Convening at the Whittemore Center, this one-day legislative session focused on COVID-related bills and policies. "I think it's wonderful. I'm very proud of the New Hampshire House, that they have overcome what seemed to be an insoluble problem - of getting a place where 400 people could get together, respecting social distancing - I just didn't think it was going to be possible... And of course, that my very own University of New Hampshire was able to solve the problem, makes me feel even prouder," said Rep. Judith Spang (Strafford 6) in a previous interview.

State Primary Elections saw record turnout in Durham

The Sept. 8 New Hampshire State Primary Elections saw record-breaking turnout in Durham despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Over 2,672 votes were cast - both on Election Day and via absentee ballot. This was over twice the typical turnout numbers in Durham from previous elections in 2008 through 2016. One of the key races to watch was the

gubernatorial primary between Executive Councilor Andru Volinsky and State Sen. Dan Feltes. Volinsky won Durham, but Feltes took the nomination and went on to challenge incumbent Gov. Chris Sununu. Additionally, Matt Mowers took the Republican nomination for House District 1, and Corky Mesner went on to challenge Sen. Jeanne Shaheen for her seat. The incumbents in each of these races easily won their respective primaries.

N.H. House met again at Whittemore Center, this time with some added drama

In mid-September, the New Hampshire House once again utilized UNH's Whittemore Center Arena to hold a special legislative session. Despite the town of Durham and UNH's mask-wearing policies, quite a few representatives refused to wear a mask. Since the House follows Embassy Rules, the town and university's mask policies were unenforceable. Some House members believed Durham's ordinance to have zero legal standing. "You have a choice provided by your constitution to exercise free will, this cannot be overstepped by any law, Any and all attempts to violate your freedoms are in fact illegal. There are no exceptions. The Constitution strictly states that no law shall be made to overstep personal freedoms and any law subject to violation of the constitution shall be null and void and shall be deemed illegal," said Rep. William Fowler (R-Rockingham) in a previous interview.

However, the drama didn't end there. Empty beer cans were confirmed to have been found in the Whittemore Center following the legislative session.

"I also want to also take a moment and apologize for the actions of some of our members taken at yesterday's session. It came to my attention that some of the members were drinking beer in the hall and that some members were outside of the Whittemore Center, without masks, against both UNH and Durham protocol and ordinances. Please know that

the House takes decorum very seriously and the actions of a few do not represent the New Hampshire House of Representatives as a whole," said then-House Speaker Steve Shurtleff (D-Penacook).

2020 General Election

The 2020 election was incredibly interesting to cover as a student news organization. Disinformation was rampant, the news was constantly evolving, and COVID-19 added an extra layer of difficulty. One of our biggest projects - including editors, staff, and contributors - were our "Meet the Candidates" profiles. In these brief profiles, we interviewed candidates up and down the ballot - from gubernatorial candidates, to Congressional races, to state legislature races, to Strafford County Sheriff. We aimed to educate students on who they were voting for, in order to make the most informed and productive choices for themselves. We hope this is something TNH carries on in future elections.

In terms of the 2020 General Election, the well-known New Hampshire politicians held their seats. Gov. Sununu, Sen. Shaheen, and Rep. Pappas each easily won their respective races. Each of the Strafford District 6 representatives - all Democrats - were easily reelected. Rebecca Perkins-Kwoka (District 21) was the first openly-LGBTQ woman elected to the state senate, and Mark Brave was the first Black man elected as Strafford County Sheriff. Cinde Warmington took the District 2 Executive Council seat over Republican Jim Beard. Several of our writers also wrote about students participating in voting and activism - including two UNH seniors who drove a COVID-safe "vote mobile" to-and-from the polls all day. Absentee voting was high, but overall voter turnout was lower than expected for this election.

New Hampshire's purple state status did not disappoint in this election. While it voted blue for Biden, Pappas, Kuster, and Shaheen, Republicans took control of both state legislative

chambers as well as the Executive Council, and Sununu held the governor's office.

UNH student Heath Howard ran for state representative

This election even saw a UNH student candidate throw his hat in the ring! 20-year-old Heath Howard ran as a Democrat in Strafford District 3, but lost in the general election. He was the youngest candidate in his race, and ran on a campaign focused on racial justice, affordable education and more issues impacting young people.

N.H. State Legislature met again at UNH, missing quite a few members

The N.H. House held their Organization Day outside at UNH in December. However, over 100 members refused to attend due to COVID-19 concerns, mostly Democrats. Their concern came from a Nov. 20 caucus event in which many Republican representatives gathered maskless, and at least four positive COVID-19 cases had been traced to the event.

N.H. Speaker of the House Dick Hinch died of COVID-19

On Dec. 2, longtime Rep. Dick Hinch accepted the nomination of Speaker of the House. Only one week later, he tragically passed away at 71 due to the coronavirus. Hinch had served as both minority and majority leader. Sununu called Hinch's passing a "tragic and cautionary tale." He also had some strong words for members of the House who had been acting in opposition to COVID-19 safety precautions such as mask-wearing. "Please use your heads. Don't act like a bunch of children, frankly," he said.

House members proposed HB86, would completely revamp voting in the state

Relatively frequently, a bill will be proposed in the N.H. House aiming to change or restrict student voting in some way. Throughout 2021, it has been HB86. It would effectively ban out-of-state college students from voting in New

Hampshire, eliminate same-day voter registration, and close our primaries. Authors of the bill cite voter fraud as a reason for its implementation, and argue that residents of a state should be the ones deciding those issues. It should be noted that many UNH students spend nine to 12 months out of the year in Durham. HB86 was retained in committee on Feb. 18, meaning it will be worked on through the summer. State judges have previously struck down measures seeking to change voting laws in the state. For example, Senate Bill SB3 was dismissed in 2020 by a superior court judge on the grounds that it was unconstitutional and discriminatory.

UNH Granite State Poll finds 72% approval for Sununu

According to the UNH Survey Center's monthly Granite State Poll in early March, 72% of those polled approve of Sununu's job as governor - 90% of Republicans, 78% of Independents, and 51% of Democrats. 71% approved of his handling of the coronavirus pandemic. Many have wondered if Sununu will challenge incumbent Sen. Maggie Hassan for her U.S. Senate seat in 2022. Survey Center Director Andy Smith said 2022 is probably the best time for Sununu to wage a challenge. The UNH Survey Center is a great resource for anyone interested in anything related to New Hampshire, both political and non-political. The most recent Granite State Poll puts Sununu's approval at 65%, a slight slip possibly due to his lifting of the statewide mask mandate.

There's never a dull moment in the New Hampshire political scene. Both state legislative chambers have resources and lists on their website for tracking bills and watching the legislature in action. Follow bills, polls and politicians that interest you, and get ready for the 2022 midterms - they're right around the corner.

Spilling the tea since 1911

@thenewhampshire

Scientists disprove misconceptions about COVID-19 and protocols

By Rhianwen Watkins
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

There have been myths circulating about how the coronavirus (COVID-19) started, the protocols that have been used as protective measures against it and the data on cases and deaths.

One of the most popular misleading claims is that the virus could have escaped the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a lab in Wuhan, China. However, the World Health Organization conducted a large-scale investigation in Wuhan, with experts from ten different countries, and found no indication that the virus originated there.

“The reason why we can unequivocally say that that didn’t happen is that when we engineer things in a laboratory setting, there are basically signatures or hallmarks that something has been engineered,” said Megan Enos-Fournier, professor of biomedical sciences at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). “You can sequence and map them, and there are always signatures in them. SARS-Covid2, the virus that causes COVID, was sequenced early on and there were none of those hallmarks in there, and no evidence that it jumped out of a lab.”

Pandemics usually start with a common unharmed virus that circulates, but it then goes through a mutation which makes it much more harmful. It often transmits at the same rate as before, but because of the serious illness it causes, it is much more noticeable, explained Vicki Jeffers, professor of biomedical sciences at UNH.

Scientists have concluded that the virus originated due to an animal-to-human transmission. “When a virus jumps or a pathogen jumps from an animal to a human, it’s called zoonotic transmission and that’s what this was. Direct bat to human transmission,” said Enos-Fournier.

“Viruses are naturally occurring in the wild and new strains originate all the time,” said Juan Rojo, professor of biomedical sciences at UNH. “Coronaviruses are well known to be viruses that infect bats and other animals.”

Another misconception is that masks are not effective in preventing transmission of the virus. Some claims have even said that masks are dangerous because they trap carbon dioxide particles within them and inhibit oxygen intake.

David Itkin, infectious disease specialist at Portsmouth Hospital refutes this claim. “The mask is proven through an abundance of data to protect individuals from both expelling the virus as well as inhaling the virus. Particularly a double layer mask has a very effective filter in that regard,” said Dr. Itkin who was voted the Top Doctor in Infectious Diseases by NH Magazine in 2004, 2005, 2009, and 2010.

Enos-Fournier added that the air we breathe is not mostly comprised of oxygen, as there are other gases such as nitrogen and carbon dioxide and therefore, we do not need a high level of oxygen to function. “The CO2 that you’re exhaling can get through your mask. The particles are small enough that they can fit through,” Enos-Fournier said. “A virus, even though it’s incredibly small, is much larger than carbon

dioxide.”

Rojo added, “Molecules of carbon dioxide are much, much smaller than viruses. We are talking about 1 magnitude in 1,000 size difference.” He also explained that viruses survive in wet environments, which are provided in our secretions when we sneeze and cough. The mask provides a dry environment where these secretions can be absorbed, and eventually dry, which kills the virus.

Rojo said that if people are worried about masks limiting their oxygen intake, they can purchase a pulse oximeter; a device that they can put on their finger which measures the saturation of oxygen in their bodies. He explained that the reason why oxygen can feel restricted is simply because of the sensation of the warmth and humidity of the sweat accumulating on your face under the mask, but not actually because oxygen is limited.

According to University of California San Francisco, another reason why people were misled to think they should not wear masks, was because in the beginning of the pandemic, the CDC originally told the public not to wear N95 and surgical masks, due to a limited supply which needed to be saved for healthcare workers. However, cloth masks, which are much more accessible, should have been worn from the beginning. In addition, there was a huge lack of testing, providing people with a false sense of security. America was also not prepared for mask wearing, so it was a cultural adjustment as opposed to places in Asia where mask wearing was already commonplace.

Other myths have circulated, claiming that PCR tests do not

work to properly determine whether someone has the virus or not.

According to Cleveland Clinic, PCR tests work to detect COVID-19, because they are able to extract the genetic material of a sample, which may include RNA of the virus if it is present. It then amplifies the genetic material through the use of a machine called a thermal cycler, and chemicals that create a reaction, causing the genetic material to be replicated many times to get it up to a detectable level. One of the chemicals will produce a fluorescent light if the RNA of the virus is present within the genetic material collected from the sample.

The fear that COVID-19 tests have produced false results has led people to believe that the numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths has been inflated.

These claims have also been a result of the belief that if people who died from COVID-19 also had another terminal illness, such as cancer, then they most likely died from the cancer, but because they had COVID-19, their death was written off as a COVID-19 death, Jeffers explained. “At the same time, if they hadn’t been infected with COVID-19, they may have lived a few more years,” said Jeffers. “Statistics can be used in a lot of different ways to tell the story that you want to and if people know what they’re doing with statistics, they can be very convincing.”

Itkin said, “The data is based on real information, real test results that are reported to state departments of health.” He continued to say, “if anything, I would say it is likely

the opposite because of the fact that we have undertested; that the number of actual infections are far more than those that we’ve actually detected.”

Larry Hamilton, professor of sociology at UNH, said that conspiracy theories such as the ones regarding COVID-19, are rooted in a top-down effort to sway people to believe that science cannot be trusted. One of the biggest examples he cited was climate change denial. “With a successful top-down campaign, it eventually becomes grassroots,” said Hamilton. “So, now people really believe as part of their identity that climate change is a liberal plot. Same thing for the COVID virus.”

He continued, “There are a number of reasons why all this is catchy. One of them is that as you get into these conspiracies, you now have special knowledge. You know stuff and all those people around you are sheep and they don’t get it yet [...] Psychologists work with this idea they call conspiracist ideation: the tendency to have conspiratorial ideas,” said Hamilton. “I think once you start to believe any of these conspiracies, any of these alternative realities, it’s an easy jump to the others. So, from COVID hoaxing to election hoaxing, same people, easy jump, just as it was from climate hoax to COVID hoax.”

“Conspiracy beliefs can be useful to somebody and you’ll find major political organizations and news media push conspiracy beliefs because that serves their purpose,” said Hamilton.

“I feel like we really need to do a better job of educating people in the sciences,” said Enos-Fournier.

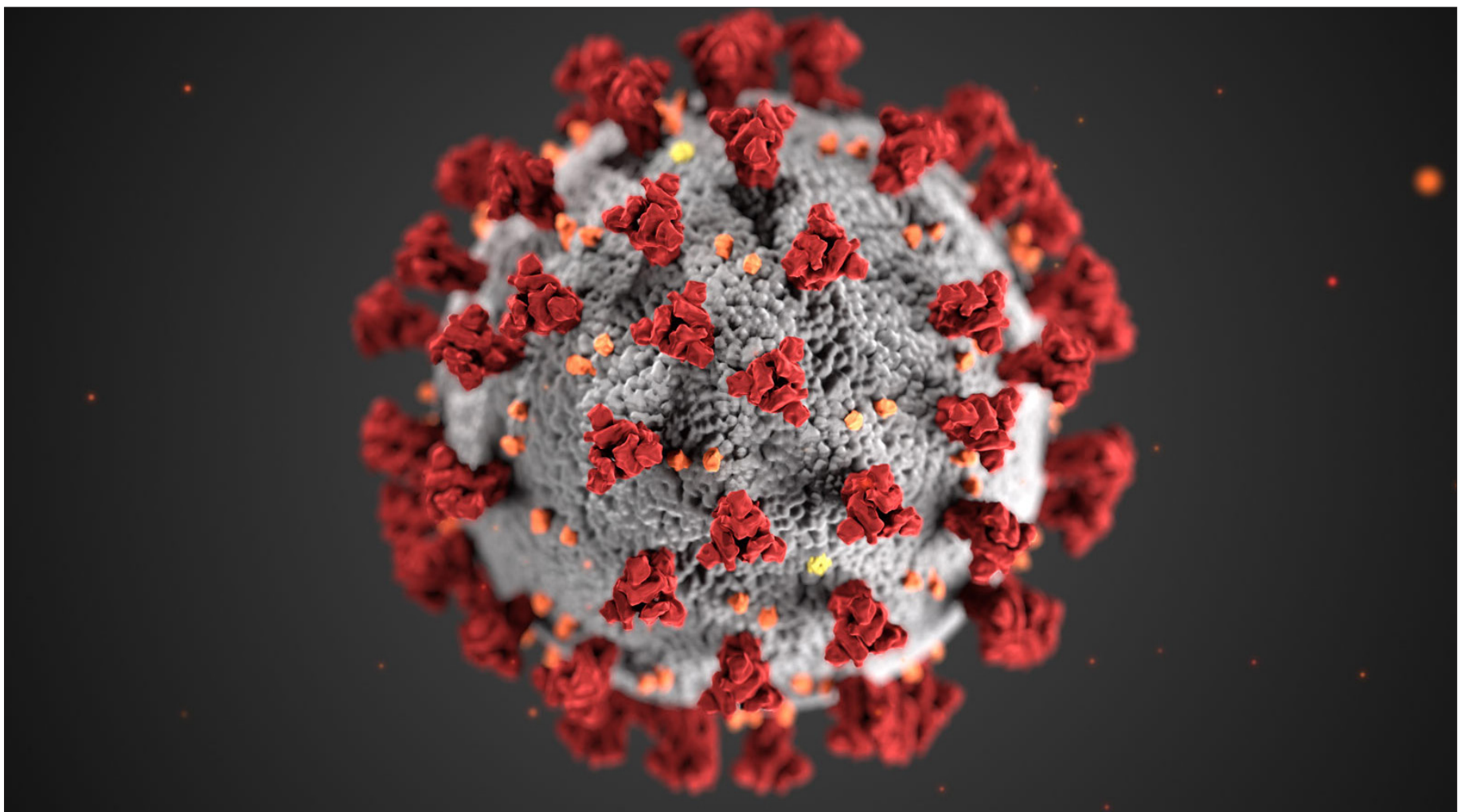


Photo courtesy of the FDA.

UNH professor presents COVID-19 mental health research

By Sara Goodrich
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Suicide rates during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic are incomplete, and some professionals are unsure what the future will hold, but they do know more work needs to be done to improve mental health in America.

Dr. Mike Alvarez presented his research on mental health and suicide during the COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of online communities on April 16, saying that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done in the improvement of mental health and suicide rates but he is hopeful when looking forward.

Alvarez has a Ph.D. in com-

munication and is also a post-doctoral diversity and innovation scholar at the University of New Hampshire. He studies mental health, and since the start of the pandemic, has additionally studied its impact. He is also the lead author of an upcoming book on the pandemic titled, "A Plague for Our Time: Dying and Death in the Age of Covid-19," as well as the author of the recently published book, "The Paradox of Suicide and Creativity: Authentications of Human Existence."

"We've been in the pandemic for a year now and it begs the question, have projections of increasing suicide rates actually come to fruition?" said Alvarez.

Alvarez reported a decrease in suicides in 2020 but said that the data might not be fully ac-

curate across the board.

"Although rates as a whole may have gone down, studies with local communities have seen there's an uptick of suicide in communities of color in the year 2020," Alvarez said.

Alvarez said that suicide is still the eleventh leading cause of death in America and it's unknown how the pandemic will continue to affect everyone once it's over.

"The ripple effects of the pandemic on the economy, on people's personal and social identity and mental health is still unknown now and in the near foreseeable future and in the years to come," said Alvarez, "So we don't have the full picture yet, what we have is an uncertain picture but a picture that's not without hope."

Alvarez studied an online

suicide forum for his research and got to read what the people on that platform were saying about the pandemic. The Suicide Forum is completely anonymous for the protection of the users.

When talking about the pandemic one user said, "It's like a massive flood came when you've lived most of your life with gills instead of lungs."

Life after the pandemic remains uncertain and Alvarez says mental health resources need to improve in order to move ahead.

Professor of Communications Sheila McNamee spoke during the Q&A section of Alvarez's presentation and raised questions about the impact of these studies on the future.

"Are we going to learn anything from this?" said

McNamee. "What do you see as the future, because we really need to have more communal, relational forms of connecting and supporting one another, and it's an upward battle so I'm wondering if you have hope?"

Alvarez said that self-care needs to be thought of relationally throughout, meaning identifying external factors for patients and working with them on all factors that impact them.

"We need to be vigilant," said Alvarez, "it's good to be hopeful but we also need to temper our hope with some realism that things aren't going to immediately go back to normal and therefore we need to have measures in place for how we'll deal with consequences of that on people's mental health."

SHARPP educates students during sexual assault awareness month

By Grace Steady
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month, and at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), the Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP) is working to educate students.

"April is definitely a busy month for us! We plan tons of programs throughout the year, but I'd say our event calendar this month is more dense than most," said Prevention Specialist for SHARPP Kate Gladstone. She mentioned that SHARPP does have other month-long campaigns

to spread awareness for other forms of violence as well.

"We work hard to make our services widely accessible, and I hope that people who seek support from SHARPP find that we are easy to get in touch with," said Gladstone.

The UNH SHARPP website includes events that are coming up in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Throughout the month of April, there have been many events provided by SHARPP. Just one of the events is Direct Action for Incarcerated Survivors: Letter Writing, where you can "join SHARPP's Direct Action sessions this spring to learn more about incarcerated survivors, ways you can help, and strate-

gies on writing letters."

"Although COVID resulted in us needing to move our programming to be completely virtual this SAAM, we were able to get creative with our offerings," said Outreach & Training Coordinator for SHARPP Erica Vazza.

SHARPP is a UNH program that is supervised by the Office of Student Life. They are dedicated to providing free services to survivors of interpersonal violence. They have direct services that include a 24-hour phone help line, online web chat, crisis counseling and more.

"I have heard many great things about SHARPP and the resources they provide. Sexual

assault awareness needs to be talked about more, because it is an issue that I hear more and more of each day," said UNH sophomore Maggie Eaton.

The 2020 UNH Annual Security Report And Fire Safety Report provided by UNH's Department of Statistics was prepared by the UNH Police Department. Statistics were collected from the Office of Human Resources, Health & Wellness, SHARPP, and more.

The statistics show that 44 students were raped and 22 were fondled in 2020, whether it was on campus property, on campus student housing, or off campus. Statistics of domestic and dating violence are also included in the report.

To further help survivors, the Freedom Café in Durham focuses on sexual assault and human trafficking awareness. This café is "dedicated to ending human trafficking and the commercial exploitation of all people," as stated on their website. With their "pay-what-you-want café," they fundraise to help spread awareness through certain programs they hold.

"I just think it's great that the UNH community continues to focus on sexual assault survivors and spreading awareness for it. It makes me feel more comfortable to be here," said Eaton.

Newsroom Poll:

What childhood figure reminds you of TNH's Sports Editor, Cameron Beall?



"Caillou"
-Anna Kate



"Shakespeare"
-Caitlin



"The Apparently Kid"
-Hannah



"Phineas"
-Josh



"Ron Weasley"
-Brackett

UNH Transit to cancel Newmarket bus route

By Ben Domaingue
STAFF WRITER

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) is phasing out bus service to Newmarket due to low ridership.

According to a letter from UNH Transportation Services Manager Beverly Cray to Newmarket Town Manager Steve Fournier, ridership on the route has declined to fewer than nine passengers a run.

In the early 2010s ridership peaked until the recent student housing boom in Durham,

which drastically reduced the number of students relying on the Newmarket line. Even as UNH cut service to only three runs a day due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the university spends over \$90,000 per year running the line.

“Given the past six years of precipitous drops in ridership, and the current financial challenges facing the University, the University can no longer justify the significant costs associated with this service,” Cray wrote.

Newmarket Town Manager Steve Fournier expressed his

disappointment in UNH Transit’s decision.

“It was a great way to lessen the impact of motor vehicles on the road as well as encourage people that they did not need a car on campus. In return, it allowed the UNH community to explore Newmarket,” said Fournier.

Based on a PowerPoint provided by UNH Transit, passenger trips on the Newmarket bus are down 44% between 2017 and 2019. In contrast, Portsmouth ridership is down 30%, Dover is down 6%, and the Campus Connector which

serves the UNH campus has seen a decline in ridership of about 11%.

UNH transit established a baseline benchmark of 14 passengers per run as a threshold of service. Newmarket service has fallen below that benchmark for the past two pre-COVID benchmark periods.

Despite these cuts, Fournier hopes UNH will continue to work with Newmarket and reconsider its decision.

“I would hope that UNH would work with us over the next year to see if there is a way to save this important

service,” said Fournier.

In addition to eliminating service to Newmarket, UNH Transit is planning to eliminate Sunday service from the Dover line as well. UNH will continue to offer routes to Portsmouth and Dover at service levels targeted at community demand.

UNH Transit encourages anyone with questions or concerns to reach out to Beverly Cray during the public comment period, which concludes on May 6.

International students impacted by COVID-19

By Jacob Towne
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic disproportionately affects international students at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), challenged often with remote learning in completely different time zones, made worse in the face of declining interest in the UNH international student program.

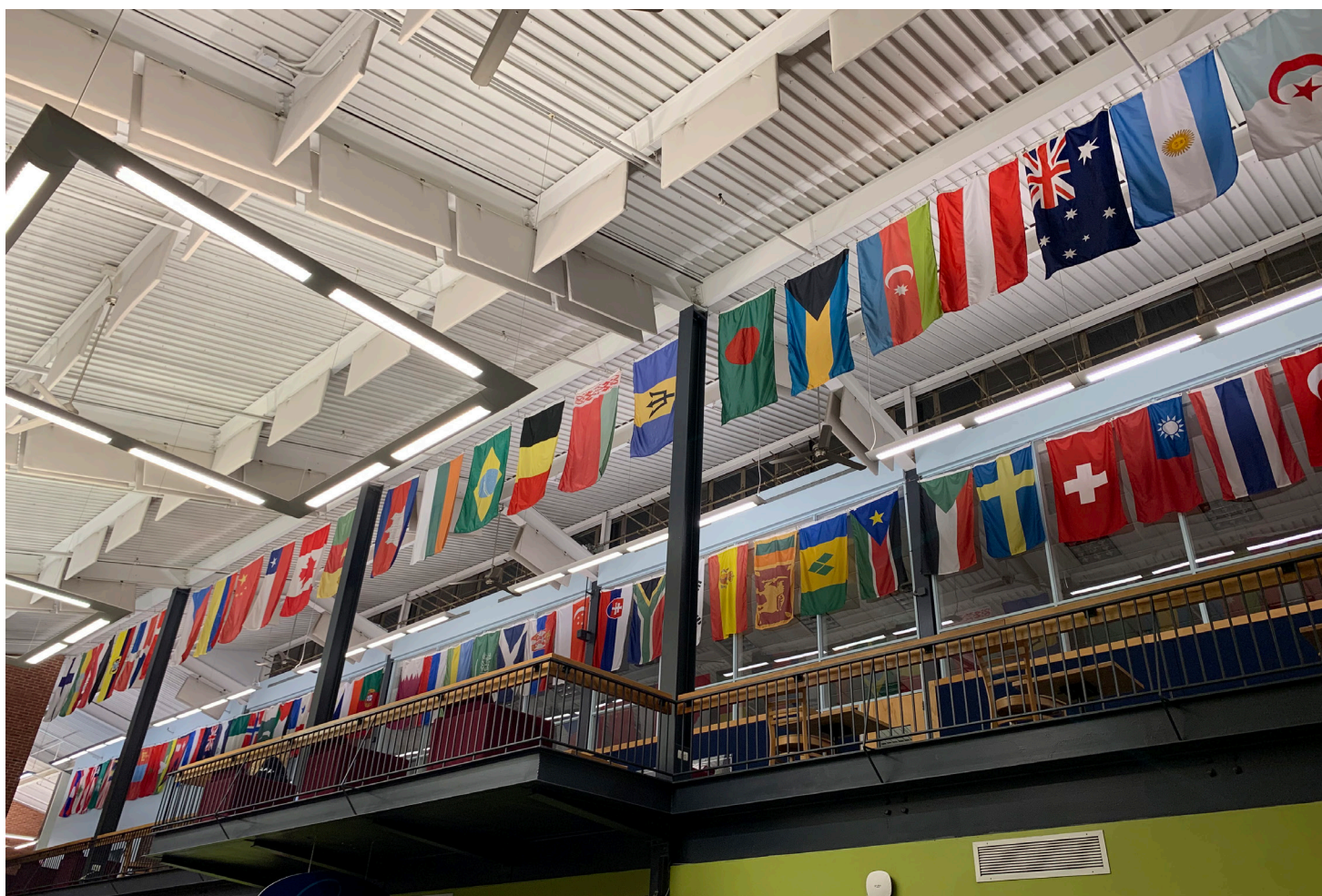
“Everyone who could leave... left,” said Gigi Green, the academic transition and integration advisor at the Office of International Students & Scholars, about the transition to remote classes in March of 2020. She explained that people that remained on campus were incapable of returning home because of financial reasons, COVID-19 restrictions or in-person labs.

Green emphasized the difficulty for students learning remotely, sometimes in different time zones. “If you’re studying in a time zone where you’re 13 or 15 hours ahead, you would be taking an exam at 3 in the morning.”

“I remember one time I had to take an exam at 1 or 2 in the morning and I was working the day after,” said Victor Menudier, a senior business major, who spent the remainder of the spring 2020 semester studying from France but has since returned to campus. He said he preferred in-person learning to remote. “It’s easier for me to learn in-person than online, even though teachers have been doing a great job with their classes.”

Other students preferred learning remotely, said Green, as they and their parents felt safer being able to learn from home. She said there were some international students in early March of 2020 that felt Americans took too many risks, and some Asian students were afraid of being perceived as sick if they wore masks.

According to the September 2020 Clery report from the UNH police department, there were six hate crimes based in race, national origin or ethnic-



Hannah Donahue / TNH Staff

ity in 2019. In 2018, there were two.

“Maybe students are feeling safer in general, I think it’s kind of exposed some vulnerabilities that some students or their parents felt about coming to the U.S.,” said Green, “are students going to say, ‘I can study online from home, why would I go to UNH?’”

Lin Zhang, a researcher of trends among international students and professor in the marketing department of the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics, shared this idea of a shift towards remote learning and decreased numbers. Students have less reason to learn internationally and remain in the country afterwards. “Because of COVID, and the rising unemployment situation here, they can’t stay.”

In the fall of 2019, there were 811 total international students on campus, compared to 573 total students in the fall of 2020 and 519 this semester, according to UNH Global, although these statistics don’t

distinguish remote and in-person students. UNH Global, although these statistics don’t distinguish remote and in-person students.

“We had a decrease in the number of new students coming, and we had never had international students studying at UNH from home,” said Green. “That had never been a thing.”

Both Zhang and Green also noted that UNH invested less in their international program in recent years because of declining numbers. “International students were close to 10% (of the student population) in 2016, and the numbers have gone down since Trump administration policies and since COVID, so we’re not as much of a presence on campus,” said Green.

Despite this, many individual faculty members still work to provide international students with the best experi-

ence possible. Menudier said he appreciated the effort by faculty to help international students, referencing a panel held at the beginning of the semester for faculty and students to discuss accommodations. “Teachers were willing to learn about how international students were affected by the pandemic and how they could change to make it better for us,” said Menudier. “The fact that teachers were at that panel, willing to ask questions, was great.”

Garry Yapto, a senior environmental engineering major who was studying from Indonesia, said engineering professor Nancy Kinner was a great help during the transition for all students, mentioning her colleagues to consider the circumstances. “She cares about every single person there, including international students,” said Yapto.

However, Yapto felt that

UNH as a whole had done poorly in assisting international students at the beginning of the pandemic. He emphasized the short notice students had to transition to remote because of the long decision-making process of the school.

Yapto cited both Boston University and respective websites, whereas UNH students weren’t told of the transition to remote until March 18, two days into spring break. websites, whereas UNH students weren’t told of the transition to remote until March 18, two days into spring break.

With the difficulties of remote learning and the feeling of disconnect from campus, Yapto said it was difficult to apply himself. “I don’t actually learn too much anyways, unless I want to get a good score,” said Yapto. “I don’t think that’s the point of education.”

UNH junior receives Truman Scholarship



Photo courtesy of the University of New Hampshire.

By Isabelle Curtis STAFF WRITER

It was a bright and early Monday morning when junior health management and policy major Grace Roy logged onto her Health Care IT Zoom class. They weren't supposed to meet that day, but Roy's professor had sent an announcement a week prior asking the class to gather. Roy was expecting a 10-minute project update. What she wasn't expecting was Provost Wayne Jones to announce she had won the Truman Scholarship. The video of the surprise announcement is now on University of New Hampshire's (UNH) YouTube channel.

"Looking back at the video I look literally frozen in my Zoom box and I just couldn't even process what was going on. But it was such a cool moment. Completely took me by surprise," said Roy, laughing.

Roy is one of 62 students nationwide, out of 825 candidates, to be selected as a Truman Scholar. The \$30,000 graduate fellowship, established to honor former President Harry S. Truman, is awarded to undergraduates seeking a career in public ser-

vice. Roy's long involvement in substance misuse programs proves her commitment.

She began volunteering in her hometown of Dover, N.H. with the drug prevention program Youth 2 Youth in 2011. It was also around this time that one of Roy's family members went into treatment for alcohol abuse. Her family member is now in recovery, but Roy recalled the "shame and stigma" that surrounded the family. She credits her mother for giving her and her younger sister a "more positive representation of people with substance use disorder" by treating addiction as an illness rather than a moral failing.

Roy also identified destigmatizing drug use as one of the main objectives of Youth 2 Youth's outreach programs.

"With stigma comes barriers. And I think that people's impressions of people who use drugs is really right up front, a barrier to actually listening to people's stories, listening to what they need help with and then providing that in a way that's non-judgmental," said Roy.

Her work with Youth 2 Youth has taken her across the country, from learning about

tobacco use in Tennessee to marijuana education in Washington. As a Hamel Scholar, which awards students that have demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, and community service, Roy is also involved with the program's Substance Misuse Awareness Task Force. She recalled when the task force partnered with HAND UP Health Services, a harm reduction organization that provides users with resources to reduce risk and overdose, to put together kits with clean syringes and info sheets about how to safely inject to prevent vein damage or infection.

The experience inspired Roy to write her policy proposal for the Truman application about legalizing supervised injection facilities where substance users can be supervised by trained medical professionals. Similar facilities currently exist in 10 countries worldwide, according to drugpolicy.org. Roy acknowledges there has been backlash in the U.S. from people who see the facilities as "enabling drug use," but she believes harm reduction is effective.

"I think what [supervised injection facilities] do is enable

people who use drugs to be safe and have health resources, which is really the goal. I mean from a humanitarian perspective all people deserve dignity. All people deserve to be healthy. So, I think like anything that you can do to help people be healthier should be a positive thing," explained Roy.

Roy has also been inspired by her current public health lab research focusing on increasing access to acceptance and commitment therapy, a form of cognitive behavioral therapy used in the treatment of chronic pain, substance use disorders and many other chronic diseases. It has also been used to help COVID-19 health care workers deal with their stressful workload. Acceptance and commitment therapy encourages patients to acknowledge and accept their negative emotions without wallowing in them.

However, despite all her long track record in public health programs, Roy almost didn't apply to the Truman Scholarship. She was originally excited when Jeanne Sokolowski of the Office of National Fellowships contacted her about the opportunity, but as Zoom fatigue started to set in, she began to have doubts.

"I actually emailed [Sokolowski] and I was like 'I have no idea what I'm going to do in the future, like I don't think I can apply,'" recalled Roy.

It was only with Sokolowski's encouragement that Roy got through the application process. "[Sokolowski] has been so helpful and supportive throughout this whole thing; editing all my essays, helping me practice for the interview and everything. I truly could not have done it without her. I wouldn't have even known about it without her," she says.

In the meantime, Roy plans to continue her education with hopes to get a job in a state health department focusing on public health and policy initiatives. Although, she hasn't ruled out work on the federal level in the future.

"I think that's important to build experience and not so far removed from the populations that you're trying to help that misunderstanding comes in, or you can't really see and analyze the results [of your work.]," said Roy.

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The ARTS

29 April 2021

Trash or treasure

N.H. Seacoast artist digs up the B.A. & B.F.A. exhibition

By **Aubrey Benoit**
STAFF WRITER

As several senior students reach toward their academic diplomas, there is still one last push before they can walk across the stage in May. From business to English students, there is a vast variety of adults at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) ready to jump into the real world. This past Monday, the senior art and fine arts students put forth their work for the last time at UNH.

The faculty of Paul Creative Arts Center (PCAC) curated the exhibition and were pleased to recognize the achievements of students from all three degree programs. Senior artwork was displayed in the PCAC Museum of Art and welcomed UNH students, staff and faculty to view the exhibition. There is also a virtual viewing party of the event coming soon to the PCAC website.

The exhibition opened on April 19 to celebrate the graduating students from the Department of Art and Art History and closes on May 20. The event hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and closed for the weekend.

Students have worked hard and poured their passion into these pieces. Walking down the stairs of the Museum of Art, sizeable and exquisite sculptures are displayed and detailed paintings accompany them. Along with them is a wall of black and white photography just from downtown Dover, N.H., and one of the most eye catching, elaborate and abstract wall pieces made completely out of recycled materials.

“Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle” has been ingrained into the minds of the generation that is staring face-to-face with the horrors of climate change. However, senior artist Shannon Cahalane (she/they) put a spotlight on the issue through their work in the bachelor of arts and bachelor of fine arts art exhibition.

This process for Cahalane only started this summer. “[I] needed to make art my body was engaged with. I needed to really tune into my

own emotions,” Cahalane said. With that, a whole different way of working revealed itself in a way that really spoke to Cahalane and made them feel present in the moment.

A huge part of Cahalane’s process is simply finding materials and paper on the side of the road and collecting them for potential projects. Cahalane values this concept on sustainability where materials are able to break down in the environment and build back up in art artwork. “It’s amazing how something so seemingly discarded can hold so much beauty and then what it is to bring back to life,” Cahalane said when reflecting on their most current piece.

For the center of their compositional, they found the most prominent piece as they were headed on a hike: a cardboard box filled with white tiles. Cahalane admired the box more than the tiles, she admits. “It seemed forgotten, but there was such a beautiful quality in how the blue and the brown [cardboard] spoke to each other,” Cahalane followed.

Surrounding the withered cardboard box, Cahalane found random materials from their walls and floor - they even reused old artwork. These pieces were also scattered on the ground, right below the wall piece and included into her presentation. Their fragile and composable work is done purposely to amplify a metaphor for the environment and life itself. “[The piece] does fall apart and things fall apart and

nothing is permanent and amplifying that sense of trash and decay [allows to] still having this really strong shape building up and out,” Cahalane said.

However innovative, Cahalane’s ideology has gotten them into some interaction with the Durham Police Department (Durham PD). In an effort to reach the viewer’s subconscious to reuse materials that won’t decompose otherwise, Cahalane took political signs from public property after the November election to use for their own project. She knew their piece would relate to the environment and could be interpreted as a “new future,” however, it cost them a citation for theft under the Durham PD. “I didn’t know it was theft, even from public property,” Cahalane said. Nonetheless, by the end of their project, Cahalane felt like their piece became more about the material and less about the political source of the material.

One run-in with Durham PD did not stop the graduating artist from getting their ideas out there. One word Cahalane would apply to their work would be the word “linger.” “It is important to be able to slow down and actually look at something and spend time with it. There are so many details and complexity in life, it’s easy to speed through,” Cahalane said. Cahalane consistently reflects on this idea for their own well-being, but also presents it in a way viewers can resonate with.

During the coronavirus

(COVID-19) pandemic, it was difficult for the B.F.A. students to feel completely connected to their studios and work. However, Cahalane reassured that the B.F.A. faculty were constantly visiting studios and incredibly flexible during COVID-19. They have encouraged students to keep working in these “unexpected ways” Cahalane said. Students have worked hard with faculty and staff, despite COVID-19, to create small pairings for the show. Faculty figured out what of their work would make the biggest statement for the exhibition.

One professor that especially sticks out to Cahalane is Jen Moses. Cahalane considers her a friend and a “mentor.” Inspired by Moses’ wall art, Cahalane feels reflective in their own pieces that were put into the B.F.A. exhibition. “She makes art intentional,” Cahalane said. Moses has more specifically taught Cahalane the importance of shape, color and line, leaving an impression Cahalane feels they can take with them after they graduate. Cahalane appreciates her ability to give honest advice, not only about being an artist, but being a female artist. Moses taught these values through “life, moving forward, empathy and pushing through difficult patches,” Cahalane said. Best of all, Cahalane feels “really seen as a person and not just a student.”

What kind of classes inspire young artists to be so engaged in their own work? For Cahalane, it was UNH’s

Women’s Studies survey class: Sustainability and Spirituality. It was huge in developing and contextualizing the work they display now. The peers in their classes are also an important aspect of how their work has developed over the years. “The way we share ideas is so cool and important and interesting. It is so critical to learn from each other,” Cahalane said. Artists may encase an exhibition with the elegant work displayed in UNH’s Museum of Art, however, it took a long time to get there. After four years of general education and art classes, these bachelor of arts and bachelor of fine arts students presented their work in the exhibition to reflect on their senior thesis: everything they have learned in their time at UNH. Within four years, however, there is plenty of room for creative blocks. To push through these blocks, Cahalane listens to philosophical or political podcasts, makes new music playlists, revisits old ideas and even visits Facebook marketplace for potential materials on the side of the road. If all else fails, sometimes it takes Cahalane just ten minutes of silence to push through those moments of discomfort.

In all of the discomfort, hard work and eventual success, Cahalane advises any emerging artist to just “do it for yourself.” Cahalane states that an academic setting can become very performative and done for the validation of others, however “it is radical to do something for myself and [to] evaluate how people are going to interact with it instead of with me,” Cahalane said.

This showcase encases the culmination of accomplished work senior students have completed during their four years of an intensive, dedicated and engaging study of Art or Art History. Seniors like Cahalane are one of many students who have taken their studies and made it something of their own. Up and coming bachelor of arts and bachelor of fine arts graduating students at UNH are the epitome of a progressive movement that will help promote an in-depth obligation to the preservation of their generation.



TNH Staff / Aubrey Benoit.

“Hecuba” - Returning to theater’s roots

By Allison Musitano
STAFF WRITER

As May approaches, there is a newfound warmth in the air: warmth that comes with summer looming over the horizon, and a sense of warmth that accompanies the hope that for once, the pandemic may have an end that is in sight. Even though, like the erratic weather we have been seeing lately, nothing about COVID-19 has been predictable, things are looking brighter these days as things are starting to seem normal, or at least, normal-adjacent again. This normalcy comes as a saving grace to many professions and fields impacted by the pandemic, particularly theater. While theater at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) has been far from stagnant this past school year, its newest show “Hecuba” marks the return of live shows on campus as well as a return to theater’s roots: Greek drama.

However, Hecuba was not the Theater Department’s first pick. “The Curious Case of the Dog in the Nighttime,” was the show that had its production halted at the start of the pandemic as students were sent home last year. The production was salvaged through “The Curious Incident of A Curious Incident: A Pandemic Meta-Play,” a production incorporating elements of the original play as well as student-written commentary on the pandemic, yet a full production of the play slated for spring 2021 would inevitably be canceled. “... When you think about it now it’s kind of a little bit sad and naive when you think ‘My gosh, back then we actually thought that we were going to come back and do theater- back in the theater, back with an audience, without masks and being able to have physical contact and all those things,’” says David Kaye, director

of both “Hecuba” and “The Curious Incident of A Curious Incident: A Pandemic Meta-Play.”

Yet despite the difficulties of putting on a play during a pandemic, the idea of performing a Greek play seemed like a natural choice. “I started to think ‘What could we possibly do?’ Well, the first thing I thought was ‘All right, we could have an audience probably if we do it outside,’” detailed Kaye. “And of course I realized we were still going to have to have masks and it’s really hard to do things with masks, you can’t see the face, then I said ‘That’s not the first time that theater had been done in masks where you couldn’t see the face’ and that’s what really started me thinking, ‘Well geez we actually have this unique opportunity to maybe do a play that was originally created to be done in full masks outside.’ And so that’s what made me think ‘You know what? Let’s take advantage of the situation, how many times are we going to have the opportunity or reason to do an outdoor drama in full Greek masks? Let’s do it now.’”

Although performing “Hecuba” as the ancient Greeks would have was a fortunate compromise between practicality and aesthetic, it was not without its challenges as the production team not only navigated through COVID-19 guidelines such as rehearsing for two hours at a time before having to air out the rehearsal space but also adapted to the intricacies of ancient theater. “I am also a dancer, so going into the chorus I thought I was going to have no problem learning the ‘choreography’, but boy was I wrong,” says student actress Sophia Calderwood, who plays Therapaina and one of the chorus members. “Because our movements are matched with text instead of music for the most part, and

consists of a lot of statue-like movement instead of constant flow, I am challenged to be incredibly focused for 90 minutes straight.”

Following in the tradition of Greek theater, actors also had to learn how to act while wearing masks-- both the face masks we have all grown accustomed to and Greek-inspired theatrical masks designed by costume designer Victoria Cabot. “The most difficult thing for me has been the masks,” describes James Matthews, who plays Polynester in the show. “We perform the show in full-face masks which means I can’t rely on facial expressions. It’s been quite a process trying to redirect my acting into solely my body and not my face, but I think the cast has worked hard to convey an emotional and impactful show despite this challenge.”

While learning to adjust to the finer details of Greek drama, actors had to also learn to connect with their millennia-old characters. Lead actress Julia Sommers describes the process of becoming the character Hecuba: “It has taken a lot of discipline in rehearsals to make her a fully-formed character and not just a caricature. It’s hard as a performer to have to sustain the kind of headspace she is in, but at the same time it’s exhilarating and I wouldn’t change it for the world.” Although this proved to be one of the more difficult aspects of the production, finding Hecuba was also one of the most rewarding aspects of the show for Sommers. “When I first got the script I had my doubts that I could ever relate to her - an elderly mother, the Queen of Troy - but through the rehearsal process I’ve gotten to learn how she ticks. We’ve stripped away all her layers until we got to the vulnerable, scared, and ultimately extremely noble soul inside. I love Hecuba with everything I have.”

A similar sentiment is shared amongst those involved in the production: preparing for the show may have been difficult, but what started as hard work became a labor of love. “It is one of the most rewarding parts of acting, however, when the art just overtakes your conscious and your body and every muscle is engaged in a way that transports you and you’re no longer thinking about your reality,” Calderwood states. “Which is a good thing when you’re outside in 70-degree weather rolling around in mud...”

Viewers of the show can look forward to dynamic performances by not only its named actors but the members of the Greek chorus. “The chorus is ever-changing, it is sometimes a physical representation of what’s happening inside of any given character’s mind, it is sometimes used as a narrative device to help the audience understand, and sometimes characters themselves,” said Calderwood.

“My absolute favorite part of the show is the chorus of women,” stated Matthews. “Whether I’m on stage or not, the power that they hold when they’re performing is unmatched. It gives me so much energy and they give it right back. They also don’t leave the stage for the whole performance so they have to be in the world of the play at all times. They truly have astounded me throughout this entire process.”

Although Euripides’ Hecuba was first performed in 424 BC, students can still relate to the show through its themes of fighting back against oppression, navigating a patriarchal society, living through seemingly endless wartime, along with what director David Kaye describes as the never-ending cycle of violence: “...There is injustice, there is grief, grief turns to rage, rage can turn to vengeance, vengeance can turn

to violence, violence turns to grief, and grief turns to rage... and on and on and on.”

With one weekend of the show left, the performers encourage eligible viewers to come and see the live show:

“This play is unlike anything I have ever seen or been a part of. This is the first time a lot of us are performing live for an audience in over a year so it’s really exhilarating for us. Live theatre is definitely something I’ve missed watching as well. I think the emotionally raw tale of Hecuba is an awesome way to kick start your way back into the setting of live theatre,” says Matthews.

“We have put an insane amount of work into this piece and we would be honored for our peers to come see it,” states Sommers. “Don’t be put off by the masks and the style of the text, because they all come together to tell a story that will stick with you for a long time.”

“This is a unique opportunity to see this form of ancient theater in a way that I think people will find really exciting, really accessible, really unique, and it’s an opportunity to actually experience Greek theater to a degree in a way that the Greeks themselves would have experienced,” Kaye said. “What better really for a college community, people invested in learning about life, about the world, about history, to have all of these aspects rolled into a theater production and experience it in this particular way? So while you’re here at UNH I really hope our students take advantage of this in some ways once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Students and faculty in the UNH COVID-19 testing program can reserve tickets for Hecuba for free at <https://unh.universitytickets.com> for Saturday 5/1 and Sunday 5/2 at 2 p.m. The performance will be held behind the Paul Creative Arts Center.



Photo courtesy of Ron St Jean Photography



Photo courtesy of Ron St Jean Photography

Opinion: HB544 would impact effective discourse

By UNH Leading Women of Tomorrow CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As students who have benefitted from professors who have taught topics that others find difficult to address, we know that progress is not made through silence. It is made through rigorous debate and practical experience.

HB 544 is a bill that was introduced to the New Hampshire legislature on Jan. 12, 2021, around three months after former President Donald Trump signed a similar executive order during his term. The purpose of the bill is to remove Critical Race Theory (CRT) from any institution receiving grant money from the state. This bill was written with language that is intentionally confusing, discourages critical analysis of uncomfortable topics (like racism, sexism, classism, etc.), and restricts the free speech of state employees.

At the University of New Hampshire (UNH), we have many programs, events, and classes that encourage us to challenge each other on topics that are unfamiliar to us. Being able to question something deeply then engage thoughtfully with a speaker is key to integrating new knowledge into our own framework. It is not enough to know everything about a topic, but we must be able to respond to challenging questions about our beliefs. However, when it comes to topics like racism throughout the modern history of the United States, bills such as HB 544 work to shut down these conversations before they begin.

If we cannot be taught what

the racism of popular ideals, theories, and actual events were in our history, we will be unable to learn the critical analysis that drives progression into the future. CRT does not teach fantasies about possible motivations behind slavery or discrimination of the past; it is the encouragement to find the institutional bias in our past and present that has driven the consequences we see in our recent history. Teaching CRT means teaching how Christopher Columbus was actually responsible for the decimation of the Native American people, rather than a curious explorer who learned to farm from a few nice folks. It means explaining the full history of racist ideals in our country and how people who were racist, in a time where it was the accepted norm, ran a system to reflect their own racist ideals.

There is an indescribable amount of evidence from the entirety of the history of the U.S., from its inception to the present, that is explicitly racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, etc. To deny the right to discuss CRT as a leading theory is to deny factual evidence from recent history and psychological evidence happening at this current moment.

Delving deeper into the article, we as a group grappled with the restrictive writing. For example, one of the proposed Divisive Concepts stated in 10-C:1 section II a) is, "An individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;" which would censor discussions around people's implicit biases. Also under 10-C:1, section IV further distracts from the importance of active involvement on the part of

privileged groups in an effort to dismantle racist and sexist systems which are in place in the U.S.

While these are uncomfortable subjects for many, preventing discussion of these issues by restricting funding to public institutions looking to provide people opportunities to examine their own attitudes will only create deeper divides between privileged and oppressed groups. The phrasing of these particular passages also seems to limit communication about such topics to academic theory or impersonal discussion, excluding personal stories, which could be shared to raise consciousness surrounding peoples' lived experiences.

While many of us in this organization may not have experienced the impacts of systemic racism, we can easily look back one or two generations to hear of it from the source. Ruby Bridges, the first Black girl to be integrated into the public school system, is still alive today at only 66 years old. She was harassed in public by adults for a decision she couldn't even make herself and for the color of her skin. We are not divorced from the racism in America's past; we are barely one generation away from the people who hurled insults and items alike at a little girl for being Black. Billie Holliday, a Black woman and a Grammy Awards winner, died from cirrhosis in 1959 after being relentlessly pursued by Harry Anslinger and the Federal Drug Administration. Even in our time at UNH, we experienced the "8% Rally", where students demanded better treatment for the minority students on campus that make up only 8% of the student population. Again,

we are not outside of the age of systemic racism in the United States, we still have people who can tell first-hand experience of segregation and the violence that accompanied that.

The goal of this bill, titled "Relative to the Propagation of Divisive Topics," is clear: to remove diversity and inclusion training as a requirement for people holding contracts in New Hampshire. Among researchers included in an article by Sarah Brown for The Chronicle, there is disagreement about the effectiveness of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training, with one study finding that five or 10 years down the line colleges and universities that underwent DEI training programs did not show an increase in employed women and/or minority people, with one researcher citing that the training, particularly when mandatory, can emphasize people's differences over their commonalities. Others, however, found that even where the training didn't quantifiably help, it did no harm to the workplace.¹

Frank Dobbin, a sociologist at Harvard University was quoted as saying, "Training can't change stereotypes, [they] are built up over a lifetime." Training, however, puts modern stereotypes into social and historical context, educating people on the implications that each entails.

Other studies included in the same article found that DEI education programs that included personal narratives were more effective than those which sought to be completely objective. Trainings which attempted to stay distanced gave off a sense of walking on eggshells around topics related to DEI, reinforcing the

attitude that public discussion of these topics is stigmatized. These trainings certainly have room to improve in format and content, but censorship of these conversations would only perpetuate the issues which systematically oppress minority groups today. While we believe that DEI training should be actively improved, opening these topics for conversation allows more fruitful discussion between peers and colleagues while modeling better relationships for future generations.

The point is to expand and improve training and DEI training methods to best fit a wide range of audiences, not creating a social taboo around DEI subjects by banning the topic from receiving public or federal funding. Shutting down these conversations before they have a chance to begin does not stop them from happening and does not make the systemic racism and sexism in our country any less real. In the United States, we still have sundown towns, which are towns that terrorize and discriminate against Black people after dark. These are vestiges from an incredibly racist past that was built into our governmental systems. How can this be denied? It is documented and known as fact. To deny that fact is to deny recent history; when we begin to deny history, we are doomed to repeat it in the future. Along these same lines, we will not discontinue our conversations about race and sex because we are determined to move past the harmful actions of this country's past. We want to progress continuously and the only way we see towards a more progressive future is to challenge ourselves and others with difficult conversations for the betterment of society.

What do you think about HB 544?

TWEET YOUR OPINION

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WE WANT TO HEAR IT



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From the *Editor's Desk...*

“Vaxx” to the future

In the past month, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) has organized two coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine clinics in the Whittemore Center: one for in-state students and faculty, and the other for the remaining out-of-state students.

Even if these opportunities were missed by UNH students, there are plenty of opportunities over the summer and before the fall semester comes in August.

With this effort from the university, and increased opportunities in the coming months, it could be plausible to think that the Durham campus could require COVID-19 vaccines for all their students.

University systems and colleges across the country are already starting to mandate vaccines for their students. Both major university systems in California have required students, faculty and staff to all get vaccinated by the time they return to campus in the fall – this is more than 760,000 people for context. Other schools that are requiring it include Yale University, Georgetown University, Stanford Uni-

versity, Wesleyan University and over thirty others.

“It all comes down to circumstance when making a decision of this magnitude. If you are a school like New York University or the University of California Los Angeles where there is a vibrant community around the school, it might be worth it to pursue a vaccine mandate. However, if you are located in a quaint town of Durham, N.H., I don't think that the possible legal ramifications are worth the trouble.”

versity, Wesleyan University and over thirty others.

While more schools across the country are joining into this movement, many schools like UNH and the University of Louisiana are standing pat and are leaving the decision up to the individuals that attend them. Even schools that are requiring the COVID-19 vaccines are waiting for FDA approval of at least one vaccine to fully enforce the

mandate and to make the process smoother. At this time, it is not clear whether that process will be complete before the fall.

Nearly 90% of universities in America already require students to have vaccines that prevent them from measles, mumps, and rubella (The MMR vaccine), among many other miscellaneous vaccines.

What makes requiring a COVID-19 vaccine a little different from the others is that there is much less clarity on the effectiveness of them. They were given an emergency-use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), making mandates and the legal process behind them much cloudier.

In states like Texas and Florida, universities could be barred from requiring the vaccine as executive orders signed by their Republican governors would indirectly prevent it from happening.

There are a lot of factors and viewpoints to consider when debating whether universities like UNH should mandate the novel COVID-19 vaccines, all of which have significant impact in com-

munities.

Ensuring every student is vaccinated is obviously ideal, as it would help mitigate the spread of the virus on campuses and would in turn help the rest of the surrounding communities that border them and minimize the possibility of virus mutation. Many think that this makes it imperative that these schools require the vaccines and that they have a responsibility to do so.

Also, the mandates would help universities open back up and get back on a path of financial stability, something that many are struggling with. Students have left school knowing that they are getting a less effective, virtual education that is not worth the price of full tuition. A vaccine could be the only way for these institutions to recover from the last year.

While these are more than valid reasons for requiring the COVID-19 vaccine to attend universities across America, these institutions must consider the flip-side of what such a mandate could do to their community and to their bottom line. A vaccine requirement could drive of the enrollment numbers even farther down, as there will not be a consensus that it was the right decision.

Many students will certainly put up a fight, as there will be a portion that have health concerns with the new vaccines and the long-term effects of them despite an array of scientific evidence to back their effectiveness.

It all comes down to circumstance when making a decision of this magnitude. If you are a school like New York University or the University of California Los Angeles where there is a vibrant community around the school, it might be worth it to pursue a vaccine mandate. However, if you are located in a quaint town of Durham, N.H., I don't think that the possible legal ramifications are worth the trouble. While everyone being vaccinated is ideal, others with differing viewpoints and their rights need to be respected.

There are various stipulations that can be implemented at a universities to help promote students to get vaccinated, like only allowing vaccinated students to participate in certain activities. At least while the FDA hasn't officially approved any of the three vaccine, this should be the route UNH takes.

Josh Morrill
Executive Editor

Got Opinions?

Send yours to tnh.editor@unh.edu

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TRACK AND FIELD

Men and Women both take first in Durham



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS

Nate Hobbs launches himself through the air while competing in the long jump as the men's and women's track & field teams win meet.

By Jared Gustafson
SPORTS WRITER

University of New Hampshire (UNH) track and field hosted Dartmouth, Hartford, Maine, UMass Lowell, and Vermont this Saturday, April 24 as both men's and women's teams took home first place finishes.

The women's team looked to first-year athlete Elizabeth Martell who has been on a dominant stretch recently.

The women took four first-place finishes which lifted them to a score of 175 on the day. The win was comfortable as second place Maine only tallied 120 points.

The highlight of the day came from graduate student Alyssa Colbert and junior Sarah Williams who both set school

records in their events. Colbert had a throw of 161-5 feet in the discus throw which secured a first-place finish in the event. Williams was not as fortunate as Colbert. She faced one of the deepest competition pools in the meet. Williams broke the school record with a throw of 44-8 1/4 feet but the toss was only good enough for second place.

Once again, Martell earned a first-place finish in the 400-meter dash, running a time of 56.91 seconds.

The 'Cats dominated in the 5000-meter dash as they took the top four finishes. Leading the pack was graduate student Elisabeth Danis who ran a final time of 17 minutes, 45.87 seconds, a personal record.

The team of first-year athletes Natalie Fraser and Lily Doody, and juniors Kelly Hamlin and

Nicole Yeomans placed first in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 4:01.80.

The men's side saw nine first-place finishes in an overall dominant day. The men won the meet on Saturday with a score of 172 points which was enough to get past second-place Dartmouth who only totaled 127.

The highlight of the day came from none other than junior Nate Hobbs who once again broke his own school record in the long jump with a distance of 24-10 1/2 feet meters.

The first-place finishes in the field came from first-year athlete Joshua Hoffman, junior John King Jr., graduate student Zachary Astle and senior Jordan Buckmire.

Hoffman led the pack in the discus with a distance of 159-1 feet, with Astle coming in sec-

ond place.

King Jr. earned himself a first-place finish in the javelin with a throw of 180-9 feet.

Although Astle did not place first in the discus, he found redemption in the hammer throw and shot put with a first-place finish in each. In the hammer, Astle threw a career best distance of 194-8 feet and threw a distance of 56-3 1/4 in the shot put.

Buckmire found himself a first-place finish in the triple jump with a distance of 47-3/4 feet which was just enough to beat out teammate Hobbs who placed second with a distance of 45-5 1/4.

The first-place finishes on the track came from graduate student Nicolas Sevilla-Connelly, senior Michael Monahan, senior James Wilkes and the relay

team that consisted of Monahan, junior Emmanuel Nkounkou, first-year athlete William Love and junior Brian Genet.

Sevilla-Connelly ran a career-best time in the 1500-meter dash with a time of 3:52.58.

While Monahan was also part of the relay team that placed first he also earned himself a first-place finish in the 110-meter hurdles with a career-best time of 14.79 seconds. Wilkes won the 800-meter dash with a career-best time of 1:50.19.

The 4x100 relay team of Monahan, Nkounkou, Love and Genet placed first with a final time of 44.66 seconds.

The 'Cats return to competition on May 1 and 2 as they look to carry over the momentum from Saturday's meet when they travel to the America East Championships at UMass Lowell.



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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Foster and Lopez latest in additions to improve three-point shooting

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

After a season where the Wildcats had the fourth-worst three-point percentage in the America East, it's clear that Bill Herrion and his program are making an effort to be sure that's not the case come next year. After picking up sophomore Sloan Seymour from George Washington University, Herrion has followed up with the additions of transfer student Marco Foster and incoming first-year sharpshooter A.J. Lopez.

Foster will be transferring from Division II Oklahoma Christian University (OC) with a full four years of eligibility. The transfer will fill an immediate need for the Wildcats as a 6-foot-2 guard with an ability to play on the perimeter. This need is coming after junior guard Marque Maultsby announced via his Instagram in February that the 2020-21 season was going to be his last as a Wildcat.

During his lone season at OC, Foster averaged 15.4 points per game and sank 3.44

threes per game which led his team. He converted 62 three-pointers, tied for the most among first-year Division II players, along with shooting 42.8% from behind the arc.

Lopez will come to Durham from Mount Zion Prep in Lanham, Md. and could fill a future role offensively for the Wildcats. Senior Josh Hopkins has been one of the team's best shooters but when his time runs out, Lopez seems to fit a similar mold. Standing the same 6-foot-5 as Hopkins, Lopez is coming off a campaign where he shot 45% from downtown and scored 16.1 points per game.

He's made a couple other stops along the way. The guard scored 20.8 points per game at Schoolhouse Prep in Miami Fla. the season prior. Before that he starred at St. Francis Prep in Queens N.Y. where averaged 18 points per game.

Herrion believes that his three additions to this point will help fill areas of need and assist in capitalizing on the veteran roster that will return to Lundholm Gymnasium this winter.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVEN CHRISTY

Marco Foster driving to the hoop as a member of Oklahoma Christian University.

"Along with [George Washington University transfer] Sloan Seymour, we feel that Marco and A.J. will add to our depth and help continue our pursuit of winning a championship and getting to the NCAA tournament, which is our ultimate goal in our program,"

explained Herrion.

The trio of Seymour, Foster and Lopez will add a combined 41.5% shooting behind the arc from this past season. The Wildcats shot just 31.8% in that area as a team in 2020-21.

Foster and Lopez will also be dropped into a group of

young guards like first-year K.J. McClurg, and redshirt first-years Blondeau Tchoukuiengo and Nick Johnson. Minutes may be tough to come by for guards in 2021-22 but Herrion seems to be setting himself up nicely for years to come.

FOOTBALL

Former Wildcat Pop Lacey signs with the NAZ Wranglers

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

The last time Pop Lacey suited up was all the way back on Nov. 23, 2019 when the Wildcats defeated the Maine Black Bears 28-10 to take back the Brice-Cowell Musket. Today, Lacey is headed to northern Arizona for his first opportunity at professional football with the Northern Arizona Wranglers of the Indoor Football League (IFL).

Lacey was among the group of UNH players whose pro day was canceled a little over a

year ago due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. At the time he had been participating in virtual pro days and had hopes to be a training camp invite with an NFL club or receive a tryout in the Canadian Football League (CFL). While his opportunity didn't come in the NFL, CFL or Extreme Football League (XFL), Lacey has finally gotten his first sniff from the IFL after a year of training.

In the meantime, Lacey has spent some time down in Florida staying in shape to try and make the most of his time while he could. He explained

that after a player leaves college he generally has about two years before professional scouts will start to write them off. During his time in the Sunshine State, he had the opportunity to work out with one of the top high school recruits in the nation, Mario Williams, who is committed to Oklahoma University.

Lacey says that he's heard from agents who think he has potential to play at the next level, whether it be the XFL, CFL or NFL. The CFL hasn't been inviting unsigned players to tryouts, however, due to COVID-19 according to Lacey.

Since Lacey has been out of live action for so long, he explained how at this point he needs to rely on connections he's made rather than his collegiate resume.

"It's all about who you know, what you know, and how to get put in the eyes of these people," said Lacey.

The former Wildcat is excited to finally have the opportunity to play competitively again after about 17 months away from the game.

"For me it's a blessing. I've been out of the pads for so long and being able to play football was basically my therapy for a

very long time," said Lacey. "I haven't been associated with a team since that Maine game in November 2019 so for me it's very thrilling and very exciting. I'm ready to put the pads back on and hit somebody."

The IFL's spring season got underway on April 23 but Lacey is reporting for the Wrangler's fall camp on May 1. The safety will know his status on the team by May 9. The Wrangler's first game is on May 16 against the Arizona Rattlers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN SZEPAN

Former UNH safety Pop Lacey has signed a deal with the NAZ Wranglers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF POP LACEY

Pop Lacey working out during the offseason.

TNH Sports Writer Spring Honors

VOLLEYBALL

By **Dan Marshman**
SPORTS WRITER

Player of the Year: Abby Sullivan

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) women's volleyball team had a clear leader this season in junior middle blocker Abby Sullivan. Sullivan was sensational for the Wildcats all season leading the team in kills with 73, a hitting percentage of .347 and 25 blocks. Sullivan started the season on a tear garnering more than 10 kills in each of the Wildcats first four games. She was a force defensively starting eight of the nine total games for the 'Cats and recording a block in each of those games. Sullivan had a season high 12 kills against Stony Brook on March 14 leading the Wildcats to a win over the Seawolves. She was named to the America East All-Conference First Team in 2020 after making the Second Team in 2019.

UNH head coach Christo-

pher Feliciano said Sullivan has led the Wildcats all season.

"In our shortened season Abby played a critical role to our success." He added, "she's someone that commanded a lot of attention from opposing teams, which in turn made everyone around her better."

She gave the Wildcats a player to build around heading into next season and Feliciano is happy to have her lead the team moving forward. He said her success is a credit to her work and she works as hard as anybody. She is undoubtedly the player of the year for the Wildcats and she'll look to carry that success over to next season.

Rookie of the Year: Hannah Serbousek

Sullivan's play helped elevate those around her, one of which is first-year outside hitter Hannah Serbousek who was named to the America East All-Conference Second Team.

Serbousek was vital to the Wildcat's success this year as

she was one of four rookies named to the America East All-Conference Team. She also earned recognition from the conference by getting a spot on the All-Rookie Team.

Serbousek had more than 13 kills in three matches this year proving her dangerous ability to go up and get the ball at its highest point. She ended the season with 60 kills which was third on the team to go along with a .256 hitting percentage which was eighth-best in the America East.

Coach Feliciano gushed about her first season as a Wildcat.

"To make an All-Conference Team as a freshman is no small feat," commented Feliciano.

"As the season progressed Hannah continued to improve. Every day she came in with a specific focus. Our program is fortunate to have Hannah part of it."

Serbousek was a big part of the 7-3 UNH team who earned second place in the regular season for the America East.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

By **Brackett Lyons**
SPORTS EDITOR

Player of the Year: Francesca Picicci

Despite the disappointing end to their season due to COVID-19, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) women's soccer team (5-2, 2-2) had plenty of bright spots. The strange, condensed spring season couldn't keep several Wildcats from bursting onto the scene or from reminding everyone how good they are. The 'Cats had their best start in program history (4-0) and were undefeated at home (5-0). Senior captain Francesca Picicci was the team's primary source for offense all season and a big reason they found such success this season.

Picicci had herself a year to remember in her senior season. The forward and captain tallied three goals, two assists and eight points for the Wildcats in just seven games. She started every game for UNH and netted a dramatic overtime winner against Maine in this year's border battle. Picicci was voted to the America East All-Conference Second Team as well as the All-Academic Team. She was a constant workhorse for UNH on the field, and Head Coach Steve Welham described

her as a grinder.

"This kid just works," said Welham.

Rookie of the Year: Alivia Kelly

This season saw 12 first-year athletes dawn the blue and white for UNH. Among the newcomers, Alivia Kelly stood out. Kelly started every game in her first year in Durham. The center-back was a rock in the Wildcats defense, which kept in three games and only allowed more than one goal once all season. Kelly was everywhere on the field. She dominated from box to box and was a physical presence that opposing attackers seldom got past. She proved to be one of the most versatile weapons for the Wildcats.

Despite her position, she managed a winning goal on a header versus Northeastern in the first game of the year. She was also a regular free-kick taker and delivered dangerous balls into the box all season. Welham even brought the center back up the field to play striker on occasion when the Wildcats found themselves down late and in need of a goal. Kelly was awarded Second Team All-Conference and All-Rookie at the end of the season.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

By **Spencer Marks**
SPORTS WRITER

Player of the Year: Julia Neyland

Although the Wildcats boasted a talented starting lineup this season, nobody has been more effective to this point than senior midfielder Julia Neyland.

Neyland has played and started in nine games this season. With just one game remaining she has scored 23 of the team's goals and dished out seven of their assists giving her 31 points on the season.

The senior has proven to be a valuable asset to the team in the majority of their games this season. She scored at least one goal in eight out of nine games. Neyland's season is not finished yet as the Wildcats still have one game to play against Hartford in their season finale on May 1.

Rookie of the Year: Olivia O'Connor

UNH is in luck as they have already found themselves more talent for the future. First-year attacker Olivia O'Connor has shown the talent and potential to not only be the best newcomer on the team but one of the more productive players on the entire roster.

O'Connor has played in all ten of the games this season. In a recent game against Vermont, she recorded a goal and an assist to try and keep the Wildcats in the game before losing by a final of 13-9. This added onto her resume of four goals and one assist.

These numbers add up to five points which is the most among first-year Wildcats this season. O'Connor has one more game to help add to her promising rookie statistics. She will certainly be a great asset to the team in the coming seasons.



MEN'S SOCCER

By **Shaun Petipas**
SPORTS EDITOR

Player of the Year: Alejandro Robles

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) men's soccer has had a fantastic season winning their third consecutive America East (AE) Championship and advancing to the NCAA Tournament to play Kentucky Sunday, May 2. Throughout the season the Wildcats' veterans like graduate student Paul Mayer, and seniors Linus Fallberg and Victor Menuhier all stepped up in big moments when the 'Cats needed them. Together that trio combined for 14 goals. But there was one player who consistently showed up time and time again. Grad student goalkeeper Alejandro Robles started every game this season and was one of the best players in the conference this season.

Through nine games this season Robles came up with 25 saves and put up an unblem-

ished 8-0-1 record. Robles has been a key part to the Wildcats' success this season only allowing four goals through 790 minutes of play.

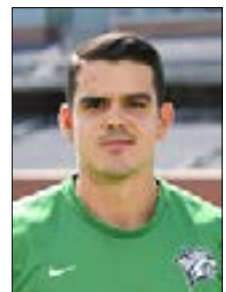
Robles' ability to remain calm between the pipes was vital to the 'Cats being the best team in the America East. He came up with some outstanding saves during the AE Tournament. Robles led the America East in almost all of the goal-keeping categories, including shutouts, goals against average and save percentage. He tallied four shutouts, a goals against average of .456 and a save percentage of .862. Robles' tournament performance helped the Wildcats claim their third America East title and got him a bid to the All-Championship Team. The grad student was also named the America East Goalkeeper of the Year for the second straight season.

Rookie of the Year: Yannick Bright

With such a talented roster the Wildcats didn't have to put

any of their young players in any uncomfortable positions. Coach Marc Hubbard allowed some of them to learn from the sideline but that wasn't the story for first-year midfielder Yannick Bright who started all nine games for the Wildcats this spring. The Milan, Italy native was one of the team leaders in time on the field and helped maintain the midfield for the 'Cats with 785 minutes of play. Bright rarely exited the game and only was sidelined in the last contest due to an injury.

Bright placed in the top-six on the team in points with four as of now. He scored his notch point against tough Northeastern squad back on March 6. He was able to tally the rest of his points and his lone goal of the season against the UMass Lowell Riverhawks on April 2. Bright quietly was one of the Wildcats' best players all season long and with a lot of time to grow and evolve as a player, his best days could be ahead of him.



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Thursday, April 29, 2021

The New Hampshire

SWIM & DIVE

SWIM & THRIVE

UNH extends America East record with ninth conference title



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS

The UNH swimming & diving team poses for a photo after extending their America East record with their ninth conference championship.

By Jared Gustafson
SPORTS WRITER

NEWARK, N.J. — Nothing could go wrong for the University of New Hampshire (UNH) swim & dive team as they traveled to New Jersey to compete in the America East (AE) Championships. UNH finished the Championship meet with 817 points, while also winning 15 out of the total 18 events. This performance continued the dominance the 'Cats have had in the America East. This title extends the Wildcats' record of the most America East Championships with nine.

The Wildcats won by a near-200 point margin as UMBC finished second with 621.5 points and Vermont came next with 613.5.

UNH started their day on

the right track when sophomore Paige Edmier won the first event of the day. Edmier swam a time of 10 minutes and 19.54 seconds and set a new personal record in the 1000 yard freestyle. Finishing right behind Edmier was first-year Wildcat Hannah Devine who came short of first place with a time of 10 minutes, 20.02 seconds. This was, however, a new personal record for Devine.

Their success continued to the 200 yard freestyle where UNH captured four of the top six spots in the event. Leading the pack was junior Anna Metzler with a mark of 1:58.21. Coming in third was the first-year athlete Michaela Herwig who finished with a time of 2:01.27.

The Wildcats dominated once again in the 100 yard freestyle with sophomore Olivia

Stille setting a new personal record and winning the event with a time of 50.65 seconds. Finishing behind Stille was junior Cate Wardinski who took home the bronze medal while setting a new personal record of 51.33 seconds.

Sophomore Jamy Lum continued to handle business in the 200 yard breaststroke for the second year in a row. Lum has back-to-back victories in this event, setting a time of 2:14.19 this time around. This was about one second slower than last year's time of 2:13.36.

In the last event of the day, the 'Cats took home one more victory in the 400 yard freestyle relay. This team consisted of Stille, Wardinski, Lum and Metzler. This group ended up swimming a time of 3:25.72.

After the events wrapped up, the Wildcats were the

recipients of several awards for their dominant performance this season and over the weekend. Lum was the standout before being named the Championship's Most Outstanding Swimmer after winning three individual titles in the 100 and 200 breast, and the 500 yard freestyle. Lum can now add this honor to her America East Rookie of the Year and team Rookie of the Year from a season ago.

Head coach Josh Wilman and his coaching staff were named America East Coaching Staff of the Year for the 15th time in program history. Wilman is the most decorated coach in the conference and has been at the helm of each of the Wildcats' nine AE titles. This year's championship is the program's fifth over the last nine seasons.

Willman gave credit to his group after their conference-record ninth title.

"Everyone did great throughout the day, scoring points in the 100 free, the two backs, just a lot of great things were happening. The women are really excited about the win, they worked really hard for this chance and they deserved it, so we are really proud of ourselves," Willman explained.

The Rookie of the Year went to first-year athlete Abby McKinney.

Metzler won the Elite 18 award which awards the student-athlete with the highest GPA. Metzler had an outstanding GPA of 3.93 in biomedical science. The junior was named as the AE Rookie of the Year in 2019, 2020 AE Swimmer of the Year and 2020 All-American.

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