CDC amends gathering requirements; UNH guidelines remain

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

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COVID-19 misconceptions

Contributing Writer Rhianwen Watkins talks with several UNH professors about COVID-19 misconceptions and disinformation.

Theater Department presents “Hecuba”

“Hecuba” represents a return to live theater and a taste of its roots - Greek drama. See the show this weekend!

Changes to UNH bus routes

University of New Hampshire Transportation Services will soon end their service to the neighboring town of Newmarket due to low ridership.

Pop Lacey signs with Indoor Football League

The former Wildcat recently signed his first professional contract with the Northern Arizona Wranglers.

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The next issue of TNH will be published on Thursday, May 6, 2021

But you can find new content daily at TNHdigital.com

What’s the Weather?

April 29
54/46
Rain

April 30
61/44
Rain

May 1
57/41
Mostly Sunny

May 2
70/53
Mostly Cloudy

May 3
72/54
Cloudy

May 4
61/48
Rain

May 5
59/43
Morning Showers

Weather according to weather.com
passed in New Hampshire to increase restrictions on absentee voting after last year’s election where absentee voting was at an all-time high amid 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 narrowly redrawn 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 didn’t think the election was “free and fair.” In fact, the bill 625 prohibits the means of public discourse regarding these important, modern issues such as systemic racism in New Hampshire. HB543 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 the beginning of April. These businesses and fellow legislators which said it would have “chilling impact on our workplaces and on the business climate in New Hampshire.”

Dan Wolfe wrote an article detailing the bill’s potential negative effect on New Hampshire and United States history - echoing against the fabric of the “Live Free” state’s very being. These bills have all passed into law and have now crossed over to the Senate for further review.

New Hampshire's status as the first state in the nation to hold a primary is being challenged, this time by a bill in New Hampshire 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 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 springboard for many famous political figures. “It has given a voice to a lot of candidates across the demographic that would have been national level leaders,” said Buckley. Buckley cites politicians like John 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 one where the majority of the population said they would have voted for the eventual candidate. “The reason we chose an early date for our primary back in 1936 was because that was a result of poverty levels that we were cheap,” said Smith.

The first time a long-time 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 New Hampshire, but if it did, he said it would have to come as a mandate by the parties. These parties, Smith said, could take away delegates from candidates who chose to run in another state.

While New Hampshire has been a good predictor in the past, Buckley said its existence and 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.

The New Hampshire House has approved two bills that would make it harder for elderly and disabled New Hampshire voters to vote, said a letter to the leaders of the UNH Survey Center titled “Anti-Racism in a time of Tragedy.” Each student of the seminar called the event “Anti-Racism in a time of Tragedy” and “The History of Racist 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 in science, injustice in STEM fields, 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 by the students; the students examined how the Environmental Protection Agency and other government agencies responded to these events and how they related to environmental issues. One example she cited was 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.

“Then this creates a cycle of poverty as their housing is sic description,” she added, “an act relative to the propagation of divisive societal issues, and those residents have more health in low-income Black racial populations.”

Doctorate student in the Department of Natural Resources Serena Frey and doctoral student in the Natural Resources and Earth Systems Science Program Emi- lya Whalen are leading a gradu- ate seminar titled “Anti-Racism in Science: Promoting an Inclusive and Equitable STEM Community.”

In an interview, Frey detailed how the 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 up and realizing we can’t keep on the next contest to keep them watching TV,” said Smith. Smith doubts any change will come of the new push by New Hampshire, but if it did, he said it would have to come as a mandate by the parties. These parties, Smith said, could take away delegates from candidates who chose to run in another state.

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The Wolfheim and Erna- kovich lab, as well as others, have read and discussed papers such as “Ten Simple Rules for Building an Antiracist Lab” by Briana Chary and Katherine Berje and have implemented frequent discussions regarding diversity 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’s really valuable to think about who built the scientific field, where our ideas come from and how and ideas that I wouldn’t have neces- sarily come across otherwise,” she said. “I think that’s really valuable to think about who built the scientific field, where our ideas come from and how and ideas that I wouldn’t have neces- sarily come across otherwise,” she said. “I think that’s really valuable to think about who built the scientific field, where our ideas come from and how and ideas that I wouldn’t have neces- sarily come across otherwise,” she said. “I think that’s really valuable to think about who built the scientific field, where our ideas come from and how and ideas that I wouldn’t have neces- sarily come across otherwise,” she said.
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 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 ofRepresentatives 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 insurmountable problem – of getting a place where 400 people could get together, respecting social distancing – 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 Mowrey took the Republican nomination for House District 1, and Corky Messer 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 met in a previous interview 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 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 complain your freedoms are in fact illegal. There are no exceptions. The Constitution strictly forbids the state from making laws that relate to personal freedoms and any law subject to violation of the constitution shall be null and void and shall be deemed illegal,” said Rep. Wil fowler (R-Rockingham) in a prior 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 Represenatives as a whole,” said House Speaker Steve Shurtleff (D-Penacook).

2020 General Election
The 2020 election was incredibly interesting to cover as a student journalist. 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 campaign managers, staff, and UNH students from previous interviews.

The Sept. 8 New Hampshire StatePrimary elections saw relatively frequent 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 insurmountable problem – of getting a place where 400 people could get together, respecting social distancing – 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.

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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 primaries, 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 that many members carry on in future elections.

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N.H. Speaker of the House Dick Hinch died of CO-VID-19
On Dec. 2, longtime Rep. Dick Hinch accepted the nomination of Speaker of the House. Only one week later, he was diagnosed with COVID-19. Dick Hinch died on Jan. 6 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 revamped 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 was passed by over 70% of New Hampshire student senators, which many UNH students spend nine to 12 months out of the year in Durham. HB86 was retained in committee on Feb. 16, meaning it will be worked on through the summer. Student 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 Republicarians, 78% of Independents, and 51% of Democrats. 71% approved of his handling of the coronavirus. 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 run for Senate. His health was 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 dip 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.
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 didn’t happen is that when we engineer things in a laboratory setting, there are basically sig-

Additional misconceptions persist. Though 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 a 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 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 to 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 was that they had COVID-19, their death was written off as a COVID-19 death and because it had COVID-19, their death was attributed to them having COVID-19, 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. “Statistical analyses 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.”

Jeffers 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 hoaxes to election hoaxes, same people, easy jump, just as it was from climate change to COVID hoaxes.”

“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.
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 communication 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 accurate 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 strategies 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.
UNH Transit to cancel Newmarket bus route

By Ben Domaingue

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, passengers a run 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 years, according to the 2020 Clery report from the UNH police department, there were six hate crimes based in UNH.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic disproportionally affects international students at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), challenged often with remote learning and 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 admission 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 remote, especially students 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 look up what time it was 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 were masked.

According to the September 2020 Clery report from the UNH police department, there were six hate crimes based in race, national origin or ethnicity 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 including 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 after graduation. “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 experience 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.”

International students impacted by COVID-19

By Jacob Towne

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Hannah Donahue / TNH Staff
UNH junior receives Truman Scholarship

By Isabelle Curtis

STAFF WRITER

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 service. 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.
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 a last push before they can walk across the stage in May. From business to English students, there is a vast variety of students at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) ready to jump into the real world. This past Monday, the art faculty 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 History and closes on May 20. The event is 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 of upcycled 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 by myself, 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 composition, 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 composible work is done purposefully 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 still not stop the graduating artist from getting their ideas out there. One word Cahalane would apply to their work would be the word “finger.” “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. 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.

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**By Allison Mustano**

**STAFF WRITER**

As May approaches, there is a newfound warmth in the air, with sun shining bright and summer looming over the horizon, and a sense of warmth that accompanies the hope that for once, the pandemic may have not 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 the 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 Incident of A Curious Pandemic” production halted at the start of the pandemic, says David Kaye, director of both “Hecuba” and “The 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 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 a Greek drama, I am challenged to be incredibly focused for 90 minutes straight.”

Following 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 Mathews, 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 to begin to direct 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 different ways of acting, actors had to also learn how to connect with their millennia-old characters. Lead actress Julia Somners 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 a bit 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 “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 rehearsals process I’ve gotten to learn how she ticks. We’re stripped away all her layers until we get to the vulnerable, scared, and ultimately extremely noble soul inside. I love Hecuba with everything I have.”

A similar sentiment is shared among all 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 overrides 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. “It’s one of my favorites so 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 you turn 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 Somners. “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 see a college opera for the first time that may have experienced,” Kaye said. “What better really are for a college community, people invested in learning about art, about the world, about history, to have all of these aspects rolled into a theater production and experience it in a particular way? So while you’re here at UNH I really hope our students take advantage of this in some ways one-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.
Opinion: HB544 would impact effective discourse

By UNH Leading Women of Tomorrow CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As students who have benefitted from professors who have taught us topics that others find difficult, 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 through 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 progress 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 concepts we see in recent history. Teaching CRT means teaching how Christophe, 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 create discussion around people’s implicit biases. Also under 10-C:1, section IV further dangers 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 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 marginalized 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 people’s 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 it from the source. Ruby Bridges, the first Black girl to be integrated into the public school system, is still alive today at 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 Holiday, 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 cam-pus 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 New Hampshire, 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. 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 which included personal narratives were more effective than those that 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 diverse and inclusive 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 relationship 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 University of New Hampshire (UNH), we have many programs, events, and classes that encourage us to challenge and explore 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 through the modern history of the United States, bills such as HB 544 work to shut down these conversations before they begin.

What do you think about HB 544?

TWEET YOUR OPINION

@thenewhampshire

WE WANT TO HEAR IT
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 University, University of New Hampshire (UNH), and some others.

Ensuring every student is vaccinated is obviously ideal, as it would help mitigate the spread of the virus on campuses and in turn help the rest of the surrounding communities thatborder them and minimize the possibility of virus mutations. 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 sustainability, something that many are struggling with. Students have left school knowing that they are getting vaccinated, and that acquisition that is not worth the price of full tuition. A vaccine could be the only way for these institutions to recover.

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.

*Editor’s Note: This is a response to the special edition of *The New Hampshire* that was published on May 17, 2021.*
Men and Women both take first in Durham

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 Mar- tell 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 discuss 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 Elisa- beth 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 Yoonmans 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 Backmire.

Hoffman led the pack in the discuss with a distance of 159-1 feet, with Astle coming in second 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 ham- mer, Astle threw a career best distance of 194-8 feet and threw a distance of 56.3 1/4 in the shot put.

Backmire 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 stu- dent 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.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS

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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 Florida staying in shape to try and make himself up nicely for years to come. 

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.

“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. McClung, and redshirt first-years Blondeau Tchoumou 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.
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 Christian- 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 she’s success is a credit to her work and she works 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 Wildcats’ 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.

Soccer

By Brackett Lyons
SPORTS EDITOR

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 opponents attacked but were unable to get 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 season opener. 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-America East and All-Rookie at the end of the season.

Men’s Soccer

By Shaun Petipas
SPORTS EDITOR

Player of the Year: Alejandro Robles

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) men’s soccer 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 Mensudler 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 spring. Through nine games this season Robles came up with 25 saves and put up an unblemished 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 goalkeeping 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 15. 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.
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 613.5 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. Michaela Herwig finished behind Metzler 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. The UNH swimming & diving team poses for a photo after extending their America East record with their ninth conference championship.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS

By Jared Gustafson
SPORTS WRITER