

SPRING 2023

NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE

MAGAZINE

New England
College

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We say it so often because it's true: Civic engagement is part of our DNA. Every day, we encourage students to become thoughtful and engaged members of the community, whether that is through political involvement, volunteer work, or something else entirely. And NEC's faculty, leadership, and alumni lead by example.

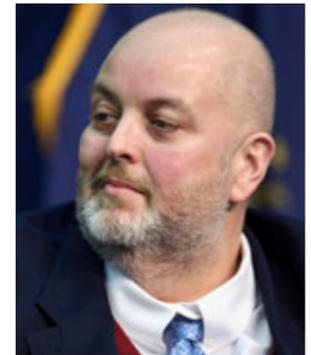


NEC College Convention, 2020
Back center: President, Dr. Wayne Lesperance

GREETINGS!

from Bridge Street

As always, we have welcomed spring with open arms here in central New Hampshire. I love seeing our New England College communities in Henniker and Manchester alive with so much activity after winter.



Speaking of activity, there is much going on at NEC that I'm excited we can share with you in this issue of the *New England College Magazine*. This issue focuses on some of those in our community who are not content to sit on the sidelines. From civic engagement to community involvement, our students, faculty, staff, and alumni amaze me with their willingness to roll up their sleeves and give back. We are a community of doers, and I could not be prouder of this spirit within NEC.

Commencement is around the corner, and our seniors, on-campus and online, feel both excitement and trepidation. Our students experience NEC in different ways, but the importance of their outcome is the same. That is largely in part to the awesome work our staff and faculty do with our students in Henniker and Manchester and online. To our soon-to-be graduates as well as our staff and faculty, I say, "Well done!"

On the enrollment front, we met our spring residential enrollment goals of new students and transfers, which is very encouraging. Our inaugural cohort of nursing students will have their first intensive experience in a hospital setting this summer. Keep your eyes open for nursing students in NEC-branded scrubs! We now partner with three hospitals in New Hampshire and one in Vermont, with two more partnerships in the works.

NEC has received significant financial support to renovate the Science Building in Henniker. We have been granted a \$2 million earmark from Rep. Anne Kuster (NH-02) and Senator Jeanne Shaheen, along with a \$1 million challenge from alumnus Austin Kovacs and his wife, Betty, in addition to funding for equipment from two foundations.

I'm also excited to announce that we are on the verge of renovating our Athletic Center and expect the work to begin in late summer or early fall.

Lastly, I was honored to start 2023 as NEC's 16th president. The landscape of higher education is constantly evolving, and NEC is not immune to those changes and challenges. I love this college that I have called home for the last 24 years. I am eager to do everything I can to meet these challenges and seize the many opportunities before us as we continue to move NEC forward. We have a firm foundation on which we will keep building.

Warm regards,

Dr. Wayne F. Lesperance Jr., DLP
President

EDITORIAL

NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE MAGAZINE

AVP OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
CREATIVE DIRECTOR
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Jennifer Robertson

EDITOR
WRITER
Tracy Searle

CONTRIBUTORS
Dr. Wayne F. Lesperance Jr., DLP
Michael Rupp

PRINTING
R.C. Brayshaw

New England College Magazine is published two times a year, in the fall and spring, by New England College, 98 Bridge Street, Henniker, NH 03242. It is sent to alumni, donors, current students, prospective students, and friends of the College. The magazine is part of College Advancement, led by Vice President Bill Deptula.

Send your stories, updates, address changes, or cancellation requests to:
New England College Alumni Relations
98 Bridge Street
Henniker, NH 03242
alumni@nec.edu

CONTENTS

INSIGHT AND ACTION Dr. Lesperance's leadership put NEC on the political map.	6
CONNECTING TO COMMUNITY Community and a sense of connection play a key role in wellbeing.	10
COOPERATIVE CARE NEC launches a cooperative Human Services bachelor's degree.	13
LIFELONG LEARNERS TRAVEL TO TANZANIA It's never too late to learn something new or lend a helping hand.	14
FACULTY WATCHLIST NEC's faculty do amazing things inside the classroom and out.	16
STANDING UP FOR VETERANS Since its founding, NEC has remained committed to those who serve.	20
CHANGEMAKERS Alumnus Joe Doiron shares his uniquely NEC story.	24
POP CULTURE CONNECTIONS NEC boasts two connections to the popular culture community.	28
RENOVATION CHALLENGE NEC couple issues fundraising challenge for the Science Building.	32
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ATHLETICS Coach Vazquez joins a coaching cohort, and Men's Hockey brings home a long-elusive title.	34
ATHLETES IN THE SPOTLIGHT Student-athletes give their all on the field and off.	36
CLASS NOTES NEC graduates share their successes and milestones.	40
IN MEMORIAM NEC remembers the community members we have lost.	46

GRIMS FORWARD

WE ARE
DREAMERS
THINKERS
DOERS
19,000+ ALUMNI
AND WE ARE
STRONGER
TOGETHER



YOUR GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND SUPPORTS

- Affordable Degrees
- Competition and Teamwork for Everyone
- Hands-On Learning and Life Skills
- The Next Generation of NEC Graduates Who Will Make a Difference

This year, NEC has awarded \$25 MILLION in scholarships that allow our students to follow their dreams.

Make your gift at alumni.nec.edu/giving

New England College

Insight & Action

CREATING A PATH FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

by Dr. Wayne Lesperance
President, New England College

When I talk about New England College's commitment to civic engagement, I always say, "Our founding informs our present." This college was created to serve veterans coming home from World War II. That heritage is always on my mind, and on the minds of us all at NEC, as we do the work we do.

Our commitment to civic engagement is our way of honoring our founding. Our work around civic engagement—the idea of developing an active and engaged citizenry—in many ways honors the commitment of those veterans and what they fought for before they became students at NEC. And we honor the commitment of all the veterans we have served over the years and continue to serve today.

I cannot know if those first veterans at NEC talked about civics in their time the way we talk about it in our time, but for me, there is a natural connection between service and civics.

When I arrived at NEC in 1999, our commitment to civics had waned. We were not doing anything for civic engagement. There were no town hall meetings, no presidential candidates, no debates, and no dedicated student organizations with a focus on developing citizen scholars. Rather than be discouraged by what I found, I decided to seize the opportunities that accompany New Hampshire's special place on the presidential calendar. We are first-in-the-nation, and opportunities abound! I remember thinking that we were sitting on a goldmine.

We held our first town hall meeting in 2000, and our first presidential candidate was Senator John McCain in February of that year. He drew a sold-out crowd in the Simon Center Great Room, and I could not have asked for anything better. I got the bug and realized how easy it is to host civic engagement events in New Hampshire at our College.

The students loved it too and asked me if we could do more. I helped found NEC's Center for Civic Engagement in 2002, and we built a program around the town hall format. I intentionally involved students directly. I introduced McCain at that first meeting, but a student has introduced every candidate since. I asked students to dress the part, write their own introductions, which we reviewed together, and rehearse. We talked about the importance of treating all candidates respectfully and equally, whether it was a well-known candidate or one they'd never heard of, someone they liked or someone they did not like. All candidates receive the NEC treatment.

From there, I started CiviCorps—a name I made up—which promotes the idea of citizen-scholars, students who truly wanted to engage with this fundamental act of citizenship: voting.

So much of what we do at NEC serves to connect students to the larger world. I think that connection happens in two channels.

First, students learn about the world around us, whether it's in a classroom or on a field trip or working in an environment

*Lily Gerber, Communication Studies and Political Science '23
Live Free or Die New Hampshire Debates, September 2022
NEC's Putnam Center, Henniker*

like a campaign or interning at the White House or going abroad on an immersive Study Away trip. I think of this process as putting one's hands in the dirt, but it isn't always dirt; it can be any number of things. When students immerse themselves in what they've been studying, that's a very powerful tool. I can teach students all about how campaigns work, but when it's midnight in a campaign office and they're stuffing envelopes and talking about their candidate, that is an irreplaceable experience.

Second, students receive encouragement to get involved and find their paths forward. That is a delicate process, actually, because it is not my job or anyone else's job at NEC to tell students what to think about the issues. It is my job to give students the tools to come to the conclusions that are right for them. When students say they want to know more about something or want to work on X, that is my opportunity to try to put students into a position to do that, even if I do not agree with it. That takes a lot of discipline for us as educators because it is very tempting to tell students that what they want to do is not the right path. But that is not our role, and it is vital that we remember that.

So whether I am a Republican or a Democrat becomes immaterial. If a student wants to work for a Libertarian or a Republican or a Democrat, I try to create those opportunities for them. I've had students work for all kinds of candidates over the years and have meaningful experiences.

The combination of these two channels allows students to know what is going on in the world and actively try to make an impact.

Learn more: nec.edu/engage and nec.edu/politics

PROJECT PERICLES

Project Pericles, a national organization based in New York City, is committed to civic and social engagement based on knowledge of the principles and history of American democracy.

NEC is proud to be one of the Project's 10 founding colleges. Led by Dr. Jessica Morris, Assistant Professor of Education, NEC's Pericles program has two essential aspects:

1. A theoretical, knowledge-based aspect
2. A civic engagement aspect, in which students become personally involved in civic and socially responsible service.

As Dr. Lesperance explained, the Project provides grant funding for faculty who want to incorporate civics into their courses. It also hosts a conference in New York City each year and offers students different activities and calls to action, such as writing letters to public officials about issues of importance.

Today, 30 colleges and universities participate in Pericles programs.



Images from top left:
Tulsi Gabbard visits NEC
Manchester campus LGBTQIA+ event
Student volunteering in Kenya
Fill the Ship Food Drive
White Birch Community Center Volunteer Work
CiviCorps
College Convention with Jill Biden



Connecting to Community

AMY REYNELLI (XHE, XER/SHE, HER) COMPLETED NEC'S MS IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING IN 2011 AND NOW SERVES AS A VISITING INSTRUCTOR AND THE CLINICAL COORDINATOR FOR THE PROGRAM.

When xhe started xer practice, xhe made the ethical decision to not accept insurance because xhe did not want to only cater to clients with private insurance. "When clients ask me how much I charge per session, I tell them to pay whatever they can reasonably afford. For some, that is zero dollars. For others, it is \$120. I have the luxury of being able to do that because private practice is not my only source of income. If I break even, great. If I don't, that's okay."

Amy shared xer thoughts on the connection between community and mental health.

Mental Health Resources

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: [samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline](https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline)
- National Institute of Mental Health: [nimh.nih.gov/health/find-help](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/find-help)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness: [nami.org/home](https://www.nami.org/home)
- [cdc.gov/mentalhealth/tools-resources/individuals/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/tools-resources/individuals/index.htm)
- [mentalhealth.gov](https://www.mentalhealth.gov)
- Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and press 1 or text 838255
- Crisis Text Line: Text "Home" to 741-741
- The Trevor Lifeline for LGBTQ Youth: 1-866-488-7386
- The Trans Lifeline: 1-877-565-8860
- NH's Rapid Response Access Point offering 24/7 crisis support: Call or text 1-833-710-6477
- NH988.com (online chat)
- New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services: [dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/health-care/mental-health](https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/health-care/mental-health)



Cooperative Care

NEC LAUNCHES A HUMAN SERVICES COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Q: People are made for community. How does a lack of community affect mental health?

A: Certainly, there are people who prefer to be alone. That said, we know that we are social beings and that we need those connections. Overall, there is a negative impact when a person does not have a community that is supportive, understanding, loving, and compassionate. Those are the qualities that count. How do you relate to the community, and how does the community relate to you? When one's community is lacking in support and understanding, that lack leads to so many negative outcomes, not just for mental health but overall health.

Q: How can someone who is feeling disconnected find community and the support they need?

A: It depends on someone's interests. Unfortunately, a lot of opportunities to connect require money or other forms of privilege like literacy or education. Folks who have significant mental health issues, sometimes for most of their lives, don't have the option to pursue those opportunities. Thankfully, peer networks are becoming more common. For example, Monadnock Peer

Support—a day program in Keene, New Hampshire—costs nothing. Participants can show up and enjoy meals, laundry facilities, and 50 support group options each week.

Q: How does community, either personal connections or community involvement, support mental health?

A: I think it's crucial. Being part of something is generally a positive thing. When you find your place, when you feel that sense of belonging, the connection we strive for in relationships—these are vital to anyone's overall wellbeing. I live in the Keene area, and one of the grocery stores I use employs some people who are relationally challenged. The community has surrounded them with love and compassion. Perhaps if they were in another community that did not accept them, their quality of life would be very different. I have seen the opposite in my past work at a community mental health center. I've seen other people with those same struggles not be received in the same way, and their lives are vastly different. It's sad. It's sad for those not surrounded by love, but it's exciting for those who are. I wish the latter could be the case for everyone.

The elderly, developmentally disabled, immigrants and refugees, crime victims and offenders, those who misuse substances, and other vulnerable populations depend on skilled human services professionals for enhanced quality of life.

To that end, NEC designed a cooperative Bachelor of Arts in Human Services that launches this fall. This four-year on-campus program will prepare students, through a challenging curriculum, to work in human services at the individual, family, and community levels.

The cooperative element of this program comes in the form of two required eight-month immersive working experiences, or co-ops: one in the sophomore year and one in the senior year. Students will earn 30 credits during the co-ops and 90 credits during traditional coursework.

“During these co-ops, NEC students will work directly with clients—providing client care, helping with daily activities in the community, and perhaps running group therapy sessions down the road,” explained Dr. Alex Walsh, Assistant Professor of Psychology. “They will also earn income while gaining real-world experiences. Students will work about 20 hours per week and earn approximately \$20 an hour.”

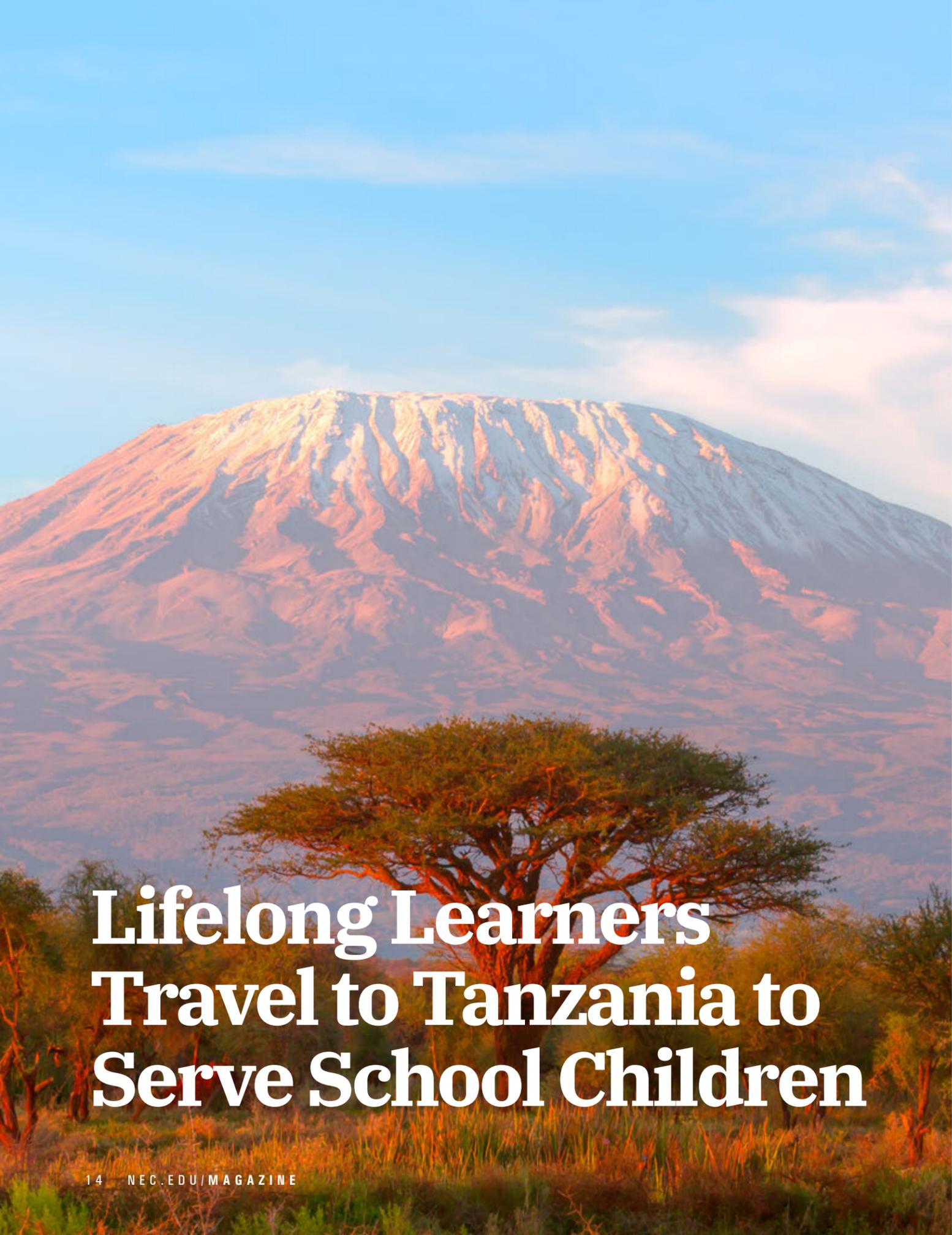
Walsh and his colleague Dr. Sarah Gunnery, Assistant Professor of Psychology, have spent this spring establishing and piloting the cooperative partnerships with two community mental health centers that have contracts with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), which ensures a certain level of standardization of practices and quality of care.

“Our partnership with DHHS provides waivers for students to have direct access to client care while in the bachelor's program,” Walsh added. “NEC's is the only known program in the state that offers this exclusive opportunity for augmented learning experiences.”

Students in this cooperative program can expect to gain:

- Income while earning college credit
- A better understanding of the human services field
- Résumé-building experiences in the real world
- A network of like-minded professionals
- A stronger position from which to land a quality job in the field upon graduation

Learn more about NEC's Bachelor of Arts in Human Services at nec.edu/



Lifelong Learners Travel to Tanzania to Serve School Children



“I visited the school in December 2022, and the principal pleaded for help feeding the kids.”

It’s never too late to learn something new, the saying goes. For the lifelong learners, both working and retired adults, in the Learning Institute of New England College (LINEC), that saying holds true.

In February, a group of 15 adult learners traveled to Tanzania for an 11-day safari led by Dr. Eric Simon, Professor, Biology and Health Science. Part of the trip included significant volunteer work for the students of Losirwa Primary School, which serves 850 children from local Maasai communities.

“I visited the school in December 2022, and the principal pleaded for help feeding the kids,” stated Simon. “The children are at the school for eight hours a day, five days a week but do not bring any food and are never fed by the school.”

In response, Simon raised over \$10,000, which will feed these children every day for the remainder of 2023.

As part of the trip, the LINEC group purchased over five tons of bulk ingredients (maize, beans, rice, cooking oil, salt, tea, and sugar) at a

farmers’ market in Arusha and hired a truck and porters to deliver the ingredients to the school. There, the ingredients were stored and will be cooked into traditional Maasai meals to feed all 850 children.

Founded in 1989, LINEC educates, entertains, and enhances life for working and retired adults. LINEC offers non-credit, peer-led, peer-taught courses for adults who simply love learning and never want to stop. Classes, four to six weeks in length, are sponsored in conjunction with NEC and meet in the fall, spring, and summer.

Run almost entirely by volunteers, LINEC benefits from the many talented teachers who share their knowledge through a variety of courses and from the dedicated volunteers who work behind the scenes to ensure the organization runs smoothly. Yet, new volunteers and fresh ideas are always welcome.

Learn more about LINEC membership and classes at linec.org. To learn more about future travel opportunities for adult learners, join the email list at SimonBiologyTravel@gmail.com.

DR. CARRIE COLBERT (A)

Associate Professor, Business Administration

During the summer, my consulting business, Doctor Colbert Consulting, works with the National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC), which hosts high school students who are interested in going to college. For nine days, students experience life on a college campus where they participate in hands-on simulations, leadership training, guest speakers, company tours, field trips, and lectures in a classroom. NSLC hires me to be the Professor for the Business and Entrepreneurship program where I lecture on topics including management, marketing, social media, crisis management, and ethics on college campuses, including Duke University, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, UCLA, etc.

DR. ASHRAF ESMAIL (NOT PICTURED)

Adjunct Professor, Criminal Justice

In 2022, I published two scholarly articles: “Police Unions: Shielding Police Abuse and Brutality” and “Western Pennsylvania Principles Support of School Resource Officers in Building Relationships with Students” in the *Journal of Education and Social Justice*.

DR. NICHOLAS HARKIOLAKIS (NOT PICTURED)

Adjunct Professor, Business Administration

In August 2022, I published *The Cycle of Value: A Conservationist Approach to Economics*, which ranked as Amazon’s number 1 new release in econometrics.

DR. KATRINA KERR (F)

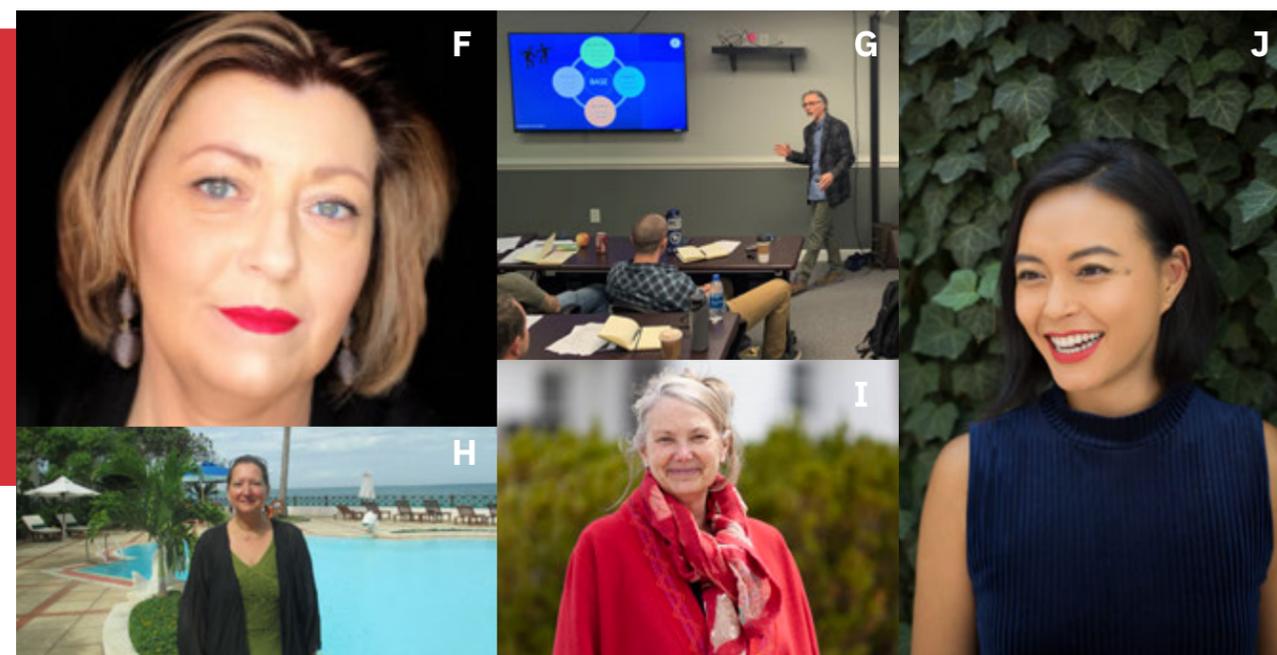
Director, Graduate Business and Accounting Programs

As a member of the Global Business Education Committee (GBE), I supported research and multiple presentations at the annual conference and region one. The GBE built on our initial research and collaborated on two presentations. As we broke down the results and developed plans to help others develop their knowledge base and skill set, my contribution focused on story, narrative, and trust. I also address challenges we face in addressing bias and our capacity to be courageous in conflicts with political correctness given the highly volatile space where relationships intersect. I followed this up with several conversation models, challenges, and ways to construct conversation spaces. Building on our work this summer, I shared part of the GBE research to address challenges faced by our own bias (implicit or not) and stereotyping that interferes with collaborative alliances. Connected to the conference theme for 2023, “Celebrating Collaborative Alliances,” I explored alliances, cultural intelligence, barriers, and ideas for moving forward at the regional conference in October 2022.

COLTON SEALE (G)

Adjunct Professor, Criminal Justice

I have been training my interpersonal communication program at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Central Intelligence Agency, U.S. Special Forces, Canadian Special Forces, and the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights and Environment Divisions, among others. At NEC, I teach one portion of this program in my Interviewing course and another part in the Forensic Psychology course.



DR. KAREN HILLSON (B)

Assistant Professor, Art History

I served on the NECHE evaluation team visiting Mitchell College, New London, Connecticut, from April 16–19, 2023.

RICH PELLEGRINO (C)

Assistant Professor, Illustration

In January, I was featured on *New Hampshire Chronicle* on WMUR. The episode highlighted work for my solo exhibition at Gallery 1988 in Los Angeles in December 2022. The video can be viewed at nec.edu/news/rich-pellegrino.

DR. JOHN CALLAHAN (D)

Director, Combined Military Online Programs

I co-authored chapter “Science versus? The U.S. response to the COVID-19 pandemic,” in *Science Communication in Times of Crisis* (John Benjamins Publishing Company, October 2022). Additionally, I write monthly op-eds on global issues for the *La Razón* newspaper in Spain.

MICHAEL LYNCH (E)

Adjunct Professor, Comic Arts

Some of my cartoons will appear in *Laughter Is the Best Medicine 4*, a 2023 paperback collection of funny stories and drawings from *Reader’s Digest*.



DR. ERIN WILKINSON HARTUNG (H)

Associate Dean of Management; Associate Professor, Business Administration and

DR. MICHELE JURGENS (I)

Associate Professor, Business Administration

The Center for Ethics in Society at Saint Anselm College hosted the 2022 international conference on “The Ethics of Business, Trade, and Global Governance” in New Castle, New Hampshire, last December. We presented ongoing research on sustainable development for women-owned businesses in Tanzania. Sustainable growth in developing countries is a hot topic due to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and, more recently, discussions at the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) highlighting disparities between developed and developing countries.

ANNA QU (J)

Lecturer, MFA in Creative Writing

I was awarded the 2023 Black Mountain Institute Shearing Fellowship at UNLV and am currently a visiting fellow in a community of creative writers and scholars in a thriving literary scene in Las Vegas and on the campus of UNLV.

DR. BRIAN HOPKINS (K)
Professor Emeritus, Arundel Campus
 I recently published *Bishop's Palace Gardens Chichester: A History* (available through chichester@kimsbookshops.co.uk) about this ancient garden that dates from the year 1075. Some NEC graduates may remember that at the Arundel campus, I taught a "British Gardens and Garden Plants" course with various field trips. I enjoyed a visit with Professor Cynthia Burns Martin in December 2022, at Chichester, West Sussex.

DR. KATIE CLARK (L)
Adjunct Professor, Clinical Mental Health Counseling
 In September 2022, I completed my Doctor of Psychology in Counseling and School Psychology. My dissertation was entitled *Children's Depressive Symptoms and Physical Activity*.

DR. JESSICA MORRIS (M)
Assistant Professor, Education
 Project Pericles announced its fifth cohort for the Mellon Periclean Faculty Leadership (PFL) Program™ in the Humanities, and I was selected as a Mellon Periclean Faculty Leader. This program is supported by the Mellon Foundation and The Eugene M. Lang Foundation.
 Along with NEC's students enrolled in ED 4000: Methods of Teaching and Learning, I am working with Washington Elementary School. This work will focus on the many challenges that plague rural school districts, often leaving their teachers and students an overlooked part of the American public education system.

DR. JAMES NEWCOMB (P)
Professor, Biology and Health Science and Co-Director of Center for Undergraduate Science Research
 I received NEC's 2022 Kilgore Faculty of the Year Award. Also in 2022, I gave talks on my research at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology conference in Phoenix, Arizona, and in a virtual seminar at New Mexico State University. Five students from my lab presented research at three different external conferences, including the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Students in Anaheim, California, and I mentored 13 students on individual projects. I published a paper in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Neuroscience Methods* that reported on a method for using focused ultrasound stimulation to non-invasively stimulate neurons, and I was asked to be a co-editor for a topic issue of *Frontiers of Neurophysiology*, focusing on invertebrate neural circuits. Outside of academia, I continue to be an elected member of the John Stark School Board and was asked to join the board for the Eleanor Campbell Charitable Fund.

DR. PAUL DANN (Q)
Adjunct Faculty, Clinical Mental Health Counseling
 In January 2022, I published my second book, *Managing and Leading Nonprofit Organizations: A Framework for Success*. As the executive director of NFI North, a nonprofit mental health and human services agency, I was named *NH Business Review's* 2022 Business Excellence winner for the Nonprofit category for a large company.



DR. SARAH GUNNERY (N)
Assistant Professor, Psychology
 I received a Collaborative Pilot grant from NH-INBRE to study Perceptions of Facial Expressions in Older Adults. I am the principal investigator, and the co-investigator is Harlan Fichtenholtz who is psychology faculty at Keene State College. Four NEC students worked in the lab over the winter, and two will be part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Program this summer. The grant runs from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024.

DR. GAVIN HENNING (O)
Professor of Higher Education and Program Director, Master of Higher Education and Doctor of Education Programs
 Over the last year, I published one peer-reviewed journal article, one magazine article, two books, and five book chapters and gave one keynote presentation and eight peer-reviewed presentations, all on the topic of student affairs assessment. In January 2023, I received the 2023 George D. Kuh Outstanding Contribution to Literature and/or Research Award from NASPA—Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.



DR. LINDA STEINER (R)
Adjunct Professor, Psychology
 With my PhD in Applied Social Psychology specializing in social perception and the formation of bias, prejudice, and discrimination, I was asked to serve as a subject matter expert in the development of NEC's course "Understanding the Mechanisms of Prejudice, Discrimination, and Social Justice," which I teach on a regular basis. In 2021, I established Applied Social Awareness LLC, providing consultation, training, and research to organizations interested in promoting social diversity, equity, and inclusion. Over the last two years, I have partnered with Responsible Media Group to develop and facilitate training workshops for media creatives to critique and improve racially biased messaging and narratives. In 2023, this work is expanding to train teams of presenters to share these strategies with a broader organizational scope, including television, film, and print media.

FRANK JONES (S)
Assistant Professor of the Practice, Criminal Justice
 In the fall of 2022, I was elected Chairman of Concord Regional Crimeline, a community safety program that assists many different law enforcement agencies in the greater Concord, New Hampshire, area. Many of these departments have hosted CJ interns from NEC and hired some from our alumni ranks. I have served as a member of the Crimeline program for many years and was honored to be elected Chair.



STANDING UP FOR VETERANS

SINCE ITS FOUNDING, NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE HAS REMAINED COMMITTED TO SERVING THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AND CURRENTLY SERVE IN AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES.

Dr. Cindi Nadelman, Professor of Business Administration, proudly leads NEC's Veteran Affairs office and advocates for the College's veteran and military population. A veteran herself, Nadelman served 25 years, 14 years of active duty for the Air Force and nine years in the Air National Guard, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. She became NEC's Director of Veteran Affairs eight years ago.

To be a veteran friendly campus, she explained, it takes more than simply offering military benefits, which NEC does. It comes with the support of NEC's leadership from the top down.

To be a veteran friendly campus, she explained, it takes more than simply offering military benefits, which NEC does. It comes with the support of NEC's leadership from the top down.

"President Lesperance; Pat Corbett, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Erin Wilkinson Hartung, Dean of the Management Division, always provide the support and resources I need to host events and help our student-veterans," Nadelman stated. "I believe NEC goes above and beyond to be veteran friendly."

Learn more at nec.edu/military.

ADMISSIONS AND ACADEMICS

NEC's generous transfer policy considers veterans' military experience and training, as well as prior coursework, which helps veterans earn their degrees more efficiently. NEC also offers discounts for veterans and

their spouses (and active servicemembers, for that matter). Additional financial assistance is available for pre-9/11-eligible veterans through NEC's Russell Durgin Military Scholarship named in honor of one of our own local heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield in Afghanistan.

Veterans receive priority registration for classes. "We recognize that student-veterans have different life commitments than many of their peers. We honor their life commitments by allowing them to get the classes they need when they need them," Nadelman stated.

VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE

NEC's comprehensive veterans program helps veterans and active reservists take full advantage of their military education benefits and understand NEC's commitment to veterans. This office also hosts events that help connect veterans and the community.

MILITARY BENEFITS EXPO

Nadelman initiated this expo that brings VA Medical personnel to the Henniker campus to help veterans at NEC and in the community understand the services available to them. In the past, the Veterans Administration mobile van has been on campus for counseling in the parking lot of the Simon Center.

VETERANS 5K RUN/WALK

NEC hosts a 5K run/walk during November to commemorate Veterans Day and honor those who have served. All NEC community members, servicemembers, veterans, friends, and family are invited to participate. The 5K can be completed anytime during November, and those who register and submit a certificate of completion receive a small gift in the mail.

LOCAL TOYS FOR LOCAL TOTS

Each holiday season, NEC partners with the American Legion Post 78 and the Henniker Chamber of Commerce to collect and distribute toys for children from the local community who are in need.

RECRUITMENT FAIR

Local military recruiters visit the Henniker campus to give students a better understanding of military jobs they can pursue while at NEC and after graduation.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Student-veterans occasionally need a kind of help that other students do not. They could be dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injuries. NEC's mental health counselors are very supportive of student-veterans and their unique experiences and challenges. The difficult part, Nadelman mentioned, is that some veterans do not self-disclose that they are veterans, much less that they need help. "We want to help more veterans than we have veterans asking for help."

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Nadelman serves as the Service Officer for American Legion Post 78 in Henniker. She encourages student-veterans to join the Legion so that they can continue their military service in a different way. The American Legion works closely with the Veterans Administration to help qualified veterans receive vital services. "NEC and the Legion work hand in hand to help veterans any way we can," she added.

NEC'S MILITARY PROGRAMS

NEC offers seven online degree programs that are uniquely designed for servicemembers. However, these programs are open to all NEC students.

- AA in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
- AA in International Relations and Diplomacy
- BA in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
- BA in International Relations and Diplomacy
- MA in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
- MA in International Relations
- MBA in Strategic Leadership

NYKAIYAH NELSON

MA in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness '24
BA in Criminal Justice '21

I am not in the military, nor have I ever served. I am a full-time advocacy worker for undocumented immigrants and newly documented immigrants. My work includes assisting them with legal rights; obtaining citizenship; finding housing, jobs, childcare, education; etc. I work primarily with the Southeast Asian community in southwest Philadelphia. I also work part time overnight as a residential technician in a residential treatment center with at-risk youth.

I have been working with underserved communities for almost four years, and I have grown to love the work I do. Working with immigrants has shown me that the immigration system needs to be reformed severely, specifically Immigration and Customs Enforcement. My goal is to complete my master's in Homeland Security and obtain a position with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and work to create reform within a broken system. My end goal is to create a system that still safeguards the United States against terrorist acts, as it was designed to do, but also takes into consideration the human



JOE DOIRON BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE '11

Showing up. It's a notion I very much take to heart.

I first learned the importance of showing up when I was in high school in Massachusetts. On the day my school was scheduled to host a college fair, a bad fall storm rolled through the area and knocked out the power. It happened late in the day, so the school did not send us home or cancel the college fair. Maybe only 25 percent of the colleges showed up. Saint Anselm College, University of New Hampshire, Southern New Hampshire University—none of them showed up.

While making a loop around the fair, I passed empty table after empty table, until I came to the New England College table. Don Emerson, an NEC admission representative at the time, stood there. I asked where NEC was located and if it offered political science. "Do we offer political science?" His response hooked me. He rattled off all these civic engagement opportunities NEC offers: College Convention 2004, gearing up for the 2012 primary, hosting presidential candidates as they make their way around the state ("Anybody who is anybody running for president comes through NEC," Don said.), active clubs on campus. He went on and on.

I got home with my bag of free pens and brochures and told my parents that we had to visit New England College. My dad and I drove up a for a visit day a few weeks later, and I fell in love with everything about NEC. I knew it was the college for me.

I became very involved on campus. In my first semester at NEC, I interned with the Mitt Romney for President campaign, and I essentially performed

staff functions. I did interviews with *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Cosmo Girl*—which was my favorite, by the way. *Good Morning America* did a segment on a day in the life of a campaign volunteer, and I got mic'ed up for a whole day. Let me tell you: You don't realize how careful you have to be with what you say until you're wearing a microphone from the moment you wake up. The producer told me to go about my day as normal, but that's easier said than done. All day, I tried to not say or do anything ridiculous. Dr. Lesperance advocated for me to get that internship, and I learned about everything it takes to run a campaign.

From that foundation, I worked for the National Republican Senatorial Committee during the 2008 campaign cycle, which allowed me to travel all around New Hampshire, and for Congressman Charlie Bass when he ran in 2010 and won. I worked professionally for Congressman Bass as field director for his 2012 re-election campaign, which he unfortunately lost.

Near the end of college, so many people wonder what's next, but I did not have that problem. I had three campaigns try to hire me right out of college. One was an easy no, and it was a toss-up between the other two. I went with my gut, and I'm so glad I did. I chose to work for Jon Huntsman's presidential campaign. I graduated on a Saturday and reported for a staff meeting at a coffee shop the following Monday at 8:00 a.m.

Huntsman came in third in New Hampshire's 2012 primary and subsequently dropped out of the race in January of 2012. The next year, I moved back to Massachusetts to be the Political Director of the Massachusetts Republican Party while pursuing my master's degree in public

Changemakers

administration from Norwich University, one of NEC's hockey rivals.

After I moved back to New Hampshire, a friend called and asked if I had any interest in presidential politics again. "Are you kidding me? Beat me up twice. I'm not doing it." My friend said, "There's this guy, Lindsay Graham." I knew of him, of course. I thought he was terrific—funny as hell, smart, cool guy. I did the interview and met Senator Graham. I thought he should be president. When his team asked if I wanted to lead his campaign in New Hampshire, I said yes. He visited NEC along the way but ultimately dropped out of the race. Through him, I got to meet Senator John McCain. The two of them loved to make fun of me. One day, I was driving these two U.S. Senators—one was the Republican presidential nominee in 2008, and the other is highly respected in matters of national security—and it was like driving those two old guys from the Muppets. They were constantly picking on me, and it was hysterical.

By 2015, I was a bit burned out on campaigns and was ready to get into government. I became a special assistant to Senator Kelly Ayotte and worked on a number of issues including healthcare, transportation, energy, FEMA disaster issues, the Second Amendment, banking, and a few others. Unfortunately, she did not win re-election by 837 votes, but who's counting.

Gov. Sununu's office reached out about my joining his office. I served as the deputy director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives for a little over two years. This smaller state agency operates nearly \$60 million of federal grants, including fuel and energy assistance, energy programming and policy, planning and development issues, FEMA issues, that sort of thing. That role allowed me to learn the ins and outs of state government, even if it was quite

a trial by fire. But Gov. Sununu encouraged me along the way.

In 2019, I was engaged and had made a commitment to my now-husband that I would be more present. I joined the Department of Business and Economic Affairs, which gave me a more 9:00–5:00 schedule than working on campaigns and for elected officials.

Then the pandemic hit. Gov. Sununu called one Thursday night—burrito night at our house. He was putting together the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) and asked me to be the deputy director of this agency that would be responsible for disbursing about \$1.25 billion in CARES Act funds between April and December 2020. On one hand, I was concerned about COVID because I'm a type-1 diabetic, and the promise to be more present at home would go out the window. On the other, this was one of the State's greatest times of need. How could I say no?

We built an amazing team, and we always said that we were building a plane while flying it. I credit my education at NEC with my being able to juggle multiple projects, work with other people, and be well rounded on various topics and issues, all of which were vital in a time of crisis. By the time I left that role in October 2020, we had moved \$1 billion out the door and directly into New Hampshire's economy, from higher education institutions and non-profit support to municipal support and Main Street America relief fund.

When I left GOFERR, I joined the office where I am now; I'm the Director of the Office of Workforce Opportunity. I administer federal grants for workforce development, which delivers services to about 700 people a year from youth to adults who have lost their jobs. One of our success stories is that of a single mom who was living in her car. We placed her

in our programs and got her the support she needed. She now works full time as a licensed nursing assistant and is on her way to becoming an RN. She has an apartment, and she and her child are happy and healthy. I love my current role and work with great people in an amazing agency that supports New Hampshire's vibrant economy and population. I want to spend the rest of my career in this office.

I jokingly say that for my second language, I speak bureaucrat. But that's how you work within the system to make things happen. My focus as a state employee and government worker is how do we get to "yes." If there is a problem, it's easy to say that we can't do that or it's too hard to solve or too challenging. How do we get to "yes"? Because my job is to serve the people; that's who pays my salary. The people are who we're here for.

It's so weird the path a chance encounter can put you on. I only learned about NEC because Don Emerson showed up. If he hadn't, my life would have been totally different.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Joe Doiron teaches political science part time at NEC.



Joe Doiron (left) and his husband, Gabré (right), at their wedding.

I got home with my bag of free pens and brochures and told my parents that we had to visit New England College. My dad and I drove up a for a visit day a few weeks later, and I fell in love with everything about NEC. I knew it was the college for me.

Pop Culture Connections

SOME MIGHT DESCRIBE HENNIKER AS A SLEEPY NEW ENGLAND TOWN. THAT MIGHT BE TRUE MUCH OF THE TIME, BUT IT STAKES A CLAIM IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY BEYOND THIS CORNER OF THE WORLD. HENNIKER AND NEC BOAST CONNECTIONS TO TWO ICONS IN POPULAR CULTURE. WHO SAYS NOTHING EVER HAPPENS IN SMALL TOWNS?



Bronze statue of Jim Brown, Cleveland Browns Hall of Fame running back, at FirstEnergy Stadium in Cleveland, Ohio

A SHINY NEW CONVERTIBLE ROLLED THROUGH HENNIKER ONE SPRING DAY IN 1955. THE DRIVER WAS JIM BROWN. YES, THAT JIM BROWN. IN 1955, THE MAN WHO WOULD GO ON TO PLAY FULLBACK FOR THE CLEVELAND BROWNS AND BECOME KNOWN AS ONE OF THE BEST RUNNING BACKS OF ALL TIME, ALSO EXCELLED AS A LACROSSE PLAYER AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY.

Brown and his teammates visited Henniker at the invitation of New England College's fourth president, Dr. Laurie Davidson Cox (1952–1955). Cox, known as an excellent lacrosse player himself, previously taught at Syracuse and established the men's lacrosse program there.

News spread that Jim Brown was coming to Henniker, and one young man was particularly excited to see Brown compete against NEC's team. Young Duane "Joe" Clement was a student at Henniker High School, and a year before, he wrote a school report on Brown.

"I just had to be there to watch Jim Brown," Clement recalled. "I told my principal that he should let me out of school to attend the match because I had written that report. And he fell for it!"

During the match, Clement watched as NEC's 5'9" Dan DaCosta, a talented player in his own right, tried to take the ball from 6'4" Brown. The play did not end well. "Dan bounced off Jim and broke a few ribs. I was just a kid watching all this action from the sideline, but I loved it."

After the match, Brown, Cox, and Clement all went their separate ways.

Brown graduated Syracuse as a four-sport athlete: lacrosse, in which he was a two-time All-American; basketball; track; and

football, as an All-American. He went on to lead the National Football League (NFL) in rushing yards eight out of the nine seasons he played in the league. He is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame. Also at Syracuse, Brown was a member of ROTC, and he continued his military service while playing in the NFL. After four years in the Army Reserve, he was discharged with the rank of captain.

Cox—who had also served as NEC's second president, from 1947–1950—played a fundamental role in lacrosse's development in the United States. In 1957, he was one of the first five men inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame. In addition to his lacrosse and academic legacies, Cox was a leading American landscape architect.

Clement played baseball at Henniker High School and later at the University of Connecticut, where he studied pharmacology. In 1961, he signed with the Houston Astros and played minor-league ball for five years. He returned to his hometown and owned Henniker Pharmacy. He served NEC as a trustee for approximately 20 years and is now a trustee emeritus.

They shared the lacrosse field only for a short time, but their stories will forever be connected because of the only Henniker on Earth and NEC.

And that convertible? The local school kids gave it a complimentary car wash.



Hans Christian Andersen, by Andy Warhol (1928–1987). Screen print on Lenox Museum Board, 40”x40”, 1987. Extra, out of the edition.

Designated for research and educational purposes only.
© The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.

This original screen print is one of 159 pieces (photographs and screen prints) created by artist Andy Warhol and now part of the New England College Permanent Collection. These pieces were gifted to NEC by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. and are intended for educational purposes.

New England College regularly exhibits these works; encourages student and faculty access for research, instruction, and curriculum enhancement; and additionally

YOU KNOW HIS ICONIC ART, FROM THE FAMED CAMPBELL’S SOUP CAN TO THE VIVID PORTRAITS OF STARS LIKE MARILYN MONROE. BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT ANDY WARHOL—ARGUABLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AMERICAN ARTISTS, IF NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT—HAS A CONNECTION TO NEC? AND THE CONNECTION IS JON GOULD ’75.

At NEC, Jon majored in business, but he was also interested in the arts, particularly theatre. He spent a summer in Harvard’s prestigious Radcliffe Publishing Program, where he gained exposure to the entertainment industry. He later accepted an advertising position with *Rolling Stone*. In 1978, Jon moved to Los Angeles to work at Paramount Pictures, first as assistant to the president and then as the Vice President of Corporate Communications. Jon’s goal was to be a producer, and Paramount gave him a multi-movie contract.

“He was such a hard worker,” recalled Jay Gould, Jon’s identical twin. “He was good with people and was very successful. People saw his life and the big office in New York City, and some wanted what he had, but they had no

idea how hard Jon worked. He was a rock star.”

It was in New York City that Jon met Warhol through a mutual friend, photographer Christopher Makos, in November 1980, according to Netflix’s new limited series *The Andy Warhol Diaries*. Based on the diaries Warhol kept for more than a decade, the six-part series explores the romantic relationship between Warhol and Jon, which lasted five years and became a pivotal relationship in Warhol’s life.

“I didn’t think my brother was mentioned in the diaries that much,” Jay explained, “but the director of the Netflix series told me that Jon was perhaps the most-mentioned person. Jon didn’t want to be known, so he asked Andy to use code names for him.” Such as Paramount. At one point, Jon moved into Warhol’s New York City townhouse, but he maintained that the relationship was not sexual.

“You have to remember that it was not cool to come out of the closet in that time period,” Jay added. “Jon tried to keep his sexuality a secret for a long time, but he and Andy seemed to enjoy each other’s company.”

Throughout their relationship, Jon split his time between New York City and Los Angeles. However, he was still committed to making movies, so he broke up with Warhol and moved to Los Angeles in 1985. He produced one movie before passing away in 1986 at the age of 33. Warhol died in 1987 at the age of 58.

There is anecdotal evidence, if not actual evidence, that Warhol visited Henniker with Jon and attended a fraternity party. “I don’t know about that,” Jay commented. “My brother did a lot of stuff with Andy that he didn’t share with me because he was trying to protect me from that world.”

NEC was gifted 159 original Andy Warhol photographs by the Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy Program through the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. These images are open to the NEC community and the public free of charge. Jon Gould, according to Jay, was Warhol’s most photographed subject.

The Andy Warhol Diaries is available on Netflix and offers an in-depth look at the man who created pop culture as much as he created art.

WEDDINGS, EVENTS, PARTIES!

We’ve got you covered.

Choose from an array of spaces for your next event: including conference rooms, the Putnam Center, or the covered bridge!

nec.edu/about



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2023–24 SEASON
at NEC’s Rosamond Page Putnam Center for the Performing Arts

Visit nec.edu/putnam for more details.





renovation

**NEC COUPLE ISSUES
FUNDRAISING
CHALLENGE FOR SCIENCE
BUILDING**

challenge

Fall Festival 2022 brought an unexpected gift: Austin and Betty Kovacs announced their challenge to all alumni to raise funds that will improve New England College's Science Building in Henniker and expand NEC's degree programs in STEM (traditionally defined as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

Austin and Betty's challenge will match all renovation gifts dollar for dollar up to \$1 million.

NEC is committed to expanding its degree programs in science and technology, and investing in the Science Building is a manifestation of that commitment.

Austin earned his Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from NEC in 1960. He began his career as a construction superintendent and then as a field engineer on the Distant Warning Line in Alaska and Canada for Federal Electric Corporation. His stint in the Army's Science and Engineering program sent him to the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, New Hampshire. After being discharged, he stayed on as a research engineer, a role that took him to both the north and south poles. He later founded Kovacs Enterprises, a global company that produced and sold ice drilling and coring equipment, for which he holds several patents. This equipment is used by every country's scientists who work in the Arctic and Antarctic. He also served as a consultant on Arctic development issues for the U.S. and Canadian oil industries.

Throughout his career, Austin saw that graduates with STEM degrees were those the industry wanted to hire. And STEM degrees provided good-paying jobs.

"Betty and I decided together to kickstart NEC's Science Building renovation because we are both concerned that too many young people are graduating with degrees that do not lead to good-paying jobs," Austin explained. "They are graduating with degrees industry does not want, as demonstrated by low salaries. A \$40,000 per year salary is a terrible wage for a college graduate. It is very difficult to raise a family on such an income."

Austin and Betty's daughter earned her degree in math from NEC, and their grandson also graduated from NEC with a degree in Computer Information Systems, a program that did not yet exist so he designed it himself. The Kovacses know firsthand that STEM programs can be academically challenging, but they feel these programs offer graduates more and better career opportunities.

"NEC was there for me when I needed it," Austin adds, "and I am very grateful for the education I received, which allowed for my success in life. We hope this initiative opens people's eyes to the importance of STEM-related programs and inspires people to help advance these programs at NEC."

The fundraising challenge from Austin and Betty continues through 2023. In that time, the Kovacses and NEC hope to raise sufficient funding to complete Phase 1 of the Science Building renovation project, which the Kovacs initiated.

For more information about supporting the challenge, please reach out to the Office of Advancement at alumni@nec.edu or 603.428.2300.

GAINING FUNDRAISING GROUND

NEC is confident that Phase 1 of the Science Building's renovation will begin at the end of summer 2023, thanks to three sizable donations received in addition to Austin and Betty Kovacs's challenge.

\$2 MILLION

New Hampshire's Representative Ann Kuster (NH-02) and Senator Jeanne Shaheen worked together to ensure NEC received these Congressionally directed funds to use toward the Science Building's renovation costs.

\$80,000

Received from the George I. Alden Trust in Worcester, Massachusetts, these funds will purchase critical training equipment for NEC's nursing labs.

\$60,000

The William E. Simon Foundation provided these funds to assist with renovation costs and development of NEC's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

These generous gifts and commitments from both the public and private sectors place NEC in a position to put its commitment to science and technology degree programs into action.



Accomplishments in Athletics



VAZQUEZ SELECTED TO UNITED SOCCER COACHES CREDENTIALING COHORT

New England College women's soccer head coach Paul Vazquez was named to the 2022–2023 United Soccer Coaches Credentialing cohort.

The cohort features 60 individuals selected from a pool of over 125 applicants.

Included in this group are 40 head coaches and 20 assistant/associate head coaches. Of the 60 coaches selected, there is representation across all genders and divisions of NCAA soccer, with the commitment to a cohort with a diverse group of coaches.

“It is an honor to be selected for the USC Credentialing Cohort along with many of my distinguished colleagues.” Vazquez said. “To be able to continue to learn from and with some of the best soccer minds in the country is an honor. I am looking forward to the year-long journey.”

Created with the goal to help coaches gain the self-awareness and practical skills necessary to develop mastery as professional collegiate team leaders and managers, the goal of the Coach Credentialing program is to elevate the role of a coach to a higher standard of professionalism by providing training, development, and support while educating coaches to work within the ethical standards set by United Soccer Coaches and NCAA as a whole.

The 2022 season saw the Grims battle injuries and one of the toughest schedules in the region to reach the New England Collegiate Conference championship finals. First-year goalkeeper Stephanie Bronowicki (Corona, Calif.) was voted the conference Rookie of the Year while senior midfielder Reese Hultgren (Charlton, Mass.) and first-year defender Brynn Murphy (Unity, N.H.) earned all-conference honors.

MEN'S HOCKEY WINS 2022 STOVEPIPE TOURNAMENT

On November 27, 2022, NEC's men's ice hockey team won its first Stovepipe Tournament title since 2002. The Pilgrims battled against the Penmen of Southern New Hampshire University in the championship game held in the Ice Den Arena in Manchester, winning 4-2.

After going down 1-0 in the first period, the Pilgrims evened the score just 32 seconds into the second period. NEC ended the period leading 3-1. The third period saw the Penmen score their second goal and the Pilgrims score their game-winning goal.

In all, the Penmen outshot the Pilgrims 35-27, but NEC's senior goalie Andrew Kormos stopped 33 of those shots on goal. Junior forward Anthony Cinato starred in both NEC wins in the tournament and was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

Men's hockey photo credit: Sophie Proctor, Business Administration and Sport and Recreation Management '23, facebook.com/sophieproctorphotography



NICHOLAS DORAIN '23

Major: Kinesiology
Sport: Lacrosse
Home State: Vermont

Lending a helping hand—that’s kind of my thing. I do the New England thing where I help those I see who might need a little help. When we had a big storm last winter, I helped my neighbor clean snow off his mom’s car so she could get to her second-shift job.

Something else I feel strongly about is voting where you’re a resident. I went to school in Pennsylvania my first semester of college, and I got turned off to the idea of voting where you’re attending school. Someone was going around with pamphlets about Pennsylvania’s candidates and issues, but I didn’t know those candidates. I already knew I could vote in Pennsylvania, but I didn’t feel it was my place to affect politics in a place where I did not live. My permanent residence is still in Vermont, so that’s where I cast my vote.

I probably get my sense of duty from my dad, who is retired from the United States Marine Corps. I joke with him that I was indoctrinated to like the Marine Corps from a young age. In addition to my dad, my older brother is also a Marine.

You can imagine that supporting the military has always been a big thing for me. It’s something I have been quietly passionate about. I try to always support veterans, even with my clothing. I wear some veteran-owned brands so I can give back to those who give us so much. One of the reasons I initially liked New England College is that it started as a college for veterans.

I have always thought about joining the Marines, but I’m also really happy in my job at UPS. All the details of the job are something I can sink my teeth into and enjoy learning more about.



RENEE MCBRIDE-ROGERS '23

Majors: Accounting, Business Administration, and Criminal Justice
Sport: Volleyball
Home State: Georgia

I believe in the little things. I was in the grocery store one day and passed a lady whose shoe was untied. She had injured her arm and couldn’t reach down to tie her shoe, so I asked if she would like me to do it. It was a little thing, but sometimes the little things make everything better.

My parents instilled that in me. When I was in high school, we spent time every Thanksgiving at a soup kitchen, serving meals to those less fortunate. It was a small sacrifice of time for us, but it made the day better for those we served.

That commitment to community involvement came with me to NEC, and I have built my college résumé with activities I’m passionate about.

I serve as president of the Student Entertainment Committee, vice president of both the Queer Straight Alliance and the History Club, treasurer of the Student Government Association; women’s volleyball representative for the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), and as a resident assistant (RA).

As an RA, I help ensure the wellbeing of students in my residence hall, which requires me to be vigilant if I see or hear something concerning. I hate to even say this, but sometimes students jokingly say things like “I’m going to kill myself.” If I hear that, I cannot assume they’re joking; I have to take it seriously.

Also, I worked with the Office of Student Engagement during a campus cleanup day, and I joined SAAC in hosting a group of special education students for a soccer game on campus, which was a lot of fun.

My dream is to work for the Secret Service or FBI, but for now, I feel like my way of giving back to NEC is by being involved.

ATHLETES IN THE *Spotlight*

FOR SOME STUDENT-ATHLETES, IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO PERFORM WELL ON THE FIELD OF PLAY. SOME GIVE THEIR ALL IN THE CLASSROOM AND IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.



ABBY DUFFY

Skiing Sight Unseen

by Michael Rupp,
Assistant Director of Athletics
Communications

Abby Duffy
Psychology and Criminal Justice '23

**Photo credit: Sophie Proctor,
Business Administration
and Sport and Recreation
Management '23, [facebook.com/
sophieproctorphotography](https://www.facebook.com/sophieproctorphotography)**

"I started skiing when I was nine." Abby Duffy of the New England College alpine skiing team explained how she got into the sport that is her passion. "That was three years after I became blind. I really liked it the first time, and I picked it up fast. And then I first started racing when I was in high school."

The first-year NEC student-athlete from Concord, New Hampshire, first began competitive skiing at Concord High School and says her long-term goal is to represent the United States of America in the Paralympics.

"Basically, as a disabled athlete, it's very similar to being an able-bodied athlete." She explained the process. "The Paralympics have to determine which level of disability you are. With blindness, there's B one, two, and three, and I'm probably a B-3, but they have to do an [extensive] eye test to prove it. They have to test my vision and then give me a ranking. That ranking will tell me kind of what [level] I'm skiing at and [my scoring]. Once [my results] actually get classified, that'll be quite a big step towards the events for getting to the Paralympics, hopefully in 2026."

Duffy's dream has taken her far beyond the borders of her native New Hampshire. "I've been on the National Ability Center high-performance team for three or four years, which is a team out of Park City in Utah. It's basically like there's an adaptive out there that has a race team." Duffy said, expanding on her skiing career. "There's also a race team out of an adaptive in Colorado. And then we've done some national-level adaptive races that are primarily in the U.S. but sometimes in Canada, and then hopefully eventually those races are going to lead me to the Paralympics."

Now, her journey has brought her to New England College.

"I have really high hopes for how I'm going to improve this season on the college team and how I can get better so that I can better help the team going [forward]."

"I have really high hopes for how I'm going to improve this season on the college team and how I can get better so that I can better help the team going [forward]."

Coming off a meet at Pats Peak this past January—the Pilgrims' first home meet since 2019—she posted times of 1:18.97 and 1:15.05 in the Women's Slalom. Prior to that meet, she competed at Pleasant Mountain in Bridgeton, Maine, the previous weekend and posted times of 51.29 and 51.07 in the Women's Giant Slalom, totaling a result of 1:50.09.

And she's enjoying the NEC campus community, as well.

"I think a small school makes it easier to get involved in our community," Duffy says. "I have two work studies right now, including in admissions. I've taken some freshman tours, and that's been really fun because I get to kind of see the school from a slightly different perspective. I'm in a bunch of different clubs on campus, and the entire school as a whole is really welcoming to everyone, and it's kind of as much as you want to get involved, you can get involved."

For continuing coverage of New England College Athletics, visit athletics.nec.edu and follow the Pilgrims on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

CLASS NOTES

1955

August Vettorino was honored to be able to give to the college building fund in 2022. He plans to meet a classmate, **Ray Sands '55**, in Florida, where he spends his winters.

1964

Allan Karan was on campus this past December and shared that he could not recognize the campus because of the new construction since his time at NEC. After more than 25 years, **Chuck Conole** greatly enjoyed his visit back to Henniker. The progress on program development and building growth has been wonderful. He enjoyed the opportunity of meeting and spending time with Dr. Perkins. **Michael Shea** is enjoying retirement and his five grandkids. He is happy to see the school doing so well.



1965

Joy Chase, Marilyn (Cameron) Proctor '66, and **Mary Lou (Russo) Brindisi '66**, and **Bernadette and Bob "Mac" McNichol '63** have been married 57 years. They live in Exeter, N.H., and had great years at NEC.



1966

Bob Stewart fondly remembers the little room off the NEC chemistry lab and Doctor Downs.

1967

Kathy Lennox is retired and lives in Concord, N.H.

1968

In October 2022, when **Beth Ann (Weymer) Rossi** came to New Hampshire and wanted a dinner date, who did she call? SAB brothers, of course. She, **Jack "Chipmunk" Murray '68**, **Tom "AWOL" Aspinwall '68**, and **Mark "Onion" Peterson '72** shared old stories, and new stories commingled with drinks and delicious food made another new amazing memory. Breakfast date with another NEC alumni, **Suzanne Speigle Hoey '70**, that same weekend in October. Old college friends are the best friends with the very best stories.



1972

Eileen Newman Kilstrom has been living in Scottsdale, Ariz., full time since 2002 and is still loving it. She has been married to Richard for over 45 years. She plays golf, hikes, and travels. They live in a very active community with seven golf courses, hiking trails, pickle ball, and bocce, and she thinks of NEC often. **Bruce Williams** has been living in Augusta, Maine, and is still practicing law. He and his wife, Susan, were blessed by the birth of their 12th and 13th grandchildren, twin girls, Madelyn and Maeve, who were born on Bruce's birthday in August. Note to all his NEC cross-country teammates: "I am twice as slow as I was in college. You could say that I am a half-fast runner now."

1973

After four years at NEC, **Tom Weston, Jr.** lived another 30 years in Henniker. He worked as restaurant manager, did recreational management, was an NEC admissions counselor, and then became a licensed independent insurance agent. In 2003, Tom and his daughter moved 17 miles to the big city of Concord, N.H. He retired in 2018 after 21+ enjoyable years in New Hampshire state service as an insurance regulator. In retirement, Tom enjoys photography, fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. He has hiked the 48 4,000-footers and now enjoys weekly hikes with the Concord Mountain Goats. Tom started singing and traveling with Concord Chorale 10 years ago and is currently the bass section leader. Four years ago, he joined the Concord Area Beekeepers Association and has two active colonies. Tom became a juried member of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen about eight years ago and has made hand-carved wooden spoons

from all varieties of New Hampshire hardwoods for the past 10 years. The spoons are sealed with spoon butter made of mineral oil and beeswax from his hives.

1974

Sandy Vondercrone Tucker Class is thoroughly enjoying retirement and her four grandchildren. A retired elementary guidance counselor, she keeps busy working out, volunteering with her church, and chasing grandchildren. She has wonderful memories of NEC and the Arundel campus. The years have flown by, and she says NEC seems like another lifetime.

1975

Richard Jablow is a retired emergency medicine physician. He Lives in Maine and Todos Santos, Baja Sur, Mexico, and became a proud grandparent in the fall of 2022. **Laurie Kempf** has been happily retired since 2018 and enjoying time with family. Her oldest daughter and son-in-law became the proud owners of the beautiful and historic Sugar Hill Inn in New Hampshire in 2021. She—along with **Gene Fox '72**, **Jane Hartig Houle**, **Brit Johnson '76**, **Dee Yaitanes Fletcher '74**, **Ed Smith '73**, **Gary Minetti '73**, and **John Donnery '74**,—were able to share many laughs over lunch. **Deborah Roth** and some of the alumni from fifth section, Colby Hall got together recently in Sturbridge, Mass. **Ellen Turner Naridian '74**, **Laurie Kempf**, **Jane Hartig Houle**, **Deb Roth**, and **Dee Yaitanes Fletcher '74** celebrated in true NEC style, and it was great to reconnect and reminisce about old times.



1976

Bill Gardam retired from Peace River Center as president and CEO on June 30, 2022. In honor of his service to Peace River and the community, Bill was recognized by the City of Lakeland, Fla., with a proclamation declaring May 16, 2022, as Bill Gardam Day. Bill and his wife, Marybeth, now reside in Iowa City, Iowa. **Lizabeth McLaughlin** is alive and well, living in Marlborough, N.H. After 40 years in the insurance industry, Lizabeth is on her third retirement, and this one seems to be sticking. Recently, she traveled to Europe on a riverboat cruise on the Rhine for the Christmas markets with family and friends. It was an amazing trip with lots of historical sights to see. She remains in contact with **Cathy Ignatuck Connolly**, **Al Sewell '88**, **Gene Fox '72**, and **Dave Robinson '60**. Retirement hasn't slowed her down, as she serves as a Supervisor of the Checklist for the town of Marlborough. It is a great opportunity to serve the community and safeguard the election process in New Hampshire.



1977

John Alexopoulos was a member of the SAB fraternity and was on the soccer, skiing, and golf teams at NEC. He owns a shipping business in Manchester, Vt., and is married with two children. He plans on coming to his

50th reunion and enjoys drinking wine from Merriam Vineyards. **Brackley Frayer** finds it hard to believe that 46 years have gone by since he graduated from NEC. It seems like just yesterday he was either in Henniker working as a Theatre major in the lovely Bridges Hall, or the Muddy River Playhouse, or in Arundel traveling all over England, Scotland, and Wales on the wonderful theatre tour '77. He has fond memories of his mentors—Peter Glenn, Rich Rice, Cope Murray, and Bill Beard—during his time at NEC. He is glad that the Theatre department has a nice new theatre to work in. After getting his MFA from Yale Drama, Brackley worked professionally for a few years and began teaching lighting design, with stops at West Virginia University, Dartmouth College, University of Florida, and now University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He and his wife have been in Las Vegas for 26 years, and they have enjoyed their time there very much. His daughter, Ariana, was married this past September, and she and her husband live in Nevada as well. Brackley has also been a freelance lighting designer working in theatres around the country.

1978

Jim DeVeer and his wife, Cathy, are retired and living in Hanover, Mass. They are working on moving to Marlborough, N.H., once their house is renovated and an addition is completed. They have two grandchildren in Ohio and will soon have a third in Massachusetts. **Michael Gray's** journey has taken him from Henniker to Poughkeepsie, N.Y., to Boca Raton, Fla., to Clearwater, Fla., and, finally, to Austin, Tex., which has been his home for the last 30 years. He used the accounting and management skills he learned at NEC to advance his career in high-tech operations with IBM, Square D Company, and Dell, Inc. He has led diverse teams of five to 500 people while riding and the wave of personal computing and

became an expert in supply chain management. He ended his career by teaching with Penn State executive programs and taught his last class in August 2022. He and his wife of 41 years raised a family during the chaos of his career. They celebrated the birth of two sons and mourned one's death. They ran a few marathons, trained some therapy dogs, and continue to give back to the Austin community through volunteering. All in all, a wonderful journey! He would really like to hear from fellow NEC alumni, particularly if you live in the central Texas area or are from the class of '78. **Abdulkhaleq Abdulla** stopped in the NEC Advancement Office while hiking in New England for the weekend. He is a currently a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School.

1979

Edward Stuczko retired in 2000 after 40 years in beverage, pharmaceutical, and diagnostic testing sales/marketing. Currently, he is a part-time transit driver for adult wheelchair and ambulatory clients. He and Janine are empty nesters now, as Brandon and Stephanie were married within last two years. **Nabil El Assir** graduated from NEC with a degree in Management and Public Policy with a Business Administration concentration. He went on to the American University in Washington, DC and earned a first master's degree in International Relations focusing on economic development in 1982, then a second master's degree in Development Banking in 1984. Nabil got married to his wife, Hanan, in the summer of 1984 in the Hague, Netherlands. He joined N.V. Philips Consumer Electronics in 1985 as an area manager for the Middle East and North America, then worked for the AT&T Network Systems International European headquarters, just divested from a Joint Venture with Philips Telecommunications. In 1995, Nabil was expatriated to Morocco as a country manager for AT&T. He was

then sent to Saudi Arabia to head the telecom private access sales to palaces, universities, hospitals, and banks. He was sent for a third expat post in France at the AT&T France subsidiary TRT in 2000. At the end of 2001, he joined Middle East Specialized Cables in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as General Manager. In 2004, he joined Energya Cables in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as vice president for business development, and in 2010, he joined Electrocab in Abu Dhabi as Managing Director. In 2011, he joined Kandil Steel in Cairo, Egypt, as general manager for his last career post in corporate life before retiring in 2012. Nabil and his wife have three children: Kareem, Remy, and Omar. They also have one grandson who is two years old. They live in their retirement home in El Gouna, Red Sea, Egypt. Nabil hopes to hear from his 1979 classmates.

1980

Bryan William Bloom is retired and lives in Texas. He still fondly remembers his history professor Ian Morrison and poetry writing professor Bernadette Mayer. **David Cloutier** recently retired after 41 years. He's worked in the energy sector (Stone & Webster), constructing three nuclear power plants; the public sector (Massachusetts Port Authority); the financial sector with Fidelity Investments; commercial office buildings with Equity Office Properties; and just concluded his career in the biotechnology sector with Biogen, Inc. David enjoyed the global challenge of procuring and negotiating contracts with various architects, engineers, and construction management relative to a variety of different types of projects including new office campuses, airport terminals, runways and bridges, and new bio/pharma manufacturing plants in Denmark and Switzerland. After spending 20 years as an on-ice high school hockey official, David is presently coaching JV hockey in a

nearby town. He and his wife raised two beautiful and successful daughters, and they are looking forward to spending more time traveling and playing golf during retirement. **Brad Durrell** retired to Southport, N.C., in late 2021, after a journalism career in his native Connecticut. He spent decades working as a reporter and editor at various suburban weeklies while living in a small, rural town in the northwestern part of the state. He and his husband, Rick, moved to the North Carolina coast for the weather, lower cost of living, and relaxed lifestyle. They enjoy the beautiful sunsets; cultural scene in nearby Wilmington; and new friends they have made, many of them fellow recent transplants from the Northeast. He also spends considerable time in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom and visiting Henniker, when possible, to experience pleasant memories.

1982

Chris Tella is the director of customer experience at Legrand, a global manufacturer of data center power distribution equipment. He lives in Greenwich, Conn., with his wife, Lisa, and two sons. Chris continues to sail competitively and is a veteran of numerous Newport/Bermuda and Vineyard distance races and is the Fleet Captain of the Old Greenwich Yacht Club. On the slopes, Chris has been coaching youth alpine ski racing at Thunder Ridge ski area, owned by fellow NEC alum **Dean Ryder '70**. **Dave Cozier** has been mostly retired since 2019. He retired once from hospital construction leadership and once from 24 years active-duty U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps (Captain). He has lived in central Ohio for the last 11 years but had the opportunity to return to Henniker last October for the first time in 30 years. It was great to see the campus again and enjoy the many alumni and family weekend events. Dave met with other engineering alum and connected with **Mike Cole** and his

wife, Melinda. They had a blast!

1984

Nathan Cory Seymour acted as a caregiver for the past five years to his parents through their dying process. He welcomed the arrival of his first granddaughter, Jinora Louise, this past June.



1985

After **Sarah Kenny** graduated and returned to the states, she worked as a secretary and eventually learned real estate and became an associate broker. It was an exciting time learning negotiations and selling waterfront properties in the Lakes Region of Maine. Eventually, Sarah moved to Maryland with her daughter and has been there ever since. She helped raise some friends' children while living in Maryland but is now living on her own. "Most of my life is now centered in Christ, going to mass, and trying to be the best person I can be, praying for our world, prayers of healing, and our neighbors. I wish everyone the very best at NEC with many life successes," says Sarah. **Steven Weil** is enjoying the snow in Buffalo. Go Bills!

1986

Larry Raff is living in Stratton, Vt., and Randolph, N.J., with his wife, Jodi. He is still working in the investment business, since 1986, and now has his own office in Cedar Knolls, N.J. He is an active member in a New Jersey Corvette club that helps various charities each year. He enjoys socializing with NEC friends as often as possible. He recently spent some time with a few alumni in Manchester, Vt., and Massachusetts. **Jeffrey**

Pressman is back living in Philly, going on nine years. Seems like yesterday that he came back from Scottsdale after 30 years to be closer to his mom. He made a career change into life insurance five years ago. He says it always feels like yesterday that he was a freshman in 1982 and when he gets together with other NECers, like at Alumni Weekend 2022.

1988

Dominic Longcroft has been living in Sydney, Australia, since 2019. He gets back to New York two–three times a year. He has been in real estate for 23 years and stays in touch with **Alex Corona** and **John Love '89**.

1989

In October, **Gina Reda-Hegarty**, **Clifton Slack Cartwright**, **Claire Grenewald McDonough**, and **Jennifer Orr** spent several days together in Napa Valley. Other than missing **Jennifer Romm Feather**, it was a perfect girls' trip!



1992

Ray Simonse is relocating to Florida for retirement. Ray previously retired from a law enforcement career with the Department of Homeland Security, where he served as a field office director and acting field office director in the Atlanta, Boston, Newark, and New York field offices with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Presently, Ray is employed as a program manager for a company providing armed guard services on a physical security contract.

1993

Kim Steigelman Sanders was

promoted to vice president of human resources for Enterprise Integration, Inc., headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla., in May 2022. Kim has been with the company for over 18 years and has been in the human resources field for over 28 years. She received her Master of Arts in Human Resources Management from Webster University in 1997 and maintains the professional certifications of Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP). She and her husband, William, live in Jacksonville, N.C. **Michael Webber** remembers the then-new Lee Clement Arena and college before cell phones.

1994

Darryl Lundeen '94 G'14 is a registered nurse and graduated from NEC with a master's in healthcare administration. He now lives in Arizona where he is the director of the Transplant Services and Artificial Heart Program at The Banner University of Arizona Medical Center.

1997

Patrick James Dunagan published his latest book of poems, *After the Banished* (Empty Bowl Press), as well as his editing of Beat-era poet David Meltzer's previously unpublished 1965 poetic reportage *Rock Tao* (Lithic Press). He also recently, with Nicholas James Whittington and Marina Lazzara, edited *Roots and Routes: Poetics at New College of California* (Vernon Press, 2020), an anthology of critical writings by alumni and faculty of the now-defunct San Francisco-based program. Along with several volumes of poetry, his previous publications include *The Duncan Era: One Poet's Cosmology* (Spuyten Duyvil, 2016). He regularly writes for *Rain Taxi Review of Books*.

1998

Holly R. Lovejoy, now Holly Ann Wyble, took a position as a procedure writer and readiness liaison for Los Alamos

National Labs in 2022. In addition, she has launched the intimacy coach business Orgastronomy™.

1999

Marie Dumas says “bonjour” from Evian in the French Alps. She and her Swiss-Italian husband have been living in Evian for almost a year after spending the past seven years in Geneva, Switzerland (and before that in San Diego). They are thrilled to be able to have a great view of the lake and Switzerland from their apartment in France. They have all the Evian water they could ever want, and the skiing isn’t quite Pats Peak, but they like it. They definitely eat and drink well in Haute Savoie and enjoy day trips into Italy.

2002

Dacre Bush launched his own action figure toy line, Almighty Legends, on Kickstarter in February.



2005

Eric Casey moved around the state, and after working a few unfulfilling jobs, he went back to school at University of New Hampshire and received his BS in Civil Engineering in 2015. He got a job as a highway design engineer at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation that fall and has been there ever since. He plans to get his professional engineering license soon. He lives in Concord, N.H., with his wife of seven years, Jenn; his daughter Lauren (6); son, Logan (4); and their two dogs, Chico and Daisy.

2006

Janine Leffler and **Matt Smith**

have recently been hired by Vertical Harvest Farm, an indoor hydroponic greenhouse that opens in Westbrook, Maine, in September 2023.

2008

Pravin Venketsamy G'08 transitioned to a new role as senior regional operations director at One Medical. **Kim Ruhlig** is enjoying the rain in Florida.

2010

After 10 wonderful years as a practice manager with Dartmouth Hitchcock Concord, **Lisa C. Gloddy G'10, G'15** joined Speare Memorial Hospital in Plymouth, N.H. as the director of physician practices. This has been a wonderful opportunity to utilize her education and experience and be part of the senior leadership team at Speare.

2011

Emily Kuchta von Uffel and her husband, **Ryan von Uffel**, welcomed their first-born, daughter Charlotte Jane von Uffel, to the world on December 31, 2022, at 5:59 p.m., a New Year’s Eve baby. They are over the moon in love with her and are excited for their growing family. They can’t wait to bring Charlotte up to Henniker for Fall Festival and alumni weekend soon.



2012

Melissa Spano had a busy year in Florida. She ended 2021 and started off 2022 in the NICU for three and a half months with their newborn who was born early. Fast forward a year and everyone is healthy and happy and has begun 2023 with a bang. **Coley Leikin** received her master’s in Applied Behavior Analysis from Arizona State University. She has been working as a registered behavior technician with children who have autism. Coley is accruing hours so she can sit for her boards to become a behavior analyst. She has been in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis for 11 years. **Alyssa (Nieman) Powers** is teaching art at Lisbon Regional High School in Lisbon, N.H.



2013

Karen Ashley Melody Mason has always wanted to work in the healthcare field. In her first two years after college, she worked for a laparoscopic company as a technician with New York Health and Hospitals Bellevue. Karen was working inside the operating rooms at a level-one trauma hospital. This experience taught the value of life and the importance of time. In her third year, she was promoted to an account supervisor and given her own hospital team, Health and Hospital Queens. She oversaw four departments including the operating room, central sterile, endoscopy, and bronchoscopy. During Karen’s second year as account supervisor, the pandemic hit. It got a little bit

frightening, but when the Army and Air Force stepped in, they truly kept the hospital from collapsing, as this was one of the heaviest hit communities in all of New York. She recently accepted a new position as a manager with the Mount Sinai Health System and is looking forward to a new challenge and new experiences. Karen is living in Jersey City and welcomed her first child, Shelby Renata Oniszk, on October 31, 2022. **Steven Barthel G'13** joined Pyxus International, Inc. as Director, Global Corporate Compliance in November 2022. In his position, Steven is responsible for leading, coordinating, and administering the company’s global ethics and compliance program. **Daniel H. Jaworski G'13** was elected mayor of the City of Highland Village, Tex., in May of 2022 with 65% of the vote. His master’s degree in management, with emphasis on Strategic Leadership has played a key role in having a successful six years on City Council prior to be elected mayor, and the skills he acquired based on that NEC education have helped tremendously during his time as mayor. His career trajectory was also accelerated once he finished his master’s degree in 2013. Since then, he has earbed positions with more leadership. The education and experience he gained at NEC have been the key to his career gains and played a huge role in his success as community leader.



2014

Megan Lyman is residing in Long Beach, Calif. In 2018, she started a CBD company, Cannibabe, where she formulates, manufactures, and produces products with a focus on naturally decreasing inflammation

internally. It has been a pleasure to help educate people about the power of CBD when used properly. They ship products to all 50 states through their website, cannibabe.com, and the 27 retail locations around the U.S. that carry Cannibabe. She was last at NEC with her dad, **John Lyman '77**, in April 2022 to walk the campus and check out all the new buildings. They ran into a few familiar faces and stopped at the Pilgrim Shop to buy matching sweatshirts.

2015

Ed Shinnick is on the finance team for Sterling Equities, the building company that built the UBS Arena in Elmont, N.Y., home of the New York Islanders hockey team.

2016

Angelina Attaway received her BS in Healthcare Administration from NEC and has continued to advance her career. She is currently the director of operations for a thriving optometry practice in Tallahassee, Fla. **Elizabeth (Davis) Crowe** graduated magna cum Laude in September of 2016. She has written and published a book entitled *Meditation for Kids*.

2017

Raynolds Kusi studied and graduated with a Master of Science in Human Resource Management from Stony Brook University in New York in spring 2023 and is looking forward to starting their doctorate soon. **Benjamin Ogle** accepted a position within Pennsylvania’s Department of Human Services—Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities agency as a fiscal officer and has recently been promoted to Chief Deputy Fiscal Officer of the agency.

2018

After graduating from NEC, **Adam O'Reilly** has worked with Amazon.com as a workplace health and safety

manager. Recently he was moved to the Amazon Fresh team where he now manages occupational health and safety programs at all stores in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Also recently, Adam moved to Newark, N.J., where he became a first-time homeowner. **Maraud Ford G'18** traveled to Thailand this past February and encourages fellow classmates to reach out.

2019

James Greco retired after 30 years of military service and started a new job with Daicel Safety Systems America as an environment, health, and safety engineer. The years spent at NEC complemented his very diverse military career. **Mike Taberski EdD'19** is serving as the vice president for student and campus life at the State University of New York at Geneseo. Go ‘Grims!

2020

Sam Wright continued their education at NEC in the master’s program and graduated with an MFA in Creative Writing in January 2023. Over the last year, they have been enthusiastically working on a fiction novel. Sam started a job in the Humanities Division at NEC back in September, so they can still be found on campus to this day.

2021

Caitlyn McGhee worked at Boston Children’s Hospital for a year, before starting school. She went on a medical missions trip to Guatemala to provide care to orphans in some of the poorest areas. She just finished her first semester as a medical student and finished with honors. **Tamara Davis** graduated from NEC in May 2021. In the fall of 2021, she began graduate school for ministry leadership. The coursework that she attained from attending NEC really prepared her for the graduate program. Additionally, her social work degree helps her understand what processes are best to

assist someone with behavioral health conditions and what resources may or may not be available to assist with. Even as a soon-to-be chaplain, she is sure that the quality of being familiar with social work processes can help her better identify and aid people who have a need for local social services. She has been blessed with being able to complete the degree and gain real-world skills that will be applicable for the foreseeable future. **Andrew Dow** is delving into waterjet cutting to help him accomplish pieces of art both in jewelry and stained glass for which he is a juried master craftsman at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen. Andrew studied and earned his degree in fine art painting with a minor in ceramics. In waterjet cutting, he conducted a three-year independent study under the guidance of Christopher Archer, the director of the ceramics department. He plans to utilize crystalline glazes in future projects involving glass mixed media. After **Diana Tsenekos G'21** received her master's in Higher Education Administration with a Public Safety concentration, she moved from Ohio to Fort Myers, Fla., to take a position at Florida Gulf Coast University. She started in a Clery Act Compliance

Officer position and within a year was promoted to Director, Emergency Management.

2022

Alexandra Buciak is currently completing her second internship with the Walt Disney Company. Alex has been working as a professional arts tutor for NEC while pursuing illustration and independent fine art. She plans to continue to invest herself within the NEC community and art spaces and looks forward to the future development of opportunities in these areas. **Santhosh Kumar Nalgonda G'22** is in the technology industry and loved the transition from working professionally in India to earning a master's education at NEC. He is now working for Boston Consulting Group. **Jesse Jacobs G'22** has been seeking a staff position in a higher education institution that respects his hard-earned education. In the meantime, he's been substitute teaching. His education from NEC has scored him many interviews, and it's only a matter of time before he gets a job his NEC degree deserves. **Shraddha Savlani G'22** was recently affected by the recession. She is looking for a new job in a marketing

profession. **Jen Williams G'22** is working with the Institute on Disability of University of New Hampshire as a project coordinator within the Building Futures Together Program. The goal of the Building Futures Together program is to prepare 98 paraprofessionals in healthcare and school settings to provide specialized enhanced care coordination to children, youth, and their caregivers whose parents are impacted by opioid use disorders and other substance use disorders. **Mahen Vaniya** feels he learned a lot and practiced all the computer courses in computer lab. He knows that NEC guided and directed him in the right path to become a better professional. In September 2022, **Sagar Khurana G'22** graduated with degrees in Cybersecurity and Information Technology. A few months ago, Sagar bought his first car since coming to the United States five years ago and has been enjoying driving around the city and going for road trips with friends. He also helped his family financially in purchasing a new house back in his hometown. Sagar says that despite some setbacks, 2022 was a decent year for him and his family.

IN MEMORIAM

1940s

Milan M. Knight '49, P'75

1950s

Leo P. Ostebo '58, P'80

1960s

Frederick G. Gilman '63
James Wetleson '68
Donald A. Parker '69

1970s

Peter C. Carter '70
Mark A. Bartos '71
Deborah Bradford Temple '75

1980s

Joseph Panarello '86

1990s

Douglas D. Scott '90
John D. More '93

2010s

Lauri L. Mohn G'15

Friends of NEC

Russell E. Banks
Former faculty

Yolande Nicknair P'83, P'88
Parent and wife of longtime math professor Jean-Louis Nicknair



CALLING ALL CHANGEMAKERS!

Are you an NEC graduate who is doing great things in your field or community?

We're always looking for exciting story ideas to share in *New England College Magazine*.

Let us know what you're up to, and you could be an alumni spotlight or feature story.

Submit your information to alumni@nec.edu.



New England College

98 Bridge Street
Henniker, NH 03242

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Manchester, NH
Permit No. 724



HEY, ALUMS! Did you know that you are eligible to receive a 25% discount on most NEC graduate programs? We also offer tuition waivers for our **Doctor of Education degree**. Boost your résumé and earning potential with one of over 20 degrees, most 100% online.

GRADUATEADMISSION@NEC.EDU | 603.428.2252
NEC.EDU/PILGRIM-PLUS | NEC.EDU/DOCTORATE

ALUMS SAVE

25%

ON GRADUATE PROGRAMS