

FALL 2020

# NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE

MAGAZINE



**NEW ENGLAND  
COLLEGE**



**ANNIVERSARY**

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FALL 2020

## ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

Welcome to the redesigned *New England College Magazine*, featuring articles that celebrate NEC's 75th anniversary; look to our future; and spotlight faculty, students, and alumni. The goal of *New England College Magazine* is to share the uncommon stories of growth, transformation, and creativity in the lives of those who have walked through NEC's doors. NEC is committed to producing two issues each year—fall and spring. In the Spring 2021 issue, look for Class Notes, student stories, and a look at NEC in the world.

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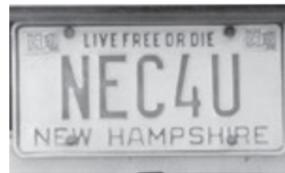
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*New England College Magazine* is published two times a year, in the Fall and Spring, by New England College, 98 Bridge Street, Henniker, NH 03242. It is sent to alumni, donors, and friends of the College. The magazine is part of College Advancement,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

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ABOUT THE COVER  
Aerial photograph of Henniker, 1958

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## GREETINGS FROM BRIDGE STREET

THIS ACADEMIC YEAR MARKS A PARTICULARLY MOMENTOUS MILESTONE FOR NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE: We celebrate our 75th incoming class. This celebration gives us the perfect opportunity to pause and reflect on the inspiration behind NEC's founding, all we have become, and where we are heading.

Our first class, comprised almost entirely of World War II veterans, arrived looking to make the most of their futures. As we begin our 75th fall semester, our new student arrive with the same goal. We welcome all students who seek to transform themselves and their worlds. This is NEC's legacy and its future.



Our founding spirit of innovation, determination, and creativity has never been stronger, even in challenging times. We have seen just how brightly NEC's light shines, and we look to the future with excitement and anticipation.

Throughout much of 2020, many of us at NEC have been working in solitary environments to do everything we can to be ready for our 75th incoming class. This new approach has given us the opportunity to reflect on life at NEC before COVID-19. I hope you will do more than simply flip through this issue of *New England College Magazine*. I encourage you to celebrate NEC's history, dream for NEC's future, and take pride in the fact that you are part of the journey.

Warm regards,

Michele D. Perkins, EdD  
President



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# TIME LINE

1946  
2021

## NEC MILESTONES

**1946**  
New England College is founded and welcomes its first class of 67 men and one woman. Founder Boone Tillett serves as president until 1947.

**1947**  
The first issue of *The New Englander* is published.

Dr. Laurie Davidson Cox is appointed the first full president of NEC. Dr. Cox introduces a unique three-year degree program that is later copied by Dartmouth College and other institutions.

**1948**  
NEC holds its first commencement at Henniker Congregational Church, awarding 27 associate degrees. NEC's alma mater, "Hail Thee New England," is sung for the first time, and it continues to be sung at every commencement.

The Pilgrims football team plays its first "home" game at Memorial Field in Concord.

**1950**  
Dr. William H. Mandrey becomes president of NEC and serves until 1952.

**1952**  
Dr. Cox is renamed president of NEC and serves until 1955.

The freshman class of 90 students includes only five veterans. Students come from all New England states plus New York, New Jersey, Venezuela, and Haiti.

**1953**  
NEC's campus begins to spread across the river, with widening an older highway and creating a new road. NEC students participate in the construction.

**1958**  
Dr. H. Raymond Danforth becomes president of NEC and serves until 1969.

**1961**  
NEC Women's Basketball team competes for the first time.

**1963**  
Pats Peak opens.

**1965**  
NEC awards first William Troy Award.

**1967**  
NEC achieves initial accreditation after raising the funds to construct the Danforth Library.

**1969**  
Jere Chase becomes president of NEC and serves until 1973.

**1971**  
NEC dedicates the Arundel campus in West Sussex, England.

**1972**  
NEC's covered bridge over the Contoocook River begins to be put in place, a process that takes five days.

**1973**  
J. Kenneth Cumiskey becomes president of NEC and serves until 1981.

**1974**  
NEC's original Theatre Barn sustains a total loss resulting from fire.

**1976**  
NEC opens and dedicates the Danforth Library after President Danforth previously broke ground for the construction.

**1981**  
K. Roald Bergethon becomes president of NEC and serves until 1985.

NEC builds a new 15,000-square-foot field house.

**1985**  
William R. O'Connell, Jr. becomes president of NEC and serves until 1995.



>1940s



>1950s



>1960s



>1970s



>1980s

## WORLD EVENTS

**1945**  
World War II ends with Japan's surrender.  
  
The United Nations is established.

**1950**  
Korean War begins and lasts until July 25, 1953.

**1952**  
Puerto Rico becomes a U.S. commonwealth. The U.S. detonates the first hydrogen bomb in a test, resulting in the first successful full-scale thermonuclear weapon explosion.

**1954**  
Brown vs. Board of Education desegregates public schools.

**1955**  
The Vietnam War begins and lasts until April 30, 1975. Rosa Parks refuses to move to the back of the bus.

**1957**  
The Soviet Union launches the Sputnik satellite.

**1963**  
Over 200,000 people gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial for the March on Washington for equality and civil rights. President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, TX.

**1964**  
The Civil Rights Act is passed.

**1968**  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, TN.

**1969**  
Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin land on the moon.

**1971**  
The first pocket calculator, the HANDY, is developed. It includes an LED display and wrist strap and costs \$395.

**1973**  
Roe vs. Wade legalizes abortion.

**1974**  
President Nixon resigns because of Watergate scandal.

**1976**  
The Apple-1 computer is introduced, followed by the consumer-ready Apple-2 in 1977.

**1981**  
Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first female Supreme Court justice.

**1984**  
Steve Jobs introduces the Macintosh computer.

**1986**  
The space shuttle Challenger explodes 73 seconds after liftoff.

**1989**  
Exxon Valdez oil tanker spills more than 10 million gallons of oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound.

**NEC MILESTONES**

**1991**  
The Lee Clement Ice Arena was built and named for this member of NEC's first graduating class. Clement worked at NEC for 34 years.

**1993**  
The first women's football (soccer) team competes at the Arundel campus.

**1995**  
William G. Ellis becomes president of NEC and serves until 1997.

NEC opens and dedicates the Simon Center, which becomes the heart of NEC's campus.

**1997**  
John S. Morris becomes president of NEC and serves until 1999.

**1998**  
The Arundel campus in England closes.

**1999**  
Ellen S. Hurwitz becomes president of NEC and serves until 2004.

**2001**  
NEC opens a new academic building, the Center for Educational Innovation (CEI) as well as a new art gallery, theatre, and fitness equipment.

**2002**  
NEC redesigns its graduate programs and offers an innovative new online model. The first fully online graduate programs launch in 2006.

**2003**  
The School of Graduate and Professional Studies is created and enrolls over 1,000 students within two years.

**2004**  
John A. Stevens becomes Interim President until 2005.

**2005**  
Stephen E. Fritz become president of NEC and serves until 2007.

**2007**  
Dr. Michele D. Perkins becomes the 15th, and current, president of NEC after serving as Interim President since February.

**2011**  
NEC begins offering its first doctorate degree, in Education.

The Don Melander Turf Field is built that spring.

**2012**  
New fully online undergraduate degrees are launched, leading to significant growth in enrollment.

**2016**  
NEC opens and dedicates a new academic building, the John Lyons Center.

**2018**  
NEC purchases 20 Main Street in Henniker, which students know as the home of Sonny's Pizza.

**2019**  
NEC launches esports with a state-of-the-art arena.

NEC completes its merger with the New Hampshire Institute of Art, establishing the Institute of Art and Design at New England College and expanding to a second campus in Manchester.

**January 2020**  
NEC opens and dedicates the Rosamond Page Putnam Center for the Performing Arts.

**March 14, 2020**  
NEC transitions all on-campus classes to a remote format in four days as on-campus classes are suspended due to COVID-19.

**December 2020**  
NEC celebrates its 75th anniversary.

**Future Goals**  
NEC total enrollment—undergraduate, graduate, on-campus, and remote—reaches 6,000.

New Athletics Complex is completed, including a renovated hockey rink and fieldhouse.

Philanthropic support to NEC reaches \$5 million annually.



**WORLD EVENTS**

**1990**  
The Persian Gulf War begins and lasts until February 28, 1991.

**1997**  
Six Degrees, the first social media channel, launches with member profiles and the ability to "friend" each other.

**2001**  
On 9/11, Al-Qaeda terrorists attack the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

**2008**  
Barack Obama becomes the first African-American to be elected U.S. President.

**2009**  
Sonia Sotomayor becomes the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice and the third female.

**2010**  
Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy ban becomes law, allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual people to serve openly in the United States Armed Forces.

**2013**  
Black Lives Matter is founded.

**2015**  
Obergefell vs. Hodges legalizes same-sex marriage nationally.

**2017**  
Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus gives final performance after 146 years.

The #MeToo movement gains momentum due to the scandal involving Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

**2018**  
U.S. military begins accepting transgender recruits.

**January 21, 2020**  
U.S. diagnoses first case of COVID-19.

**May 26, 2020**  
Protests over George Floyd's death shine fresh light on Black Lives Matter.

# T H E N

## DEDICATION

It seems that every experiment, adventure, or institution has its pioneers. History students read about the pioneers of early America; medical students learn the growth of their profession through their pioneers; and so the future students of New England College will learn the history of their school through the pioneers who worked and studied and tolerated financial, classroom, and basic facility conditions in order that New England College would grow and be recognized. It is with great pride and gratitude that we of the Class of 1950 dedicate this first edition of *The Pilgrim* to our pioneers, the Class of 1949.

We of the Class of 1950 have taken great pride in following the steps and traditions set by our pioneers and we gratefully offer our thanks to the Class who gave us New England College. It is our hope that we have fulfilled our part and that the future students will do the same—for no other school in the World has a history with which to be so proud of as we.



# & N O W

New England College's founding served as more than the start of a new college. It laid the foundation of a legacy that continues to this day—a commitment to innovation and a resolve to always meet the needs of students.

It all started when America's servicemen and women returned from World War II in 1945 and brought with them expanded worldviews, a desire to further their education, and the GI Bill to help them pay for that education. Boone Tillett, dean of the school of business administration at Hofstra University, saw the coming wave of students and set about founding a college dedicated to serving America's returning veterans.

Tillett's enterprising vision led him to New Hampshire, where he settled on Henniker. Six months after first visiting Henniker and with a carload of books from his personal library, Tillett opened New England College. That first class in 1946—67 men and one woman—was comprised almost entirely of veterans.

Over the next few years, NEC's student body grew and its base expanded to students other than veterans. By 1952, the incoming class included only five students who had served in the military. But what has never changed is NEC's unwavering commitment to military students. Whether active duty or veterans, stateside or deployments, those who serve our country find a home at New England College.

That sense of innovation—that pioneering spirit—has become part of the College's DNA and has served as the catalyst for establishing additional campuses and degree modalities along the way.

Professor of English and Dean of Humanities Gordon Bennett visited Dorset, England, in 1969 while on sabbatical. "Whilst there, he dreamed of having a branch of NEC in England: a four-year college with visiting American students," remembers Brian Hopkins, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science. "His enthusiasm convinced

the College authorities, and the Arundel campus formally opened in October 1971."

Innovation at its finest, NEC's Arundel campus became "the first American institution of higher education to offer a full four-year degree in England," states Cynthia Burns Martin, Professor of Business Administration, who served at the Arundel campus for a time. She adds that after getting on its feet, the Arundel campus thrived for the next 15 years and became a paragon of "international, cross-cultural immersion education."

Beginning in the 1980s, a number of factors began to threaten the sustainability of NEC's Arundel campus, Martin explains. The College held its last Commencement at Arundel in 1996. In his address to graduates, Hopkins shared these words: "We live in a world of change, rapid change... The world has major problems, and your generation has the challenge of solving them. You have the experience of this campus to help you achieve more international cooperation

and still maintain the diversity of culture, language, literature, and religion... The Arundel campus is to close. Its body will remain here in Arundel, where all the memories are. But its heart? Its heart will be scattered world-wide with all our old students and friends."

A mere six years after Arundel closed, NEC saw another opportunity coming: online education. "In the early 2000s, online education was shifting from offering a course online here and there to full programmatic offerings," explains Wayne Lesperance, Vice President of Academic Affairs. "NEC had the vision to see a wave building in the online graduate program space, and we caught that wave early."

Online education represented a new frontier, he adds, but it allowed NEC to vastly extend its reach and share its values, experience, and commitment to student success with students eager to learn in a format that fit their lives. "If NEC has a creed it is that we meet

students where they are and help them fulfill their potential. Historically, that has been limited to face-to-face teaching and learning. Now, with ubiquitous access to online platforms, we meet students online. The rest of the journey with NEC stays the same."

The question Lesperance and the rest of NEC's leadership proudly ask when considering new opportunities for innovation is "Why *not* NEC?"

NEC answered that question in 2019 when it boldly branched out to a second campus for the second time. NEC merged with the New Hampshire Institute of Art (NHIA) in Manchester, establishing the Institute of Art and Design (IAD) at NEC and embarking on a new phase for the future.

IAD means that NEC now includes a Division of Art and Design that significantly expands and enhances all art classes, studios, and programs at the College.

"Dr. Perkins realizes the value of the cultural component of the art and design campus. IAD is a vibrant arts community with great resources, right in the heart of Manchester," says Patrick McCay, Professor of Fine Arts.

As for McCay, he is nothing but optimistic about the future. "Students are only as successful as what you pour into them, and NEC invests a lot in its students. I'm excited to spring forward to the next era."

Innovation and student success at NEC are here to stay.

*Professor Brian Hopkins taught at NEC's British campus for all of its 25 years and served as Campus Director for a time. He received an honorary NEC degree at the 1996 Arundel Commencement and was named Professor Emeritus in 1997.*

*Professor Patrick McCay joined NEC's Manchester campus in 2002 and was charged with establishing a BFA curriculum. He has shown his work internationally and has received numerous juried awards, grants, prizes, and scholarships*

<sup>1</sup> Cynthia Burns Martin, *New England College, The Campus History Series* (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2016), 12.

*From left: Dedication from the first NEC yearbook, 1950; Dave Arnold, a former Navy Skydiver, invented car-shutting on the NEC campus in 1963; 1982 yearbook representation of the Arundel and Henniker campuses; French Hall, Manchester Campus*



# IN SIGHTS

EDUCATION AT NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ROOTED IN THE FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS BETWEEN FACULTY AND STUDENTS, THE TWO LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER. THIS EXCHANGE IS THE THREAD THAT WEAVES OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER. IT SHAPES THE LIVES OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS ALIKE.



## GLENN STUART

*Professor of Theatre*  
*Current longest-serving full-time faculty member*

### WHEN DID YOU BEGIN TEACHING AT NEC?

“1984. It’s been my first and only teaching position.”

### WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT TEACHING THEATRE?

“Working with young people who are starting their journeys with theatre—those who aren’t sure if they want to pursue theatre as a career and those who are sure. Students arrive at NEC thinking about theatre as this thing they have loved for a long time. We show them the demands and challenges of theatre as a profession. Working with young people is challenging—in a positive way—because we help them find their place in the world. We show them that theatre is more than putting on a show: There are political, social, and cultural aspects when making theatre.”

### HOW DO YOUR STUDENTS INSPIRE YOU?

“They inspire me when they achieve their breakthroughs toward a career in theatre. Most theatre students arrive saying, ‘I want to be an actor.’ But our approach to teaching



National Health Theatre Production, 1985

theatre is generalist. There is no concentration in acting or directing. Sometimes students discover a different niche of the theatre and say, ‘If I hadn’t taken that class, I wouldn’t have known I wanted to be a director, technician, stage manager, etc.’ And some students don’t choose theatre for their careers. I’ve seen NEC theatre students become a doctor, a lawyer, and a chef. It’s exciting to watch them find their place, whether that’s in theatre or not.”

### HOW HAVE YOU SEEN NEC CHANGE IN YOUR YEARS AS A FACULTY MEMBER?

“In recent years, NEC has become much more diverse, and it’s very exciting. We can now do plays we couldn’t do before because we couldn’t cast those characters culturally or racially. Also, the new generation of students embraces things more freely. Current students arrive with an openness that is much more natural. Now, when I look at a first-year general education class, there’s great diversity. It opens up a world of understanding we didn’t have before.”

### WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUR LEGACY IS IN THE LIVES OF YOUR STUDENTS?

“When I started at NEC, the theatre was under the gym. Imagine trying to rehearse with basketball being played above you; we certainly taught our students how to concentrate. I’ve always felt that we had a superior program, so I’m proudest that we were able to build the Putnam Center. It’s very exciting for students and the community to be in this facility, to have a vital arts resource. I’ve spent 36 years sharing my passion, and I hope some of that has rubbed off. I hope students understand that what they do in the theatre is of great value and that they come to understand how important it is for them to participate in the theatre, even if they don’t get that validation from an audience. I hope they understand a little better that it is a great privilege to work in the theatre and be part of a company of players. That’s very special.”

## MILAN M. KNIGHT

*Oldest living alumnus  
Class of 1949, P 1975*

### WHAT LED YOU TO NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE?

“After World War II, where I served in the Pacific with the U.S. Navy, I returned home to Peterborough, New Hampshire. NEC was recruiting students from New Hampshire, and I was able to attend with the GI Bill. While I attended NEC, I lived in Hillsborough and hitchhiked to and from campus every day. Hitchhiking wasn’t frowned upon back then.”

### WHAT DID YOU STUDY?

“I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, so I earned a BA in Liberal Studies/History.”

### HOW WERE YOU INVOLVED IN CAMPUS LIFE?

“Campus life kept me busy. I played baseball, soccer, and basketball and was a member of the cross-country team. I was captain of the 1947–1948 basketball team. I served as president of the Student Council and on the NEC Service Organization. I was a founding member of Lambda Epsilon Delta fraternity, the first fraternity at NEC. I was inducted into NEC’s Athletics Hall of Fame in 1997.”

### HOW DID NEC PREPARE YOU FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE?

“After graduating, my first job was principal of the elementary school in Warner, New Hampshire, where I met my wife. I went from a college student to principal. That doesn’t happen every day. Later, I taught fifth and sixth grade math and reading. In 1956, we moved to Connecticut to be near the hospital at Yale University because our daughter Joy Knight-Hale (’75, Biology) had a heart defect and possibly needed open-heart surgery. At the time, the closest hospitals for that surgery were in Boston and at Yale, and I didn’t want to teach in Boston. I piloted a program to take sixth graders to the Cape Cod National Seashore for a week. In the summers, I ran academic camps for students. I always thought of myself as a C student, but NEC gave me that leg up to get to the next level and make something of myself.”



### HOW HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH NEC SINCE GRADUATING?

“Over the years, I have served on the Alumni Board and the Board of Trustees. I became friends with President Danforth and attended the Danforth Library’s dedication in 1976. Every time we visited family in New Hampshire, we always stopped to visit the College and Henniker, even if it was out of the way. I formed lifetime friendships with business owners in Henniker and visited them for decades. Joy and I have been frequent attendees at Fall Festival. She and I always marvel at what NEC has become after its humble beginnings.”

### WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE A SPECIAL PLACE?

“NEC was special because the whole town was involved. Families rented out rooms to students. The town was small enough so that all the store owners knew all the students. It wasn’t a college campus; it was a community. NEC is part of the fabric of my life and my daughter’s life.”

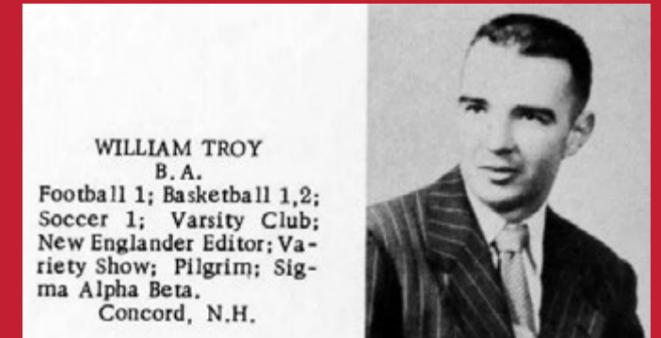
## JOY KNIGHT-HALE

*Class of 1975, Biology*

Joy, Milan’s proud daughter, transferred to NEC after completing her freshman year at Wake-Forest University. She was not sure of her career path, but she knew she wanted to work in the medical field. She joined the pioneering echocardiography field and was one of the first echocardiographers to become nationally registered. She continues to work in echocardiography today.

“I’m so glad I transferred to NEC. Everyone liked everyone else and blended. Classes were scattered around campus, so there was a lot of interaction. I had my science classes, but I was able to take an art course. NEC offered the right juxtaposition of being progressive with co-ed dorms and having the facilities and wherewithal to draw high-caliber professors. It was amazing.”

## WILLIAM TROY AWARD



Joseph William Troy—a native of Concord, New Hampshire, and orphaned early in life—served briefly in the U.S. Navy before attending NEC. He was active on campus. He played football, basketball, and soccer; served as editor of *The New Englander* and an officer in several literary societies; pledged Sigma Alpha Beta; and made the Dean’s List. Off campus, he worked as a sportswriter for the *Concord Monitor* and ran in the Boston Marathon each year. Troy graduated in 1952.

The next year, he entered the military a second time, as a medic in the U.S. Army. Initially, he was sent to Japan and then almost immediately to the Korean Combat Zone. On June 10, 1953, Troy was killed in action while going to the aid of a fellow soldier.

NEC dedicated its 1955 yearbook to Troy’s memory. In 1965, NEC’s Alumni Association bestowed the first William Troy Award, which has become the most prestigious award presented by the Association.

Alumni of NEC receive first consideration for this award, but recipients may also be faculty, staff, trustees, or friends of the College with at least a ten-year association with NEC.

The William Troy Award honors others who share the qualities Troy exemplified: service, dedication, and leadership.

*To nominate someone for this award, please visit [www.alumni.nec.edu/awards](http://www.alumni.nec.edu/awards)*

*Photos from top left: Milan Knight yearbook photo, 1949; Joy Knight-Hale yearbook photo, 1975; Captains of the 1947-48 athletic teams (Milan Knight, basketball; Dwight Baker, baseball; Jim Morrissey, soccer; Elmer Brown, cross country; Bob Abrams, lacrosse); Milan with the Athletics Wall of Fame; Joy Knight-Hale Graduation, 1975; Milan and Joy, 2013; William Troy yearbook photo, 1952*

# GAME TIME ON

Many athletic achievements and happenings have occurred in New England College's 75 years. More sports have been added, including Esports, competitive video gaming. Numerous conference championships have been won in Baseball, Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's and Women's Cross Country, Field Hockey, Men's Ice Hockey, Men's and Women's Lacrosse, and Men's Soccer. Countless student lives have been shaped by their student-athlete experiences.

**Over the last 75 years, a lot has changed at NEC, but one thing that has stayed the same is the College's love of athletics. The thrill of competition—for athletes and spectators—has played a vital role in the NEC community since our first year.**

The 1946–1947 Men's Basketball team included Lee Clement. After his time as a student, he served on NEC's staff in a variety of roles: the registrar's office; alumni director; basketball, lacrosse, and soccer coach; and athletic director. The College named its hockey rink in Clement's honor.

For the 1961–1962 season, NEC introduced its Women's Basketball team, founded by Joanne Whitehead and Lynne Edgerly.

NEC President Laurie Cox, known as the "father of American lacrosse" and for his own outstanding playing ability, founded the Men's Lacrosse team after previously founding the men's team at Syracuse University. In 1998, the women's team won their conference championship.

Over the years, different sports have come and gone. The football team played their first "home" game in Concord in 1948. The team eventually disbanded and made a one-year comeback in the 1970s. Athletics also once offered Men's and Women's Tennis, an Equestrian Team, and Cheerleading. Decades ago, the Ski Team competed at Pats Peak before retuning for the 2015–2016 season. In March 2020, Athletic Director Dave DeCew announced that Men's Golf will return for the 2020–2021 season, led by Coach Travis Banga, a former NEC student-athlete and 2004 graduate.

With a history this exciting, what does the future of Athletics at NEC look like? It looks bright. The Athletics staff is always thinking about the future, planning and making preparations, even though COVID-19 currently places some developments on hold.

The biggest of those developments is the new Athletic Complex. "Continued fundraising is going well," explains DeCew, "and we anticipate construction beginning soon after the pandemic passes."

DeCew and his staff also hope to continue expanding the roster of sports NEC offers. He notes that Athletics has had initial conversations about potential options to grow, but those decisions are also on hold in the current climate. For now, NEC's Esports team recently moved under the purview of the Athletics Department. "We feel Esports is an important part of our community and NEC Athletics, and we are excited that it will be aligned where we feel it should be, under the same umbrella as all our athletics teams."

What isn't on hold is the Athletic Department's commitment to diversity and inclusion. "Athletics has a unique way of bringing people together from all different backgrounds, DeCew states. "We take immense pride in that fact but also recognize the work we need to

continue to do in order to move us all forward." Lauren Mackey, Assistant Athletic Director, underscores DeCew's sentiment. "As a department, we strive to create a culture where everyone feels welcomed and valued. Athletics works hard to ensure we are supporting our entire community through a variety of experiences. Some of those experiences include intramurals; athletics work study; and athletics inclusion, education, and community development efforts."

For athletes and spectators alike, this legacy of Athletics at NEC extends far beyond the playing field and will continue far into the future. As DeCew states, "There is no better way to bring people together than through intercollegiate competition. Our entire community can come together in a positive way to support each other and learn lifelong lessons."

For her part, when she thinks about the future, Mackey adds that "NEC Athletics is on the move. Every day, our administrators, athletic trainers, coaches, and student-athletes work toward creating positive experiences that continue to elevate us all while contributing to our college community and the world around us."

The future is, indeed, bright.

# ON POINT

Athletics at New England College are more than just sport. They provide another opportunity for students to live what they learn. Athletic competition teaches patience, friendship, teamwork, and balance—all pivotal skills for life. With 20 NCAA Division III teams as well as club sports, there's a way for every student at NEC to get involved, whether they're players on the field or fans in the stands.

In our 75 years, innumerable talented athletes have walked the halls of NEC. Here, we share the stories of two student-athletes who embody everything NEC stands for: determination, community, character, and perseverance.



## KAYLA RAMSAY | WOODBRIDGE, VA HEALTH SCIENCE '21

For Kayla Ramsay, it's all about experiences at NEC.

She was recruited to play basketball at NEC by Erica Ledy, Head Women's Basketball Coach. "She seemed the most interested in me out of the other schools that were recruiting me. I visited and stayed with one of the other players to get a feel for NEC, and I decided to commit a couple months later."

Kayla began playing competitive basketball in middle school, and it wasn't until she arrived at NEC that she picked up rugby during her freshman year. "I like that NEC has club sports available for anyone to try because that is how I found out that I enjoy playing rugby," she explains.

What she loves about her second sport is two-fold: It's an outlet for stress or anger, and it's where she feels her true strength and resilience come out. "And I like to think that I'm also good at it." Then, as she says, there's basketball, her first love. It kept her on track though school.

Academically, there's no doubt Kayla is on track. She is a health science major minoring in chemistry, and she values the hands-on aspect of learning at NEC. "We are actually able to run experiments with cells and bacteria and even go on trips."

And she knows what she wants after NEC. Kayla has always wanted to be a veterinarian because she loves animals and currently works as a vet tech. She plans to stay that course until she goes into the military in order to continue her studies to become a veterinarian. A vet in more than one way.

Kayla begins her senior year this fall and considers her biggest achievement at NEC to be her involvement in a variety of clubs and organizations on campus. "I was able to find real friends and staff members who actually cared about me and made sure I was doing everything that I should."

"I appreciate everyone from both the basketball and rugby teams, including the coaches. We both had early mornings and late nights, and I wouldn't want to do it with a different group of people. Thank you for pushing me when I thought I couldn't go on, and thank you for never giving up on me. I appreciate you guys!"

## ISAC NORDSTROM | SUNDSVALL, SWEDEN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION '20 MBA IN STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP '21

It's a long way from Sundsvall, Sweden to NEC, but that's the journey Isac Nordstrom took. And hockey was his ticket.

"I started playing ice hockey when I was 5 years old on an outdoor rink in Nolby outside Sundsvall back in Sweden," Isac recalls. As he says, "Hockey is more than just a game; it's a part of life."

Isac loves the team spirit of the sport—forming close relationships with teammates and knowing that they always have your back. He also loves hockey's action. "There's always something happening on the ice, which makes hockey the greatest game on earth."

Years after putting on his first pair of skates, Isac learned about NEC through recruitment when he played junior hockey. Choosing NEC for his college experience proved to be an easy decision. "I had a coach and personal trainer who was an NEC alumnus and highly recommended it. NEC has a great international program and staff, and that was really helpful with my transition from junior hockey into college. I also chose NEC because it offered a variety of opportunities for me as an athlete and scholar. With an ice hockey rink on campus, I could walk right from class to practice."

A hockey rink on campus was nice, but Isac was just as focused on his studies. He counts his biggest achievements at NEC as those that happened in the classroom. He earned his BS in Business Administration in three years, was inducted into three honor societies, and received the Business Administration Award.

"At NEC, I like that I am able to build a relationship with each one of my professors, which has helped me excel in the classroom. And because NEC doesn't have a large student population, there's a lot of camaraderie amongst students and student-athletes."

After graduation, Isac moved directly into NEC's MBA program, concentrating in Strategic Leadership, a fitting choice. "Leadership, to me, is about having the passion and ability to get the best out of every individual. A great leader uses their strengths to help others succeed whilst not being afraid to admit when they are wrong. A good leader leads by example."

While New England College is a long way from Sweden, it has provided Isac a path to achieve his future goals. "I am super happy to have chosen to be part of the Pilgrim family. I want to thank all the professors, coaches, and fans at NEC. We, from the Men's Ice Hockey team, really appreciate everyone's support, and we are going to do everything we can to bring home the title this year."

Because hockey is part of life.

# AGENT OF CHANCE

**“WE MUST WORK TO UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE OF ALL AMERICANS. WE MUST WORK TO LIVE LIVES DEDICATED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PROMOTING ACCESS TO THE AMERICAN PROMISE FOR ALL WHO CALL THIS COUNTRY AND OUR CAMPUS HOME.”**

**- PRESIDENT MICHELE D. PERKINS**

## **DID YOU KNOW THAT NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE IS NOW THE MOST ETHNICALLY DIVERSE COLLEGE CAMPUS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE?**

### **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ON NEC’S TWO CAMPUSES REFLECT 34 PERCENT DIVERSITY.**

They come from small towns and big cities, across New England and as far away as Texas, Hawaii, Sweden, and Japan. They subscribe to all points along the political spectrum. They represent many cultures and lifestyles. They hold beliefs and worldviews as varied as the day is long. They arrive with different interests, talents, and abilities. They are the students—and the fabric—that make NEC.

A college that was founded to serve veterans quickly became a college for all students who wanted the opportunity to pursue higher education. NEC is known as a community that welcomes everyone, and that reputation has not happened by accident. NEC takes an active role in embracing and celebrating what makes each member of this community unique.

### **OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

To foster respect for each person in the College’s community, NEC founded the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) in 2016. The ODI works to establish strategic partnerships among those in the NEC community in order to create an inclusive student-centered environment, working together to

identify solutions for change. Since its founding, ODI has been able to increase its presence on campus through those partnerships and student groups, ensuring that ODI maintains its student-centered vision.

Led by India Barrows, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, ODI develops programs that give the NEC community opportunities to learn about and from individual and collective experiences.

One of the unique programs ODI offers is the Passport First-Year Exploration Program within the ALANA Student Network. ALANA, for students who identify as African, Latino/a, Asian, and Native American, provides academic support, peer-to-peer guidance, and cultural and leadership development for these first-year students. Barrows notes that the overall retention rate for students who have participated in the Passport Program is 93%.

“Advocating, supporting, and creating programs for historically marginalized groups like Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ folks is one of the most meaningful parts of my job,” explains Barrows. “And, of course, working directly with students and seeing their transformation right before my eyes.”

### **OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

Dr. Michele Perkins takes seriously her responsibility to NEC’s students and to providing a college community that reflects the entirety of NEC’s student body. After the tragic death of George Floyd, Dr. Perkins issued a call to action for everyone in the NEC community.

“I am determined that we will begin here on our campuses in Henniker and Manchester to lead by example with a movement that celebrates diversity, overcomes inequality, and promotes the greatest antidote to racism—education.”

Working closely with the ODI, Dr. Perkins and the College’s Senior Team have established the Commission on Racial Equality, focused on realizing America’s promise for all members of NEC’s community. For the coming year, this group will develop programs, partnerships, and gatherings that promote diversity, social justice, and activism.

This summer, Dr. Perkins declared June 19—Juneteenth, the anniversary of the 1865 emancipation of the Confederacy’s remaining slaves in Texas—an official holiday at NEC. She asked our community to reflect on the struggle for equality that has always been part of the Black experience in America:

“We must work to understand the history and experience of ALL Americans. We must work to teach and learn more about the psychology, history, and social science associated with institutionalized racism, prejudice, and discrimination. We must work to live lives dedicated to social justice and promoting access to the American promise for all who call this country and our campus home. We can do this. We will do this.”

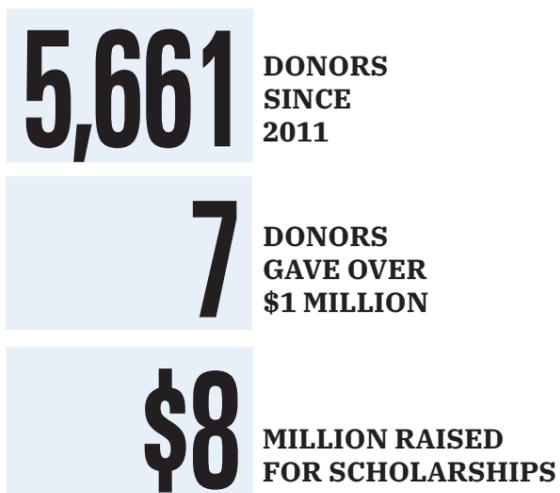
# Bridge to the Future

**NEC Strong! The end of the 2019–2020 fiscal year marked the official close of *Bridge to the Future: The Campaign for New England College*, the first truly comprehensive fundraising drive in College history. It was an absolute success! The campaign spanned nine years and, in that time, twice surpassed its working goals.**

The campaign crossed its initial working goal of \$25 million halfway through the timeline and then surpassed the revised goal of \$37 million with just three years remaining. By the time the books closed for the final time on June 30, 2020, the College counted \$42 million in gifts, pledges, and other commitments. Several campaign objectives were met or exceeded, and the College set multiple new benchmarks for philanthropy. Of note:

- The College completed two key capital projects that were funded in large part by philanthropy: The John Lyons Center academic building (\$10 million) and The Rosamond Page Putnam Center for the Performing Arts (\$13 million).
- \$8 million was raised for student scholarships and financial aid.
- A total of \$5.6 million was raised through the Opportunity Fund. In FY20 alone—the campaign’s final year—the Opportunity Fund surpassed FY19 totals by more than 12%. This represented the highest year-over-year growth of the Opportunity Fund in the College’s history and was achieved within the context of a global pandemic.

In a tangible demonstration of broad support for the College, the campaign received support from 5,661 donors since it began on July 1, 2011. Contributors came from all corners of the NEC community, including alumni, parents, faculty, and private foundations. Remarkably, the campaign had seven donors who gave \$1 million or more. The single largest gift to the campaign was for \$3.12 million—or about 7.5 percent of the total raised—and is one of the largest in NEC history.



# What's Next?

**New England College has enjoyed unprecedented success and growth in the last decade and is positioned to seize a new place in the competitive marketplace, secure an even stronger reputation, and launch new innovative programs.**

The strong reputation that we now enjoy has greatly contributed to our fundraising success, and vice versa. In fact, we no longer need to approach planning as a way to correct faulty systems or build defenses against crippling budget shortfalls. We are in a new place and need to capitalize on the opportunities that present themselves to continue to grow and claim our place as a leader in higher education.

Led by President Perkins and the Board of Trustees, the College’s Strategic Plan has been updated and expanded to articulate a vision for what our College will be in 2025. The goals of the new plan are highly ambitious. They will require new levels of engagement and involvement from the entire community. And, not surprisingly, they will require increased philanthropic support from alumni, parents, and friends. Building upon the success of the Bridge to the Future campaign, we are well positioned to take a giant leap forward in generating sustained philanthropy that will undergird our plans. Several bold and inspiring fundraising objectives are included:

- To raise \$15 million for substantial expansion and renovation of NEC’s athletic facilities
- To significantly grow the College’s endowment through outright and deferred gifts and pledges
- To sustain the growth in support for current operations—annual fund, athletics giving, and other programs—with the ambitious goal of reaching \$1 million in current-use giving by 2025
- To average \$5 million in overall annual fundraising achievement by 2025
- To achieve alumni giving rate of 15% by 2025

Reaching these will require new levels of engagement and participation from the entire NEC community, and most especially our loyal alumni. Indeed, no college can succeed for the next 75 years without the continued encouragement, engagement, and investment from its alumni. NEC is poised to do just that.

“DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN,  
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,  
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN,  
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,  
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN,  
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,  
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.”

— JOHN WESLEY

## PHILANTHROPY PROFILE CLIFFORD WANG, 1940 - 2018

Many pieces make up the mosaic of a person's life. For Clifford Wang '64, New England College was one piece that shined brightly for the rest of his life.

Originally from New Jersey, Cliff chose NEC because his childhood friend Brian Stager '62 had chosen to attend NEC. And it proved to be the right decision for Cliff. He embraced the warm, intimate, and friendly community of NEC, a sharp contrast to the industrialized New Jersey he knew growing up. He was a member of Lambda Epsilon Delta fraternity. A gregarious and fun-loving person, he found an enjoyable group of people at NEC and made lifelong friends. Cliff felt he belonged at NEC, and the College became part of his life story.

He majored in business, which seems like fate. His father was an entrepreneur, and his mother and her eight siblings were all involved in the business world. Cliff's family gatherings included lively conversations, with everyone sharing business ideas, opportunities, and successes.

After graduation, Cliff worked for Mallory Batteries Ltd., the company that introduced Duracell, before moving on to the marketing department at General Foods Corporation, where he sourced the prizes that went into cereal boxes. He traveled extensively, seeking unique and interesting products. His ideas and creativity provided children with many hours of fun.

Cliff left General Foods and jumped into an unknown future to help his brother Noel and sister-in-law Selma establish a high-end kitchen design showroom in Atlanta. He took over the kitchen business, Design Galleria, in the 1980s, and it became one of the largest kitchen design showrooms in the country, working with clients like Madonna, Elton John, and Halle Berry. In 2002, he sold Design Galleria to his protégé and retired to New York City.

Cliff never lost sight of the role NEC played in his life, no matter where life after NEC took him. He felt an obligation to allow others to have the same experience that he enjoyed at NEC.

Generous by nature, he consistently supported NEC with an annual gift of \$1,000. In early 2018, he included NEC in his estate planning, not knowing how timely that decision was. On December 12, 2018, Cliff passed away after many years of battling a serious illness, leaving NEC an allocation of funds from his retirement account. He supported NEC so that it would continue in the same fashion for following generations of students.

Many of the people Cliff met at NEC became lifelong friends, staying in contact, traveling together, and visiting each other over the years. He treasured those connections. That connection, sense of community, and lifelong impact are why Clifford Wang included NEC in his estate giving.



# DISTINCTION OF SERVICE



THESE CURRENT FACULTY, STAFF, AND TRUSTEES HAVE SERVED AT NEC FOR 20 YEARS OR MORE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATED SERVICE!

## FACULTY

- 51 Years **Don Melander**, Professor Emeritus of English
- 47 Years **John Lyons**, Professor Emeritus of Business
- 36 Years **Glenn Stuart**, Professor of Theatre
- 35 Years **Cynthia Burns Martin**, Professor of Business Administration, Associate Dean for Institutional Effectiveness
- Debra Nitschke-Shaw**, Senior Professor of Education
- 33 Years **Russ Rattray**, Associate Professor of Humanities, Associate Library Director
- Mary Ellen Alger**, Professor of Kinesiology
- 32 Years **John O'Connor**, Professor Emeritus of Business
- 31 Years **Kelly Doremus-Stuart**, Instructor of Theatre
- 30 Years **Debra Dunlop**, Professor of Biology and Health Science, Associate Dean of Natural & Social Sciences Division
- 28 Years **Fran Chelland**, Professor of Humanities, Associate Dean for Liberal Arts Education
- 27 Years **Sachiko Howard**, Senior Professor of Humanities
- 25 Years **Bill Preble**, Professor of Education
- Steven Arnault**, Instructor of Psychology
- 23 Years **Marc Clement**, Instructor of Psychology
- Paul Dann**, Instructor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Director of CMHC program
- J. Couhie**, Instructor of Kinesiology
- 22 Years **Maura MacNeil**, Professor of Creative Writing
- Mark Mitch**, Associate Professor of Environmental Science
- 21 Years **Jim Walsh**, Associate Dean of Humanities Division
- 20 Years **Inez McDermott**, Professor of Art History
- Thomas McGrevey**, Professor Emeritus of Business

## STAFF

- 34 Years **Frank Hall**, Institutional Researcher
- 33 Years **Muriel Loiselle**, Coordinator of Campus Visits
- Dan Freese**, Academic Technologist
- 25 Years **Mary Moritz**, Application Specialist
- 21 Years **Wayne Lesperance**, Vice President of Academic Affairs
- 20 Years **Jason Buck**, Dean of Students

## TRUSTEES

- 50 Years **Peter Shapiro, Esq.** (emeritus)
- 46 Years **Debbie Spring Reed '60** (emeritus)
- 44 Years **Jenkins Middleton** (emeritus)
- 40 Years **Charlotte Zahn '69** (emeritus)
- 37 Years **Joe Clement** (emeritus)
- Piers MacDonald '74** (emeritus)
- 25 Years **John Samenfeld '70** (emeritus)
- Barbara Sherwin, MD** (emeritus)
- 24 Years **Jeffrey Towle**
- 20 Years **John Maguire** (emeritus)
- Lex Scourby '75**
- Tom Farnen '74**



## UNRESTRICTED SUCCESS

Loyal donors are the cornerstone of NEC's success. They provide the foundation from which our College can carry out its mission to be a supportive learning community that challenges individuals to transform themselves and their world—something we have been doing for 75 years. This year, join our many alumni, parents, and friends in supporting the College by making a gift to the Opportunity Fund.

Visit us at [www.alumni.nec.edu/giving](http://www.alumni.nec.edu/giving). It's not the size of the gift that matters; it's the gift itself that counts.

*KT Hanson, Senior Studio, Institute of Art and Design, 2019*



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# *Thank You!*

Especially in challenging times, evidence of a strong annual fund is noted by sustained giving—not only because it benefits our students every year, but because annual giving affirms that our organization is worthy of such investment. In the last year, our community strongly avowed their belief in the mission of New England College by setting a new benchmark for giving to the Opportunity Fund, the College's annual fund.

**THANK YOU to all who helped the College weather the global pandemic and demonstrated what it means to be a Pilgrim. With your continued support, we look forward to another 75 years of excellence in higher education.**

Image credit: *JOT*, hand pulled lithograph  
Artwork by Bill Cass, Faculty  
Photo by Glen Scheffer, Faculty  
Institute of Art and Design at New England College