

SPRING 2021

# NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE

## MAGAZINE

# STRENGTH in UNITY





“There is much going on in the world now to make us optimistic, hopeful for a more normal year of work and recreation. There are still many challenges and threats as we emerge from the crises of 2020. Last year when I was asked, as I often was, when I thought the virus would be over and what would be its impact, I said that the only certainty that we had was uncertainty. That we would have to manage in a world of constant flux, making and changing decisions, often on a daily basis. Even though the days of the virus are receding into the past, the time of change and uncertainty will persist. But so will we as a community.”

MICHELE D. PERKINS, EdD, PRESIDENT

ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

Welcome to the *New England College Magazine*. This issue looks at NEC’s response to the unprecedented challenges brought on by a global pandemic, highlighting this community’s unwavering strength and unity. You will also find stories of three alumnae who are making a difference and four current students who are rising above.

The goal of *New England College Magazine* is to share the uncommon stories of growth, transformation, and creativity in the lives of those who are part of this special community of learning and doing. NEC is committed to producing two issues each year—spring and fall.

ABOUT THE COVER

Ryan O’Rourke, Associate Professor of Illustration at the Institute of Art and Design at NEC, created the cover art representing familiar sights from the Henniker campus and introducing two landmarks from the Manchester campus: French Hall (tucked behind the stack of books) and Lowell Hall (below the microscope). He holds a BFA and MFA in Illustration, both from the University of Hartford in Connecticut. Ryan is an award-winning illustrator who has illustrated 14 children’s books and written two. His clients include HarperCollins Publishers, *The Boston Globe*, PBS, *Highlights Magazine*, and more.



Image credit: *Untitled* | Matt Silvers | Home State: New Hampshire | Illustration '22

CONTENTS

SPRING 2021

4		GREETINGS FROM BRIDGE STREET
5		CHALLENGES DRIVE EVOLUTION   After a year of uncertainty, NEC’s path forward is clear.
7		DISTANT BUT STILL SOCIAL   NEC’s response to COVID-19 embodies the idea of community.
10		CHANGE MAKERS   Three alumnae use their NEC educations to do big things.
15		SHIFTING SANDS   NEC faculty members never stop learning and leading.
18		KEEPING UP WITH CAREER & LIFE PLANNING   CLP helps graduating students take their next steps.
21		SHINING OUT   Be inspired by four students who rise above.
30		THINK OUTSIDE THE BOOKS   Read the work of three Creative Writing students.
36		PAINT BY NUMBERS   Take a look at NEC by the numbers.
38		CLASS NOTES
41		IN MEMORIAM

MARKETING DIRECTOR  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
Jennifer Robertson

EDITOR  
LEAD WRITER  
Tracy Searle

PHOTOGRAPHER  
PHOTO EDITOR  
Shannon Pelletier

CONTRIBUTORS  
Bill Deptula  
Lorella Volpe  
Karen Scolforo  
Meghan Brandow

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  
603.428.2300

GREETINGS FROM  
BRIDGE STREET

To say that the last year has been challenging would be an understatement, and to say that New England College rose to the challenge would also be an understatement. Yes, we did, indeed, meet the challenges of delivering high-quality education during a global pandemic and a time of deep unrest and division. In the process, the NEC community came together like never before.



Following strict COVID-19 protocols to keep everyone safe. Engaging in important, and sometimes difficult, discussions about the issues America faces. Maintaining the vital connections that make NEC a community. Through it all, each one of us worked to put others before ourselves. This community of students, families, faculty, and staff displayed unprecedented levels of resilience, determination, creativity, and courage—the qualities that have always defined NEC. I have never been more proud to be part of this College and to serve as its president.

And I recently completed my 14th year as President of NEC. We have come so far in that time. When I came to NEC, we had 650 students. Today, we have over 5,000. That is remarkable growth, and we aren't finished yet.

Spring has come to New Hampshire, and I have nothing but optimism about the future—of our health and wellbeing, our country, and this learning community we love so much. I look forward with great anticipation to the days when we can gather in person again. Thank you for being part of the NEC community.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Michele D. Perkins".

Michele D. Perkins, EdD  
President



ONE YEAR INTO THIS GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND THE QUESTIONS CONTINUE TO SWIRL. WHAT'S NEXT? WHEN WILL LIFE GO BACK TO NORMAL? WILL HIGHER EDUCATION BE FOREVER CHANGED? WILL STUDENTS SAY “GOODBYE” TO THE ON-CAMPUS COLLEGE EXPERIENCE THEY’VE ALWAYS EXPECTED?

Not so fast, cautions Dr. Michele Perkins, President of New England College. Dr. Perkins, who holds leadership positions on numerous higher education boards and advisory groups, speaks often with other higher education leaders about the state of higher education.

“I’m concerned about some small colleges that are facing eight-figure losses,” she says. “I think we will see some closures over the next few years because of COVID, but I am proud to say that NEC is in a strong position.”

NEC focuses on three paths to ensure a stable future. The first path is fiscal solvency. In her time as president of NEC, Dr. Perkins has made financial stewardship a top priority. That strong foundation has proven invaluable during the pandemic, as the College incurred losses from refunding room and board costs after the shift to remote learning in March 2020 and from implementing COVID-19 safety protocols. In her remarks to faculty and staff in March of this year, Dr. Perkins relayed that “we are lean and mean, but we are in good shape.”

The second path is a multi-faceted enrollment strategy, much like a diversified investment strategy. “We have been intentional in our efforts to make sure our community represents all of America,” Dr. Perkins explains. “We are building interest among prospective students in Florida, Texas, and some western states, and we will continue to forge ahead in those markets.”

The third path is multiple educational delivery modes. According to Dr. Wayne Lesperance, Provost at NEC, higher education has for years been a house divided when it comes to online learning. “Some institutions have embraced the opportunity while others have turned up their noses to online education as inferior,” he states. “I’m proud to say that under President Perkins’ leadership, NEC has been in the online space for adult learners for over a decade.” In those years, NEC’s overall online enrollment, for undergraduate and graduate programs, has grown to over 3,900 students. As overall enrollment naturally ebbs and flows, having alternate enrollment streams becomes vital to the College’s long-term stability and growth.



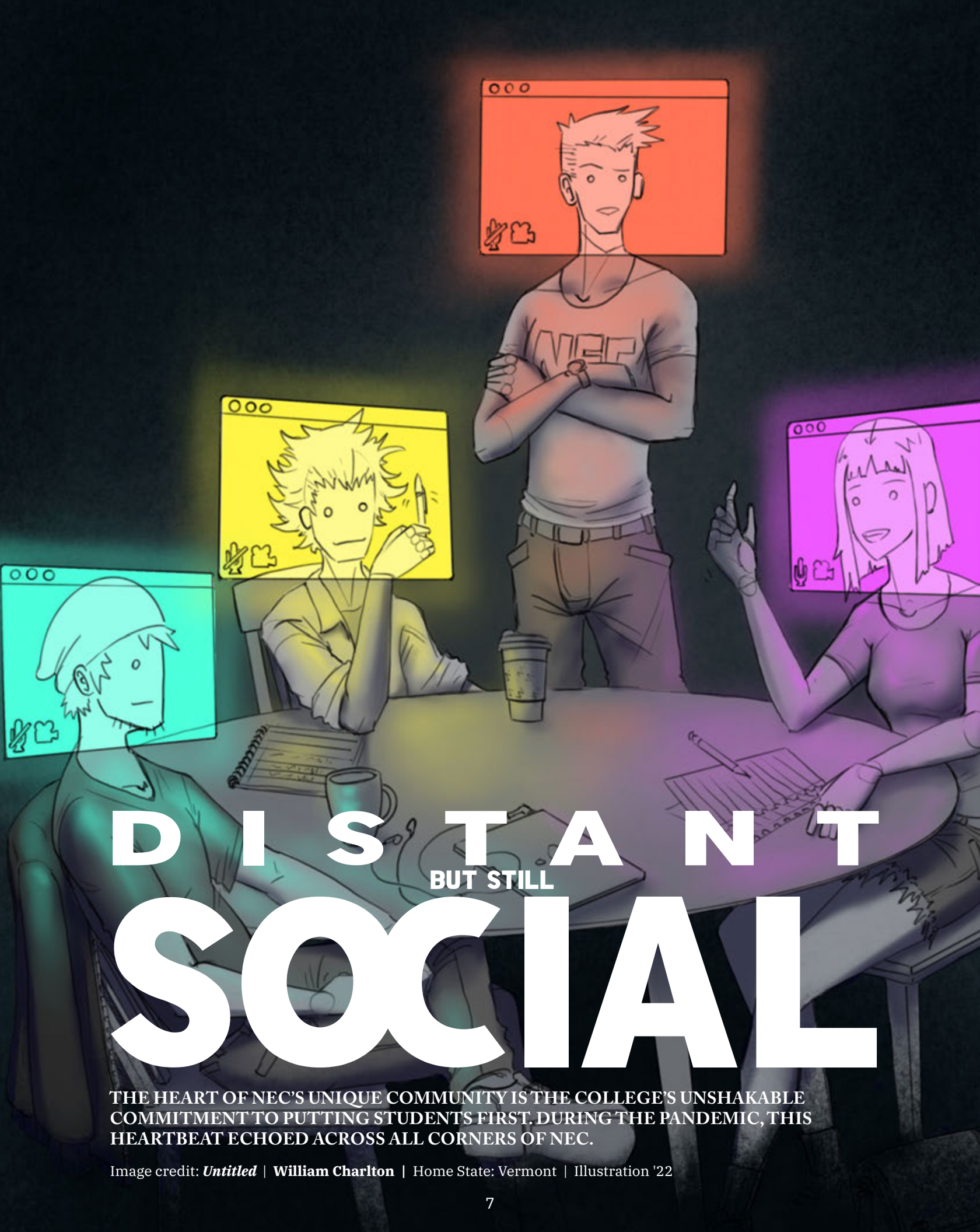
But what about the on-campus experience? COVID-19 forced a shift to remote learning that continues to disrupt the full campus experience for the foreseeable future. Dr. Perkins acknowledges that the last year—with its sudden shift to remote learning and abundant uncertainty—has been a jolting experience for traditional learners. “For the traditional on-campus student, that campus relationship is vital, irreplaceable,” Dr. Perkins states. “It offers a safe space for undergraduates to become adults. Eliminating the on-campus experience is something we will never do.”

From their perspectives, Dr. Perkins and Dr. Lesperance believe the last year has shown NEC what is possible for its future. The lines separating on-campus, online, and remote learning have been blurred, and both see that as a good thing. Dr. Perkins says the College’s leadership and faculty are now asking what aspects of digital learning they can combine with on-campus learning so that NEC students get the best experience and education possible. “The liberal arts, timeless and more important than ever in the United States,” Dr. Lesperance adds, “are not limited to one delivery modality over another. NEC has offered—and will continue to offer—a quality liberal arts education in on-campus classrooms and online, synchronously and asynchronously.”

Looking to NEC’s future, Dr. Perkins and Dr. Lesperance agree that the professor plays a crucial role. “Wayne and I are of the firm belief that higher education, in general, has moved away from the value of the professor, but in our thinking, the professor has never been more important,” Dr. Perkins says emphatically. NEC’s professors, as they have always been, are still the stars of the show. Each dedicated faculty member continues to shape and guide each learning experience, whether an NEC student learns on campus or online. These professors make sure their students “get it,” even during remote learning. “Our alumni often talk about NEC’s athletics, but then, invariably, they start talking about our faculty, scholars who are great teachers,” Dr. Perkins says. “Many things have changed over the last year, but there is a thread that will always run through NEC: the excellence of our faculty and the process of learning.”

As NEC, along with the rest of the world, enters into the second year of this pandemic, questions will continue to wait for their answers. But what is not in question is NEC’s future, a future as bright as it ever has been.

*“THE LIBERAL ARTS, TIMELESS AND MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER IN THE UNITED STATES, ARE NOT LIMITED TO ONE DELIVERY MODALITY OVER ANOTHER. NEC HAS OFFERED—AND WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER—A QUALITY LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION IN ON-CAMPUS CLASSROOMS AND ONLINE, SYNCHRONOUSLY AND ASYNCHRONOUSLY.”*



# DISTANT BUT STILL SOCIAL

THE HEART OF NEC’S UNIQUE COMMUNITY IS THE COLLEGE’S UNSHAKABLE COMMITMENT TO PUTTING STUDENT’S FIRST. DURING THE PANDEMIC, THIS HEARTBEAT ECHOED ACROSS ALL CORNERS OF NEC.

Image credit: *Untitled* | William Charlton | Home State: Vermont | Illustration '22

# *“IT IS EASY TO ARGUE THAT THE CLASSES OF 2020 AND 2021 ARE AMONG THE STRONGEST IN NEC HISTORY.”*

**James Mathieu, Class of 2021, Student Senate President**

On March 10, one day before the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, NEC President Dr. Michele Perkins emailed the NEC community, advising them of a potential shift to remote learning and working. Days earlier, Dr. Perkins convened a Virus Response Team to assess critical operations—such as safety precautions, food service protocols, testing and contact tracing, telehealth systems, and quarantine strategies—all in advance of New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu’s stay-at-home order. One week later, classes were shifted to remote delivery.

As a result, most of NEC’s processes had to be modified to ensure students’ needs were still met. And when it comes to student services, the buck stops with Jason Buck, Dean of Students. He and his team rely on interpersonal contact to fulfill their mission, so their core work changed immediately and dramatically. “Students wanted communication, and we worked hard to keep information flowing freely and often,” says Buck. “We had to find ways to deliver remote social programs and grab-and-go opportunities for students to access materials and supplies. Our team served a critical role in coronavirus-related efforts, like testing; updating lists of remote and in-person students; setting up alternative housing for student quarantines; and updating health and safety efforts, like transitioning Wellness Center services to telehealth-based services.” Buck and his team brought the community together around the shared goal of keeping people safe.

Frank Jones, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, agrees. “The NEC community really came together. We adapted, improvised, and overcame.” Jones had never taught an online course before. “My top priority was continuing to provide my students with the best educational instruction and support possible.” Jones tapped a variety of Open Education Resources and website tutorials related to crime scene investigations and police procedures, and he sought out compelling guest speakers to keep students motivated.

Fine Arts faculty—like James Chase, Associate Professor of Art at the Institute of Art and Design at NEC—and

Performing Arts faculty—like Alex Picard, Professor of Theatre—faced hurdles in modifying in-person courses full of hands-on components. Chase was impressed with his students’ ability to adapt to unprecedented challenges on a virtual platform. Their work appeared differently across computer systems, and students had to get creative. “The online environment has offered new opportunities to build and enhance professional practice and skill sets,” says Chase. “Students have developed digital imaging skills that have enabled them to tweak elements of their art.”

Picard employed play analysis to help students respond to the intrusion of COVID, the thing that changed everything that can be changed. “That’s how I feel about teaching theatre during a pandemic,” says Picard. “Everything that could be changed, changed.” Noisy sets gave way to quiet spaces, with the only gathering place being a virtual one. As frustrations mounted, Picard knew what she needed to do: give her students something to laugh about. Together, she and her students launched #MasksUpCurtainsUp, a campaign that injected humor and creative problem-solving into their learning experience. Students created artistic posters to encourage proper mask wearing and social distancing, and they worked collaboratively to engage a responsible approach to address COVID-19.

While NEC staff and faculty scrambled to modify services, students dealt with changes they could not have prepared for. Hannah Nelson ‘20, varsity basketball player, was halfway through her senior year when the pandemic hit. She and her teammates had just returned from the NCAA national tournament game in Ithaca, New York when they learned about the transition to virtual learning. “We were disappointed to have lost the game, and now we were being asked to change everything we were used to,” Nelson says.

However, Nelson recognizes the challenges presented by the pandemic, and she appreciates NEC’s swift transition to ensure the safety of its community. “Considering the lack of time to prepare, my professors did an amazing job. My courses were moved to Zoom, a platform I had never even heard of before this happened.” She found her faculty to be very understanding and supportive through

the transition, and she managed to adapt to the new, albeit temporary, way of life. That was, until she discovered some upsetting news—the postponement and subsequent cancellation of Commencement. “I truly felt for last year’s senior class,” Nelson says. “Knowing that some of them are the first in their families to graduate from college and that they will not be able to walk across the stage to receive their diplomas is heart breaking.”

For Akila Sansculotte '21, a Health Science major and student leader, the pandemic seemed to come out of nowhere. “It hit me really hard mentally,” says Sansculotte, who is also president of the Rising Stars Dance Team; a varsity rugby player; and a Passport Program Ambassador, for which she provides guidance and mentorship to first-semester African-American students. “Every aspect of our lives was 180 degrees from what we considered normal.” With her friends spread out across a half dozen states, Sansculotte, like many of her peers, relied on technology and virtual platforms to keep in touch with them.

“Surreal” is how Graziano DiCiaula, Assistant Director of Residential Life and Housing in Manchester, describes the initial experience. “No one knew what to expect, or how bad it was going to be. Some students grabbed their stuff and left; others didn’t even take their things home because they expected to be called back relatively quickly. It took months before students were able to safely return to campus to retrieve their belongings.”

In Henniker, the Admission teams met with prospective students virtually. Shawn Kithcart, Assistant Director of Admissions and Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach, learned that almost any admissions function can be modified to a virtual process. “My colleagues and I want all prospective students to enjoy a rich experience, despite the adaptations we have made. To make it work, we have seen greater interdepartmental collaboration—essential for student success before, during, and after enrollment—so that students and families continue to receive critical information and resources.”

The College’s communication and community-building efforts paid off. By July, NEC began planning for students to return in the fall. This entailed new systems; facilities changes; stringent cleaning protocols; and rigorous testing, sanitizing, and social distancing. Plexiglass separations were installed in offices with open spaces and customer-service desks; no-touch door handles were upgraded or added. NEC’s COVID-19 Response Team managed the College’s initial response and these operational implementations.

Students returned to on-campus classes last fall, a decision that put NEC ahead of many of its peers in its response to COVID-19 and meeting students’ needs. Hybrid courses combined the hands-on learning students expect from NEC with the safety of remote learning. Upon return to campus, students agreed to a modified code of conduct, which encompassed new requirements to ensure the safety of everyone in the NEC community.

For student-athletes, Kithcart says, “Inter-squad scrimmages allowed athletes to keep up their skills, and the live-streams were shared with parents and fans to help foster a sense of normal. For our athletes, feeling part of the team meant everything to them.”

James Mathieu '21, Student Senate President, sees it as his responsibility to reinforce NEC’s initiatives with students. “Dealing with a global pandemic in a place of higher education means an astute mindfulness about the science behind the virus. Looking at life through a science lens, a perspective of health and safety, means taking appropriate precautions and adapting everything we do to control the spread.”

“It is easy to argue that the classes of 2020 and 2021 are among the strongest in NEC history,” says Mathieu. “We are perseverant. We recognize that the world is changing overnight. We have learned to adapt. We are a generation of technologically advanced evolvers. We were born for this, and now we have to deliver.”





# CHANGE MAKERS

NEC'S MISSION IS TO INSPIRE STUDENTS TO CHANGE THEMSELVES AND THEIR WORLDS. THESE THREE ALUMNAE EMBODY THAT MISSION: THEY DARED TO CHANGE THE NARRATIVE OF THEIR OWN LIVES AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

*Photo credit Mike Broglio*





## JENNY COOLEY

ENGLISH TEACHER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL  
LEARNING SPECIALIST, NEW YORK CITY  
BA IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION '90

High school isn't a breeze for everyone, and sometimes that experience inspires a career choice.

"I loved high school, but I wasn't a fantastic student," recalls Jenny Cooley. "I made it work." She landed at New England College—in spite of herself, she says—and was led toward a career in teaching by NEC's Education Department. She found the faculty to be relatable and supportive.

"NEC's teachers were very good at telling you that you are a good kid and a good student. They truly celebrated each student for who they were. They taught me how to relate to people, and my compassion for kids who struggle really grew because of NEC."

Jenny's first job after NEC was at a school for special needs students. Though not profoundly disabled, her students faced

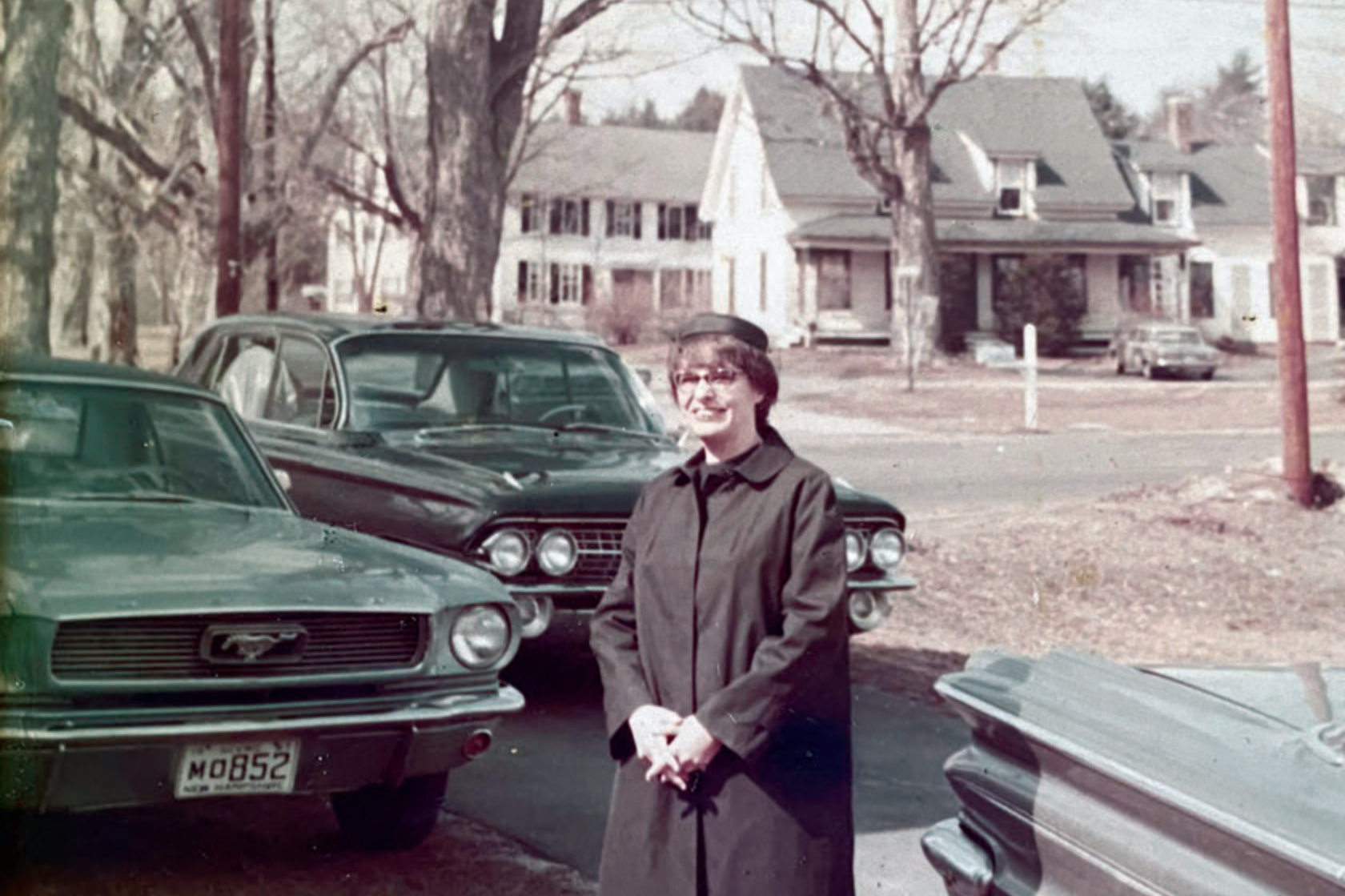
learning disabilities. "They reminded me of myself, and I felt for these kids who found school to be difficult."

Currently, Jenny doubles as English teacher and middle school learning specialist, an opportunity that brings a new dimension to her teaching life. "As my mother once said, 'Not everyone can be a genius.' These kids need support, and I am that person for them."

Her most significant challenge these days is teaching full time during COVID. "I was with my students on 14th Street when 9/11 happened. And now I'm with them through COVID. Kids are remarkably resilient, and they often lead the way. They inspire me."

Kids, her students and her own children, inspire Jenny to strive for change. "I'm progressive-minded, so I want to know as much as possible so that I continue to earn that badge and not judge people so harshly if they have different opinions. I want to be a good example for the students I teach."

*Jenny went on to earn an MA in Education and an MEd in Counseling Psychology, both from Columbia University.*



## CAROLYN BEANE ALLEN

1929–2016  
SCIENTIST AND PROFESSOR  
BS IN SCIENCE '51

The acronym STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) was coined in 2001, but Carolyn Beane Allen had been living the STEM life for decades.

After a very humble childhood in Henniker and Upstate New York, Carolyn returned to New Hampshire and earned her first degree at New England College, the first of several "firsts" Carolyn accomplished.

She put her science degree to work as an engineering assistant at General Electric and continued to work there while earning her PhD in Chemistry from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York. In 1961, she was NEC's first woman graduate to earn a PhD. That same year, Carolyn received an honorary Doctorate of Science from NEC, becoming the first NEC graduate to receive an honorary degree from the College.

Carolyn's decision to study science proved to be the first step in an illustrious STEM career. While working on her PhD, she received a grant from the Atomic Energy Commission to embark on a research project at Los Alamos, New Mexico. She completed her dissertation on isotope separation, a chemical process that unlocked new possibilities for military defense. She played roles in establishing University of New Mexico's Los Alamos campus and Project CHEMLAB, a database of chemistry experiments. As a college professor, she taught undergraduate chemistry at RPI, Stony Brook University, and University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Across the span of her career, Carolyn—known for being independent and self-sufficient—paved her own path at a time when few women pursued careers in science. According to her sister-in-law Doris Beane, Carolyn "faced challenges in a male-dominated world, but they respected her and her knowledge. She was a crusader for women in science. She didn't act like she was or talk about it." But she was.

*Carolyn Beane Allen is buried in Henniker.*





## MEGAN LEO

HEAD COACH, NEC WOMEN'S LACROSSE  
BA IN SECONDARY EDUCATION '07  
MED '09

Meg arrived at NEC with two goals: play lacrosse and earn a degree in Education. She also found a community where she can use her passions to guide the next generation.

For seven years, Meg taught at an alternative school that did not offer athletics, so her desire to coach lacrosse was fulfilled by serving as NEC's assistant women's coach for five years. She became the head coach six years ago.

She takes her leadership style from Kristie Baldwin, her own coach at NEC and mentor. "Her philosophy was 'make your mistakes and let's learn from them.' That affects how I coach my girls. I might be disappointed in their choices, but their choices don't change our relationship. The whole point is that we aren't perfect."

Off the field, Meg teaches Bridges to Learning for first-year students. "I graduated from NEC with all the tools necessary to be confident in my teaching. The Education Department was so supportive, and they continued to guide me even after I left NEC."



*Photo credit Mike Broglia*

Meg makes a point of sharing her experiences with the next generation of students, on the field or in the classroom. "I had the average college experience and have great parents, so I don't pretend to have all the answers. But I will always be there to help students find answers, just like NEC did for me. I talk about anything they want to know, like how to figure out what they want to do. They feel like they chose a major and have to stick with it or it would be viewed as quitting. For them to hear that it's okay to try something and not like it? We would be sending the wrong message if we told them otherwise."

S  
H  
I  
F  
T  
I  
N  
G

*Sandy*

NEC'S DEDICATED FACULTY ARE MORE THAN SAGES ON A STAGE. THEY THROW THEMSELVES INTO PROJECTS WITHIN THEIR AREAS OF EXPERTISE, EXPANDING THEIR OWN KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AND GIVING STUDENTS MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE WHAT THEY LEARN. CHECK OUT THESE FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM THE LAST YEAR.





**ELIZABETH HARPER**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF  
NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

---

A teacher of NEC's environmental science courses, Dr. Harper has been selected for the Periclean Faculty Leadership Program in STEM and Social Sciences, supported by The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations and The Eugene M. Lang Foundation. This grant provides support for the development of a STEM/civic engagement course in collaboration with a community partner, which will be the Kearsarge Climate Action Committee. Members of the Committee, Dr. Harper, and her students will create presentations of local stories illustrating how climate change affects our communities' ecosystems and economies. These presentations will encourage civil discourse and debate about local and national climate change policies.

*Dr. Harper joined NEC in 2015. Her environmental science courses include ecology and conservation biology, and her research interests focus on amphibian ecology, tropical biology, and ecological modeling. She enjoys involving students in research projects and taking her classes to nearby rivers, forests, and wetlands. She holds a BA in Biology from Middlebury College and a PhD in Biology from University of Missouri.*



**JAMES NEWCOMB**  
PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY AND  
HEALTH SCIENCE

---

Dr. Newcomb was awarded a \$160,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health NH-INBRE-COBRE Collaborative Administrative Supplement to start a new project with a Dartmouth College colleague. An NEC student will join the research this summer. During his sabbatical in spring 2020, Dr. Newcomb carried out a collaborative research project with colleagues at Dartmouth. They studied the use of ultrasound to non-invasively stimulate neurons and presented some of their results at the virtual Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) conference in January 2021. He also published a paper on sea slugs in *Integrative Organismal Biology*, a SICB-published scientific journal of original research across the field of integrative and comparative biology. Additionally, Dr. Newcomb has been elected to a leadership position in SICB and appointed to the editorial board of *Integrative Organismal Biology*.

*Dr. Newcomb joined NEC in 2006 and maintains an active research laboratory focused on the circadian rhythms and evolution of snails and slugs. His career includes over 10 research grants. He holds a BA in Zoology from University of New Hampshire, a BA in Chemistry/Physics from Keene State College, an MS in Zoology from University of New Hampshire, and a PhD in Biology from Georgia State University.*



**ERIN WILKINSON  
HARTUNG**  
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF MANAGEMENT

---

Dr. Wilkinson Hartung volunteered to be a student selection panelist for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program offered by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Gilman Program yearly provides more than 3,000 exceptional U.S. undergraduate students with funding to support their participation in study abroad programs and international internships.

*Dr. Wilkinson Hartung joined NEC in 2018 and teaches business and marketing classes. Some of her favorite classes to teach include Principles of Marketing and Public Speaking for Business Professionals, both for undergraduates, and Strategic Marketing in the MBA program. Last summer, in NEC's first summer program, she taught a special topics class, Food Marketing: Competition in the Ice Cream Industry. She holds a BA in International Relations with a second major in Business Economics from the University of San Diego, an MBA with an International Business Focus from U.S. International University, and a DBA with specialization in International Marketing from Alliant International University.*



**GAVIN HENNING**  
PROFESSOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION

---

A nationally recognized expert on higher education and assessment (student success and program improvement), Dr. Henning has developed NEC's new online Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership with a focus on equity. At the 2020 Institute on the Curricular Approach, a conference focused on learning outcomes and student engagement, Dr. Henning co-presented "Equity-Centered Assessment: Concepts and Strategies." Additionally, he authored or co-authored five higher education articles on the topics of assessment, accreditation, holistic learning, and equity and participated in one interview and five webinars on various higher education topics.

*Dr. Henning has served in higher education for more than 20 years, guiding the next generation of educators, inspiring educational change, and focusing his work on assessment and equity. Each year, he spearheads the Higher Education Assessment Conference hosted by NEC. He holds a BS in Psychology and Sociology and an MA in College and University Administration from Michigan State University, and an MA in Sociology and a PhD in Education Leadership and Policy Studies from University of New Hampshire.*



MOST NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE ALUMNI REMEMBER THE FEELING OF THEIR COLLEGE EXPERIENCES ROUNDING THE FINAL TURN AND HEADING TOWARD GRADUATION. THAT FEELING OF EXCITEMENT MAY HAVE QUICKLY BEEN FOLLOWED BY APPREHENSION, A FEELING OF “WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?” NEC’S OFFICE OF CAREER AND LIFE PLANNING HELPS STUDENTS ANSWER THAT QUESTION, BOTH BEFORE GRADUATION AND AFTER.

# KEEPING UP WITH CAREER & LIFE PLANNING



The mission of Career and Life Planning (CLP) is turning nerves into excitement and possibility. The many ways in which NEC has continued to invest in CLP—such as re-aligning the department within the Office of Advancement, incorporating game-changing technology, and supporting the development of a robust alumni network—all point to the important role this department plays in the lives of the College’s students.

## THE MOVE TO ADVANCEMENT

CLP’s recent incorporation into the Office of Advancement has proven to be critical in creating combined programming, initiatives, and outreach. The blended function of student-centered programming and alumni engagement has resulted in new shared goals of increasing the relevance of CLP and enhancing the lives of students and alumni. This starts by building a cohesive and inclusive environment, beginning in the first year and continuing throughout the alumni experience. Most importantly, CLP’s placement within the greater Advancement team solidifies the lifelong support and mentorship of our graduates.

Vice President of Advancement Bill Deptula, for one, is delighted by the move, stating: “Advancement has broadened its scope, which speaks to what an opportunity we have to make a difference with our students. There are not a lot of schools that are doing this, so there is a tremendous amount of excitement and potential. There is enthusiasm in our community about this move, too. This is a bold leadership move that will enhance our students’ ability to engage with our alumni network. We could not be more excited to partner with CLP. It’s a natural alliance.”

To further increase impact, CLP has partnered with Director of Alumni Relations Lorella Volpe to develop a presence on social media. Alumni, students, and employer-partners can follow CLP on several different platforms, including LinkedIn and Twitter. Ultimately, CLP’s goal is to provide the best possible tools for students to chart their courses in a digital world while simultaneously engaging alumni.

## EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

With the integration of CLP and Advancement also came the incorporation of new technology. Handshake, a

powerful new ally, now serves as a centralized career resource for all students, creating unprecedented access to over half a million employers. Offered as both a web-based service and mobile app, Handshake’s career services software gives students the ability to make same- or next-day, one-time- or clusters of appointments, anytime and anywhere. A curated collection of CLP’s published resources—such as résumé workbooks and job search guides—are also available for download. By understanding how to leverage every possible aspect of their lives into their next stepping-stone opportunity, students can build a framework of support around them to move confidently into the future. Handshake makes this “incredibly easy and even almost relaxing,” as one senior described only two weeks before his graduation.

Seniors aren’t the only ones flocking to Handshake, however. Nearly a third of all first-year students are active on the platform, with more joining each day. In the words of one Bridges to Learning student, “Handshake is awesome. I already made a profile and started following a few companies. I love that CLP is part of [our classes] and gets us thinking about life after college early.”

## BRIGHT FUTURES START EARLY

As soon as students begin their journeys at NEC, career development is woven into every aspect of the student experience, beginning with the first-year Bridges to Learning curriculum. Meghan Brandow, Assistant Director of CLP, emphasizes that “our pathways are a series of planned conversations, filled with changes, twists, and turns. Being curious and truly listening to these conversations helps students approach new opportunities with optimism and excitement.” Shannon Sciria, Career Counselor, is enthusiastic about the progressive approach CLP takes to career development: “Working with students early helps prepare and empower them for all of the steps in the job search process down the road. This helps students avoid hitting their senior year without having done a mock interview or knowing how to put together an effective résumé. Instead, they’ll have a checklist of learning outcomes and activities in order to develop their professional selves over the course of four years.”



**INTERNSHIPS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE**

Experiential education is a cornerstone of NEC. Students do exciting work in the field, thanks to their hard work and the support of the College’s faculty, staff, and employer-partners. Internships are critical for students to “flex their chops” in real-world situations, giving them tangible experience and confidence. NEC’s two campuses offer students a mix of professional opportunities for growth and development between a quintessential New England town and an up-and-coming arts and technology city. Moreover, CLP’s deep relationships with external partners—such as The Washington Center in Washington, D.C.—ensure that students have ample opportunity to explore new settings while honing their professional skills.

**NETWORK, NETWORK, NETWORK**

The art of networking has helped many further their careers, but it can also be difficult and nerve-wracking in the beginning. CLP helps students gain networking confidence in three ways: guiding students to prepare a personal narrative, or “pitch”; teaching students to listen in order to ask strong questions that further the conversation; and offering students opportunities to practice.

All three of these come together through NEC’s single-minded focus on collaboration, a distinction that sets NEC apart. The College’s faculty, staff, and coaches teach students competitive “chops” with every interaction, and their professional connections are invaluable. This extends to employer-partners who actively provide valuable resources and advice through class visits and recruitment events. Add to this a ready and eager alumni base that can provide further mentoring and guidance, and NEC students have a rich and powerful support network from which they can launch into a post-collegiate world.

**CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION**

The CLP landscape looks quite a bit different than it did as recently as five years ago. Despite myriad changes—the move to Advancement, the growth of robust internship programs, investments in promising new technologies—the Office of CLP is just as its name suggests: an unwavering sounding board and touchstone for students and alumni as they move forward.

Whether meeting with first-year students or alumni, CLP is a support system smoothing out any hiccups along the way. This may mean tapping into the “life planning” function of the office: connecting students with resources to develop a budget for their first apartment expenses or building their network when they move to a new city. For alumni, there are also many ways to get involved, including sharing one’s experiences by mentoring, visiting a class, serving on a panel, posting a job or internship opportunity, participating in an event, or hosting interview sessions.

Ultimately, by the time NEC students cross the covered bridge for the final time at Commencement, they will be armed with the tools to continue along their pathway four years in the making—with the promise of comprehensive, personalized support on Bridge Street every step of the way, even post-graduation.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

Twitter: [twitter.com/NEC\\_CLP](https://twitter.com/NEC_CLP)  
LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/showcase/nec-career-and-life-planning/](https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/nec-career-and-life-planning/)  
Email: [clp@nec.edu](mailto:clp@nec.edu)



**SHINING OUT**  
STUDENTS WHO SHINE IN THE CLASSROOM AND COMMUNITY

NEC STUDENTS OFTEN DEFINE “GRIT.” THEY KNOW THAT SUCCESS HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH PERFECTION AND EVERYTHING TO DO WITH PERSEVERANCE. THEY WORK HARD, REALLY HARD, AND RISE ABOVE. MANY STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE NEC BRING THEIR INSPIRATION WITH THEM. HERE ARE FOUR OF THEIR STORIES.

*Image: Dr. Jill Biden visits NEC’s all-student College Convention, January 2020. Civic engagement runs deep at NEC. In fact, you could say it’s part of our DNA. All students are encouraged to get involved and let their voices be heard.*



# TY’AARON ENNIS

POLITICAL SCIENCE, CLASS OF 2021 | HOME STATE: MASSACHUSETTS

Ty’Aaron Ennis’s family is counting on him to graduate. And, when he does, they expect him to forge an unprecedented pathway to a generation of wealth for his African-American community in Dorchester, a neighborhood in Boston. “Chasing the American dream is not the same for everybody,” says Ty’Aaron. “In reality, it is influenced by where you come from and the opportunities you get. I can work harder than anyone, but given the color of my skin, the other person might still have the advantage.”

Ty’Aaron is a first-generation college student at NEC, where he has embarked on a personal journey to change the world. Part of the LGBTQ+ community and of African-American descent, Ty’Aaron finds himself navigating advocacies for Black and Gay rights. “I want to expose inequities across mental, physical, and spiritual spaces. The lessons I am learning at NEC are preparing me to do just that.”

A political science major and an NEC senior, Ty’Aaron has been called mature for his age. This, and diplomatic. He credits his upbringing for these attributes, embracing an ongoing sense of responsibility for the wellbeing of others as well as himself and evolving from the moment he stepped foot on campus.

By the time he was a sophomore at NEC, Ty’Aaron had been selected to serve as a Resident Assistant, a peer leadership role that he juggled along with his service as Student Senate Treasurer. He was also involved in a broad range of civic engagement opportunities: participation in NextGen America, a progressive advocacy and political action organization, and CiviCorps, which is part of The Center for Civic Engagement and made up of student volunteers who embody the spirit of *Ut Prosim*, “that I may serve.”

“I worked with other students to arrange speaker events, presidential town halls, and presentations,” Ty’Aaron says. “What an amazing opportunity! I got to speak one-on-one with people like Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Kamala Harris.” The Center for Civic Engagement leverages New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation primary status by hosting U.S. presidential candidates, campaign leaders, and election officials.

Also during his sophomore year, Ty’Aaron traveled to Brussels to meet with members of the European Union Council. He and his classmates accessed a series of high-profile events and venues. “The experience changed my life. I knew immediately

that this was what I wanted to do for a career. My favorite courses are international relations and diplomacy. I can see myself doing this for a living. I know I will fit right in with the world community.”

Now in his final year, Ty’Aaron lives off campus with two roommates, which is a learning experience in itself. “We have had to overcome cultural differences in every aspect of our home life. I am from Boston and I love seafood. One of my roommates can’t stand the smell of fish. We have different ideas about energy efficiencies, cleanliness, and simplicity. These things have to be negotiated with a respect for each person’s different background and experience. It is kind of a model for what I can expect in a broader landscape internationally.”

Ultimately, Ty’Aaron considers himself to be an advocate. “I have to be humble, to be a realist,” he says. “I have to be willing and able to look out for others, but also to look out for myself. Without self-care, I won’t be as effective.” Ty’Aaron will graduate in a virtual ceremony in May, at which time he intends to chase his dream to practice diplomacy abroad, a first step in making the world a better place for his family, for others, and for himself.





# GIULIANA KEVLIN

HISTORY, CLASS OF 2021 | HOME STATE: NEW HAMPSHIRE

“I was looking for a small school” is a common answer when someone is asked why they chose NEC, but the outcome of that choice is often anything but common.

Giuliana Kevlin—or Giules, as she often goes by—wanted that smaller college environment because she wanted to focus on relationships and athletics. She plays field hockey and lacrosse. “I love the one-on-one attention and the relationships a student can form, not just with classmates but also with professors. Relationships are really important, and they help me excel.”

And excelling, rising above, is what Giules does at NEC. Although she laughingly admits that senior-itis has set in a little bit, she considers herself to be a natural student and someone who loves learning, whether that learning is academic or self-reflective.

“The people I’ve met and who have been influential in my time at NEC have encouraged me to see more growth and potential in myself than I did before I got to college. They constantly set goals and allow me to achieve those goals. But then they don’t let me rest on my laurels; they set a new goal for me to achieve. It’s so important to have people in your

life who believe in you and see your potential. That’s how you become a better person.”

People like Jim Walsh, Associate Dean of the Humanities Division, and Craig Gallagher, Adjunct Professor of History at NEC. “They have equipped me with more tools than I ever could have imagined. When I tore my second ACL [her first ACL tear occurred during her senior year of high school], they were such stable, reliable people for me. They continued to support me, even when I had a hard time getting to class. That’s another advantage of a smaller school.”

One more advantage is the opportunity to hone leadership skills. During her four years at NEC, Giules has served as a Peer Leader for three years and a Student Ambassador with undergraduate Admission all four years. She is vice president of the History Club that was started in 2020 and president of the Senior Council. In October of 2020, she became a Student Specialist, assisting with programming and working with other colleges, with the New England Collegiate Conference for the 2020–2021 academic year. In February of this year, she attended the virtual NCAA Emerging Leaders Seminar, a three-day event for Divisions I–III

focused on professional development for those looking to pursue a career in college athletics.

Speaking of careers, what’s next for Giules after graduation? She is considering graduate school options and may find herself back at NEC to study sports management. Ultimately, she wants to be a field hockey coach at the highest prep school level, inspired by her years at Holderness School in New Hampshire, or at the college level. Either way, she knows she will be ready because of NEC.

“NEC has done an excellent job of preparing me for my career. The relationships I have formed here have given me the opportunity to dabble in the things I want to do.” And what she wants to do has changed over the last year. She arrived at NEC with the intention of going on to law school and practicing family law, but the pandemic has allowed her to think about pre-pandemic life and what she misses most. “I realized that I need to be around sports.”





# ASIA JONES

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, CLASS OF 2022 | HOME STATE: FLORIDA

Asia Jones was searching for change when she discovered New England College, the place that would become her home away from home. At age 11, Asia had just entered middle school when her mother passed away, leaving Asia and her younger sister in the care of their loving grandmother, Joyce Neal. They lived together in Palm Beach, Florida.

“My grandma even went to the trouble of buying a larger home so that my sister and I would have enough space.” Family support didn’t stop with Neal, though. Asia’s four aunts stepped in to fill any gaps and to make sure Asia and her sister felt safe and loved. “Their support made me who I am today.”

And, when it came to Asia’s basketball games or her sister’s cheerleading competitions, their grandmother could be counted on to cheer from the stands. “She is our biggest fan.”

Asia received offers to play basketball at two Florida colleges, both of which she considered before realizing that her grandmother was right—she needed to be someplace new. As it turned out, NEC’s Head Women’s Basketball Coach, Erica Ledy, spotted Asia on the basketball court during a recruiting trip to see another player. “I was at the Unsigned Senior Showcase at Archbishop McCarthy

High School in Southwest Ranches, Florida, checking out a prospective recruit, Bri Pierreval, when I noticed Asia playing point guard, and I liked how she played,” remembers Ledy. “It turned out that Bri and Asia were close friends, and I figured if I could get them both, I would have hit the jackpot.” Ledy did recruit both women to play for the NEC Pilgrims. However, she couldn’t have known then the legacy Asia would leave at NEC.

“It was February 29, and we were at the NECC [New England Collegiate Conference] Championship game against Eastern Nazarene College on their home court,” says Ledy. “They had beat us twice in the regular season, and the pressure was on. Our leading scorer fouled out. We wrote up a play, and the team ran it perfectly. Asia scored. Nazarene took the lead again. So, Asia ran it back down the floor and scored again.” NEC won the Conference Championship that day, solidifying a two-year reign. Asia was named Most Valuable Player.

A month earlier, Asia’s family surprised her at the January 25 home game against Dean College. Fourteen of them filed into the stands to watch Asia play and to celebrate her upcoming birthday. Asia never missed a beat. “She scored 15 points that game,” Ledy says.

Now in her third year, Asia enjoys the hands-on learning opportunities, including wildlife collection and observation exercises, in her Environmental Science courses. And, like her peers, she has been subjected to course delivery modifications during the pandemic.

“The transition to remote learning hit me hard. I had been thriving in my interactive, on-ground courses, and I suddenly found myself stationed in front of a computer screen. I don’t know how I would have managed without the advocacy and support of my coaches and professors.”

Through it all, Asia’s grandmother still calls her every day to check in and make sure she is doing well. “She reminds me that I have lots of reasons to be really proud of myself. No matter how many times I get knocked down in life, I know that I will never give up. My grandmother taught me that, and my NEC family makes sure I won’t forget it.”





# TYLER BAKER

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CLASS OF 2023 | HOME STATE: NEW HAMPSHIRE

When Tyler Baker does karate, he is the spitting image of his grandfather. At least his mother thinks so. Both men earned martial arts black belts, the younger Baker's second-degree. Baker's perseverance, a trait that also landed him with first, second, and third place honors in karate competitions, has served him well in other aspects of his life. A Criminal Justice major with a minor in Political Science, Baker serves as the founder and president of the Self Defense Club; a Student Ambassador for the Admissions office; a member of and presidential candidate for the Student Senate; and a member of the Criminal Justice Club, CiviCorps and the Student Entertainment Committee. He also did a stint as a Resident Assistant, a leadership role reporting to a Resident Area Coordinator and providing service and support to fellow students.

Baker was born and raised in Concord, New Hampshire, and is the first in his family to attend college. His passion about safety and well-being for himself and for others motivated him to take action. "I have been interested in teaching basic self defense to others for quite some time. So, I teamed up with some fellow Black Belts on campus and we founded the Self Defense Club, of which we currently have about 15 members."

Despite his local upbringing, Baker saw many reasons to choose NEC for his college experience. He loved the idea of smaller classes, a chance to get to know his professors, and the opportunity to tap their broad experiences and expertise. "Our classes were large at Concord High School, with 30 or more students in a class. At NEC, we're talking about a faculty-to-student ratio of one to 14. Plus, our faculty network is incredible. Our Criminal Justice Club does trips like no other program in the state!"

Tyler is impressed with the close ties the professors maintain with graduates, and that they have tracked career placements for their alumni. According to Baker, this commitment to relationship-building, based out of genuine care and concern, has contributed to a sense of community at NEC. "You're an actual human being with a name, a history, a life. And the people teaching you actually care about your success."

Some of the highlights of Tyler's NEC experiences include expansive student activities—both on and off campus—like skiing, hiking, and excursions to major cities. College Convention, which brings together students from across the country and sometimes across the globe, is a highlight. Students engage in the

political process, meet face-to-face with the politicians, and explore the issues that shape presidential campaigns. "I am the oldest of five boys, and I couldn't wait to share with them the selfie I took with Dr. Jill Biden. Last month, my little brother got to meet her too, and when he showed her a print-out of that selfie, Dr. Biden remembered me."

Tyler's passion for the political process may have been a driving factor in his decision to run for Student Senate President. When asked by his peers why he had chosen to throw his name in the hat, he told them, "Because of my love for New England College." His presidential platform includes implementation of policies that improve the student experience, leadership in the post-COVID-19 transition to normalcy, and a commitment to collaborative student experiences across the Henniker and Manchester campuses. Tyler prides himself in knowing random facts about the College as evidence of his deep affection for NEC. When asked about the future, Tyler is optimistic. "I am excited to see what we can achieve together as a community."







# THINK OUTSIDE THE BOOKS

NEC believes students learn best by doing, by thinking outside the books. With our expanded curriculum and campuses, undergraduate and graduate students learn how to discover their creative voices and share their work with others.

## WORDS

*Flowerhead People*  
**Sam Wright**  
Home State: New Hampshire  
MFA in Creative Writing '23  
BFA in Creative Writing '20  
BA in Integrated Studies in  
Philosophy and Literature '20

## IMAGE

*Cardboard Planter + Plants*  
**Alida Reed**  
Home State: New Hampshire  
BFA in Illustration '21

A reality  
screaming to be real  
and seen  
and loved,  
we are merely  
cones,  
telling lies about when  
the summer  
dies.

Perhaps we are  
children,  
spoiled in the sun,  
rotted in the rain,  
plucking away questions  
and answers—  
*Please love me  
love me  
love me.*  
One day there will be  
no petals left.

Maybe we'd only like  
to make the nighttime last  
longer,  
make the day fold into  
*something.*  
But these are only the  
stories  
behind our eyes,  
running like old film  
in the twilight.  
They are  
as unreal as  
us.

We are speckled wishes,  
flaws of the unheard.  
Our faces are  
seed plates and  
golden ratios.  
We leer at the sun and  
stare until it disappears.  
And with this eternal  
grudge  
*we continue*  
to stare,  
brown and black eyes  
framed by color.

One day that color  
will disappear  
too,  
and we will be forced to  
let go  
with these hands  
that have only learned  
hate.

But for now  
we will hate still,  
and we will stare as the  
sun  
falls beneath  
the earth,  
clutching graffiti stains  
and  
old t-shirts.

We have given up our  
mouths for  
silence,  
and our eyes for  
contentment,  
and our minds for  
life.  
  
Now,  
we have nothing left  
to give  
but our petals,  
and as we stare  
and seethe  
and question  
who loves us,  
we will give those  
too.  
One day  
we will be nothing but  
cones  
attached to lifeless bodies.  
And still,  
we will turn to see  
the sun.





## IMAGE

*I could possibly be fading*

12”x18” Archival Pigment Print

**Emma Larson**

Home State: Maryland

BFA in Photography '21

**Artist statement:** These photos are an oasis. Making these photographs creates a clear pool of safety and clarity for me, allowing me to see a little deeper into the beauty and power of the Earth. Photography is intertwined with my self because art has always been an extension of who I am. It’s not a separate animal; it’s as familiar to me as my forearm or foot. Through the process of creating this body of work, I am, in turn, learning about myself and how I move through this life. Healing from trauma and recovering from what feels like a black hole in your life sets you on a difficult path. A wound has been torn through me, but it has taught me to look at the natural world with perpetual adoration. I’ve found solace through spending hours under dappled light and wading through waist-high grass; my solace is this oasis.

## WORDS

*The Blue*

**Shilo Niziolek**

Home State: Oregon

MFA in Creative Writing '21

Jess stood on the edge of Little Crater Lake smoking his last cigarette. The glow from the tip was in front of his face but also in the blue mirror of the water. A tree, long enough to stretch across the small lake reached its tendril-like limbs under the surface. Long dead tree trunks littered the base, all visible through the glacial mountain water of Mt. Hood. It was late autumn, but the first snow hadn’t fallen yet. It would soon, he could tell. The air had that tell-tale bite and the wind whistled around him.

He hunkered lower into his denim jacket, pulling up the collar to protect his cheeks from the chill. He ashed his cigarette one last time into the clear blue, then twisted it in tight circles onto the wood rail beam that overlooked the water, leaving a perfect black circle in the embers’ wake.

Jess turned and sat on the wooden bench. It felt like ice crystals formed on his butt bones as soon as he sat, and a shiver ran through him like a shock of light.

He stared into the sheen of the lake and tried to conjure up her face, brown hair like liquid held back with a green bandana, standing on the edge of the mountain, turned toward him waiting for him to catch up. That was the last time he had seen her smile. He wiped his face with his hands, erasing the image. He couldn’t think about what came after that. Or he couldn’t not think about it. The way she turned from him in the bed. The tightness in her ankles even in her sleep, poised to run. It wasn’t something he did. It was all the things he didn’t do. He didn’t try to hold her close. Never reached for her hand. She was always there, leaning her weight against him, smiling up at his face, leaning in for a kiss. He didn’t go to the picnic with her family that one sunny Saturday she asked. “Not for me,” he said. She must have realized, at some point, that he couldn’t give.

He could only take and take and take. He was gluttonous when it came to her. And now he’d never have his fill.

The wind howled and he stood and began to strip down, leaving a hasty pile of blue jeans and black jacket crumpled over his socks and boots in the mud. In his striped boxers he looked down at the white of his legs. Sickened, he dove headfirst into the water, arching up over the downed log. He sunk deeper, opening his eyes to the blue light that shone

through him. Eventually his body clamored for air and out he shot into the November mountain chill. He rolled to his back and trembled with the intense shock of the cold. Looking up at the grey sky, he watched first one lone flake flutter down and land on the water’s surface, then another until the snow catapulted all around, falling into the white of his body. He let out a howl that turned into a cry and drifted on the water into the opening of a moan. A chorus of sounds rose up around him, an infinity of animal clatter and hunger.

Jess was dying. He was freezing to death; he could feel it starting in his toes. They were no longer connected to his body; they weren’t of the body, they were of the water. He was becoming transparent, if not to the eye, then to his own heart. Soon, he knew, a rabbit or cougar would come by. They’d look out and they’d see his body turned to light, turned to crystalline blue weight, sunk to the bottom. A person could walk the edge of the lake, thinking it odd that what was normally clear was suddenly milky blue. He moved his fingers, pulled one hand out of the water and in front of his face. It was his body. The same body that had been beaten. Knuckles permanently swollen from the walls he had punched. The same body that had run from his parents’ home, slept under bridges, fingers that refused to call his mom, flipped off his dad, forgot his little sister. The same body Naomi had curled into, that he had curled around her in his sleep, unaware, only to wake and find his face buried in the smell of tea tree, like drinking a glass of rain.

He rolled to his stomach and began swimming to the edge, pulled himself from the lake. Taking deep galloping breaths, he grabbed his clothes and shoes from the ground, turned and sprinted through the field in the snow into the encroaching dark. He made his way to the dark green of his Jeep, silhouetted in the night. He sat with the heater blasting until he could feel his toes, his knees, his penis, his belly button, his collarbone, his ears, his nose; watched as his fingers tinged in the blue thawed. The moon lifted high in the sky and cast the fallen snow in a blinding light. He touched his hands to his face, discovering that he still existed. He wasn’t a translucent ghost floating at the bottom of a clear blue lake. He laughed until his throat grew hoarse. Headlights bloomed around the bend of the parking lot. An older couple glanced in his window through theirs as they trundled by. The old man’s mouth quirked up in some sacred form in recognition. Jess could not fathom to comprehend but he felt a strange sort of nostalgia for the old man and his half smile the moment they passed. The snow hushed around him as the wheels of the couple’s car crunched quietly back into the night. Slowly, he removed his damp boxers and put his clothes on one by one, his limbs still moving timidly. His fingers hesitant, brand new.





## IMAGE

*Success is relative, the more success, the more relatives*

**Erol Pierce**

Home State: Florida | BFA in Fine Arts '21

## WORDS

***Whiplash***

**Clio Thayer**

Home State: New York

BFA in Creative Writing '22

I’ve never experienced literal whiplash. I don’t like roller coasters, and people always drive extra carefully with me in the car for the same reason: I get really bad motion sickness. I imagine whiplash would be even worse for me than for the person who can hold their food down on a regular basis. I’m very used to the rising, swelling, churning sensation of nausea, but I’ve never felt the snap of a harsh, dramatic movement. I’ve never had that physical response, but I can imagine it’s something like how I felt when my father died.

It wasn’t sudden, like the loss of my grandfather several years prior, or predictable, like my grandmother two months before. It was some kind of toxic smoothie of the two.

I was having a subdued two-year anniversary celebration with my boyfriend, my stomach filled with bubbly young love and my mind comforted by the warmth around me. We were inflating our egos with the accomplishment of being teenagers with a stable relationship. So healthy, so well-adjusted, so grown up for people our age. We were better at communicating our feelings than half the adults we knew, or so we told each other. The calm was scattered like a thousand startled birds when my mom called me into her office. I expected to get in trouble for being too loudly affectionate in the next room, or maybe she was going to give me The Talk again. I didn’t expect what she actually said.

She told me she’d found an email in her spam folder from my dad’s wife. I felt the usual anger twist at my lungs, this wife that suddenly appeared, who I’d only met a few times, whose wedding I wasn’t even told about until the week of. I wasn’t able to attend. My mom charged forward through my obvious frustration. She told me my father was “in hospice.” I don’t remember what I felt like immediately, but I remember asking “what’s hospice?” with some amount of disgust in my voice. I just knew he’d made some other life-changing decision without telling me, but I started to get worried at the tone of my mom’s voice. She explained to me that it was a place people go when they’re about to die, and there’s nothing anyone can do.

“Oh.”

She said I should visit him as soon as possible. Always the pragmatist, I agreed. We should go the next day; it was a Saturday so I wouldn’t even have to miss school. She told me to ask my boyfriend if he could come with us, but in explaining what was happening, I couldn’t actually say the words and simply began to cry.

It was a three-hour drive from New York to Vermont. The drive up was thick with an awkward anticipation, but we tried to keep it light. We stayed talking, or listening to music, just generally keeping our minds busy. We passed the hotel where just a few weeks earlier, I’d celebrated my “sweet 16” with my closest friends. I felt all those memories in direct opposition to the current moment, like a drop of ice cream on a black and white photograph.

When we got to the hospice, we met up with his wife and a nurse. I didn’t know what to expect when they brought us to his room, but I certainly didn’t expect what I saw. He was lying there with his eyes open, breathing uneven and heavy. His wife said a few words to him, but there was no response. They left me alone with him.

To say goodbye.

I don’t remember exactly what I said to him. A bunch of rambling thoughts of guilt and sadness. It felt too close to praying, speaking aloud without even knowing anyone hears you. I could’ve been talking to myself. I only remember two things from that room. The first one is his breathing. It was uncomfortable, stiff, and off-beat. He was a drummer, a guitarist; he loved music, but he couldn’t even keep his breathing on rhythm anymore.

The second thing I remember is his hand. I remember staring at it, wishing he would reach out and grab me. Hold my hand, give me a hug, something. We always communicated through touch. I remember thinking that I should give him a hug, but I couldn’t think straight; and I was heartbroken at the thought that he wouldn’t hug back, that if I reached for his hand it would already be cold.

I left his room in tears. But then that whiplash came back. I couldn’t let myself linger in the sadness. I was only 16; I’d never experienced sadness that couldn’t be cured with ice cream and TV. This wasn’t the same whiplash as hearing the news; this was self-inflicted. I let my mind snap from bawling in my boyfriend’s arms to laughing at a cooking show in the waiting room. He understood that I was just looking for a distraction. He made jokes. I let the specter of my father fade in the background, let him loom over me invisibly like he had for years.

I went back to my life.

I went to school.

I went on Thanksgiving vacation.

Life went on like normal, and I forgot what had happened. I let myself forget.

My mom told me my father was dead during a flight connection. She said she thought it would be better than telling me before the first plane so I wouldn’t be as anxious and nauseated on the flight. I cried in the airport bathroom and then went on with my Thanksgiving vacation like normal. I remember emailing one of my teachers, telling him, “I’m sorry my assignment was a day late; my dad died.”



# PAINT BY NUM8ERS

THIS SNAPSHOT OF NEC OVER THE LAST YEAR SHOWS OUR STRENGTH AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE.



# 70 PERCENT

Increase in the value of NEC's endowment since 2016. Careful stewardship and investment, philanthropy, and the impact of the 2019 merger with the former New Hampshire Institute of Art all contributed to this explosive growth. As of January 31, 2021, the endowment was over \$29 million and still growing.

# 402

The total number of alumni, students, parents, and friends who tuned in for virtual Founders Day festivities on February 2, 2021. The highlight of the annual ceremony that honors the College's founding date was an inspirational keynote address by alumna and NEC parent Kate Luckett '84 P'12. This year's Founders Day was especially meaningful as it marked the College's official 75th birthday!

# 5000

The current total student enrollment at NEC. Of this, approximately 1,100 are residential students in Henniker and Manchester. The remaining 3,900 are enrolled remotely in the College's School of Graduate and Professional Studies.

# 9280

COVID tests performed on our campuses since August 2020. By the time this issue of the magazine goes to print, that number will be 14,000. This extraordinary effort has helped ensure the safety of our campuses and communities.



# CLASSNOTES

## 1959

**Angelo Scordato** has been retired from the City of New York for 25 years. He and his wife have three children: Steven, Karen, and Roseann and four grandchildren: Samantha, Nicholas, Nicole, and Christina.

## 1972

**Gene Fox, Mark Peterson, and Bryant Hill '71**, SAB Ski Team classmates, went skiing together at Gunstock in New Hampshire.



**Gretchen (Mathias) Savage, June Schultz, Nancy (Perry) Brown, and Linda (Lewis) Lyon** took a trip down memory lane when they got together in November 2019.



**Augustine (Augie) David** expressed how grateful he is for Dr. Richard Martin (former Director of Admissions at NEC) for providing the opportunity to travel from Bangalore, India, to attend NEC with a full scholarship. Since then, he has traveled to almost 80 nations and has authored a book (now in several languages), *Rebuilding the Foundation of Faith* (augiedavid.org). He has also started a consulting company connecting global leaders with technologies that benefit nations and bring ideas to market with friends in high places.

## 1975

**Sarah (Eggly) Hydren** retired from teaching two years ago. She now has joined her husband Rick in running their business, Hydren Portraiture, which specializes in equine portraiture. On their way to Utah for two months of skiing and visiting with their granddaughter, they stayed with classmate **Kathy Menkin**.



## 1976

**David Boutin** retired after 41 years teaching high school social studies in New Hampshire and Florida. He is frequently in touch with classmates **John Dearborn, Dave Mudrick, and Scott MacLeod '77**.

## 1978

**Jim DeVeer** retired in 2017 from Advanced Lighted and Production Services (ALPS), New England's premier lighting company. He worked with the Boston Ballet, numerous theatre production companies, area colleges and universities, and other events and shows. Since selling ALPS in 2018, Jim and his wife Cathy have focused on their retirement home in New Hampshire, visiting their grandchildren in Ohio, and celebrating the marriage of their son in 2020.

## 1982

**Frank Mangold and Alison (Scholl) Mangold** recently hosted NEC alumna **Marlena Grutzmacher '10** at their home in Colorado after a move from Massachusetts to Colorado. Their daughter realized their shared connection to NEC while working with Marlena. In a recent visit to Miami, **Chris Tella** reconnected with classmate **Blaine Zuver** over a tasty Cuban lunch. The two reminisced about several Henniker adventures—including classmates, memories, and how NEC induced internships, which helped propel their emerging careers.

## 1984

**Nathan Seymore Cory** is the proud father of Devon and Cai, who have made the world more extraordinary and beautiful for him.

## 1985

**Bryan Clagett** sold his fintech company in 2019 and is enjoying semi-retirement by advising other fintech startups and investing in small-cap businesses. **Pete Karla** is in his 25th year teaching and coaching at Greens Farms Academy in Westport, Connecticut.

## 1986

**Rich Morin, Elizabeth Shannon Appell, and Michael McDermott** reminisced on good times at NEC in Rancho Santa Fe, California.



## 1987

**Julie (Monsen) Redard and Anna Marie DiPasquale** enjoyed dinner at Michael's Harborside in Newburyport, Massachusetts, while catching up and sharing NEC memories.

## 1988

**Ariane (Maclean) Trimuschat** moved to London in 2019 with her husband, daughter, and labradoodle. She started a blog, Sojournest.com, about home and travel. **Chet (Bob) Chase, Scott Atwood (Atty), and Tim Nash** met up in Scottsdale,

Arizona, to play golf. Chet lives in Massachusetts, Scott lives in California, and Tim lives in Indiana, but they try to meet up for golf or get together periodically.



## 1990

**Virginia (Koenig) Olson** is living in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado with her son and daughter. When not recreating in the mountain sunshine, she is working as a nurse at a local surgery center. **Monica Port** lives with her partner David and their cat Peach in the foothills of the Siskiyou mountains of Oregon. She draws inspiration as an artist from the natural beauty that surrounds her. You can find her work at monicaport.com. **Alison (Ryder) Schorr** lives in Sammamish, Washington, with her husband, two children, and golden retriever Finn. She works as a nurse. **Jon Segal** runs Global Branding and Marketing Communications for Carpenter Technology in Reading, Pennsylvania. He has three children: Kaia who lives in Colorado, Ethan who is a college senior at Temple University, and

Miko who just entered high school. In November, his family adopted a beautiful 11-year-old Pitbull named Daisee. They are all eager for when the pandemic is over and life returns to normal. **Hallie Weissfeld** lives in Buffalo, New York, where she works as a social worker for the Erie County Assigned Counsel Program. She is married and has a daughter named Molly. She keeps up with many of her NEC friends on a daily basis.

Thank you to **Jenny Cooley** for being our Class Agent for 1990.

## 1992

**Kristin (Atwood) Generali** is the proud founder/director of The Generali School of Literature and the Arts, a childcare center located in Middlebury, Connecticut, which specializes in the importance of early literacy and the arts for over 75 children. Kris resides in Middlebury with her husband, Dave, and three children: Trey, 18; Ella, 17; and Reeve, 14. Recently, Kristin joined lifelong friends and classmates **Amy (Rowland) Wagstaff, and Rebecca (St. Germain) Kuczarski** for a get-together in New York City.





1992 cont.

**James Jodice** is married with two children: Chris and Jennifer. He has been a Licensed Professional Civil Engineer for 28 years. James wrote a children’s book, *Max the Bear*, to raise money for the Kilham Bear Center in Lyme, New Hampshire. Visit [maxthebear.com](http://maxthebear.com).

2000

**Ryan Hornblower** works as EMS Coordinator on the Emergency Medical Services team at Cheshire Medical Center in New Hampshire.

2004

**Stephen Cardi** partook in several political campaigns during the 2012, 2014, and 2016 elections. He is now engaged in volunteer work.

2012

**Andrew Haschytz and Alicia (Snyder) Haschytz '12 G'16** were married on October 4, 2020 in a small ceremony in Upstate New York. The wedding party included **Rachel Vigliano '12 and Jessamine Phillips '13**. Alicia and Andrew kept their original plan, from when they first started dating, to honeymoon at Walt Disney World.

2019

**Emily LePage, Jill (Hoffer) LePage '89, and Brooke LePage '15** were all smiles at the annual alumni women’s soccer game in August 2019.



In 2020, a group of hockey and lacrosse alumni self-organized and gathered for an annual golf outing at Ould Newbury Golf Club in Massachusetts.

Photo (from front row to top, left to right): Ted Hoppe '87; Dan Lynch '85; Aaron Madsen '17; John Quinlan '17; Conor Douglass '17; Jim Ingraham '86; Jamie Ferrelli '87; Jon Kayser '86; Lou Pakula '85; John Boxill '13; Dan Shirilla '17; Joe Lynch '17; Chris Santello '17; Jimmy O'Reilly; Brett Kilar '16; John Wiggin '85; Dave Campagna '89; Tom Connell '87; Dan Jenkins '87; Pete LePage '87; Brian Brown; Zach Carrano '16; Ryan Sweeney '17; Ryan Walsh; Ben McLaughlin; Kevin Marceau '14; Rob Aponas '83; Dave Cook '86; Jimmy Aponas '83; Craig Platt '86; Jim Douglass '83; Andy Ferguson; Ray Desmarais '91; Paul Turenne '83

IN MEMORIAM

Jane Colson Englert	1951	Larry H. Teets	1973	Thomas P. West	1982
Beverly Herrick Vozzolo	1952	Joyce Atkinson Keaney		Noureen Griffin	
Neil H. Robinson	1958	Michael O. Jones		David P. Starr	
Michael Margulies	1962	Jack Frascatore		Regina G. Vorce	1986
Michael G. Capron		Myles Shea	1974	Betty Ann Morrison	1987
Ralph L. Corelli	1963	Robert J. Lipay		Allen D. Collins, III	1991
Jack Konevich, Jr.	1964	Scott M. Fraser	1975	Alicia A. Sprague	2000
Joseph E. McKeever, Jr.	1965	Harvey S. Halperin		Cynthia A. Foley	2005
Peter M. Bock	1966	Carrie A. Foss	1976	Ian T. Egbert	2011
Raymond Proulx		W. McHenry Keyser		Cynthia J. Root	G 2012
Israel I. Gordon	1967	Beverly L. Pelletier	1977	Dr. Barbara E. Sherwin,	
Gordon C. Williams		Cynthia A. Ishikawa		Former Trustee	
James E. Stevenson	1968	George T. Crothers	1978		
Patricia Worobel Young	1969	Marelne Cuthbertson			
Ralph K. Bleier		Diane B. McClintock	1979		
Edward J. Crawford, III	1970	Paul C. Weber	1980		
Leonard Zipper					

For a full list of alumni who have passed, visit [www.alumni.nec.edu/InMemoriam](http://www.alumni.nec.edu/InMemoriam)

KEVIN HARVEY  
BELOVED NEC PROFESSOR | 1987—2010

NEC was saddened to learn of the passing of former professor of English and Creative Writing Kevin Harvey. Professor Harvey passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on July 31, 2020 after a long battle with lymphoma. He was 72. The news was met with an outpouring of the profound positive impact he had on the lives of his students.

His obituary, published in the *Worcester Telegram*, stated:

“Kevin was a Professor of English and Creative Writing at New England College in Henniker, NH for over thirty years where he specialized in American Literature, the Beat Generation, short story writing, playwriting, and the works of Henry James. In 1989 Kevin traveled to West Sussex, England, where he was a guest lecturer at New England College Arundel. He was named Teacher of The Year in 2008, and retired as Professor Emeritus in 2010.

“To his students, Kevin was a gifted lecturer, a sage mentor, and a stalwart ally who helped countless young writers find their voices. To all who knew him, he was a man of great depth and intelligence, full of kindness, compassion, curiosity, and deep passion.”

Professor Harvey taught at NEC from 1987 to 2010, and his impact was felt far and wide.

“Professor Harvey had a profound impact on me. He is the mentor who taught me the joys of literature beyond poetry. To this day, my writings are inspired by the fun lessons I learned. Professor Harvey never condescended; he always gave students life experiences they could relate to class lectures. That is a rare gift.”  
~ Eric Miller, Class of 2006

“R.I.P. to my literary maestro, Kevin Harvey! His stories and anecdotes were always brilliant and lovely. My world is a better place having studied under his guidance. The universe lost a truly inspired soul.”  
~ Melody Panaroni, Class of 1997

Professor Harvey is survived by his wife, two children (Kate Harvey '05 and Ellery Harvey '07), two grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

Please visit [nec.edu/magazine](http://nec.edu/magazine) to see the full obituary.



# SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 1 - 3, 2021

## FALL FESTIVAL

*Alumni Weekend  
October 1 - 3, 2021  
Henniker, NH Campus  
Manchester, NH Campus*

## 33RD ANNUAL NEC GOLF CLASSIC

*New! Fall Festival Weekend  
Friday, October 1, 2021  
Canterbury Woods Country Club*


*Join your NEC friends, classmates, teammates, and more  
for a day of golf, food, and fun all to support student  
scholarships!*

*For more information, visit [www.alumni.nec.edu](http://www.alumni.nec.edu)*

We want you on our team.  
Our alumni, parents, and friends are behind every win we have.  
Together, we can build a level playing field for our student-athletes.

**GAME ON.**

Contact [alumni@nec.edu](mailto:alumni@nec.edu)  
for more information about the  
Pilgrims Athletics Complex Project.



**Please Take Your Seats!**

We saved you a seat in the spotlight...  
Now it's time to name it!

**The Rosamond Page Putnam  
Center for the Performing Arts**

For a limited time, your gift will be **DOUBLED** as part  
of the Jon Gould '75 Legacy Challenge.  
Visit [alumni.nec.edu/takeaseat](http://alumni.nec.edu/takeaseat) for more information



**HEY, ALUMS!** Did you know that you are eligible to receive a **25% discount** on most NEC graduate programs? With over 20 degrees to choose from, most 100% online, you can accelerate your career, increase your earning potential, and boost your résumé all at an affordable cost. Interested? Just reach out to us and be sure to let us know when you graduated.

**GRADUATEADMISSION@NEC.EDU | 603.428.2252**  
**NEC.EDU/PILGRIMPLUS**

**ALUMS SAVE**  
**25%**  
ON GRADUATE PROGRAMS





New England  
College

98 Bridge Street  
Henniker, NH 03242

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

# *Thank You!*

This has been a year like no other. As individuals, we weather many challenging times, but it is rare that the world has a shared experience like this. Everyone on the planet has been affected by this pandemic, without exception. The only way to get through something of this magnitude is together. The word “community” is often overused, but in this case, there is no more perfect word to describe who we are as a supportive, engaged, and enthusiastic group. I’m so incredibly proud of our College and community.

**THANK YOU to all who help the College continue to thrive in the face of tremendous adversity. You have shown the world what it means to be a Pilgrim.**

~ Bill Deptula, VP of Advancement

## **IMAGE CREDIT**

Ryan O’Rourke, Associate Professor of Illustration  
Institute of Art and Design at New England College

