

FALL 2021

NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE

MAGAZINE

You need to have faith in yourself. Be brave and take risks. You don't have to have it all figured out to move

FORWARD.

*Roy T. Bennett
Thought Leader and Author*

GREETINGS

FROM BRIDGE STREET



When we introduced New England College's new logo in 2018, we also adopted a new tagline of "Forward" to reflect our commitment to moving forward as an institution and helping students move forward academically and personally.

Forward is a simple word, but it truly represents the heart and soul of this community. Every day, our faculty, staff, students, and leadership strive to move themselves and NEC forward—from the inherent forward progress of our students earning their degrees to the choices we all make to promote equity, inclusion, and social justice. Indeed, forward thinking and forward movement are what we do at NEC.

And now, we look forward to returning to a more normal way of life. Students and many staff returned to our campuses in Henniker and Manchester this fall without significant concern, thanks to everyone's commitment to our health and safety. It was so nice to see our community reconnect face to face. I am pleased to report that we retained the highest percentage of traditional undergraduate students since 2014.

The autumn beauty of New Hampshire can be seen at every turn. I can't help but think that as time marches forward, so does New England College.

Warm regards,

Michele D. Perkins, EdD
President

CONTENTS

CHANGEMAKERS 04

NEC's faculty and alumni make the most of taking their next steps.

HIDDEN GEM 14

A little-known research program launches the next generation of science and health professionals.

THE FUTURE OF NEC ATHLETICS 19

NEC continues to build upon the Henniker campus's master plan with a new athletic complex for all students.

ESPORTS 24

Competitive video gaming, the new kid in town, is poised for the next level.

20 YEARS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE 28

One of NEC's most popular programs, Criminal Justice helps graduates move into a life of service.

ONLINE BUT NOT ALONE 30

As NEC's online population grows, so does the College's commitment to these students.

BY THE NUMBERS 34

NEC's present and future...by the numbers

CRICKET COMES TO NEC 36

NEC's international students introduce our athletes to one of their favorite games.

IN MEMORIAM 37

Remembering our friends and colleagues

EDITORIAL

NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE
MAGAZINE

EXECUTIVE MARKETING DIRECTOR
CREATIVE DIRECTOR
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Jennifer Robertson

EDITOR
LEAD WRITER
Tracy Searle

PHOTOGRAPHER
PHOTO EDITOR
Shannon Pelletier

CONTRIBUTORS
Bill Deptula

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

CHANGEMAKERS

FACULTY AND ALUMNI
WHO RISE ABOVE AND
REACH BEYOND



For two of NEC's faculty members, the willingness to move forward on different career paths than what they planned has led to success and national recognition.

For many graduates, and particularly for student-athletes, the lessons learned at NEC helped shape their successes, both personally and professionally.

“I love NEC because it’s entrepreneurial. There’s a culture here of being willing to take risks. And if it doesn’t work out, that’s okay; failure is how we get better.”

Dr. Gavin Henning, Professor of Higher Education and Director of the MS in Higher Education Administration and Doctorate of Education Programs

DR. GAVIN HENNING

Professor of Higher Education and Director of the
MS in Higher Education Administration and
Doctorate of Education Programs



A path far from straight but serendipitous is how Henning describes his career.

Today, he is a nationally recognized higher education assessment specialist, but he never saw that coming.

Henning attended Michigan State University and double majored in psychology and sociology, intending to go into a PhD program to become a clinical psychologist. He applied to seven PhD programs, but as a first-generation college student, he did not realize that these highly competitive programs accepted only five or six students each year. He received rejection letters from all seven programs. “At that point, I thought, ‘What do I do now?’”

After working in student affairs during college and loving the work, he decided to also earn his MA in College and University Administration from Michigan State.

He then headed east to work in Residential Life at the University of New Hampshire. He threw himself into a research-based part of his job: facilitating and analyzing the annual Residential Life survey, a process that would change the course of his career. “That was my first foray into assessment. But we didn’t call it assessment back then,” Henning explains, “because assessment, as we now think about it, had not reached higher education yet.”

It was not long before Henning realized that assessment was what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. A few career twists and turns later, Henning was teaching in the MEd program at NEC and stepping into the Director of Doctorate of Education Programs position, while continuing to do assessment work.

Assessment within higher education can be defined simply as program evaluation. Henning guides assessment work at NEC by focusing on three areas: academic programs, leadership programs, and student learning. He explains that all of NEC’s academic programs go through a review process; leadership programs, like Residential Life, are evaluated for how well they accomplish their missions; and student learning is evaluated for whether students are learning in the classroom and achieving program outcomes.

This third aspect of assessment, the opportunity to benefit students, is what drives Henning’s work, and his current scholarship focuses on equity-centered assessment. “How do we make sure our programs and services are helping all students, not just the majority? How can we address the disparate outcomes for non-white students on our campuses?” he asks.

This inherent belief that higher education should be made better for all students has led Henning to work with dozens of colleges, universities, and education organizations across the United States and in four other countries. Over the course of more than 25 years in higher education, Henning has created a prolific body of work related to assessment and higher education. His 34-page *curriculum vitae* attests to the many contributions he has made—from teaching, presentations, and interviews to committee involvement, publications, and the founding of the annual New England Assessment Conference hosted by NEC.

A few years ago, Henning suggested an assessment conference and was told to go for it. “I love NEC because it’s entrepreneurial. There’s a culture here of

being willing to take risks. And if it doesn’t work out, that’s okay; failure is how we get better.”

When asked if he could have foreseen that he would be a nationally recognized expert, Henning modestly says, “No, no, no. Honestly, my whole career has been serendipity. Things happened at the right time; the right people came along at the right time.”

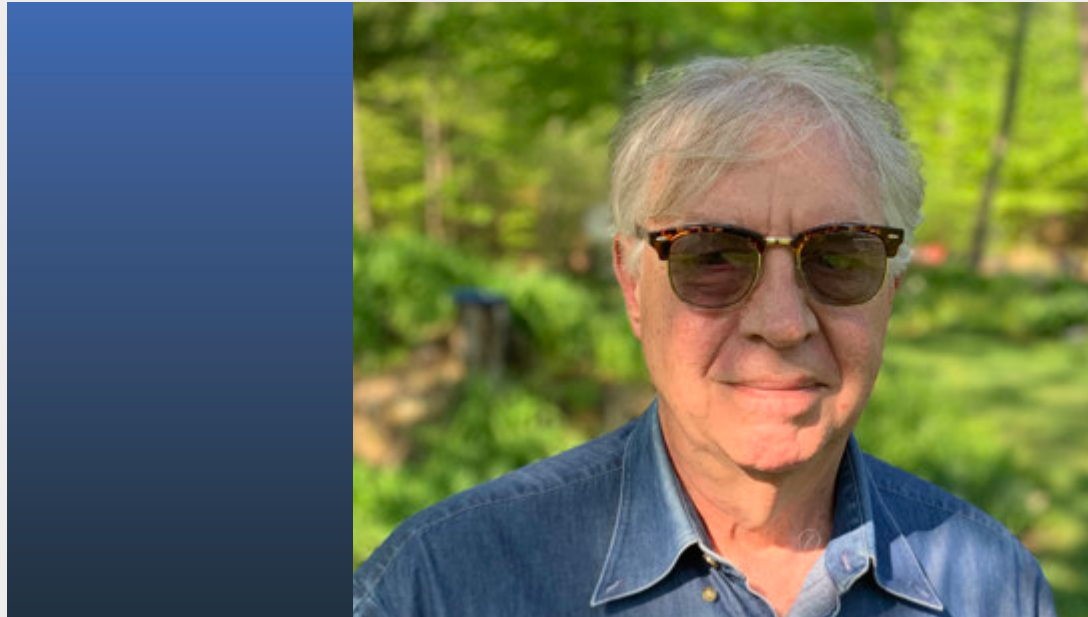
He began working in assessment in 2000, about 15 years before it became popular in higher education. At UNH, he was one of the first in the country to have a full-time position in higher education assessment, which meant there were no resources. Henning and his colleagues created a lot of resources themselves by applying research methods from their graduate programs to assessment. And because he was one of the first assessment professionals, other schools started inviting him to speak and give presentations. “Had I started my career 10 years later, the foundations of assessment would have already been in place, and none of this would have happened in my career.”

Serendipity certainly had a plan for a college graduate who did not know what was next but who was willing to explore opportunities as they came.

gavinhenning.com

CHARD DENIORD

Co-Founder and Former Program Director of NEC's
MFA in Creative Writing | 2002–2008



Did deNiord always know he wanted to be a poet? The short answer is no...and yes.

"I grew up reading, reading, reading. I was overwhelmed by the classics," he recalls. Shakespeare, Dante, the dual influence of Robert Frost and Bob Dylan, Emily Dickinson—deNiord could not get enough. Even in high school, he was encouraged to write by an influential teacher. "Students are often discouraged from pursuing the art they love, and I was grateful to be encouraged."

Yet, deNiord attended Yale Divinity School with the intention of becoming a minister. He stopped short of being ordained and began working at a mental health facility in New Haven, Connecticut. Five years later, he admitted what he had always known: He wanted to be a writer.

"You know, it takes a while to admit. You write secretly for a long time; you're obsessed with it," he says. Armed with this new awareness—but no money—he packed up his wife and two young children and headed off to the Iowa Writers' Workshop, the most prestigious creative writing program in the country.

After Iowa, deNiord began teaching in New England and publishing his poetry. His first book, *Asleep in the Fire*, was published in 1990. Six other books of poetry followed—*Sharp Golden Thorn* in

"Students are often discouraged from pursuing the art they love, and I was grateful to be encouraged."

2002, *Night Mowing* in 2005, *Speaking in Turn with Tony Sanders* in 2011, *The Double Truth* in 2011, *Interstate* in 2015, and *In My Unknowing* in 2020—along with two collections of interviews with distinguished American poets:

Sad Friends, Drowned Lovers, Stapled Songs, Conversations and Reflections on 20th Century American Poets in 2011 and *I Would Lie to You if I Could* in 2018.

But it was at Iowa that deNiord fatefully met teacher Gerald (Jerry) Stern, with whom he would later co-found NEC's MFA in Creative Writing program. "I had told Jerry that I wanted to start an MFA in poetry somewhere and that if he ever learned of an opportunity, I would love to be part of it," deNiord recounts. Stern, as it turns out, was friends with Ellen Hurwitz, President of NEC from 1999–2004, and Hurwitz wanted to establish an MFA program. deNiord jumped at the opportunity to be part of this new program at NEC.

The team of deNiord, Stern, Hurwitz, and Jacqueline Gens (who served as the program's first administrator) worked to get the program up and running. deNiord developed a description of the program, and then they started advertising. "We advertised without one cent of seed money because NEC at the time didn't have the money to help," he says. "Lo and behold, in 2001, 10 students applied." Over the next eight years, as deNiord served as Program Director, students kept coming to the program, some from as far away as England and Japan. In 2008, deNiord left the program with 55 students enrolled.

NEC's MFA in poetry became known for two hallmarks: first-rate faculty and intensive residencies held twice a year. Faculty included Maxine Kumin, one of the foremost American poets at the time who lived in nearby Warner, New Hampshire; Charles Simic; Alicia Ostriker; Jane Mead; Anne Waldman; Judith Hall; Thomas Lux; Lee Young Lee; and Paula McClain, who wrote the novel *The Paris Wife*. "We had a wide variety of poets, and by the time I left the program, NEC had the best poetry faculty in the country," deNiord states with pride. The residencies, he adds, offered students the opportunity to participate in classes, readings, and discussions with these esteemed faculty members. "The program led to a degree, sure, but really it was an apprenticeship for students to sit at the feet of America's preeminent poets and learn from them."

At least a third of the students during deNiord's time with the program went on to publish their poetry. Some of the most notable include Stephan Delbos, poet laureate of Plymouth, Massachusetts; Tara Betts, a well-known Black poet; Regie Gibson, a performance poet; Tayve Neese; Terry Lucas; Christina Lovin; and broadcaster Ira Joe Fisher.

While deNiord saw NEC's MFA in Creative Writing find its footing and flourish, he also recognized the time to move on. "I had been teaching at Providence College simultaneously, and I couldn't

continue to work at two colleges. When Jerry left the program, it seemed like the right time for me to leave as well."

deNiord's departure led to the arrival of new Program Director Jennifer Militello and a new era for the program. Militello, the author of four collections of poetry herself, expanded the program to include other writing genres. deNiord commends Militello's vision to open up the program to include fiction, non-fiction, and stage and screen writing and President Michele Perkins' continued support of the program. "I cannot stress enough how remarkably supportive of the MFA program Dr. Perkins has been. Her leadership and belief in the program have been exemplary as it has grown from strength to strength, attracting top-notch faculty and providing generous scholarships to promising students. I could not be happier that the program has continued."

With his writing, deNiord thrives on creating something out of nothing and seeing where it goes. "Sometimes it goes nowhere, and sometimes it takes off," he says. His poetry has earned a Pushcart Prize and recognition by the Academy of American Poets and the Poetry Society of America, although he brushes off the awards because he believes basking in them can be dangerous. He co-founded a writing workshop in Mexico before setting his sights on NEC. Perhaps most notably, he was named poet laureate of Vermont for 2015–2019.

Careers can be like writing; sometimes they go nowhere, but sometimes they take off.

charddeniord.com

JACK SHEEHAN

Founder, Sheehans Office Interiors, Rhode Island
Political Science and Secondary Education '75
Sports Played at NEC: Basketball, Lacrosse

Jack arrived at New England College with his competitive nature in tow. He had been an athlete, a competitor, all his life.

"The need to perform, and the discipline, commitment, and passion required to perform well have been a part of my identity for as long as I can remember," he says. "That need was only further cemented at NEC."

As a two-sport athlete most of his time at NEC, Jack's academic and athletic pursuits taught him some valuable lessons about how to achieve success, in sports and in life.

Managing the workload: To be successful as both a student and an athlete, he had to sharpen his focus and dedication and learn how to prioritize and multi-task, skills that are invaluable to his role as a business owner.

Being a team player: Whether it was a group project for class or with his team on the field, Jack's team experiences have proven critical to helping him be successful in his business and as a husband and father.

Learning from those who know more: He gained both knowledge and leadership skills from the professors and coaches he looked up to, and he now pays that forward by helping and guiding his employees, children, and grandchildren.

Possessing fortitude: Being a student-athlete required the mental and physical fortitude to show up and compete—every single day—and he continues to show up every day for his employees and family.

Competing at a high level: Competing in college athletics gave him the confidence to never shy away when presented with a new opportunity.

A new opportunity Jack did not see coming was the founding of Sheehans Office Interiors, but he confidently moved forward. He intended to go into



teaching and coaching. He coached lacrosse at Harvard for several years after graduating from NEC, but the family business called him home to Rhode Island. Sheehans Office began with Jack's father as a stationery and office supply company. Jack left Harvard with the short-term plan to help revive the company, but something unexpected happened: The company became his everything.

Jack transformed the company into a full-service office furniture dealership that serves Fortune 500 clients across the country. Over the last 40 years, he has grown the company to offer design, project management, contract furniture, ergonomic solutions, prefabricated interior construction, and an e-commerce channel.

Even with all his professional accomplishments, Jack's greatest success revolves around his family. "I was able to inspire my children to leave their successful careers in consulting and investment banking in New York City to come to Sheehans and help steer the company into its next chapter of transformation and growth. It's been a thrill to work together and have a lot more time to hang out with my grandkids...and to play golf."

He still has his competitive edge.

ABDIRAHMAN MOHAMED

Assistant Vice President of Wealth Performance
Management, Truist Bank, Georgia
Business Administration '14
Sport Played at NEC: Basketball (captain for 2 years)



"I've found new ways to connect and inspire others," Abdi explains. "I always tell others to define success on their own terms." For himself, Abdi defines success as having passion for and purpose in one's work. "Working in private wealth management, I make a positive impact in the lives of Truist clients every day through financial wellbeing. That makes going to work so rewarding."

Is there a correlation between athletic involvement and success in life? Abdi believes so. "For me, it's simple. The time management skills I developed have given me an edge, along with knowing what it means to be on a team. I understand what's best for the group, not the individual."

"The expectation was if you want to be great on the court, you have to be great in the classroom."

Success begets success. NEC's student-athletes learn that success in one area often translates into success in another.

"I give credit to all the coaches," says Abdirahman, Abdi for short. "The expectation was if you want to be great on the court, you have to be great in the classroom."

And being great at what you do, being successful, often means working under pressure and adapting. "I believe athletic experiences parlay into leadership roles and responsibilities better than anything else," he maintains.

Abdi puts his athletic experiences to work in his role at Truist Bank. He recently assisted in the transition of the brokerage platform after BB&T and SunTrust banks merged and formed the seventh largest commercial bank in the United States.

He admits that he did not really see himself moving into a leadership role, even though he's always thought of himself as someone who leads by example. He surrounded himself with mentors who helped guide him and develop his leadership style.

SPENCER MARZOUK

MBA Candidate, Harvard Business School
Business Administration '12
Sport Played at NEC: Basketball

All athletes, it seems, describe themselves as having been competitive for as long as they can remember, but NEC alumni Spencer Marzouk now competes in a different way.

“I have learned that being a competitive person, at its core, is less about measuring yourself up to others and more about becoming the best version of yourself,” he explains. “I now focus on how I can improve each day. I surround myself with people and situations that make me better.”

His philosophy started to take shape from his earliest days at NEC. Two weeks into his first semester, Spencer lost his mother to cancer and almost dropped out. A year and a half later, he tragically lost classmate and friend Dana Poole. This rough start changed his perspective. “I began to see college not as an entitled rite of passage but as a privilege and opportunity,” he says. “It’s amazing what can happen when you shift your thinking from ‘What do I need to do to get by?’ to ‘Wow, I am lucky to have this day. How can I contribute?’” Spencer answered this question by saying “yes” to more leadership roles on campus and expanding his activities from basketball to the NEC community as a whole.

After NEC, Spencer wanted to honor his mother through active citizenship. He applied to Teach for America and committed to two years of teaching eighth-grade algebra in rural Alabama. At his school in Lowndes County, 99 percent of students receive free lunch, 50 percent live in poverty, and only around 15 percent graduate college. The self-perpetuating narrative of unemployment, drugs, and poverty, he says, inspired him to help his students overcome this cycle. He started by augmenting algebra class with lessons in financial skills, citizenship, and career opportunities. From there, he raised some capital and took 16 students to New York City to meet with a variety of companies—the New York Stock Exchange; Goldman Sachs; Uber; Google; Facebook; and the set of *Good Morning, America*—so those students could see what was possible.

“To supplement the program, I built personalized mentor networks and partnered with college test prep tutors,” Spencer adds. “The results were almost immediate. Students not only performed better in the classroom, but they also gained access to a network that would later provide high school and college internships along with career coaching.” This program



became The Dream Initiative, and its sustainability is Spencer’s proudest accomplishment.

His role with The Dream Initiative led him to cross paths with the CEO of Tupperware Brands, who offered Spencer a job. He went to Europe to be part of a team that transformed Tupperware’s business model in that region before settling in Frankfurt, Germany for four years. His long-time goal of attending business school, specifically at Harvard, led him back to the U.S.

“For the record, I don’t consider myself a success by any means,” Spencer states humbly, but he believes that athletics serve as one of the greatest leadership development platforms in the world.

As he says, in no other way does public education develop the essential leadership skills—perseverance, grit, communication, teamwork, discipline, empathy, resilience, enthusiasm, motivation, and persistence—that can directly translate to success in life.

Spencer adds that success cannot be achieved without failure. “At NEC, I learned the art of humility and falling in love with failure. There’s no fault in failure; the only fault lies in not learning from it. My advice to anyone is fail often and fail forward.”

TARA BETTS

MFA in Creative Writing '07



a critical edition of Philippa Duke Schuyler’s long out-of-print memoir *Adventures in Black and White* (2Leaf Press, 2018), and *Carving Out Rights From Inside the Prison Industrial Complex* (Hat and Beard Press, 2021).

Outside of writing poetry, Betts has taught poetry for over 15 years. This fall, she is teaching a correspondence course in poetry with writers at Statesville Prison, where she taught in person for three years before the pandemic. She has also been teaching short-term classes at the Whirlwind Learning Center, a small nonprofit she founded, in Chicago.

Back in 2005, though, Betts was working as a touring poet and wanted to deepen her craft. She joined NEC’s MFA in Creative Writing program. “The MFA program affirmed that I was capable of excelling at an academically rigorous level, but it also reminded me that there is still a lot to be added and celebrated in the canon of American literature.”

“It’s like making a meal,” Tara Betts explains of what inspires her poetry. “You can make the same dishes, but you stir and add your own secret ingredients, and it’s yours.” She draws poetic inspiration from a variety of sources: art, movies, history, other writers, overheard conversations, and stolen moments. Betts uses these ingredients—the same ones that probably inspire a number of writers—to make poetry that is uniquely hers.

Her poetry includes two published collections, *Arc & Hue* (Willow Books, 2009) and *Break the Habit* (Trio House Press, 2016). Her third collection *Refuse to Disappear* will be published by Word Works Books in 2022 as part of the Hilary Tham Capital Collection, which publishes full-length collections from poets who volunteer to assist a literary organization or project. *Refuse to Disappear*, Betts says, focuses on how she sees and celebrates women of color. “The message of this collection is we must insist that we aren’t going anywhere.”

In addition to her collections of poetry, Betts has published two chapbooks, a *libretto* *The Greatest!: An Homage to Muhammad Ali* (Winged City Press, 2013) and *7 x 7: kwansabas* (Backbone Press, 2014). She has served as coeditor of *The Beiging of America: Being Mixed Race in the 21st Century* (2Leaf Press, 2017),

“The MFA program affirmed that I was capable of excelling at an academically rigorous level, but it also reminded me that there is still a lot to be added and celebrated in the canon of American literature.”

NEC's Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), specifically the IDeA Network of Biological Research Excellence (INBRE) grant, which encourages students to pursue graduate programs in biomedical research. The program offers Biology and Health Science students the opportunity to do paid research alongside NEC faculty members during the eight-week program.

"We have enough funding to pay approximately 12 students each year," explains Dr. James Newcomb, Professor of Biology and Health Science and Co-Director of the Center for Undergraduate Science Research, "And every year, we have more applicants than we have spots available."

The spots go quickly for good reason. Students spend their days in the respective faculty members' labs in the Science Building, but they also get exposed to learning opportunities off campus. Newcomb's research occasionally takes him to the University of New Hampshire or Dartmouth College to use a million-dollar microscope, and he often takes students with him for that experience. Dr. Lori Koziol sometimes takes her students to the annual Boston Bacterial Meeting in May.

"I talked to Dr. Koziol about what I could do to improve my résumé, and she said I should apply for the 2021 program," comments Christine Gordon, Health Science '24. "I know I want to be a pediatric cardio-thoracic surgeon, but what if I change my mind? I want to be open to all possibilities, and the program showed me I could also have a career in research." Gordon knew that as a freshman, she might not make the cut, but she applied and was accepted.

That's a good thing, Newcomb says. Participating faculty like getting students who are early in their NEC careers for a couple of reasons. One, it gets students doing research early and hopefully keeps them involved. As he explains, if they can come back into the lab as upperclassmen, they can then serve as peer mentors for the next round of young students.



For more than a decade, NEC's Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) has been quietly helping students embark on their science and healthcare careers. Each summer, students do real research and present their work at the NH-INBRE Conference. The 2021 conference was held at the historic Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

Photo: Mount Washington Resort, site of the 2021 NH-INBRE Conference

Two, SURP is a hook. “Retention is important at NEC, and we want to keep students here once we get them. If we can get students involved in research early on, there’s a lot of evidence to suggest that helps with retention.”

For their part, SURP students see benefits beyond the inherent experience of working in a lab at NEC. As Newcomb explains, a number of other colleges host summer research programs, and NEC students who gain research experience through SURP become more competitive if they apply for other research opportunities. “These other programs are often open to students from other colleges, so we’ve had students who have done one or two summers of SURP and then a summer of research at Dartmouth.” Additionally, students can piggyback SURP with their research theses. All Biology and Health Science students do a required year-long research thesis in which they select a topic, publicly present the topic, perform their research, and then publicly present their research. Often, thesis work can be combined with SURP, which allows students to launch their summer research faster because their topics have already been developed and count SURP as finishing their research theses. “It’s a win-win,” Newcomb adds.



DR. JAMES NEWCOMB

Professor of Biology and Health Science and Co-Director of the Center for Undergraduate Science Research

NEC’s participation in INBRE has proven to be a boon for the Biology and Health Science programs. “Since joining INBRE 12 years ago,” Newcomb says, “NEC has brought in over \$1.5 million in NIH funding.” In addition to funding SURP, that money has contributed to renovating rooms in the Science Building, building brand-new lab spaces, purchasing equipment, funding faculty salaries during the summers, and paying students who work in the lab year-round or during SURP.

Over the last 12 years, SURP has doubled in size. The program began with Newcomb, Koziol, psychology professor Heather Chabot, and six students. It now includes four faculty members and 12 students on average. Those students use SURP as a steppingstone to their careers: lab technician at Dartmouth, chiropractor, doctor of physical therapy, medical doctor, veterinarian, nurse, and PhD.

“This program doesn’t get much attention,” Newcomb says. “So many times when people learn about it, they walk away saying, ‘I had no idea NEC was doing this.’ And I’m always happy to spread the word.”

NH-INBRE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NH-INBRE is a partnership of 10 colleges and universities from all corners of New Hampshire. Each summer, students who participate in the respective research programs present their work at an annual conference that brings together all student researchers and faculty from the 10 schools.

Students prepare posters giving an overview of their research. During the 2021 conference at

the Mount Washington Resort, two of NEC’s students were selected for two special opportunities.

CONNOR DUNN, HEALTH SCIENCE '22

Connor was selected to give a talk on his summer research of endoplasmic reticulum/plasma membrane junctions and a specific protein associated with certain types of ALS and some other neurodegenerative disorders.

“It was a really cool experience to be able to speak in front of 250 people at the conference. It can be a little nerve-racking, but I think that’s a healthy experience to have. The conference makes a lasting impression, and it offers opportunities to inspire collaboration and networking in all different fields of science.”

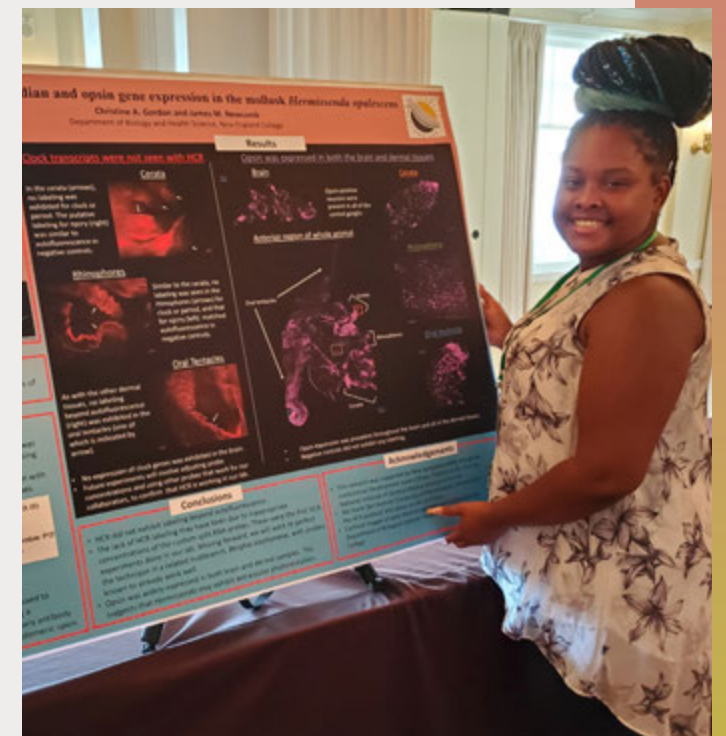
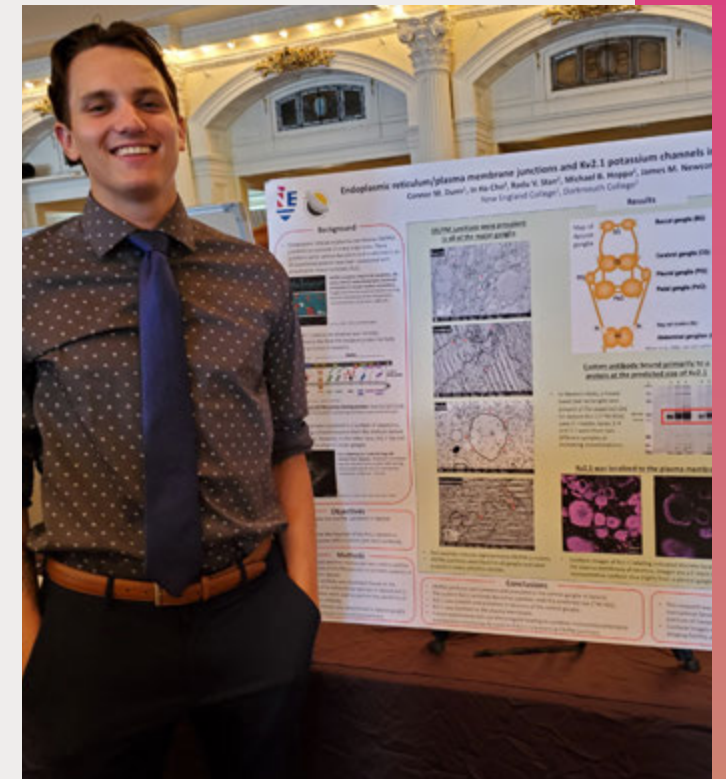
The summer of 2021 was also Connor’s second summer to work with Dartmouth’s summer research group on a collaboration between Newcomb and Dr. Michael Hoppa, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at Dartmouth.

Connor hopes to become an orthopedic foot and ankle surgeon.

CHRISTINE GORDON, HEALTH SCIENCE '24

NH-INBRE recently decided to bring a student representative from each of the 10 institutions onto its steering committee.

In addition to presenting a poster of her research, Christine was tapped to be NEC’s student representative. She attended her first NH-INBRE meeting at the conference and will become more involved with NH-INBRE moving forward.





Professor Newcomb and students Lourdes Ricks, Emily Wightman, and Christine Gordon at the 2021 INBRE Conference

2021 SURP PARTICIPANTS

BRADLEY AKERLY, BIOLOGY '22

Research Mentor: Dr. Geoff Cook
 Research Topic: Viral genes that have integrated into the DNA of eukaryotic organisms and their role in innate immunity

MEGAN GILPATRIC, HEALTH SCIENCE '22

Research Mentor: Dr. Geoff Cook
 Research Topic: Searching for novel therapeutic compounds created by marine organisms

CAITLYN MCGHEE, HEALTH SCIENCE '21

Research Mentor: Dr. Geoff Cook
 Research Topic: Tracking shifts in bacterial community composition in states of health and disease

SEAN POSNER, HEALTH SCIENCE '22

Research Mentor: Dr. Geoff Cook
 Research Topic: Investigating changes in the composition of microbial genes in healthy and diseased organisms

SERENA AVERY, HEALTH SCIENCE/KINESIOLOGY '22

Research Mentor: Dr. Sarah Gunnery
 Research Topic: Facial masking and physical health in Parkinson's disease

FELICIA JAMES, PSYCHOLOGY '23

Research Mentor: Dr. Sarah Gunnery
 Research Topic: Report of thoughts and feelings during frustrating and enjoyable activities in Parkinson's disease.

MAXWELL ROSS, PSYCHOLOGY: HUMAN SERVICES '24

Research Mentor: Dr. Sarah Gunnery
 Research Topic: The relationship between empathic accuracy and Parkinson's disease-related quality of life in caregivers

KAYLEE CROSS, BIOLOGY '22

Research Mentor: Dr. James Newcomb
 Research Topic: Distribution of light-sensitive proteins in the skin and nervous system

CONNOR DUNN, HEALTH SCIENCE '22

Research Mentor: Dr. James Newcomb
 Research Topic: Internal cell junctions in neurons

CHRISTINE GORDON, HEALTH SCIENCE '24

Research Mentor: Dr. James Newcomb
 Research Topic: Distribution of circadian clock proteins in the skin and nervous system

LOURDES RICKS, HEALTH SCIENCE '23

Research Mentor: Dr. James Newcomb
 Research Topic: Role of cell division in regeneration

LEAH-YAXI STAPP, HEALTH SCIENCE/KINESIOLOGY '22

Research Mentor: Dr. James Newcomb
 Research Topic: 24-hour rhythms of locomotion

EMILY WIGHTMAN, HEALTH SCIENCE '21

Research Mentor: Dr. James Newcomb
 Research Topic: Regeneration and the role of cell death

THE FUTURE → OF NEC ATHLETICS

To support NEC's student-athletes, as well as to promote health and fitness for everyone in the NEC community and to elevate NEC in NCAA Division III athletics, NEC is moving closer to embarking on the next project in the Henniker campus master plan: a new state-of-the-art athletic complex.



PHASE 1 will be a new building that includes a new 1,200-seat gymnasium (compared to the 300 seats in the current Bridges Gymnasium), new team locker rooms, and a modern fitness center. When Phase 1 is complete, it will become the new home of NEC's basketball and volleyball teams. Bridges Gym will then be dedicated to wrestling and intramural sports.

PHASE 2 will feature consolidated office space for the Athletic Department staff.

PHASE 3 will connect the new structures with NEC's current facilities. "When we get ready to think about Phases 2 and 3," DeCew says, "the hope is to include a common area where all students can come and hang out, study, or have a snack." Simpson adds that the complex will also boast a large entry lobby that will "serve as the gateway to the entire complex."



Building upon NEC's existing facilities, the new complex will serve all of NEC. "The best part about this project is that while it will enhance what this department can do for NEC athletes," comments Dave DeCew, Director of Athletics, "it is truly a project for the school." Plans include a modern fitness center open to all students, faculty, and staff. "The new complex could really help us in Athletics attract that next-level athlete or the Admissions team attract that next-level student. When I think about the entire school, this is exactly what we need so that we can add more value for those looking to attend NEC."

The complex's initial design came to NEC courtesy of Scott Simpson, an award-winning architect and member of NEC's board of trustees. This combination of his 40 years of architectural experience and close relationship to NEC inspired him to help the College execute a high-quality project at a modest cost. Part of his design incorporates prefabricated steel buildings, which match the aesthetic of

both the Field House and the Lee Clement Ice Arena and allow for significant construction savings. "This approach is much less expensive than conventional construction and enables NEC to get very high value for its money. Good planning and design are essential to the College's mission, and I was happy to be able to contribute to that," Simpson says.

The athletic complex will be adjacent to Bridges Gym and West Hall. Simpson's initial design has been handed off to partner architectural firm DSK | Dewing Schmid Kearns, where Tom Kearns is in the process of finalizing the schematic design before construction begins. "New England College has a beautiful campus in Henniker with many memorable moments," states Kearns. "The site for the new athletic complex frames the main quadrangle and is located along the Contoocook River. This project will add exciting new program spaces, contribute to NEC's iconic architecture, and activate the heart of the main campus." The team of NEC, Simpson, DSK, and Harvey

Construction worked together on both the Rosamond Page Putnam Center for the Performing Arts and the John Lyons building, so this is, as Simpson says, "a smoothly running team."

According to DeCew, the cost of Phase 1 is expected to be \$7.5 million to \$9 million. He also knows that Dr. Michele Perkins, President of NEC, hopes to have the cost of Phase 1 covered by gifts so the College will not have to take out a loan for construction. "The initial planning is complete, and the site has been surveyed. These steps have been taken to put the College in a position to move forward once the remaining funds are secured."

In the meantime, you will find DeCew looking forward to everything the new athletic complex will mean for current students, athletes and non-athletes alike, and prospective students looking for their place to belong.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

Jeff Towle P'99, and current trustee, made a \$500,000 commitment to the athletics complex initiative in August. His marks the fifth leadership gift to the project and the second one this year. Overall gifts and pledges to the project exceed \$8.5 million against a working goal of \$18 million.

The centerpiece of the initiative is the construction of a new gymnasium for basketball, volleyball, and student fitness. The project also includes the construction of new office space for coaches and renovations to both Bridges Gymnasium and the Field House.

This generous gift gets NEC closer to beginning construction on Phase 1 of the project. Towle recognizes the critical importance of enhancing our athletic facilities in order to help attract and retain student-athletes, maintain our level of competitive play on the field, and further enhance our beautiful campus in Henniker. Towle and his family are steadfastly devoted to NEC and the Henniker community, and his gift is a tangible demonstration of his dedication.



ESPORTS

NEXT-LEVEL COMPETITION

If you have spent any amount of time at New England College or getting to know NEC, you probably already know that sports are a big deal around here. But did you know there's a new game in town? That new game is esports, a forward-thinking activity that brings video games to life.

Esports, for those who may not know, is competitive video gaming. Players are called gamers, and they can compete by themselves from home or as part of teams that have popped up across the country. They can be

amateurs or professionals in the multi-billion-dollar industry that is esports. At NEC, esports launched in October 2018, and the esports arena opened in January 2019. The fledgling club grew quickly, expanding to its current slate of 13 different games that are played and roster of 74 gamers for the fall 2021 semester. Originally started as an independent club, esports moved under the umbrella of the Athletics Department in the fall of 2020.

"I have, for most of the last decade, been a proponent of esports belonging under Athletics," states Josh Staley, who became NEC's new Director of Esports in March 2021. "What that offers parents and others who are invested in seeing esports succeed at NEC, more than anything else, is familiarity and understanding of expectations. As part of Athletics, we have expectations regarding student GPAs and behavior. It's clear that these students represent the College."

Staley had a quiet summer on the Henniker campus, but he is now looking

forward and is eager to take esports at NEC to the next level, just as his gamers play to get to the next level.

In his sixth year of working with esports, Staley continues to encounter some people who don't understand what esports is and the depth of what it offers. As he explains, esports is about more than just competing; it's about offering professional development opportunities for his students. "I'm always thinking about how we can turn students' esports experience into their next steps. If someone is a Business Administration

major, can I guide them toward earning their MBA? If someone wants to work in esports, can I help them get a job in that space?"

And those efforts are already paying off. Kaleigh Werman (Illustration '22) plays the game Overwatch for NEC and scored a graphic design internship with the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) as a result of her involvement with esports. This winter, several students will intern with a prestigious professional athletic conference in its esports area. Staley cannot share the name of this

"I'm always thinking about how we can turn students' esports experience into their next steps. If someone is a Business Administration major, can I guide them toward earning their MBA? If someone wants to work in esports, can I help them get a job in that space?"

Dr. Josh Staley, Esports Director





conference because of a non-disclosure agreement, but he also cannot hide the pride in his voice as he talks about this opportunity for his student-gamers. “I want to see students succeed,” he adds. “Esports is second to their academic pursuits at NEC.”

Staley knows how to balance gaming time and academic time. If parents wonder how their students can handle both, Staley laughs: “I earned a doctorate, and I guarantee I played video games the whole time. There’s a balance, and I get to help students figure that out. That drives me; that’s why I love this so much.” He earned three degrees—a bachelor’s, master’s, and PhD—in psychology and served as a psychology professor before joining NEC.

As Staley continues to settle in, what does he see as the future of esports at NEC? To start, he sees the program no longer as a bridge between competitive play and non-traditional athletes because NEC’s gamers include athletes from other sports like hockey. Instead, he sees esports as another sport option for anyone who wants to compete. Humberto E. Solis, III (Business Administration ’23) agrees. “I think that it has become antiquated to talk about traditional and non-traditional athletes,” he says. “Everyone should be able to find a place to compete in something if they want.” Solis played rugby in the past and now focuses his competitive energy on the games Rainbow Six Siege and Call of Duty.

One of the changes Staley has made in his time with the program is a commitment to inclusion. Students no longer have to try out for the team and possibly make the cut. Anyone who wants to play is welcome; everyone can compete, no matter how good they are or aren’t. Werman is on board with that decision. “Not every person is able-bodied or can compete in a traditional sport for whatever reason,” she comments. “They still deserve that sense of community and structure that you really only get from being part of a team of some kind.”

That community, Staley believes, can be the missing piece of the college puzzle for incoming freshmen or transfer students. He has done considerable research on the social component of traditional athletics, and the ability for a student to walk into a pre-built social circle is invaluable. Esports offers that social component as well. Over the summer, he introduced incoming freshmen to existing students, and there was an instant connection, which helped alleviate first-day jitters.

Staley further backs up his commitment to inclusion by having one rule: Toxic behavior can never exist in the arena. Students may get heated during a match, but purposefully hurting someone else, he explains, is a student’s ticket out of the arena. He has created a safe environment where students can compete and play and have fun.

“What esports does for students is amazing,” he states. “And you can’t put a price tag on that.”



20 YEARS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Launched in 2000, NEC's Criminal Justice program is one of the most popular programs ever established at the College. Faculty and graduates alike work in every area of criminal justice, from Homeland Security and the military to the FBI and local police departments around the country. NEC graduates use their Criminal Justice degrees to move forward into a life of service.

A committed, soft-spoken leader is how Criminal Justice Professor Frank Jones describes Sean McDowell. "The other Criminal Justice faculty and I saw that Sean had the desirable characteristics to become a successful police officer: honesty; maturity; and the ability to make critical decisions, get along well with everyone, respect diversity, and maintain his physical fitness," Jones adds. He remembers seeing Sean run from one building in Hennis to the next to stay in shape.

At NEC, Sean was active in the Criminal Justice Club and was elected club president by his peers. Under his leadership, the club won Student Organization Event of the Year and the Diversity Award.

But it was not until his sophomore year that Sean knew he wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement. "I had actually been going back and forth between engineering and criminal justice for a while," he explains, "but my criminal justice classes really made the decision for me. My professors had a lot of experience and war stories from their time in law enforcement. I loved hearing their stories."

In his senior year, he set his sights on the Metro Police Department (MPD) during the Criminal Justice program's annual senior trip to Washington, D.C. After doing two ride-alongs with MPD officers and watching the MPD recruitment video, Sean knew he wanted to join the MPD. After graduation, his professors connected him to some of NEC's Criminal Justice alumni working for the MPD. "I was hired right away, and I moved three months later," Sean says. "I'm still getting used to the area; everything is so fast paced here. But I love working in D.C."

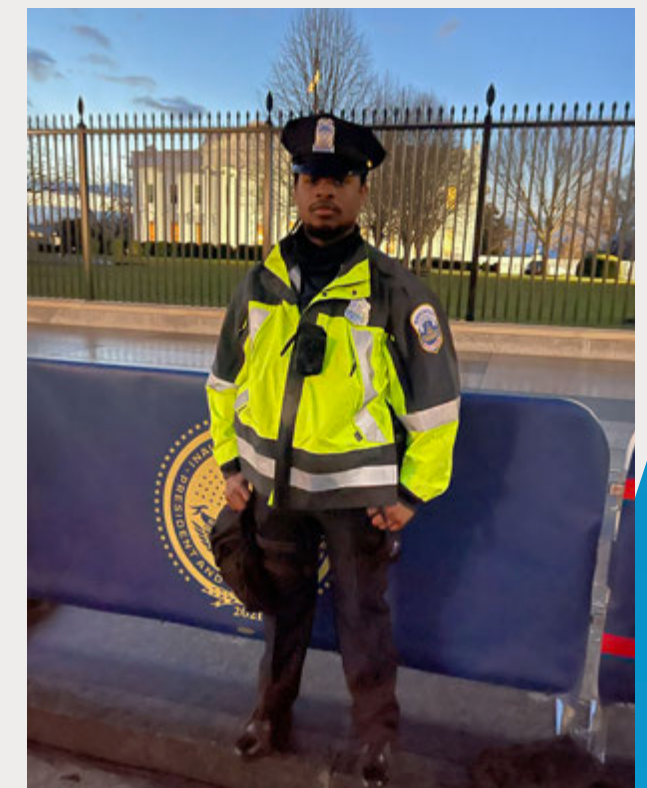
Sean patrols the southeast area of D.C., and after almost two years on the job, he has already seen a lot. "What I've seen is crazy, both good and bad, especially as someone who came from a small town in Connecticut. I was stationed at the Capitol for a month of 12-hour shifts after January 6."

But he has his ways of coping with all the things he sees on the job: reading, specifically poetry; going for walks or runs; working out; spending time with friends; travelling to clear his head.

Sean is figuring out where he ultimately wants his career to go, but he is happy to help the next round of Criminal Justice students find their footing in the field. A year after taking his senior trip to Washington, D.C., Sean greeted NEC's next senior class when they arrived at the MPD facility in 2020. "It's really cool to have been on both sides of that experience, first as a student and now as an officer in the field," Sean states. "I love working in criminal justice and helping make my community better. I don't have as many war stories as my professors do, but I enjoy sharing the experiences I've had so far with the next class as they look ahead to their careers."

SEAN MCDOWELL

Criminal Justice '19
Washington, D.C. | Metro Police Department





Photos from top left

DONALD WYNN

BA, Business Administration '22 | California

JULIE ZHANG

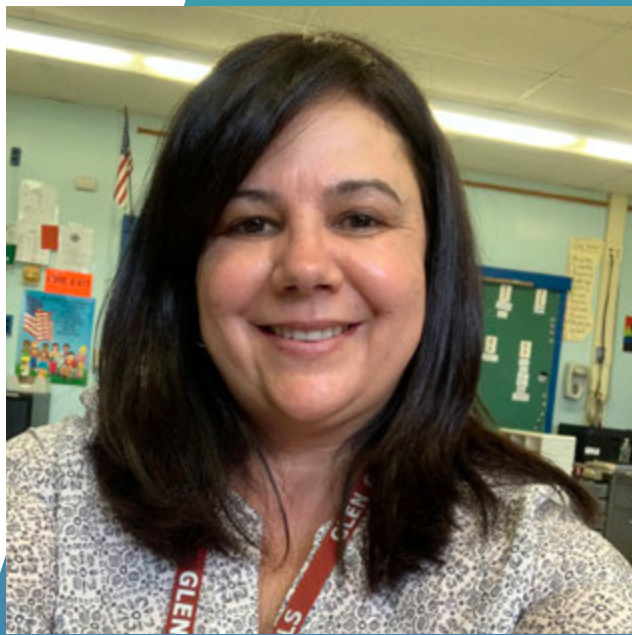
BA, Business Administration '22 | California

ROSA MUSELLA

BA, Psychology '21 | New York

MAANASI RADHAKRISHNAN

BS, Cybersecurity '22 | Texas



ONLINE BUT NOT ALONE

NEC has educated thousands of students in its online degree programs. As this segment of the College's overall enrollment continues to grow, those who oversee these programs are committed to helping online learners move forward in a way that offers a quality, connected education.

The concept of earning a degree online has come a long way in the last 20 years. NEC has embraced this new frontier for over a decade, constantly working to improve the learning experience for each student.

"We understand that online students reach their potential in an environment that is rich with application of groundbreaking knowledge and skills," states Dr. Sharon Sabol, Dean of Online Education and Learning Science. She explains that a subject-matter expert and an instructional designer, both of whom know

the fundamental components of quality online course delivery, work together to develop each of NEC's online courses. These courses are then taught by experienced faculty, experts in their fields who are trained to have maximum impact for online learners. This commitment to quality positions NEC's online students to achieve their academic and career goals.

The combination of learning from top-notch faculty while reaching their goals is paramount for online learners. "For the most part, online students are professionals who are intensely committed to their

educations," comments Dr. John Callahan, Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. "That ranges from our military students to our MBA and Clinical Mental Health Counseling students, as well as our Master of Fine Arts, master's- and doctoral-level Education students, and the programs in which we partner with Dallas College." Callahan teaches in NEC's online International Relations and Homeland Security programs. Many of his students are deployed military members who are able to learn from specialists and scholar-practitioners from deployments around the world.

No matter the location of online students, “we want them to know that they form an integral part of the NEC community,” adds Lisa Conn, Executive Director of Graduate Enrollment. She takes pride in the College’s enhanced efforts to help online students feel connected to NEC and to each other. A more robust onboarding process engages students until their first classes begin so that they know what to expect and are set up for success. “It is very satisfying to see how NEC’s online programs change students’ lives and help them move forward in their careers.”

JULIE ZHANG | BA, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION '22 | CALIFORNIA

“I value education more than anything else, and I had dreamed of having a bachelor’s degree for many years. With my busy full-time work schedule, I decided to pursue an online degree program. I did a tremendous amount of research online, and I had talked to different enrollment counselors at different colleges prior to enrolling in NEC. The admission counselor at NEC took the time to learn my educational goal and made my enrollment as smooth as possible.

Each course is well designed. NEC’s instructors put their hearts and souls into teaching and sincerely hope all students will be successful professionally and personally. I truly believe my degree will open up many doors for me and take my career to the next level. I am very confident and optimistic about my future.”

ROSA MUSELLA | BA, PSYCHOLOGY '21 | NEW YORK

“As a paraprofessional for the New York City Department of Education, online classes allowed me to learn at my own pace, to continue taking care of my family, and to look after my home.

I chose NEC because of their helpful support staff who made my admission process and my experience as a whole very pleasant and encouraging. Prior to attending NEC, I completed two years of my bachelor’s degree in my home country of Brazil. With this in



Photos from top

LISA CONN

Executive Director of Graduate Enrollment

DR. SHARON SABOL

Dean, Online Education and Learning Science

mind, the admission counselor guided me through the process of having my foreign credits evaluated and translated to count towards my degree here in the U.S.

I was extremely pleased with NEC’s online program. Earning my bachelor’s degree is one of my proudest accomplishments. I am certain that I could not have achieved this level of success without the help of NEC’s knowledgeable and understanding staff. I believe that my degree will enhance my career and my life, as I feel confident that the education I received at NEC will be an important foundation to enter a grad school and become a successful school counselor.”

DONALD WYNN | BA, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION '22 | CALIFORNIA

“I chose an online degree program because it allows me to work and travel for business without any impact to my work and family schedules. I chose NEC because it is an accredited college, the faculty and staff are very supportive of working students, the seven-week courses will accelerate my study so that I will graduate faster, and the tuition is affordable.

As a father raising two children until they graduated from college, I did not

have the opportunity to complete my study in the early stage of my life. I restarted my education in my mid-50s. Currently, I am completing my last class with NEC and also attending law school in the evenings.”

MAANASI RADHAKRISHNAN | BS, CYBERSECURITY '22 | TEXAS

“I moved from India to the United States in 2018 and began attending Dallas College in 2019. Around the time I was finishing my associate degree, NEC announced its bachelor’s program in Cybersecurity in collaboration with Dallas College, which was the perfect fit for my academic goals.

“All my professors thus far have been stellar. They’re very knowledgeable and approachable, give great feedback, and are committed to the success of each of us students. In fact, their dedication is beyond praise and a rarity in today’s world.”

Maanasi Radhakrishnan, BS Cybersecurity

Upon communicating with Casey Walker [Associate Director of Graduate Admissions] at NEC, I was convinced that NEC’s program was in depth and would give me the knowledge I need to kickstart a career in cybersecurity. The entire process of moving from Dallas College to NEC was seamless, thanks to Ms. Walker.

NEC’s program has exceeded my expectations. All my professors thus far have been stellar. They’re very knowledgeable and approachable, give great feedback, and are committed to the success of each of us students. In fact, their dedication is beyond praise and a rarity in today’s world.”

BY THE NUMBERS

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

\$615,319

Annual Fund total for fiscal year 2021. This represents a 3% growth over fiscal year 2020 and 7% above budgeted goal.

\$515,225

Total Planned Gifts and commitments in fiscal year 2021.

\$2.9 MILLION

Total fundraising achievement for fiscal year 2021.

\$116,898

Total gifts from NEC parents in fiscal year 2021. One hundred and seven current and past NEC parents gave to the College last year, and the total raised is a 2% increase over fiscal year 2020.

1,056

Total number of donors to NEC in fiscal year 2021, a 4% increase over the prior year.

NEC welcomed seven new members to the H. Raymond Danforth Planned Giving Society.

Photos from top left

President Michele Perkins throws out the first pitch.



International students take the pitch.



NEC athletes learn cricket from our international students.



International students with Dave Pollack, Professor, MS in Computer Information Systems.



Cricket came to NEC in September. International master's students, many of whom are avid cricket fans, competed in a friendly match against some of NEC's wrestlers, baseball players, and Athletics graduate assistants. The match included about 30 players and over 100 spectators. NEC's international students won by one run, although the score was not that important. The match, hopefully the first of many more, offered a fun and unique way for different areas of the College to come together. The match was organized by Rick Mitchell, Program Director of Computer Information Systems, and Dave DeCew, Athletic Director.

International students can choose from four on-campus programs and three low-residency programs, and students around the world can pursue any of NEC's 100% online programs.

CRICKET COMES TO NEC

V. Peter Tsarides	1954	Aileen White	1965	Lori Feldman	1980
Arthur Dunham	1956	David Brown	1969	Mary Doyle	1982
Virginia Maulfair	1962	Jeffrey Baker	1972	Frederic Camp	1982
Miriam Stoltz	1963	Lynn Rust	1972	M. Timothy Murray	1983
James Wilson	1963	Joseph O'Connell	1976	Deron Bruce	1997
Clifford Martel	1964	Barbara Sutherland	1977		
Ira Evans	1965	Dennis Gendron	1979		

DENNIS "RED" GENDRON | 1979

The NEC athletics community was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Dennis "Red" Gendron '79 in April 2021.

Red was a legendary men's hockey coach at all levels—from youth to the professional ranks. His hockey playing career began at Berlin High School, New Hampshire, and continued at NEC from 1975 to 1979. He received his bachelor's degree in Education, and in 2014, was inducted into the NEC Athletics Hall of Fame.

Wherever Red went, he realized success. He accepted his first men's ice hockey head coach position at Bellows Free Academy in Vermont in 1981, leading the Bobwhites to four state championships (1982, 1983, 1987, 1988), and was twice named Vermont Coach of the Year. In 1990, Red moved to the college ranks as assistant coach at the University of Maine, where he helped the program earn its first NCAA Division I Championship in 1993. While coaching full time, he also earned his master's in Education from University of Maine in 1993.

Red began an 11-year tenure at the professional level with the New Jersey Devils organization in 1993, first as a specialist for one season before being named an assistant coach in 1995. That same year, the Devils won their first of three Stanley Cup Championships (1995, 2000, 2003). He served the Devils organization in several capacities—assistant and later head coach of the Albany River Rats—before moving on to a head coaching position with the Indiana Ice in 2004.

In 2005, Red returned to Division I college hockey when he was named an assistant coach at the University of

Massachusetts Amherst. After six seasons with the Minutemen, he was named associate head coach at Yale University, where he helped the institution earn its first NCAA Division I Championship in 2013. That same year, Red returned to the University of Maine to accept the position of head coach of the men's ice hockey team. He was named Hockey East Coach of the Year in 2020.

Throughout his career, Red also served as an assistant coach for the World Junior Championships for Team USA (1993, 2001, 2002), as well as several U.S. Select 16 and 17 teams.

His book *Coaching Hockey Successfully* was published in 2002 and was used by USA Hockey as part of its Level IV Coaching Development Program for many years. Red was honored by USA Hockey with the Walter Yaciuk Award in 2006 for his "outstanding contribution and dedicated service to the USA Hockey Coaching Education Program."

Red was best known for his insatiable appetite for knowledge and his kindness, generosity, mentorship, and commitment to family and friends. He dedicated his life both on and off the ice to a single code: "to live in the service of others." Red was also known for his humor and "Red-isms"—simple one-liners about life and sportsmanship—and for his dedication to honor, family, and "doing things the right way."

Red is survived by his wife, Janet, and daughters Katelyn and Allison.



**WE ARE
DREAMERS
THINKERS
DOERS
19,000+ ALUMNI**

**AND WE ARE
STRONGER
TOGETHER**

YOUR GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND SUPPORTS

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

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

**MAKE YOUR GIFT TO
THE ANNUAL FUND AT
ALUMNI.NEC.EDU/GIVING**



**PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS
at NEC's Rosamond Page Putnam Center for the Performing Arts**

We saved you a seat in the spotlight. Now is your chance to name it! For a limited time, when you purchase a seat, your gift will be DOUBLED as part of the Jon Gould '75 Legacy Challenge. For more information about how to purchase and name a seat in NEC's newly constructed Putnam Center, visit alumni.nec.edu/nameaseat.

**JOIN US FOR THE FIRST SEASON OF
PERFORMANCES IN THE PUTNAM CENTER!**

Fall Show: *Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl | October 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m. and October 23 at 3:00 p.m.
Spring Show: TBD | April 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m. and April 9 at 3:00 p.m.
One-Night Staged Reading of Student Works: April 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Due to COVID restrictions, performances are subject to change. Please visit nec.edu/putnam for the latest details.



**New England
College**

98 Bridge Street
Henniker, NH 03242

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



A STEP FORWARD

One step carries a body further than a few inches, mere feet. Shifted weight marks decision, swift as footfall, brings change, a direction determined to bend to a cycle, if not future, a light, if not shade, and we all need some cool, rest, some strength to fortify another rising step while we hold the compass of this life leading us to our true north.

Tara Betts
MFA in Creative Writing '07

Read Tara's spotlight on page 13.

Image: Mount Washington, NH