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NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE

MAGAZINE



LIVE WHAT
EARN WHILE

you **Learn**

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Abigail Ann Peschel
NEW HAMPSHIRE | Biology '26
Study Away trip to Belize
Photo by Dr. Eric Simon

LIVE WHAT EARN WHILE *you* Learn

Contents

- 2 Greetings from Bridge Street
- 4 Insight and Action
President Lesperance discusses NEC's Earn While You Learn academic model.
- 6 Wild Idea
NEC partners with the Center for Life Management to boost the mental healthcare workforce.
- 8 Founders Day + Ryan Pitts
Staff Sergeant Pitts, a highly decorated veteran, inspires the NEC community.
- 10 NEC Hosts CNN
Two nights of televised town hall meetings put NEC on the global stage.
- 12 Changemakers
Dr. Eric Simon and four alumni share how Live What You Learn leads to meaningful experiences.
- 18 Athletic News
Four student-athletes have a banner year.
- 20 Fundraising News
Generous donors make Giving Day 2024 a success, and NEC announces a new philanthropy award.
- 21 NEC Welcomes New Trustees
Two new voices bring fresh perspectives to NEC's Board of Trustees.
- 22 Class Notes
NEC classmates share their personal and professional news.
- 27 In Memoriam
NEC remembers the community members we have lost.
- 28 Graduate Degree Discount
Contributing Writers Wanted
- 29 Learning Institute of
New England College
Fall Festival Save the Date

Greetings

from Bridge Street



If someone had told me a year ago

that 2024 at New England College would begin with CNN political events being televised around the world from our Putnam Center, I would have said that person was highly aspirational. But that is exactly what happened.

In January, NEC had the unique, and profoundly exciting, opportunity to host CNN town hall meetings with presidential candidates Governor Ron DeSantis and former Ambassador Nikki Haley. And when both televised town hall meetings took place, I realized one of the professional goals I set for our College and myself when I came to campus in 1999. When we designed and built the Putnam Center, we dreamed that one day it would be used for presidential events, and we saw that dream come true. I can't tell you how thrilling it was to see our beloved campus and the ONLY Henniker on Earth take center stage both nights.

And speaking of our campus, we have completed our new Art Village at 39 Main Street. This space houses the studios and equipment for our Institute of Art and Design programs so that students and faculty can continue to create in a space dedicated to their craft.

Commencement on May 18 was another exciting time in the life of the College. We heard from guest speaker Garry Trudeau, the famed creator of the *Doonesbury* comic strip. As Mr. Trudeau addressed the Class of 2024, I thought about the promise that lies before our graduates. In many ways, their lives are only beginning to take shape. Whether our students earned a bachelor's degree or an advanced degree, whether they pursued their education online or on campus, I am humbled and honored that NEC could play a part in who they will become and what they will accomplish. Congratulations to our 2024 graduates!

As we look to the future, I am pleased to announce that we met our fall 2023 and spring 2024 on-campus enrollment goals for new students and transfers and that our three-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing program continues to be a strong driver of enrollment. Our graduate and professional programs also boast enrollment well above last year. Not only has enrollment exceeded expectations, but we are also seeing record-level retention for the College. Put another way, more students are choosing and staying at NEC. This is good news, indeed.

There is much at NEC to be proud of and excited about. One of the things I am most proud of is NEC's philosophy of giving students real-world opportunities to **Live What You Learn** or **Earn While You Learn**. These are more than just snappy catchphrases. They characterize NEC's approach to education so that our students graduate with more than a piece of paper. They graduate with experiences that prepare them for their lives and careers after NEC, whatever that may look like. This issue of the *New England College Magazine* showcases our faculty, students, alumni, and programs that embody NEC's approach to higher education. I hope you enjoy these stories.

Dr. Wayne F. Lesperance Jr.
President

Go 'Grims!

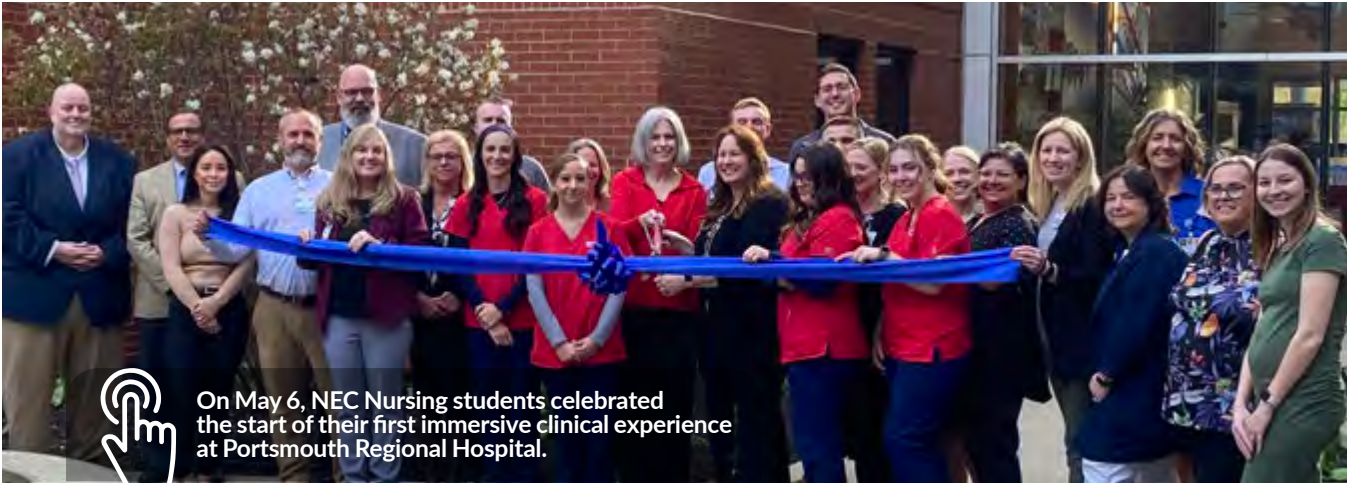


NEC's new Art Village



New England College has established itself as an institution dedicated to providing experiential learning—or learning by doing—opportunities for our students. Additionally, we are an institution that is adept at adapting. These two characteristics come together in **Earn While You Learn**, an academic model that we launched two years ago with our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program and have begun extending to other programs. **Earn While You Learn** combines traditional classroom learning with paid immersive experiences that place students in their chosen career fields for real-world application of what they learn in the classroom.

NEC developed this model as a response to the growing nursing shortage in New Hampshire’s hospitals. We asked ourselves how we could efficiently but still effectively train nursing students while moving them into the workforce faster. The answer was a cooperative partnership between NEC and hospitals throughout the State. In a year-round format, our BSN students split their time between the classroom and three paid immersive clinical experiences at partner hospitals. This format gives students a unique opportunity to put their learning into practice and earn income while pursuing their BSN degree, an opportunity that sets NEC’s Nursing program apart.



Once we launched our BSN, we began to think about other degree programs that would work well within the **Earn While You Learn** framework. For the fall 2023 semester, we introduced our cooperative Bachelor of Arts in Community Mental Health. This program allows students to earn 30 degree credits through paid hands-on, experiential learning in a mental health setting, in partnership with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. The mental health field, like the medical field, faces tremendous workforce and community need. Our Community Mental Health program places students in the workforce now to alleviate some of that need.

Looking ahead, Cybersecurity will likely be our next **Earn While You Learn** program, and perhaps Criminal Justice and Education will follow. All three of these industries have workforce needs and inherently offer significant hands-on learning experiences through which students can also earn income.

As we think about expanding the **Earn While You Learn** model into additional degree programs—and it can apply to virtually any program—we will consult with NEC’s subject matter experts, our faculty. What do they think the next program(s) should be? How can they help establish the business partnerships and immersive work experiences that bring classroom learning to life for our students?

Earn While You Learn represents NEC’s willingness and ability to adapt to a changing higher education landscape. For so long, college enrollment focused on attracting high school graduates who were taking the next step in their education. Now, as that traditional demographic decreases, higher education must also consider working professionals looking to advance in their careers: a licensed nursing assistant who aspires to become a

nurse or a police officer who knows that a college degree could unlock advancement opportunities. **Earn While You Learn** is a tangible way NEC can support working professionals as they pursue their degrees while continuing to work and go about their lives.

The more NEC has explored **Earn While You Learn** and seen it in action, the more we have realized that it particularly appeals to nontraditional students: the 25- or 30-year-old, the person changing careers, the military retiree looking for what’s next. These students most likely are not looking for the full on-campus college experience. Instead, they are looking for the best way to complete a quality college degree that prepares them with real-world experience and allows them to enter the workforce sooner. **Earn While You Learn** does just that.

College students have done paid internships for ages. Employees have learned on the job for ages. Parents and students of any age want to know that there is a clear career path waiting after graduation. NEC’s packaging of classroom learning, paid hands-on work that directly supports that learning, and professional experiences that can lead to full-time work after NEC is an innovative, unique, and next-level academic model. And it has been successful.

I am very proud of this model and what it means for NEC’s students. I cannot wait to see where it goes from here. ■

LEARN MORE about

NEC’s Earn While You Learn degree programs



BS in Nursing



BA in Community Mental Health

Employees of the Center for Life Management become

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING STUDENTS

at New England College to train for a life-changing career

Practitioners and other professionals in New Hampshire's community mental health field have been playing catch-up for a long time. Decades, in fact—ever since America's mental hospitals began the process of deinstitutionalization in the 1950s and 1960s. Deinstitutionalization intended to remove patients from deplorable conditions and unethical treatment and place them, instead, in less-isolated

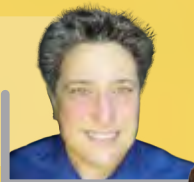
community settings where they could heal better. A noble idea in theory. However, the infrastructure for such a transition was not in place, and the Community Mental Health Act that would provide federal funding of states' community mental health centers was not signed into law until 1963. The community mental health field has been playing catch-up ever since, leading to an untenable situation.

"We are in a mental health crisis, and we do not have enough qualified people to do this work," stated Amy Reynelli, Visiting Associate Professor and Clinical Coordinator for NEC's Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. New Hampshire's 10 community mental health centers, she explains, are known for high turnover. Mental health professionals join a center, earn their licenses, and leave for other opportunities. "Our community mental health centers serve the severely and persistently mentally ill population. These are the people who need consistency more than anyone else, yet our centers offer the least consistency."

But a new academic partnership offers a path to bring this lack of consistency to an end. Steve Arnault, who serves as Vice President of Clinical Services, Quality and Compliance at the Center for Life Management (CLM), one of New Hampshire's community mental health centers with locations in Derry and Salem, and CLM's senior management team realized something and came up with a wild idea. They figured out that employee turnover costs CLM more than the tuition for a graduate degree, so Steve asked, "Why not recruit CLM employees not just for a job but for a career path?"

Amy Reynelli

Visiting Associate Professor and Clinical Coordinator | NEC's MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling



Steve Arnault

Vice President of Clinical Services, Quality and Compliance | Center for Life Management



LEARN MORE
NEC's MS in
Clinical Mental
Health Counseling



LEARN MORE
CLM Center for Life
Management
+ NEC Partnership

"This partnership that Steve and I have developed virtually guarantees that CLM will have mental health professionals in place for a minimum of six years [one year of foundational employment and five years of coursework and licensure requirements]," Reynelli stated. "In this one degree program, we have quadrupled the amount of time people will remain at community mental health centers, which tackles so many problems at once: patient care, therapeutic relationships, student debt, high turnover, workforce shortages."

Arnault added that the number one cause of mental health workforce shortages, both at CLM and statewide, is that people do not feel qualified for the work. "They graduate from a very traditional degree program, whether it be a bachelor's or master's program, and in short order get hit with all the things community mental health centers deal with: poverty, domestic violence, substance abuse, legal issues, suicide, homelessness. With this partnership, we worked hard to create a program that makes students more confident and competent in the work and that prepares them for the myriad issues they will face. I think that will go a long way toward improving longevity in the field. Mental healthcare is hard work, but it changes lives; it saves lives. There is nothing else like it." ■

Arnault and Reynelli spent a year developing a partnership between CLM and NEC that allows CLM employees who hold a bachelor's degree—case managers, community supports who help clients in their homes, and wellness coaches—and have been employed by CLM for at least nine months to apply for NEC's Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree program as part of CLM's Professional Development Program. The first cohort of 12 CLM employees began their journey with NEC in January.

The benefits of the partnership make this pathway to higher education a no-brainer for CLM employees who want to become licensed counselors. To start, Reynelli restructured the degree program from two years to three so that the program will be more manageable for those working full time. After three years of coursework, CLM students move into two years of supervised work needed for licensure. CLM provides the required 700 hours of pre-master's clinical training and the 3,000 hours of post-master's experience required for licensure in New Hampshire and 19 other states. On top of that, CLM pays 100 percent of the program's tuition.

Additionally, some classes are taught on site at CLM by CLM staff who become adjunct faculty for NEC, and the remaining classes are delivered online. CLM employees in the program also learn the business side of mental healthcare. They meet with CLM's chief financial officer to learn financing, budgeting, and contracting. They meet with human resources to learn about supervising others: labor laws, Family Medical Leave Act, etc. They meet with the director of quality assurance to learn about regulations and corporate compliance.

"All told, our employees graduate with the skillset to rise to the director level," Arnault explained. "This partnership goes beyond clinical training to truly prepare our professionals for all facets of an advanced career in mental health."

For Reynelli and Arnault, one of the greatest features of this partnership is the five-year commitment CLM employees make after being accepted into NEC's Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. As they explained, mental health professionals often stay in the field for merely a year or two.

January 31

The NEC community gathered in the PUTNAM CENTER for the PERFORMING ARTS to celebrate FOUNDERS DAY, our annual event that honors the vision of NEC's founders to provide higher education for servicemembers returning from World War II.



STAFF SERGEANT RYAN PITTS NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Keynote Speaker
- Honorary Degree Recipient

UNIT

Chosen Company
2nd Battalion (Airborne)
503rd Infantry Regiment 173rd
Airborne Brigade

DEPLOYMENTS

- Operation Enduring Freedom VI and VIII
- Afghanistan

MILITARY OCCUPATION

- (mos) Forward Observer (13F)

AWARDS + DECORATIONS

- Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device
- Purple Heart
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device and three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters
- Army Achievement Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal with Bronze Clasp and two Loops
- National Defense Service Medal
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Two Campaign Stars
- Global War on Terrorism Medal
- Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon
- Army Service Ribbon
- Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral "4"
- NATO Medal
- Presidential Unit Citation
- Valorous Unit Award
- Combat Action Badge
- Pathfinder Badge
- Parachutist Badge

Founders Day 2024



"Twenty-one years ago, I was a high school senior who didn't know what I wanted to do next. I joined the Army so that I would have money for college

“but the Army was where I learned some of the greatest lessons: how to put service before myself, how to have a team mentality, and how nothing can stop us when we coalesce around a mission that means more than each of us individually. That’s all it takes to be a leader, and anyone can do it.”

down the road," Pitts said. A highly decorated veteran, Pitts joined the Army in 2003 at the age of 17 under the delayed entry program. He served as a radio telephone operator for the 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade at Camp Ederle, Italy, from 2004–2009.

On July 13, 2008, during Pitts's second deployment to Afghanistan, his unit of 48 servicemembers came under attack by 200 anti-Afghan forces in Kunar Province. While Pitts was patrolling the perimeter of Observation Post Topside that fateful morning, the well-organized anti-Afghan forces began their assault utilizing rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns, and small arms. Pitts was immediately knocked to the ground from shrapnel wounds to his left arm and



both legs. Though severely injured, he controlled the observation post and returned fire. As the anti-Afghan forces grew closer, Pitts tossed grenades, holding them after the pins were pulled and safety levers released, so that they would detonate virtually immediately. Pitts was unable to stand because of his injuries and loss of blood, but still he held off the enemy until reinforcements arrived. He threw his last grenade and crawled to the radio to communicate with the command post. By this time, the anti-Afghan forces were close enough for Pitts to hear their voices. Reduced to whispering and risking his life, Pitts relayed the necessary information for the command post to provide indirect support. His bravery in the face of an impending enemy prevented the observation post from being taken and fallen American soldiers being captured.

Pitts departed active duty in 2009, but his gallantry in Afghanistan earned him the Medal of Honor on July 21, 2014.

"As a college founded for veterans, I couldn't think of a better keynote speaker than Staff Sergeant Ryan Pitts. He is the epitome of selfless service, teamwork, bravery, and leadership," stated President Lesperance. "It was NEC's honor to host Sergeant Pitts and hear his story that I hope inspired everyone at NEC to give their all in their respective roles within our community."



All eyes were on New England College when CNN came to town in January to broadcast two town hall meetings with Republican presidential candidates live from the Rosamond Page Putnam Center for the Performing Arts.



On Tuesday, January 16, NEC hosted Ron DeSantis, Governor of Florida, for a town hall moderated by Wolf Blitzer. On Thursday, January 18, NEC hosted Nikki Haley, former UN Ambassador, for a conversation moderated by Jake Tapper. President Lesperance welcomed the audience both nights.

The CNN crew spent 12 days on campus, and hundreds of people worked thousands of hours to get everything just right. And NEC students helped make it happen. Students served as stand-ins during rehearsals and as ushers and runners during the live events.

What did these broadcasts mean for NEC?

80  **MILLION**
U.S. households reached

34.7  **MILLION**
households worldwide

Nikki Haley
Former UN Ambassador

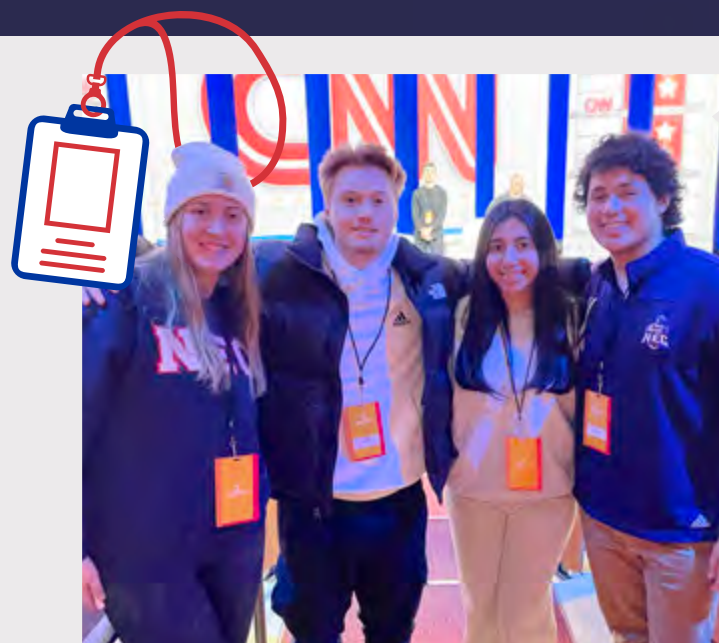
Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida



SCAN
to see NEC on
the global stage.



Photos courtesy of CNN



Aurora Gutierrez-Macias '26
pictured third from left

“ I learned time management skills, the ins and outs of the CNN network, and to just be myself.

The experience of being a runner for such a high-known network was beyond belief, and getting to see the setup of the stage and talking to many different people with different responsibilities made me realize that there's no small job and that even the slightest decision can make a big difference in the network.

Students at NEC should take these kinds of opportunities to experience new perspectives and see various parts of the workforce to help them develop and decide what they would like to do in the future. ”

change makers

Q. How long have you been at NEC, and what do you love about being part of this community?

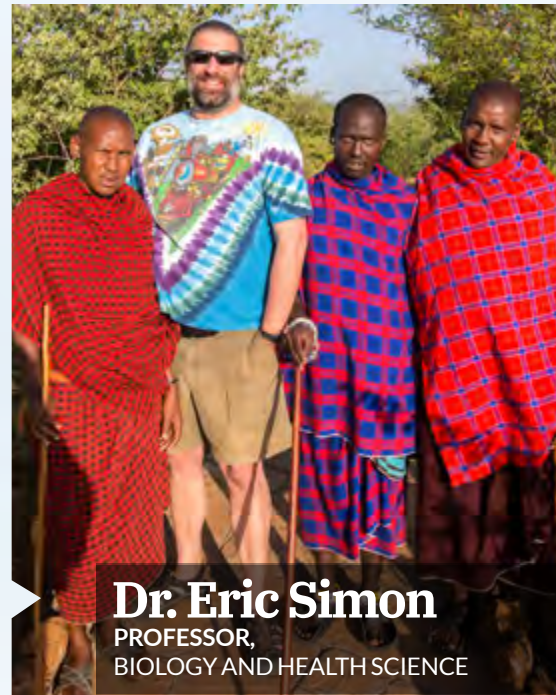
A. I have been here 22 years. I love the community of students, faculty, and staff. I love fantastic colleagues in the Biology Department and Science, Health, and Exercise Division. I love the passion and attitude my students bring to their college studies. Also, I love the environment of being in rural New Hampshire.

Q. You have authored a series of best-selling general education biology textbooks for college students. How do you approach that process?

A. I work with a large team of people—editors, project managers, marketing people, sales people, photographers, artists—in the publisher’s office. The process starts when my acquisitions editor reaches out and says, “Let’s work on this or that,” and then it’s up to me to come up with the ideas of what to do. As the content expert, everything in the book is my responsibility, from the text and artwork to question banks and multimedia. I do a lot of listening to determine the content. I meet with a lot of faculty members from around the country and learn what is important to them in a biology textbook, what they think is missing or is superfluous, and what their biggest challenges are. The publisher relies on me to know biology and also to be an implementation expert. Part of my job is to anticipate what teachers’ needs are and how we as a publishing team can offer solutions to those problems through textbooks that support best practices.

Q. You regularly lead Study Away trips to Belize. How did you settle on that location?

A. The first time I took students to Belize was about 15 years ago. There wasn’t an international travel program at NEC at the time, but I knew I wanted to lead a student trip because I love to travel. I’ve been to all 50 states and 45 countries. During visits to other schools for my textbook work, I looked at their posters advertising student trips, and I heard about Belize. I realized there are several significant advantages to making Belize



Dr. Eric Simon
PROFESSOR,
BIOLOGY AND HEALTH SCIENCE

a Study Away location: its proximity to the U.S., its safe and stable democracy, its use of English and the American dollar. And it happens to have the second largest barrier reef in the world and a commitment to ecotourism. I teach a class called Tropical Marine Biology and now lead a trip to Belize about every other year. I also co-teach a travel writing course with Bryan Partridge, Professor of Writing. For that course, we have traveled to Cuba, Galapagos, Patagonia, Tanzania, and up the Amazon in Peru.

Q. What is it like for you to see students experience NEC's philosophy of Live What You Learn?

A. It’s extremely gratifying. We want our students to be immersed in their educations, and this is the best example of that level of immersion that I know. NEC entirely funds these trips, so students pay nothing. That means we can provide travel opportunities for students from traditionally underrepresented socioeconomic backgrounds. On every trip, there is a student who has never been on a plane or had a passport. I know that for a couple of students, the course of their lives was changed because of this type of travel. I’m thinking of one student who had never been out of the U.S. before, and after graduation, moved to southeast Asia to teach English. Study Away trips are educational experiences these students will never forget.



GALAPAGOS



TANZANIA



PATAGONIA



GALAPAGOS

Q. Out of your many travels, what are your favorite destinations?

A. Belize and Tanzania. I have led about 10 Study Away trips to Belize and have been to Tanzania four times through a mixture of professional and personal travel.

Q. Your commitment to education extends to adult learners as well.

A. Yes, I became involved with the Learning Institute at New England College (LINEC) during the pandemic when they asked me to teach some classes over Zoom. I taught a series of travelogue classes that detailed my NEC Study Away trips. One day, I was asked if I would consider leading a LINEC trip, and I said, “Why not?” So I organized a trip to Tanzania in February 2023 that went very well. I then led a trip to Belize this past January and a trip to Galapagos in May, and we are planning to go to Patagonia next January. These trips are open to all NEC alumni, and I encourage alumni to become involved with LINEC.

LEARN MORE



linec.org
LINEC information and registration



ericjsimon.com
Dr. Simon Travel and Photography



Joclynn Bynoe
 MASSACHUSETTS | BA in Business Administration '05



idea of what the NAACP is, but the true mission is equality and equity for everyone. While the NAACP may spotlight the Black community, it fights for equity for everyone.

Joining the NAACP was a full-circle moment. My grandfather was a leader with the NAACP and served as convention chair in the 1980s. He was a civil rights activist in Boston, founding one of the first Black-owned banks in Boston and helping desegregate schools. The roots of civil rights and activism run deep in my family and in my last name. Sometimes I want to hide my last name because I want to make a name for myself, but then I think about my grandmother when I told her about my new role with the NAACP. I could hear her joy through the phone when she said, “Your grandfather would be so proud of you and so happy for you.” I take great pride in knowing that and being able to work with some of the people my grandfather worked with and continue his work in a way that I never thought would be an opportunity for me.

I don’t know that I would be on this same path if I had chosen a different college. NEC gave me a unique opportunity to complete a two-year banking internship during my junior and senior years. I was the first accounting intern that bank had, and they had me do real audit work at 20 years old and tell bankers they had missed things, which was wild. Taking my classroom learning into that experience really helped. And NEC helped me grow individually. It is such a melting pot of different people from so many walks of life and from around the world. The life lessons I learned at NEC helped me become the person I am. 🔄

I love throwing a party, and that passion has brought my career full circle in a way that I never could have imagined.

At NEC, I served as the social chair and vice president of Phi Sigma Sigma and as the social chair for Greek Counsel. My college job at Enterprise Rent-A-Car gave me the opportunity to plan events. Not surprisingly, I called my mom and told her I wanted to be an event planner. She said, “No, you’re going to stick with accounting and banking for now, and we’ll figure it out when you graduate.”

Two years after graduating, I left Enterprise to join the Exhibitor Services department at the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority. Between 2007 and early 2024, I worked my way up to Event Services Coordinator, Event Manager, Senior Event Manager, and finally Director of Event Services. I worked on events like the Boston Marathon Expo, the North America Seafood Expo, a large biotechnology convention, and the NAACP convention.

The NAACP convention in 2023 was the peak of my career at that point. They approached me about becoming their new Director, National Convention, and I took a leap of faith. I have been with the NAACP since February, and it has been quite a learning process. I think people have one

Ryan Eickmeier
 CANADA | BA in Political Science '08



NEC encouraged me to go and do it, and that springboarded me into the rest of my career.

My career actually started while I was at NEC and I started working for the presidential campaign for Fred Thompson during the 2007 primary cycle. After graduation, I immediately pursued a Master of Public Policy from American University in Washington, DC, and worked for a political consulting firm for two years. In 2010, I moved back to Canada, where I was a corporate lobbyist for the better part of eight years for a variety of sectors: commercial real estate, global standards organization, and the Canadian Franchise Association. I lobbied municipally, provincially, federally, and internationally. In 2018, I became the CEO of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, which runs and maintains about 30,000 kilometers of trails and sells permits. Just before the pandemic hit, I left that organization and began running Helping Hands Daycare, my family’s childcare business. At the time, it was seven centers, and now it is 10 centers and about 1,200 children daily. I have also rejoined the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, so I am the CEO of both organizations.

I haven’t been on a job interview in a couple of years, but every interview over my career has gone back to those transformative days at NEC. Interviewers say, “Oh, you worked on that campaign. Tell me about it.” Fifteen years later, those experiences still carry weight.

I don’t know that a larger institution or one in a different geographic area would have offered the opportunity to drive 20 minutes, walk into a campaign office, and walk out with an experience that professionally and socially sets you up for the rest of your career. NEC offers a lot of opportunities to expand your experience, and that is incredibly important as you shape yourself as a person. 🔄

Originally, I chose NEC so I could play college hockey. That didn’t work out, but I did find a new purpose: political engagement and public service.

Politics was never an interest of mine until I got to NEC. I credit certain early experiences for sparking the realization that political engagement was both interesting and dynamic, and I credit my professors at the time—President Lesperance and his colleagues—who were able to ignite a passion that has carried me well beyond my years at NEC. One of those early experiences was the opportunity to visit Mississippi with a group from NEC to help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. I had never experienced that type of service learning before, and it came at a time when I was new to college and trying to find my path. That trip opened my eyes to the possibility of a future in public service and the ability to work with the public sector.

On top of that, I arrived at NEC at the right time to get immersed in the presidential primaries. It was serendipitous in that it worked out perfectly for me to be there at the most exciting time every four years. As a Canadian coming down to New Hampshire and with a new interest in politics, it was a big, scary, exciting world out there. I never would have thought I would be able to work on a presidential campaign and rub shoulders with the person who would become president.



David Carney

NEW HAMPSHIRE | BA in Business Administration '82
Master in Public Policy '05

In high school, I learned of a way to get out of three days of school: the YMCA Youth in Government program. My advisor, who was very active politically, was also the advisor for the program. He took a group of us students to the State House in Concord, New Hampshire, where students from various schools “elected” the governor and representatives. I signed up for the program my freshman year and attended all four years of high school.


One year, Attorney Judd Gregg of Nashua [who would eventually serve as Senator and New Hampshire governor] was running for Executive Council, and he spoke to my class. He invited students to help him campaign. I didn't even know what an executive council was, but block walking for his campaign gave me something to do.

I had always liked history and government but didn't know how you could make a job in politics, so I certainly had no plans to make a career of it.

I continued my political involvement in college and worked for a U.S. Senate campaign in 1980. After I graduated from NEC, I started working for John Sununu's gubernatorial campaign. He won, and I worked in his office for six years, eventually as Deputy Chief of Staff. In 1988, I worked on H.W. Bush's presidential campaign and spent three years in the White House as Special Assistant to

the President. I also worked on his re-election campaign as National Field Director and Director of Political Affairs. In 1993, I started working for Senator Phil Gramm of Texas as Deputy Executive Director. We reclaimed the Senate with about 14 seats in 1994. Then I worked in Intergovernmental Affairs for Majority Leader Bob Dole's office and helped him gain the presidential nomination. Along the way, I started my own campaign advising company, Norway Hill Associates, and have been there full time ever since. We work with candidates to develop communication plans, craft messaging, and build the campaign staff and unique team for each campaign we advise.

NEC was the perfect place for a budding political junkie like me. My favorite professor was Dr. Sayce, who took his students to Model UN in Boston. When I was a sophomore, I introduced [former governor of California] Jerry Brown at an on-campus event. Jimmy Carter came to campus; all the Republican candidates except Reagan came to campus. I was a town chairman for H.W. Bush when he was vice president. It was a fantastic opportunity to work with all these campaigns and arrange their visits to NEC, even if a candidate was far away from my politics. For a short time, I hosted a call-in political talk show on Sunday nights on WNEC. I hosted and interviewed some of the candidates who visited campus. I even had the opportunity to go to the State House in Concord to testify against raising the legal drinking age. Because of NEC's proximity to Concord, students don't have to go to Boston or Washington, DC, to get those valuable, hands-on political experiences.

Don't tell anyone, but politics is not hard work. During high school and summers, I worked at a grocery store in Greenfield, New Hampshire. Now *that* was work. More than hard work, politics takes a lot of time and tolerance of people. Politics is people and science combined. 




Emmanuel Balogun

NEW YORK | BA in Political Science '10

unpack that narrative and see the ways in which it is true and the ways in which it may not be. Two, I had the opportunity to work on College Convention and with President Lesperance to bring a parade of political candidates through campus. It was a defining moment for me to learn about things happening in the world and have that hands-on experience.

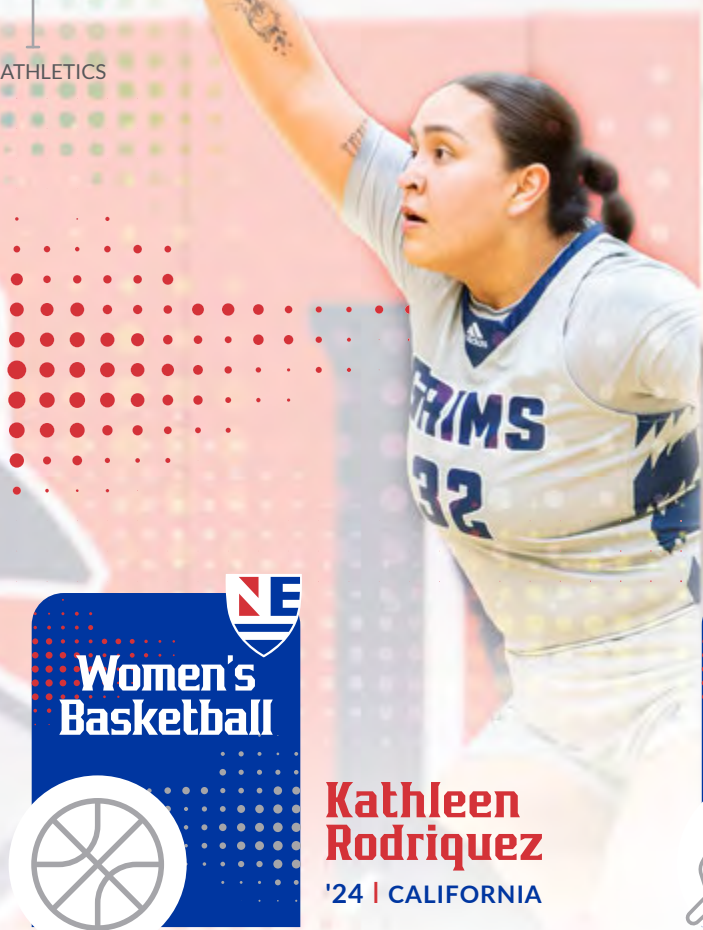
After NEC, I earned my master's in political science from Western Illinois University. From there, I worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development in a virtual foreign service position focused on development in Thailand. Then I earned my PhD in political science and international relations from the University of Delaware. That's where I had the opportunity to conduct field work in West Africa: Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Togo. After completing my PhD, I taught at Webster University in St. Louis for three years, continuing my research and teaching on African politics and international organizations. While there, I was able to conduct research at the World Health Organization in Geneva and at the African Union in Ethiopia. Four years ago, I joined the faculty at Skidmore College and was promoted to associate professor of political science with tenure earlier this year. Additionally, from 2022–2023, I served as a policy advisor with the State Department, where I worked on U.S.-Africa multilateral policy, commercial investment in Africa, and strategic competition, among more classified topics.

I'm grateful my NEC professors encouraged me to pursue internships and to Study Away, but my experience with College Convention shaped my approach to teaching. I do a lot of experiential learning. I have taken students to study abroad in Ghana. I do a lot of role-playing and simulation, and community and civic engagement are embedded in all my courses. The idea of what is possible in my classroom was very much shaped by my experiences at NEC. 

Narratives are not one dimensional. As a first-generation Nigerian-American student and scholar, a lot of what I have done has been driven by finding connection with where my father is from. What I grew up learning about Africa in school did not vibe with what my father told me at home. The narrative at school was more focused on travesty, extraction, and negativity. Through his experiences of growing up and living in Nigeria, my dad told me a story of prosperity, happiness, and vibrancy.

I made it my intellectual mission to square the two, to understand why I was being taught about Africa in a particular way at school and a different way at home. I've become more curious about the narratives and stories we tell about where we're from, and I have learned that there is not one story alone about a particular place or particular experiences. This mission has led me to seek a broader and more holistic view about my background and the way in which all people learn about the rest of the world.

I chose to major in political science because of two overarching interests. One, I've always been fascinated by the question of leadership, both in the U.S. and across Africa. One of the narratives about Africa is that it has not developed at the pace other places have because of a perceived lack of good leadership on the continent. I have tried to



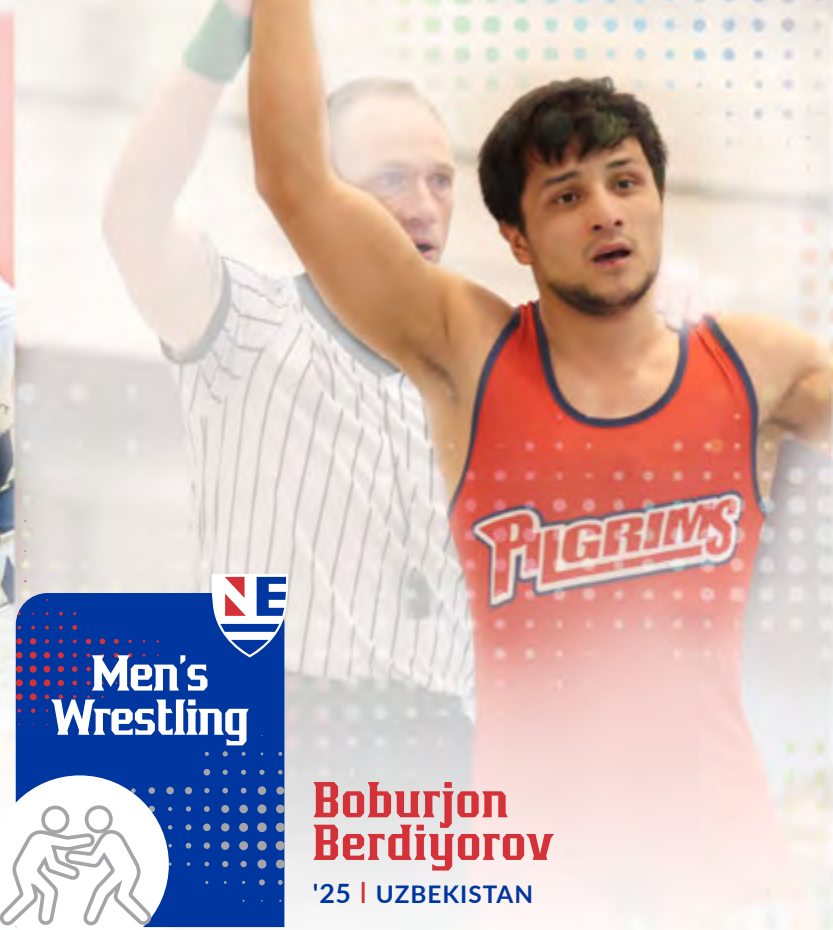
Women's Basketball



Kathleen Rodriguez
'24 | CALIFORNIA

Senior center Kathleen Rodriguez was named to the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Second Team All-Conference after her huge second season as a Pilgrim. She led the team with 13.5 points and 9.4 rebounds per game and led the entire conference with a 65.3 field goal percentage. Not only did she break the school's single season field goal percentage record, surpassing her own 63.0 mark from last season, but she also led the entirety of Division III.

She had her best performance of the season against GNAC opponent Mitchell College on February 3, going a perfect 16 of 16 from the field and tying the all-time DIII single-game record. She also ended the season with an even 10 double-doubles, highlighting her impact on both offense and defense.



Men's Wrestling



Boburjon Berdiyurov
'25 | UZBEKISTAN

Junior Boburjon Berdiyurov was voted to the New England Wrestling Association (NEWA) All-Conference team. He helped lead NEC to the best season in program history, including an eighth-place finish in the NCAA Regionals. A midseason transfer from Northwest College, he was voted Second Team All-NEWA after joining the Pilgrims in January and going 14-5 for NEC, producing a 3-1 at the NCAA Regionals for second place and qualifying for the NCAA National Championship at the 141-pound level.



Women's Ice Hockey



Alexis Hornsby
'27 | NEW HAMPSHIRE

First-year forward Alexis Hornsby was named to the New England Hockey Conference (NEHC) Third Team All-Conference and the All-Rookie Team following a huge rookie season at NEC. She finished second in the conference in goals with 14 and third in points with 26, while tying eighth in assists with 11. She played in all 25 games this season, leading the team in both goals and points, and finishing second in assists. Her 14 goals are the most goals scored by an NEC freshman in 18 years and the third most in program history by a rookie. She had three multi-goal games on the year and scored at least one goal in every single NEC win this season. Additionally, she was named NEHC Rookie of the Week four times during the 2023 season.



Women's Wrestling



Alexis Dobson
'27 | NEW HAMPSHIRE

First-year Alexis Dobson was named Pilgrim of the Month for January. During the month, she had a 5-2 record after competing against Western New England University twice and in the Will Abele Open hosted by Ursinus College, Columbia University, and Sacred Heart University. In the team's inaugural season, Dobson went to the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships (NCWWC) national championships in March after an impressive outing at the NCWWC Regionals tournament.

NEC ATHLETICS

FOOTBALL
The Pilgrims' inaugural and partial season, referred to as pre-varsity, begins this fall. Each game will be played on the road, with the first one Saturday, September 7, at 12:00 p.m. at Plymouth State University. The complete schedule is available at athletics.nec.edu. Recruiting outpaced its goal, and the team will have approximately 70 players for the first game.

TURF FIELD
The Athletics Department has begun the process of replacing the Turf Field, an important maintenance project, that will improve conditions for student-athletes.

eSPORTS
NEC's Valorant eSports team bested Montclair State University to claim the New England Collegiate Conference championship and advance to the national competition, where they placed third.

NEW ATHLETICS ROLE
The Athletics Department welcomes Stephen Lockett, Strength and Conditioning Coordinator, who will oversee the physical development of NEC's student-athletes.

NORDIC SKIING
NEC announced this spring that it has added Nordic skiing to its varsity athletic offerings, with competition in the Eastern Collegiate Ski Conference to begin in the 2024-2025 academic year. Steve Kraytenberg, head coach of men's and women's Cross Country, will serve as Director of Endurance Sports and as the lead recruiter and manager of on-campus operations for the Nordic program. Kathy Maddock will serve as the team's inaugural head coach, bringing a wealth of experience to the program.

Maddock is the co-founder and current head coach of Dublin XC ski club after coaching at Souhegan High School and leading her team to a state championship and several state runner-up titles. During her own racing career, she earned many medals at Junior National competitions and went on to ski for Dartmouth College where she was captain her senior year and represented her team at several NCAA competitions. She spent the winter of her junior year racing as a member of the United States Ski Team and competed on the World Cup circuit in Europe and Scandinavia.

Fundraising News



Each April, NEC students, alumni, staff, and faculty come together to give back to NEC so that the next generation of Pilgrims can continue to live, learn, and thrive through the opportunities that make the NEC experience so special.

NEC GIVES
 GIVING DAY APRIL 2-3, 2024
36 HOURS: ALL IN



2024 **722** GENEROUS DONORS
 GIVING DAY
 GAVE **\$120,358**

AFTER THE GOAL OF **400** DONORS
 TRUSTEE **ERIC MORGAN**
 GAVE **\$25,000**

DONORS
 HAILED FROM
39
 STATES

36%
 ALUMNI

27%
 FRIENDS

17%
 PARENTS

9%
 STUDENTS

9%
 FACULTY
 + STAFF

2%
 TRUSTEES

Thank you!

The Office of Advancement cannot thank the NEC community enough for its generosity and spirit during Giving Day 2024 and extends a huge "thank you" to Athletics and others who braved a spring snowstorm to be on campus to help secure donations.



It's not too late.
MAKE A GIFT TO NEC
nec.edu/give

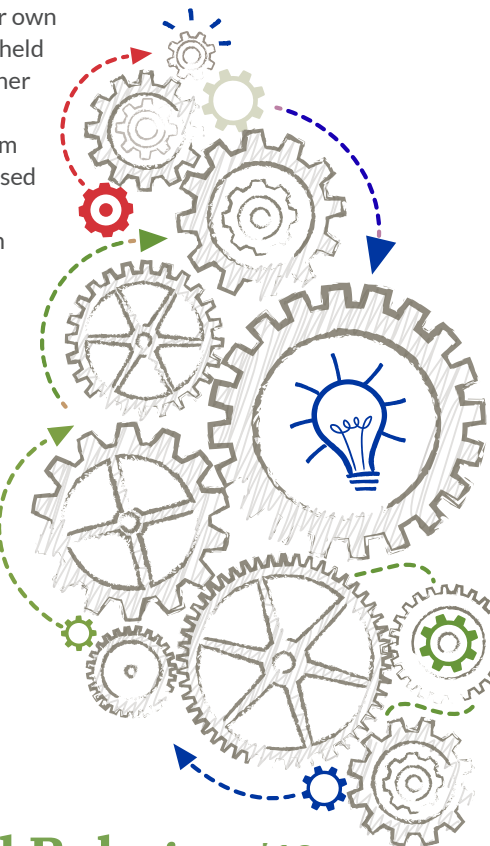


Karen Backus

Principal and Co-Founder
 U3 Advisors

A seasoned consultant specializing in real estate development and strategy with extensive experience in advising universities and nonprofits, Karen excels at guiding clients towards their institutional goals. She played a pivotal role in the planning and development of projects like Cornell Tech and Columbia University's Manhattanville campus. Prior to co-founding U3 Advisors, Karen established her own successful consulting practice and held leadership roles at Forest City Ratner Companies and the New York City

Economic Development Corporation. Karen holds a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University and an MBA from Yale University, and she is a licensed real estate broker in New York State. Karen also serves on the Board of Directors of the Corbin Hill Food Project and as Vice Chair for the Urban Land Institute's University Development & Innovation Council.



TWO NEW Trustees WELCOMED IN MAY



Dr. Emmanuel Balogun '10

Assistant Professor of Political Science
 Skidmore College

Emmanuel specializes in African politics and international relations. With a focus on African agency in multilateralism and global governance, his research explores topics such as international organizations, peace and security, and global health governance. He authored *Region-Building in West Africa: Convergence and Agency in ECOWAS*, shedding light on how regional organizations like ECOWAS shape governance in West Africa. As a scholar-practitioner, he bridges academia and policy, having advised the Department of State on U.S.-African

relations and served as a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion fellow for Bridging the Gap. He received the Skidmore College President's Award for Excellence in 2021. A first-generation Nigerian-American, Emmanuel holds a PhD from the University of Delaware and is affiliated with Georgetown University. He shares his expertise internationally through publications and presentations, occasionally contributing to "The Monkey Cage" at *The Washington Post*. Emmanuel earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from New England College in 2010.

Class Notes



1958
Alan
Cheever

1954 Tom Howard celebrated his 90th birthday on May 22, 2023, surrounded by family from the East, West, and South Coasts of the United States, as well as friends and neighbors.

1958 Alan Cheever was a member of LED. Following NEC, he completed his legal education at George Washington Law School in 1961. His legal career included practicing law in Virginia before moving to Vermont, where he served as Assistant Attorney General and later worked in the general counsel's office at National Life Insurance Company. Alan's journey in the legal field culminated in him becoming a Vermont Superior Court Judge. Upon retirement, Alan found new passions: training and competing with his dogs in agility and dog-dance. He and his wife, Pam, have also continued his love of skiing, frequenting ski areas in Vermont, Maine, and Utah and Mount Sunapee in New Hampshire. They currently reside in Safety Harbor, Fla., and New London, N.H., enjoying their time with their five children and six grandchildren. Alan attributes his successful career, family life, and retirement to the education he received at NEC.



1967
Kathleen Lennox

1963 Peter LaSpina and his wife, Diane, recently celebrated their 60th anniversary. Peter, still active in singing and various activities, enjoys family time with their three children, five grandchildren, and their one-year-old great-granddaughter. In October, Peter and many SPD brothers gathered to dedicate a plaque at the site of the original SPD house, located at the present Science Building. This dedication was achieved with the help of Alan "Goldi" Goldfarb, SAB, and cooperation from the College administration. SAB and LED brothers also returned to honor their original sites with granite plaques.

1964 Chuck Conole celebrated the Christmas holiday with his daughter Anne and her family in Portland, Ore. He has maintained a tradition of exchanging Christmas cards with heartfelt notes with Ernie Phillips and Fred Sargent for well over 50 years.

1965 Tom Kiely shared the placement of memorial stones at SAB, SPD, and LED during Fall Festival 2023 on September 30. This commemoration of the fraternities and their brothers was accomplished through the efforts of Alan "Goldi" Goldfarb with assistance from Peter LaSpina of SPD and the brothers of LED.

1967 Jim Whipple moved from Atlanta, Ga., in October 2023. He is now happily living in Pittsford, N.Y.

Kathleen Lennox moved to Concord, N.H., and is amazed that 57 years have passed since graduating. Despite retirement, Kathleen stays busy and would love to connect with any classmates in the area.

1973 Glenna Meltzer Goodman shares a photo taken in Nantucket during the Daffodil Festival in April 2023 with (left to right) **Carl Goodman, Robert Young '74, Brian Wood, Valerie Davis Blachly '74, Robin Kranichfeld, Doug Berg, and Ted Blachly.**

Mark Greenburg retired two years ago after a 45-year career with the federal government. He and his wife have been enjoying traveling around the country. He joined a photography club and stays connected with NEC alumni.

1974 Tom Farmen, along with **Greg Teren '78** and **Joe Boyle '76**, stays busy during the winter, working part-time as greeters at Mount Sunapee Ski Area. **Josh Brown '77**, though not pictured, is also part of the Pilgrim team at Sunapee.



Glenna Meltzer Goodman
1973



1974
Tom Farmen,
Greg Teren, Joe Boyle

1975 Andi Johnson is enjoying retirement in Alstead, N.H. She remains active by working three volunteer jobs: Fall Mountain Friendly Meals; usher for the Colonial Theater in Keene, N.H.; and hospice volunteer for HCS in the Monadnock Region. Andi also works as a part-time caretaker and volunteers for Democratic election efforts.

Richard Lee Jablow and his wife joyfully share the arrival of their first grandchild, Nora.

1976 Lizabeth McLaughlin is still enjoying retirement. She embarked on a major five-week trip to Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, and California. Lizabeth stays in touch with fellow alumni.

David Boutin announces his retirement from 40+ years of teaching high school social studies and coaching in New Hampshire and Florida. He is thoroughly enjoying retirement and stays in touch with classmates.

1978 Phillip "Nip" Smith attended a recent wedding with **Diana and Pete Merriam, Lou Hager '79, Rick Kimball '79, and Tom Graham '79.**



1976
Lizabeth
McLaughlin



1981
David Smith



1979
Bill "Chaddy"
Chadwick

1979 Bill "Chaddy" Chadwick is entering his ninth season coaching lacrosse at Providence Country Day School in East Providence, R.I. He serves as the defensive coordinator as well as goalie and face-off coach. Bill, who retired in 2009, splits his time preserving his family farm, fishing offshore for tuna and swordfish, and serving as an active-duty volunteer firefighter in Swansea, Mass., with 46 years of service.

1980 Charlie Jones retired eight years ago from corporate life. He joined Esri, a geographic information system software company, to run a consulting business that helps customers develop their workforces and manage change. Charlie resides in Rock Hill, S.C., where golf is played year-round.

1981 Four alumni paired up for the NEC Golf Classic in September. Pictured left to right are **Clarke Smith '79, Astrid Williams, Dyan Goodwin '82, and Jamie Noyes '79.**

David Smith resides in Houston with his wife, Laura, a professional harpist. David is actively engaged in industrial cyber risk management. Their children, Cameron and June, live nearby. David remains a passionate gravel cyclist and extends an invitation to any NEC folks in the region to reach out.

1984 John Morrison retired in June 2023 after a fulfilling career. He spent 27 years as a middle school history teacher in Wallingford, Conn., following a previous 12-year stint as a sportswriter and copy editor at newspapers in Connecticut and Staten Island.



Clarke Smith, Astrid Williams,
Dyan Goodwin, Jamie Noyes
1981



1984
Hillary Grey-Myers,
Susie (Suki Snead) van der Vorst,
Susan (Thomas) Cosmopoulos

Hillary Grey-Myers, along with **Susie (Suki Snead) van der Vorst '85** and **Susan (Thomas) Cosmopoulos '83**, make it a point to get together each year somewhere in the U.S. Nothing is ever lost on these three roommates from Colby Hall and the Arundel campus in the U.K. **Susie** is an educator and leadership trainer for the Orton Gillingham Approach to Reading Instruction. She travels the world, teaching teachers this method of helping students read easier and better. In the summer months, she and her family own and run Camp Spring Creek in North Carolina, where the focus is on the whole child. **Hillary** retired in 2017 from a career in personnel management and training. She and her husband, Jim, divide their time between Lee, N.H.; Tucson, Ariz.; and the U.K., as well as spending every spare moment travelling elsewhere. **Hillary** is living with stage four metastatic breast cancer and does not miss an opportunity to spread sparkle and joy! **Susan** and **Nick Cosmopoulos '83** have raised three incredible boys (men) in southeastern Massachusetts and are now enjoying the spoils. **Susan** and **Nick** have had distinguished careers in accounting and sales, respectively, in the greater Boston area and now spend their retirement globetrotting to be with their kids, grandkids, and friends.



1987 Joi Fobbs

1985 Petey Berndt celebrates Coop de Ville's 40th anniversary in Oak Bluffs, Mass.

1986 Tricia Krim Sheppard is now the Science Department Chair at Frederick Community College in Frederick, Md.

1987 Jacqui Buchanan Bryan resides in Rye, N.H., with her husband, Mike. As an RN and functional nutritionist, Jacqui works with individuals and groups nationwide. She has two grown children, Kasey and Michael, and a 14-year-old daughter, Maddy.

Joi Fobbs is dealing with end-stage renal disease.

1988 Joy Lemka currently works as an intervention specialist, teaching elementary reading and math at Genet School in East Greenbush, N.Y. Prior to this, she served as an elementary STEAM teacher at the North Colonie School District in Loudonville, N.Y., and resides in North Greenbush, N.Y.



1989 Gina Reda-Hegarty

John Devaney attended and photographed a diplomatic presentation at the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, DC, as co-owner of East 27 Creative Photography. The event addressed global challenges faced by the Pontifical Mission Societies, featuring Monsignor Kiernan Harrington and Archbishop Christophe Pierre. John shared New York City stories with the Monsignor during the presentation.

1989 Gina Reda-Hegarty broke out her 38-year-old NEC sweatshirt for a special occasion. She and her husband, Ray, spent time with **Bob Chase** and his wife, Kim, traveling to Hilton Head, S.C., and then Savannah, Ga., to see **Tim Nash** and his wife, Whitney. The trip included golf, great food, great company, and lots of laughs.

1992 At the 2023 NEC summer gathering, **Chad Stockman** spent time with **David Weinberg '91**, **Steve Church '89**, **Claude Royal '91**, **Willie Thomas**, **Norbert Winter '93**, and **George Sass '93**.

1997 Dr. Michael Sormrude enrolled in courses through Harvard Medical School and the University of Connecticut with a focus on genetics, cell signaling, and immunology. He enjoys sailing on the Mystic River and Long Island Sound and looks forward to snowshoeing with his canine pack.

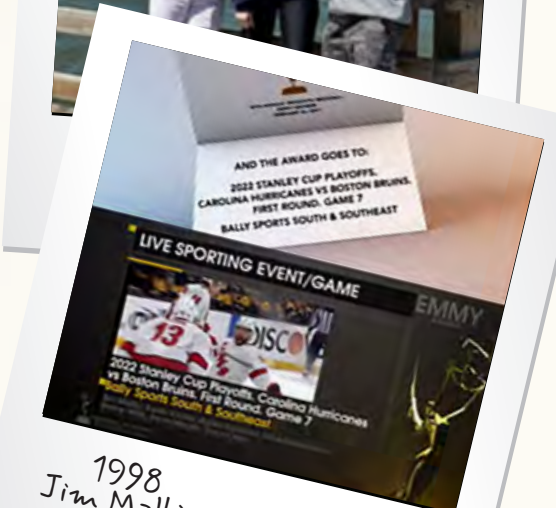
Patrick James Dunagan announces that City Lights will publish his latest collection, *CITY BIRD & Other Poems*, in the fall of 2024.

1998 Jim Mallia has been in sports television since graduating from NEC, including ESPN. He has had a successful career, producing high-profile broadcasts for the NHL, UFC, NCAA championships, and Olympics. Jim is currently in Raleigh, N.C., producing games for the Carolina Hurricanes. He was nominated for an Emmy six of his nine years and won his first for Best Live Sporting Event/2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs, Game 7, Hurricanes vs. Boston Bruins.

2000 Wendy Coen teaches Dramatic Arts at Lebone II, College of the Royal Bafokeng, in Phokeng, North West Province, South Africa.

2001 Dianne Irwin resides in Essex Junction, Vt., with her husband and two children. She has been employed by the Department of Homeland Security since 2002.

2004 Leah Conis gathers with friends from Charter Hall third floor, who met at NEC in 2001. Even with living in different states, they get together at least twice a year. The photo is from her wedding in August 2023. From left to right: **Ethan Bren '05**, **Diana Bren '03 G'04**, **Meghan Couture '03 G'04**, **Jordan Napolitano**, **Eric Esner '05**, **David Chiappetta '05**, **Kelly Chiappetta**, and **Jason Rish '03**.



1998 Jim Mallia



2004 Leah Conis

2006 Eric Miller is an accomplished author currently working on a follow-up to his novella, *Finite Verse*, published in 2008. Having taken a sabbatical from academia, Eric reflects on his diverse experiences, including working as a service clerk for Hannaford Supermarket and completing job readiness training. He focuses on submitting his writing to literary journals and contributing to the *Henniker Review* at New England College. His published works include poems, short stories, and opinion pieces, showcasing his diverse writing abilities. Beyond writing, Eric has embraced community involvement, joining the New Hampton Community Church, studying classic literature and philosophy, and practicing martial arts to enhance personal growth. In his leisure time, Eric enjoys visiting family, savoring his favorite coffee, and immersing himself in Dostoevsky novels or classic action films from the 1980s and 1990s.

2008 Pravin Venketsamy G'08, announces his promotion to Vice President of Operations for the Northern California region at Amazon/One Medical, a human-centered and tech-enabled healthcare organization. He leads strategic plans to improve access to primary care for customers across every stage of life.

Kim (Kowalczyk) Ruhlig has two foster children, three special-needs children, and an adopted child. She and her family are loving and missing New Hampshire from Florida.

Heather Stallings Dunn '08 G'17 shares her recent accomplishment as the Chief Revenue Officer at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Heather obtained a Healthcare Finance Professional certification through the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

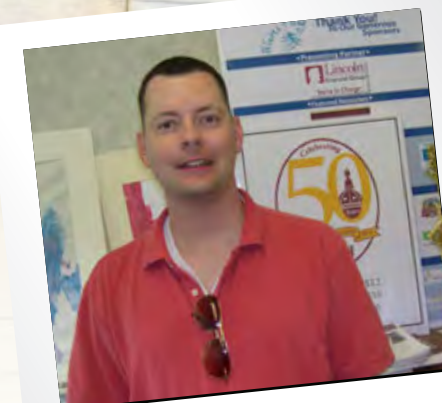
2010 Ashley Simula Nigrelli got married August 26, 2023, in Buffalo, N.Y. NEC alumni in photo left to right: **Timothy Barlow '08**, **Sarah Weinstein Barlow**, **Alex Glashow Cirillo**, **Denise Lam Ma**, **Paige Coleman Deridder**, **Megan Simula Salmon**, **Ashley Simula Nigrelli**, Susan Murray (NEC professor and field hockey coach), **Toran Nigrelli** (groom), **Brian Mini**, and **Marlena Grutzmacher**.

2011 Emily (Lavoie) Smyrlian is currently living in Manchester, N.H., with her husband and three-year-old son, Carter. She has been working at Southern New Hampshire University as an academic advisor for the past 10 years. This past year, she became an adjunct instructor teaching an introductory marketing course.

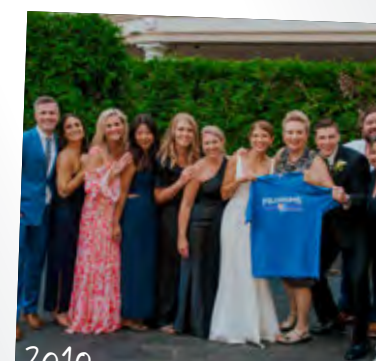
2012 Melissa (Bart) Spano continues to embrace the Sunshine State lifestyle in Florida, enjoying the warmth and luxury of wearing shorts for most of the year. Their son, who had just returned from the NICU in the previous update, is now thriving at the age of two. The family stays busy with various classes, including dance, music, and swim. Living on the space coast allows them to witness spacecraft launches from their backyard. Melissa also cherishes staying in touch with fellow alumni to keep tabs on everyone's endeavors.

2013 Elinor M. Reynolds made retirement plans in 2020 after 22 years as a law firm administrator. She transitioned from in-person to remote work and relocated from Florida to her home state of Maine. Despite retirement plans, Elinor became a contract administrative consultant for the same law firm, training new hires and providing ongoing support. Her mantra is to do what you love, as it will repay you tenfold.

Katherine Rich has been serving as an assistant field hockey coach at Union College for eight years. Her coaching staff was honored with the Liberty League Coaching Staff of the Year award this season. Katherine values the leadership skills she gained under Dr. Raelyn Viti (Outdoor Education) and Susan Murray (former NEC field hockey coach) and is glad to share these skills with students at Union College.



2006 Eric Miller



2010 Ashley Simula Nigrelli



2012 Melissa (Bart) Spano



2013 Katherine Rich



2015
Ashley (Bonner) Kindschi

2014 James Patten recently moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, for a change of scenery. He has been working at Westminster University for the last year and a half, initially in the registrar's office and later transitioning into the athletics department as the new Director of Compliance.

Christine Leonard is now attending NEC's Professional Educator Preparation (teacher licensure) program. She also is a citizen-advocate in Vermont Homeless Bill of Rights, owner-operator of Droznah Transport LLC, and registered Vermont Outdoor Guide.

2015 Ashley (Bonner) Kindschi and her husband, Steven, welcomed their second daughter, Riley Elizabeth, March 31, 2023. Riley joins two-year-old big sister Charlotte "Charlie."

2016 Peter Patrikios works in the tax department for CBIZ Marks Paneth.

Rebecca (Allen) Albanese and her husband met in Colby Hall 11 years ago. They got married in September, surrounded by many NEC friends.

2017 Akash Kilaru G'17 started working as an IT consultant, delivering solutions to major financial clients. In 2023, Akash began working as Salesforce Release Manager at City National Bank, a subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Canada. He finds the position rewarding and is excited to contribute his abilities to the organization's success.

2019 Erica Lissner Ring married **Michael Ring '16** and welcomed a baby girl, Lucy, into their family in June 2023.

2020 Michaela (Wattendorf) Lawton got married in October 2022. Recently, she and her husband welcomed their first child, a baby boy named Hudson. Michaela is set to graduate from Rhode Island College this spring with a master's in biology.

Cat Seaver graduated as a Doctor of Physical Therapy in 2023 and is currently working as a physical therapist in Maine.

2021 Aibhlin (Abby) O'Connor has returned to New England College after gaining valuable experience working in schools for about two years. Delighted to be back in the college scene, Abby now serves as Assistant Director of Admission for undergraduate enrollment. In this role, she enjoys engaging with students at the start of their college search, sharing insights and experiences from her time at NEC.

Dr. Malia Minnick and Tyler Minnick '19 welcomed their fourth child, Ledger, in October 2023. Both Malia and Tyler work as instructors at the University of Arizona Global Campus while maintaining full-time jobs. Malia has also published a book chapter focused on building rapport with students in short-term, solution-focused settings in the 2023 textbook publication of *Becoming and Supporting Online Adjunct Faculty in a Gig Economy*.

Dr. Pam Varhol EdD'19 has been promoted to Senior Associate Dean of Health Professions at Southern New Hampshire University.

2022 Since receiving her master's degree, **Stephanie Barrett** has worked for various private practices in Massachusetts. Stephanie gained valuable experience in treating OCD at The Cape & Islands Cognitive Behavioral Institute on Cape Cod. She has recently joined a new private practice, Mindworks Counseling LLC, where she looks forward to gaining more experience with a slightly older clientele. Stephanie credits NEC for preparing her for counseling and navigating new mental health laws and regulations.

Since graduating, **Gabriella Pasqualone** has become an assistant teacher at a Montessori school in Danbury, Conn., and a behavioral therapist for children with autism.

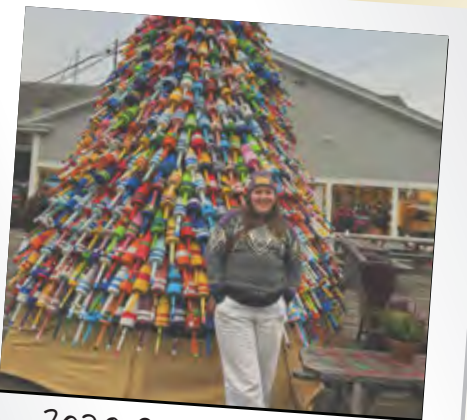
2023 Nikhil Deep Ravipati G'23 was selected as part-time lecturer at NEC and began teaching classes in January.

Yogesh Kenchugundu G'23 expresses happiness and satisfaction with his decision to choose NEC for his master's journey in the United States. Yogesh appreciates the college's environment, excellent professors, and helpful management throughout his journey with NEC.

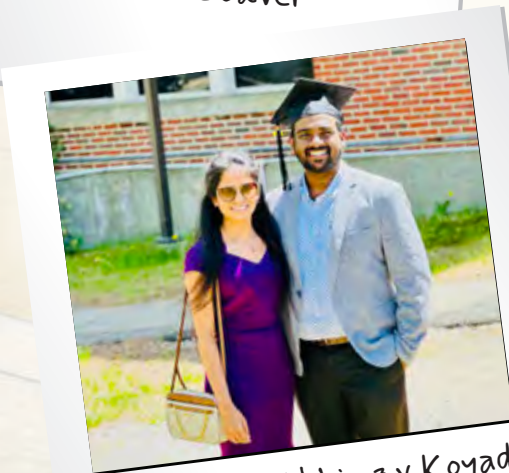
Abhinav Koyada G'23 works as a software engineer at Intellisoft Systems LLC.



2017
Akash Kilaru



2020 Cat Seaver



2023 Abhinav Koyada

In Memoriam

Jack Carpenter '66

E. Lundin Coward Jr. '85

Kelli Conneely Gay '00, G'05

Friends of NEC

Marie Gilbert HA '92, P'84, GP'07

Remembering



MEGHEAN MOORE '21



SIDNEY CAPOLINO '22

New England College was deeply saddened to learn that two recent alumnae, Meghan Moore '21 and Sidney Capolino '22, were killed at their apartment in Miami on March 16. Meghan and Sidney played ice hockey at NEC and were known to many on campus before starting a new adventure in Florida.

The NEC community came together on April 1 to hold a candlelight vigil to remember Meghan and Sidney. We continue to keep Meghan's and Sidney's families and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

Did you know?

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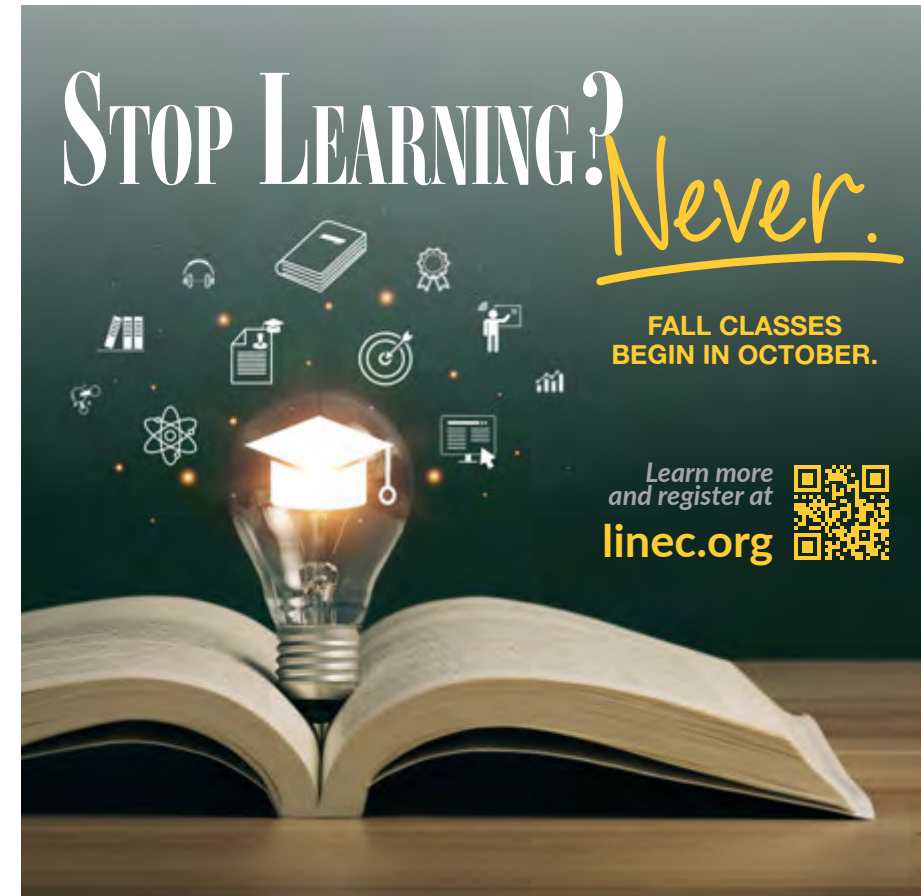
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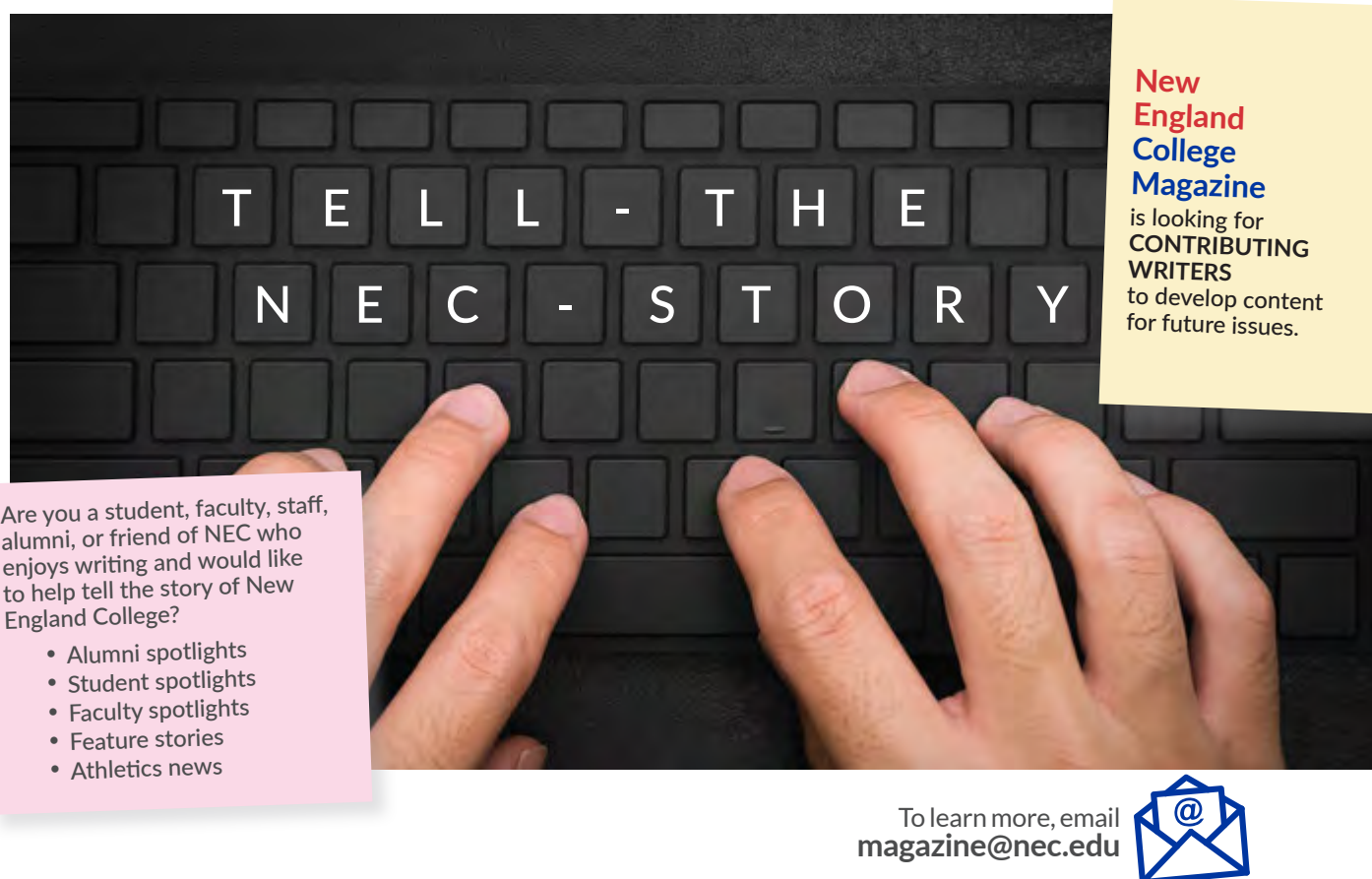
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