

Keene State Today

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

THE ENTREPRENEUR ISSUE



Keene State Today

Volume XXXIII
Number 2
Winter 2016-17

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Keene State Today is published three times a year by the Marketing and
Communications Office, Keene State College.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to Keene State Today,
229 Main St., Keene, NH 03435-2701.

Address change: Make sure you don't miss the next issue of *Keene State Today*.
Send information – your name, class year, spouse's name and class year, new
address including zip code, telephone number, and email address – to Alumni
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THE ENTREPRENEUR ISSUE

On the plus side, you're completely responsible for all aspects of your business. On the minus side, well, you're completely responsible for all aspects of your business. The pros and cons of being an entrepreneur frequently overlap, which likely helps explain why people who start and run their own businesses tend to have a high tolerance for risk. In this issue, we look at all things entrepreneurial, from research to a program that helps teenagers start businesses to people who advise would-be entrepreneurs, and we highlight a number of Keene State alumni who run their own businesses.

The First-Person Project highlights three Keene State graduates who now live in the Washington, D.C. region. Look for them on the last three pages of the magazine and on our website at keene.edu/first-person.

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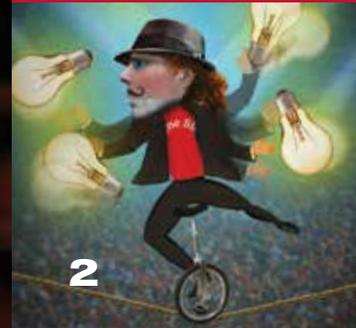
On the Cover: Students in the Sustainable Product Design and Innovation Program designed, manufactured, and marketed recycled sunglasses in their Manufacturing Enterprise course. Learn more about the class on page 6.
Photo by William Wrobel '11, cover design by Tim Thrasher

Inside cover: Tim Pipp. See related story on page 12. Photo by William Wrobel '11

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Entrepreneurship: the run-down, the risks, and the returns

Being your own boss, spending your work days doing something you're good at and you really care about, having complete control over not just your working conditions but also the work itself ...

It's not everyone's dream, but for people who can absorb – and stomach – the risk and are willing to put in many more than the standard 40 hours a week, entrepreneurship has a lot to offer.

what's an entrepreneur?

"As somebody recently said to me," recalls Stacy Salpietro-Babb '98, "working for yourself is like working for 80 hours to avoid working 40. There's some truth to that, in all honesty." Salpietro-Babb, a purveyor of all things witchcraft, turned a longtime passion into a part-time and recently a full-time profession (she's profiled on page 17), and understands the pros and cons of running her own one-person business after a long career in the social services field. Bottom line? "It's not easy, but the difference is I'm really happy," she says.

Personal happiness and following one's passions are not to be taken lightly, and some experts ascribe even loftier goals to entrepreneurship. "I use a definition by my colleague Susan Duffy at the Center for Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership at Babson College," says Jenn Dobransky '96, a small business educator and counselor with New Ventures Maine, an economic development organization. "Entrepreneurs see the gap between 'what is' and 'what should be,' and they create something of value to make the world or some part of it better," she says.

Dobransky, a political science major at Keene State who has several years' experience running her own massage therapy business, teaches classes on entrepreneurship and works one-on-one with people who are mulling the idea of starting a business. "I stick with that definition of entrepreneurship," she says. "It's very visionary and forward thinking, which is the cornerstone of being a good entrepreneur. I use it to set the tone in all of my classes."

what are entrepreneurial traits?

There are as many different kinds of entrepreneurs as there are different kinds of businesses. In this issue of *Keene State Today*, for instance, we feature people who oversee from a few to a few hundred workers as well as those who run one-person shops. We talk with people who wear suits and those who wear jeans. We highlight people who started their businesses in their 20s, before they had family and financial responsibilities, and those who made a switch to self-employment after years in the traditional labor force.

What they tend to have in common are character traits. "Clearly the biggest factor in a successful entrepreneur is passion for what they're doing," says Nancy DuBosque, regional director for the Keene office of the Small Business Development Center, located on the Keene State campus. What else? "An entrepreneur is going to be constantly asking questions, constantly figuring out how they can do a better job," she says. Stir in some perseverance, a willingness to keep plugging away in the face of adversity, tolerance for risk, curiosity – and a good idea.

so you want to start a business ...

You've got the idea – for a product, or a service, or a retail establishment, or some other business venture. Now what?

Small business educator Dobransky breaks it down into four steps for her students:

- Make sure you're passionate about the idea and that the work involved is something you love. In other words, you might identify a bakery as something that's really needed in your community, but if you're not going to enjoy spending hours every day churning out cakes and muffins and pies, your idea is great – for somebody else.
- Do something that you already know how to do, and that you're good at. So if you can't wield a rolling pin, leave the baking to someone else. Or, as Dobransky puts it, "Being a new entrepreneur is a lot to take on, so if you're learning a new skill on top of that, it's not a recipe for success."
- Get plenty of support. Surround yourself with family and friends who understand what you are doing and want to help.
- Write a business plan. People often skip that part, Dobransky says, but it's a really critical part of being successful.

Need help with that business plan, with figuring out financing, or with wading through state and federal regulations? Visit the Small Business Development Center. There's one in every state, notes DuBosque of the Keene regional office – who echoes Dobransky's advice about writing a business plan.

"The business plan generally guides how we work with an entrepreneur," says DuBosque. "We give you tools to show you how to analyze the market, to understand the finances of your business and your capital needs, to understand what's involved in hiring employees, and to understand branding and promotion of your product or service. Those are the very basic pieces of a business plan that I like to see almost everyone do to some extent."



"The recipe for success is really getting to know all aspects of your business."

an on-campus incubator of sorts

Keene State's SPDI program – that's short for Sustainable Product Design and Innovation – shows students the path to become entrepreneurs and also "intrapreneurs." "When you're within a company and you build a special team to go after a new product concept that's not in your original product line, that's considered intrapreneurship," says Bob Simoneau, associate professor of management at Keene State, who was instrumental in establishing SPDI at the College.

With funding from the National Science Foundation and the Kingsbury Corporation, Keene State created a four-course sequence in product design and development in the 1990s. The SPDI major now provides the opportunities and the tools for students to become entrepreneurs, Simoneau says, and coupled with a new marketing specialization in the Management Department, students can learn not just the nuts and bolts of conceiving a product and then designing and creating it, but also the very critical piece of getting the product into the marketplace and selling it.

On page 6 of this issue, you can read about a class in which students do all of that – come up with a product, make it, and market it. "A lot of schools teach entrepreneurship, but they don't do entrepreneurship," Simoneau adds. "It's really a radically different focus. Here, if you have an idea, we can make it become a reality. To me it's a very, very exciting environment. The things that we can do here, and the potential that we have, is amazing."

entrepreneurialism and the regional economy

In Maine, where Dobransky lives and works, 89 percent of all businesses aren't just small businesses, they're microbusinesses. That means four employers or fewer. Dobransky tells her students that, so they know they're in good company. She also stresses that small business contributes to overall family income, but isn't likely, at least at first, to cover all of the expenses. Many people work a part-time or a full-time job while they're getting their own business going.

In rural areas where job opportunities may be scarce, many people need to be entrepreneurial – to create their own jobs – in order to earn a living. Dobransky has seen many service-based businesses spring up: the risk is low and the task less daunting. "It's something you can just make happen without having a storefront and buying inventory," she says.

Industry segments that make up the creative economy – such as performing arts, crafts, architecture, software development, media, and publication – have long been a mainstay of the economies in Maine and in New Hampshire. "We see trends here in the Monadnock region that are perhaps a little different from the rest of the state," says DuBosque, noting

that the Seacoast, Manchester, and Nashua are home to more high-tech and information technology companies, and higher-growth manufacturing than is found in Keene and the surrounding towns. "What we see tends to be more start-up and early-growth-stage companies that are focused on the service industry, tourism, recreation, the creative economy, and the food industry and agriculture – and, to a more limited extent, new product development," she says.

the upshot

PROS: As an entrepreneur, you can set your own schedule, you can create a way to make money if jobs aren't available, you can facilitate juggling other responsibilities like family, you can do work you love.

CONS: You may need to work more (or many more) than 40 hours a week, you won't get vacation pay, sick leave, subsidized retirement, or health insurance benefits, you may be isolated if you're working on your own.

And then there are some features that can be seen as either pros or cons, depending on where you stand on them: having complete responsibility, managing other people, dealing with risk.

A good lesson for those who want to start a business? Go in with as much knowledge as you can. "The recipe for success is really getting to know all aspects of your business," says DuBosque. "Be the Jill of all trades. Understand the marketing. Understand the finances. Understand the human resources."

Ready? Set? Dive in!

– Jane Eklund

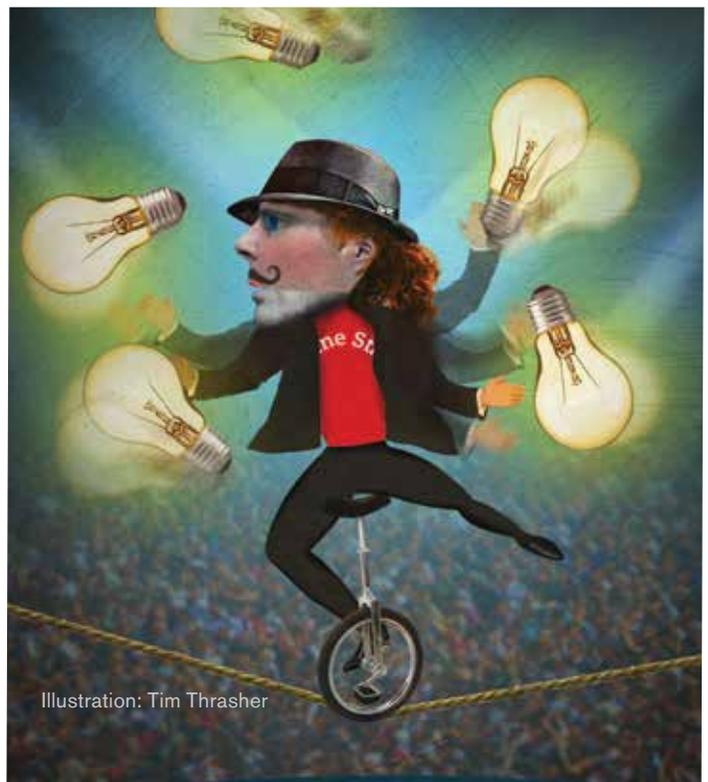


Illustration: Tim Thrasher

Cultural Entrepreneurship: a craft beer study

It's a hopping business, so to speak, one that's entrepreneurial by nature and thriving in a number of cities across the United States.

Craft beer production and the market for craft beer are growing exponentially – so much so that some brewers have found themselves writing new business plans every three months, notes Carolyn Keller, an assistant professor of sociology at Keene State. Keller and Professor Saran Ghatak, her colleague in the Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Department, are studying the factors that go into the success of craft breweries.

With a \$95,020 two-year grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the researchers have traveled to seven US cities – Kalamazoo, Michigan, Asheville, North Carolina, Cincinnati, Ohio, Kansas City, Missouri, Burlington, Vermont, and two Portlands, Maine's and Oregon's. They talked with craft brewers in each city – over 40 in all.

“Our research question is really a broad one,” says Keller. “The question is how, in this post-industrial society, are these breweries able to succeed and really grow rapidly amidst economic turmoil? The way they're growing is astronomical. Four or five years ago there were less than a thousand craft breweries, and now we're at the 5,000 mark. We're trying to explore what's similar and what's different across the different cultural contexts.”

For instance, Keller and Ghatak are interested in how people's tastes in beer change. “How is it that in 10 years people went from drinking Bud Light and Miller



Carolyn Keller

Lite to drinking really different, strongly flavored things like IPAs and sours?” says Keller. Not to mention, How did a “people's” beverage like beer become elite – or is craft beer elite, now that it's in the mainstream?

They've learned a number of things so far. For one, craft brewers tend to work cooperatively – they see “big beer” as the competitor. So they help each other out with equipment and joint marketing ventures, and they send their customers to check out their fellow brewers' offerings.

Keller and Ghatak are also discovering that location is critical in the craft beer industry, and it's not just about setting up shop in a city known for trendiness. State and municipal regulations play a big

“The question is how, in this post-industrial society, are these breweries able to succeed and really grow rapidly amidst economic turmoil?”

part, too. For instance, some states allow breweries to have on-site pubs and some don't; some allow pubs as long as they sell food as well as drink. In Missouri, breweries can't sell their own products out of their manufacturing facility, but wineries can – a law that brewers get around by producing cider, too, which allows them to qualify as wineries because it involves fermenting fruit.

The interviewed brewers are mostly educated white males, many of whom had a previous career in a lucrative scientific field. Craftsmanship is important to them, and not just in making beer: they often do the woodwork in their breweries and assemble the fermentation tanks themselves. “This is very much about getting back to putting the labor process in your own hands,” says Keller. The most successful brewers are nimble, able to start a new product line when tastes change, and able to keep up when business doubles or triples in a matter of months.

The next step in the research is to talk to customers – craft beer drinkers – to learn more about them. With their research, the two Keene State professors hope to record the phenomenon of craft beer entrepreneurship, which thus far has been the subject of few studies. They also aim to reach an understanding of the barriers that make it harder for people to start craft breweries and the ways cities can bring in more brewers as well as other craftspeople.

When it comes to beer, these days, it's all about options: IPAs, sours, lagers – which Keller notes are harder to make than ales but, with their lighter flavor profiles, are more drinkable.

“It's the diversity that matters,” she says.

YEA! For the Young Entrepreneurs Academy

Meet Mackenzie McGreer. She's 14, a freshman at Keene High School, and an entrepreneur who owns and runs her own business. That last achievement is thanks to YEA!, or the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, a national program for middle and high school students that's been offered at Keene State since 2014. As a seventh-grader, Mackenzie was in the inaugural YEA! class at Keene State. YEA! guides young people through the process of developing, starting, and running their own enterprises.



Mackenzie McGreer sells her wares at a PTA holiday craft fair at the Wheelock School in Keene. Photos by Heather O'Brien '17

"This program has the ability to not only teach students how to literally launch their own real businesses and social movements, but students graduate from the program with increased self-confidence, public speaking skills, an ability to network, new friendships and business connections, and more," says Meredith Rochwarg, who launched Keene State's YEA! program and is now an executive director on the YEA! corporate team.

"I thought that starting a business would really help me with skills in the future, and it would also be an amazing experience," says Mackenzie, who learned about YEA! from her mom, Heather McGreer, who works in Human Resources at Keene State. She was especially interested because her dad, Ted McGreer, is himself the proprietor of a business: he owns Ted's Shoe & Sport on Keene's Main Street.

A 30-week program, YEA! walks young people through a three-stage process: coming up with an idea, turning the idea into a business, and marketing the business. Along the way, students meet with local businesspeople, write business plans, file their business names with the state, pitch their ideas to investors, and hold a trade show.

Mackenzie's idea? To photograph shapes in the local landscape and cityscape that look like letters, then arrange the letters to spell out words. She made a successful pitch to the YEA! Investors, who gave her \$650 – more than twice the amount she'd asked for – to launch Letter Gallery. Her business name is a pun, she notes, because she is known as the "Letter Gal."

"I go around Keene and the Monadnock region and I take photos of architecture, landmarks, nature – basically anything that naturally looks like a letter," she says. "Then I print them in black and white, without retouching them, and I place them in mats to spell out a favorite word or phrase." She wraps the matted photos in cellophane, and customers may choose to frame them or display them as is.

She gets the word out about her work through a Facebook page, word of mouth, and email, and she sells her pieces at craft fairs and local businesses.

Since completing the Young Entrepreneurs Academy in 2015, Mackenzie has encouraged her friends and classmates to apply to the



program – particularly the female ones. "It's awesome," she says, "especially empowering girls and women. I was the only girl to graduate from the first class and start a business, but more girls have now joined."

YEA! Strengthens the community, too, says Rochwarg. "When all different kinds of business and community leaders come together to help inspire the next generation of leaders, it is truly amazing. These kids have a life-changing experience over the 30-week course and it positively impacts everyone involved."

 Learn more about YEA! and apply for the program at keene.edu/mag.





Learning the Ropes of Starting a Business

Keene State's Sustainable Product Design and Innovation program, known as SPDI, takes the stance that manufacturing should be equally focused on sustainability and profitability. That's one of a number of lessons that lead SPDI students to succeed in the program's capstone course, Manufacturing Enterprise.

Students in the course are required to use the cumulative skills that they acquire in the major to conceptualize, produce, and sell a product of their choosing. One such group comprises six students whose idea for a product requires nearly no new materials to create.

The team, made up of Ryan Milewski, Jesse Brown, Will Hadden, Ethan Cyr, Caroline Stapleton, and Gabby Brzozowski, conceptualized the idea to make pairs of sunglasses from materials recycled from the Keene State campus.

"After picking the idea, we started thinking about how this could have an impact on the world if it were to take off," says Milewski. "That's something that we keep in mind a lot in SPDI because you're always thinking about your product life cycle. We thought it would be really cool if we could make a pair of sunglasses out of recycled plastic material."

Even with the prevalence of reusable containers for drinking, it hasn't been an easy task for the students to obtain enough recyclables to make the sunglasses. It's taken some hand-dirtying to acquire the materials needed.

"I go dumpster-diving two or three times a week at the recycling center, and we look for different material that is made up of No. 2 high-density polyethylene, which is the most commonly used plastic in recyclables," Milewski says. "We cut and then shred the

material, and then Ethan uses a press mold to make blocks of our own stock material." They use computerized machine tools to cut the shape of the frames.

Once the frames are cut, the lenses and hinges are purchased from outside vendors and the glasses themselves are assembled on campus. Glasses cases are being made from recycled T-shirts to accompany the sunglasses. Then, it's on to sales.

"Marketing and selling of the product is all left up to us, so we have to make a plan to market the product. We do have a small amount of departmental funds to use, but we have to reimburse the funds at the end of the semester from the sales of the product," says Milewski. "We've had a lot of interest from friends on campus for things like holiday gifts. Any time I tell people what we're doing, they seem really interested and they're spreading the word for us."

Just like in the real world, metrics on labor and input cost are calculated into the cost of producing the final product. Even if there's no labor cost going into this run, it will be an important factor in the students' careers. Equally important is the entrepreneurial inclination required to get a project like this moving.

"We have to keep time cards for the number of hours we use to make the product, and we're doing things like making Gant charts to be sure we're on target for what we're doing, time-wise. Plus, we're getting the manufacturing skills that we'll be using in the real world after we graduate," says Milewski. "I think it's a really good experience because you're not going to be told how everything works, and sometimes you're just going to need to figure it out yourself – and that's what this class is doing."

– William Wrobel '11



Michael Ladden '90: real estate and restaurants

During the months leading up to the November 2016 opening of Michael Ladden's fourth restaurant, Noble and Co., in West Hartford, Connecticut, he worked from 6:45 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, serving as general contractor on the project to convert a former financial services building into an upscale eatery.

That's a testament to his vision of entrepreneurship. "I look at it as creation," says Ladden '90, an English major at Keene State. "A desire to create things. And admittedly, I like the creation better than I like the running of it – the building of a restaurant, creating the marketing, creating the look, coming up with the name, designing the logo. Making it a place that people are excited about is fun."

Less fun is the day-to-day management, he says, and he's been successful enough that he has a director of operations who kept McLadden Restaurant Group running smoothly while he was focused on construction.

The McLadden Restaurant Group – which includes McLadden's pubs in West Hartford and Simsbury, Connecticut, and Northampton, Massachusetts – occupies most of Ladden's attention these days, but it's not his only business. He also owns the Keller Williams Realty Connecticut

brokerage, which has seven locations and nearly 350 agents. A CEO runs that business now. "I'm in the background," says Ladden.

While Ladden has been working solely for himself for the last 15 years, his entrepreneurial pursuits go back much further. His first business, a weekend sideline, supplied DJ services for weddings and other events. He had five crews that could handle eight to ten parties in a given weekend. He sold that business and started another sideline – Drive the Globe, an adventure travel tour outfit – after quitting a sales job that he hated and spending a year traveling in Africa.

Ten years in a "real job" managing facilities and real estate concerns for an insurance company led Ladden to work as a real estate agent, which in turn led to his establishing the first Keller-Williams franchise in Connecticut. He credits his real-estate background with his decision to open his first restaurant, the West Hartford McLadden's, eight years ago.

"I'm always looking for the best use, from a real estate perspective," he says. "I had, back in college, done some bartending. My family background is Irish, so I had this dream of doing an Irish pub." His vision of a place where customers would sit around sipping drinks and discussing literature

went out the window within three days of the pub opening, however. "We have this gigantic college crowd, kids between 21 and 25 that come in, and the place is wall-to-wall packed on Friday and Saturday nights," he says. "That's not what I was trying to set up, but that's what clearly got me where I am today, because there was significant business from that."

Noble and Co. is a departure. More craft cocktails than craft beer, it has a glitzy 1920s New York City speakeasy feel and a fine dining environment. The cooking is French in technique and incorporates flavors from around the world.

With the new restaurant launched, Ladden now has some 500 people working for him. Entrepreneurship "is a strong desire to work for yourself and to have people you can work with," he says.

A downside is working "a bazillion hours." Ladden plays hard, too, he says. He and his wife, Carrie, live in a 240-year-old house in Hampden, Massachusetts, and he spends his free time cycling—about 7,500 miles a year—and piloting four planes that he owns a share of through a club.

"I couldn't work 9 to 5," Ladden says. "I would go stir crazy. But it's a challenge. You're always looking for different new challenges."

Michael Ladden and his wife, Carrie, at top with the Noble and Co. staff.
Photo by danfinephotography.com





Andrew Wood '06:

Andrew Wood '06 paid for his Keene State education with a concession stand – Woody's on the Rocks – that he launched his senior year in high school. Horses had always been his passion, and he'd seen, while hanging around horse shows and working the 4-H food booth at county fairs, how much money people spend on food and drink at those events. "I thought, you know, I'm going to start a lemonade stand," he remembers. "That's how I'm going to pay my way through college."

Sixteen years later, he's still towing his lemonade trailer to a couple of horse shows and a couple of fairs each year, offering his selection of made-to-order lemonade, limeade, raspberry lime rickeys, frozen lemonade, and coffee. "That's always been my bread and butter for the summer," Wood says – enough so that when he graduated with a degree in communication, he considered franchising the operation. But the economy was starting to fail, so he took a safer job for about five years, working at Keene State, first in the Bursar's Office and then in the Student Center – but continuing to sell lemonade on weekends and vacations.

In the meantime, he picked up a hobby. He needed to have a leather repair done, and thought, "if I had a needle and thread, I could fix it myself." A harness maker he knew showed him the tools needed for leather work, and told him, "Learn how to hand stitch. You learn that basic hand stitch, and then it compounds."

Eventually, he was making harnesses and other leather items on commission, and realized he had enough business to give up his day job. "I was working at Keene State, and I remember going to the office and thinking, it's a great job, a great organization, but it's not what I want to do." His father's death, from cancer, cemented the feeling that he should be doing what he loved.

Today Wood works out of a shop in Swanzey, New Hampshire, that's equipped with about \$150,000 in hand tools and leather sewing machines, many of them antique. He makes and sells training harnesses for show horses and also sells show horse harnesses made by Bowman Leather. Among his clients are top trainers who work for celebrities, Olympic gold medalists, Grammy-award winners, and Fortune 500 families. Their horses win national and world championships.

"I'm self-taught," he says. "Some days I come into work and I have no idea what I'm doing. I have a project, I deconstruct it in my mind, and I figure out how to do it. Some days I feel like an artist, some days I feel like a mechanic. I've been in a really

"I thought, you know, I'm going to start a lemonade stand. That's how I'm going to pay my way through college."

good situation: between luck and skill, I've gained a huge client base." He's done it all via word-of-mouth, and has made many contacts through his years of attending horse shows.

"There's no advertising," Wood says. "It's just, 'I've got this guy who can do this.' I just happen to be that guy in a lot of cases." Because he's a horseman himself – he's shown horses and owns several – he's in tune with the products needed for the trade.

Not all of the work Wood does is destined for the horse industry. He makes other leather products, too, including belts, dog collars, and the occasional handbag sample for a designer.

No matter the item, he says, the process is the same: "Everything starts with a needle and thread and an awl."

lemonade and leatherwork





Stephen Brighton '85: *billing for physicians*

As with everything, says Stephen Brighton '85, there are plusses and minuses to owning your own business. For Brighton, who with his wife, Regina, owns an Andover, Massachusetts-based medical billing company, the minuses tend to be connected to the ever-changing regulations surrounding his industry. The plusses? “You have a sense of accomplishment, you’ve employed people over many years, you’ve served longtime customers,” says the president of Medical Healthcare Solutions.



Stephen Brighton '85. Courtesy photo

When Brighton enrolled at Keene State, he thought he’d become a doctor, so he set his sights on an associate’s in biological science with a plan of transferring to another college to earn a bachelor’s degree. He completed the two-year associate’s degree, but liked Keene State so much he stayed, majoring in marketing management. Along the way, he picked up some experience working for his father’s business, specifically doing billing and processing payments for pharmacists.

After graduation, when his father closed his company, Brighton spent a year working for a competitor and then became a partner in a business that was developing medical billing software. Four years later, Brighton took out loans and raised money privately to split off his part of that firm, and he and his wife were in business for themselves.

That was 1991, when he was not yet 30 years old. “We thought, Oh, we’ll have 10 or 12 clients and we’ll just do billing,” he says. “Well, today we have over 3,000 doctors nationwide, we’re a multispecialty billing company, we are still privately owned, and we have over 150 employees. We’re approaching the \$7 million revenue mark for the corporation.”

Medical Healthcare Solutions handles insurance and patient billing for solo practitioner physicians and group practices, academic-based physicians who work in teaching hospitals, multi-specialty organizations, and student health services, among others. Brighton serves as CEO and his wife as CFO, and their son has now joined the company as well. They also have a daughter who is a college student.

“Working for somebody? That’s not in my nature,” says Brighton. “It’s not in my blood.” Being an entrepreneur, he notes, means “you have to take risks, you have to have faith, you have to have timing and luck. You’ve just got to have that desire to have your own business. You’ve got to have that spirit. You’ve got to be willing to live it, breathe it, make it a part of your life.”

“Working for somebody? That’s not in my nature.”

He and Regina have been married for 27 years and running the company for 26, and the partnership

works well, he says; their skills and temperaments are complementary. Operating a business where both technology and regulations are constantly changing requires agility, he adds. “You have to stay abreast, you have to be able to pivot, and you have to keep your staff thinking that way, too. It’s a balancing act all the time.”

His key for success? “If you’re in the service business – or any business – my recommendation is you have to be willing to work with your employees, take them under your wing, make them feel good so they go the nine yards,” he says. “You have to be the one backing them so that they can back you.”

Sasha Pardy '00: *wine and festivities*

“FOR ME, THE MOST INTERESTING days are usually high stress days,” says Sasha (Normandin) Pardy '00, expressing a sentiment likely shared by many entrepreneurs.

Like Pardy, most entrepreneurs probably don't start out with a specific business idea in mind, but build valuable life and career experience and then follow their intuition to good ideas and opportunities until they create a rewarding business for themselves.

Pardy started her college career as a clarinet performance major at UMass–Amherst, but after two years, she came to Keene State to major in business management. She'd always considered herself a natural leader who was talented at influencing people, so a career in marketing seemed like a good fit.

Shortly after graduation, she moved with her then-boyfriend, Mike Pardy, a newly minted electrical engineer, to Orlando, Florida, because the duo had done their research and knew that opportunities there were booming.

“We both landed jobs in our fields within two months and took off from there,” Pardy says. She spent several years as a marketer and researcher in three different real estate companies. During that time, the couple married, bought a home, and had their first child, daughter Ella Nicole. “Also along the way, we started to make our way into learning the world of wine by visiting wineries in Florida,” she says. “Through that interest, Mike took up a hobby of making wine at home and learned the craft.”

Meanwhile, the Pardys were working on a plan to start their own business, and they wanted to move back up North, closer to family. They sold their house for a tidy profit, which let them buy a home in New York State – with enough seed money left over to start a winery.

“We settled on the idea of bringing the winery to the people, which was a pretty new concept at the time,” Pardy says. “I believe we started one of the first micro wineries, not attached to a vineyard, in the country.” They located their business, Adirondack Winery, in downtown Lake George, a historic lakeside tourist town that gets many visitors every summer. “Our business model was unique for the town and thankfully has resonated very well.”

The Adirondack Winery opened its doors on April 17, 2008. “Our first year, we produced about 1,000 cases of wine,” Pardy says. Demand was strong, and by late 2010, they were able to produce enough of their own wines to keep up with demand. The couple had a son, Ethan, in 2011, and moved their wine-making facility to a much larger one in Queensbury, New York. They renovated their Lake George Tasting Room to cater to more foot traffic.



Sasha Pardy '00 and her husband, Mike. Courtesy photo

“Since then, we have grown our wholesale wine business with Opic Family Distribution, and we're now available in nearly 400 wine stores in Upstate New York; our 'Case Club' has grown to nearly 1,000 members; and we are able to ship our wines to more

than 30 states,” Sasha reports. “While still small, in terms of US wineries, we are definitely not 'micro' any more – in 2017, we estimate production at 13,000 cases. Currently, we employ nine full-time employees (including Mike and me); in peak summer this year, we employed about 30 staff members.”



The Pardys are constantly looking for ways to promote their business and expand their opportunities. Sasha created a second company, Adirondack Festivals LLC, in 2014 to create the Adirondack Wine & Food Festival. This farmers-market-style event brings wine, beer, spirits, and hand-crafted food vendors together at the Festival Commons in Lake George. “Our first year, we drew 2,500 people to the event, and last year more than 5,000 people attended,” she says. “This year, we're planning on 6,000 attendees and over 80 vendors. Through this, I've learned that it takes intense organization, focus, community relations, and marketing efforts to throw a successful large event.”

Now you can probably understand why Pardy considers the high stress days to be the most interesting.

– Mark Reynolds

 Learn more about Sasha Pardy and link to the Adirondack Winery at keene.edu/mag.

THE PEOPLE





Tim Pipp '11: t-shirts and more

Timothy Pipp '11 says he has an innate ability to constantly find new endeavors to pursue, and that he has felt the need to make something from nothing for as long as he can remember.

Pipp, a graduate of the Graphic Design Department at Keene State, is the owner of Beeze Tees, a screen printing and embroidery business located on Keene's Main Street.

Beeze Tees was an invention of Pipp's while he was a student at Keene State, finding its beginnings in the basement of a college rental house, where Pipp had fashioned a screen-printing press from lumber and elastic bands.

"My cross-country coach had been in the graphic design industry for a long time before he started coaching, and I always heard him talking about screen printing. I've always had an entrepreneurial spirit and Beeze Tees grew out of me enjoying doing something and building something," he says.

While his interest in screen printing may not have blossomed until his time in college, Pipp says that the entrepreneurial spirit emerged a long time before he landed in Keene. And once graduation came and went, he made the decision to stay in town and set up shop in a downtown location where he could grow Beeze Tees.

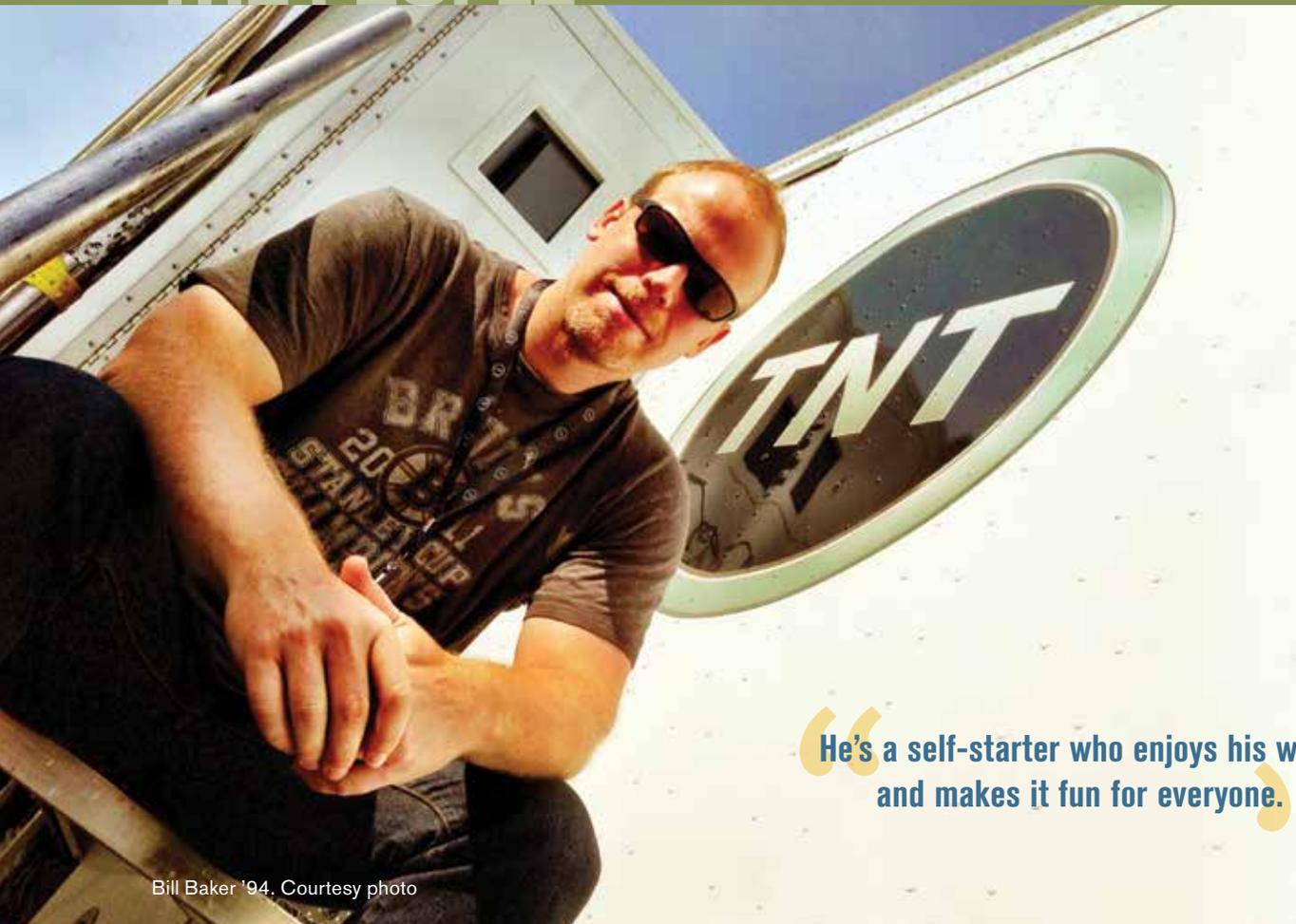
"I didn't expect to stay here when I was in college, but the business was already here, I had a good group of friends around here, and I knew a lot of people," he says. "You can't leave all your connections and expect to do as well as we have. A lot of the connections that I had in college are customers now, so it was kind of a natural thing to stay."

Another benefit of staying in the area was the help provided by the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship, a Keene-based nonprofit. "After I graduated, I took their classes on startups, and over the last six years I've done a lot to educate myself on how to be a better businessperson," he says.

Becoming a better businessperson has come to Pipp with what seems like at least a modicum of ease, as Beeze Tees has plans to expand to a 10,000-square-foot production facility and Pipp is expanding his endeavors from screen printing to include real estate and vending services.

More and different endeavors are yet to come, he says, though he can't provide specifics. "There will be other things in the future; I just don't know what they will be yet. Building this business has been fun. Not everyone is as lucky as I am, being an entrepreneur and liking what I'm doing," he says.

– William Wrobel '11



Bill Baker '94. Courtesy photo

“He’s a self-starter who enjoys his work and makes it fun for everyone.”

Bill Baker '94: all about the video

As a broadcast journalism major at Keene State, Bill Baker '94 raced up and down Appian Way and the surrounding streets of Keene covering news stories for KSC-TV. Baker says there was always a sense of excitement, especially when high-profile presidential candidates came to town. “I remember when Bill Clinton was campaigning for his first term,” he says. “I grabbed a camera and ran out with another student to do a story. It was an incredible experience.”

These days, Baker is a one-man freelance production team, racing around the country for his work as an editor, motion graphics artist, and producer for some of the top players in television news and live sports, while also handling video assignments for several industry giants. After working for an alphabet group of media companies that includes TBS, TNT, CNN, and ESPN, not to mention a stint as video operations manager with the Atlanta Braves, Baker, who is originally from Keene, moved back to New England in 2008, setting up shop and his studio in the small harbor town of Manchester by the Sea, Massachusetts, where he runs his own company, Baker Street Post.

“I like the freelance aspect of it and doing a lot more different things,” says Baker, who retains an impressive client list that he’s developed over the years in the competitive industry.

An enterprising entrepreneur who understands the pitfalls of remaining stagnant in a fast-paced field, Baker has added not only to his portfolio, but also to his skillset, working with the most current editing equipment. “You have to diversify to stay alive,” he says. “You can’t survive on just one skill anymore.”

Baker’s academic career also had its share of diversification. After attending a couple of schools where he studied aeronautical technology and engineering, Baker landed at Keene State, where he discovered a love for broadcast journalism. “I like the creative side of things and working with my hands,” he says. “It’s nice to create something to show and entertain people.”

Given the freedom and encouragement to improvise and learn in the field, Baker flourished. Rose Kundanis, a professor in the Keene State Journalism, Multimedia, and Public Relations Department, recalls Baker’s enthusiasm and sense of humor. “Bill is one of the stars of the journalism program,” says Kundanis. “When I did an intern site visit to CNN with a KSC-TV student, Bill was at the front door to meet me and give me a tour. We are proud of his entrepreneurial success. He’s a self-starter who enjoys his work and makes it fun for everyone.”

– Stuart Kaufman

Mike Lupfer '87: *purchase, renovate, and rent*

After more than a quarter century of climbing the metaphorical corporate ladder, Mike Lupfer '87 is climbing actual ladders these days. As the owner and sole employee of River Rock International, LLC, he is accumulating a portfolio of income-generating rental property in Portland, Oregon. "Think of an end-to-end-type situation," Lupfer says. "I do all the negotiations to buy the properties. I do all the renovation. I do all the property management. And I do all the maintenance and repair going forward."

Lupfer, a management major at Keene State, landed in Portland three years



Mike Lupfer '87

after graduating. He worked in the corporate world for 27 years, most of them with Nike – from which he retired a year ago as global customer operations director. By the time he left that job, he'd already been working in

his spare time on his current venture. "I like to fix and renovate older homes, so I started buying some properties when the market dropped," he says. He now owns seven properties, most built around the turn of the twentieth century. Some of them required cosmetic work – painting or re-siding, for instance – and others substantial remodeling, like knocking down a wall and extending a kitchen.

With its steady influx of young professionals, Portland is a great market for a rental property business, says Lupfer, who loved working for Nike but is happy to have left corporate politics, bureaucracy, and endless meetings behind. "I really like to work with my hands," he says. "I just got to a point where I wanted to be up and moving around."

His wife, Quita, has moved from a part-time to a full-time job in the health care industry. Lupfer is now handling grocery shopping, pet care, and carpooling for their high-school-aged son (their daughter is a sophomore at the University of Colorado).

Lupfer's work day is more flexible now, but he tends to keep a regular routine, getting up at 6 and following a schedule he's mapped out to keep up with renovations and maintenance. If he needs to take a week off to check in on his family in New England, he can do that. If he needs to put in extra hours to get a house on the rental market, he can do that.

"I definitely enjoy the fact that I'm my own boss. After being in the work world for 25 or 30 years, you feel like you don't need someone telling you how to manage your day," he says.



Among Lupfer's properties is this Queen Anne four-plex built in 1884.

What qualities make a good entrepreneur? Willingness to take a risk, says Lupfer, and get away from your comfort zone. "I left a good job that paid well. Some people said to me, 'What, are you crazy? Why would you do that?' I responded, 'It's not about the money. It's about having a little more autonomy to do what I want to do, and not be hamstrung to this corporate lifestyle. Money's not my focus, my lifestyle's my focus. Entrepreneurial people, yeah, they want to make money, but it's also about a lifestyle change, about having a little more freedom."

In Lupfer's portfolio: A 1920 home converted to commercial office space. Courtesy photos



Bill Ross '91: toys for grownups

Bill Ross '91 was working in sales and marketing for a Silicon Valley high-tech company when he had a meeting with a colleague. “She had toys all over her office,” he remembers. This was back in 1998, when business websites were just starting to come into play. “I thought, I wonder if there’s a website that sells office toys to grownups?” Ross says.

Turns out there wasn’t. It also turns out that Ross, a management major at Keene State, and his wife, Kiersten, were both getting a little restless in their jobs and had decided they wanted the kind of independent lifestyle that comes from owning a business. Long story short, he proposed an online company specializing in office toys. She quit her job, they built a website, they bought about 40 products – and they set up shop in their San Francisco apartment. Office Playground was born.

Three months later, Ross quit his job, too. Still, it was two more years before they moved the business from their home to an office/warehouse, another couple of years before Office Playground gained traction, and about 10 years before the company was out of debt – and before they could take enough time off to go on vacation.

“It was a long, hard road,” says Ross – one they traveled without venture capital or consultants. “Bootstrap entrepreneurs like us have to be good at pretty much everything. My wife is good at finance and administration; I’m good at technology and marketing. Between

the two of us we had most of the bases covered to get this thing up and running for the first several years.”

Seventeen years after Office Playground launched, the company has an 18,000-square-foot warehouse in Petaluma, California, a staff of 16, carries the largest line of office toys on the market, and ships internationally. In December, about 2,200 orders shipped out every day. The website features everything from bendy Gumby figures to squeeze stress balls to mini Zen gardens. Need a six-foot-tall inflatable palm tree? Look no further!



“The company’s mission is to bring happiness to the workplace,” says Ross. “And it’s really always been that.”

His favorite office toy? “That would have to be Slingshot Flying Monkey,” he says. “It’s a little plush monkey with elastic arms. You can fling him across the room, and he howls. He’s my favorite because he’s our number one bestseller, and has been for a long time.”

On entrepreneurship, he says: “It’s not for everyone. If you have the urge and it’s burning inside you, you should pursue it. If you don’t, don’t force it.”

He and his wife were lucky, he notes, in that they figured out when they were in their 20s that they wanted to be independent financially and in their careers, and that they should start a company when they were young and able to absorb the financial risks – before starting a family and taking on a mortgage and other responsibilities.

“We had virtually no money, and we had no investors, no experience in the toy industry, let alone in starting a business, but we had a good background in technology and e-commerce – and we had faith in ourselves.”

A nice byproduct of owning a toy company: “Our kids think their parents have a pretty cool gig.” It’s too early to predict whether the Ross daughters, ages 9 and 11, will want to join the family business, but they do love hanging around the warehouse on the occasional Saturday. And it gives them extra cachet with their friends, notes Ross, who visited their school for career day this year. “I brought little giveaways for everybody, and the kids really got a kick out of that.”



Bill Ross '91 at the Office Playground warehouse. Photo by Kayla Batom

Stacy Salpietro-Babb '98: professional witch

Last fall, after two dozen years of developing a passion for reading tarot cards and then growing it into a business, Stacy Salpietro-Babb '98 took a big step, leaving a part-time human services job to follow her entrepreneurial pursuit full time.

“As somebody recently said to me, working for yourself is like working for 80 hours to avoid working 40,” says Salpietro-Babb, who sometimes calls herself a “professional witch” because it’s the best umbrella term she can come up with to describe her various undertakings, which range from leading workshops to making lotions.

A psychology major at Keene State, Salpietro-Babb received a gift of a tarot deck during her first year in college and became, as she puts it, “obsessed” with the fortune-telling cards. She taught herself how to read them, she says, “by spending a day with each card, forming a relationship with each.” She did about 20 readings a day back then for her classmates – who had questions like “Does so-and-so like me?” and “Will I pass my exam?” – but didn’t charge for them. “I just wanted to be a helpful force for people, without asking for anything in return,” she says.

After graduation, she settled into a series of full-time jobs in the field of psychology. She worked as a case manager, a life coach, a counselor for runaway and homeless kids. She continued to read tarot cards in the evenings and on weekends – and about 10 years ago, when her son, Russell, was born, she began to charge for readings. “I realized my time was worth something,” she says. She was working full time at the Brattleboro (Vermont) Retreat, a mental health and addictions hospital, when, three years ago, she began to move toward full-time self-employment. With plans to make and sell lotions and do tarot readings via a video website, she dropped down to two days a week at her job so she’d have some steady income, and then she launched her business.

She started by making and selling lotions, potions, and lip balms at farmers’ markets near Brattleboro, where she lives with Russell and her husband, Wes Babb '95 (a chef who was profiled in the *Keene State Today* Winter 2013-14 Food Issue). By the time she left her part-time job, she had expanded her venture considerably.



Stacy Salpietro-Babb '98. Photo by Tim Thrasher

These days, Salpietro-Babb teaches an online class called 78 Days of Tarot, following the method she used to teach herself how to read the 78 cards in a tarot deck. She teaches an in-person class, Path of the Witch, most Saturdays, and a workshop series on Sundays. She continues to do tarot card readings for individuals, and she occasionally teaches classes on how to make all-natural lotions and lip balms. With Vermont artist Margaret Shipman, she’s created a tarot card deck, the Wayfarer Tarot, and will be writing a book on her 78 Days of Tarot method to accompany it. She’s also a bird handler, working with owls and ravens at the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. It’s a volunteer position, but she considers it part of the overall work that she does.

“I like going in a lot of directions,” says Salpietro-Babb – which circles back to working 80 hours a week for herself rather than 40 for someone else. She puts in more hours, but doesn’t feel like she has to switch personalities to go to work, or spend the bulk of her time focusing on something that’s not her true vocation. “The difference is,” she says, “I’m really happy.”



Greg Hemmer: a man, a business plan

If you're a college student whose questionable online reputation has caused you to miss out on a job or internship opportunity, never fear. Help is on the way. Keene State junior Greg Hemmer has created a business and a website, resumysite.com, where students can gain control and redefine their online reputation, resulting in a more mature and professional image that will catch the eye of hiring managers.

"I'm just trying to help students and give them a tool they can use to easily represent themselves and change the way our generation is viewed," Hemmer says.

A management major from Londonderry, New Hampshire, Hemmer can speak from his own experience. When he failed to get an internship, he did some research and found out he wasn't alone. "Eighty percent of employers are looking up job candidates online before they even call them in for an interview," he notes.

Motivated to help solve the problem, Hemmer went to work. As a final project in his Web Design and Construction class last spring, Hemmer created his own website, complete

with resume, photos, and bio. Using search engines that gave his site strong visibility, Hemmer immediately saw the fruits of his labor pay off last summer when he landed a marketing internship at an auto dealership in his hometown. The light-bulb moment hit him like a hammer. Why not replace the outdated resume with a personal website? "We spend all this time and money in college, and all anyone is doing is making a simple word document resume. It's 2016. We have capability to do something better," he reasons.

Hemmer is debunking the conventional theory that students can't start their own businesses. "College is a great time to become an entrepreneur, because you're surrounded by so many friends and connections – not to mention free time and few responsibilities," he says. "I've been working hard on this every day. It has taken over my life."

Not quite ready to go on "Shark Tank," Hemmer and his partners are busy streamlining their presentation before heading out on the college circuit to sell their company to students. The feedback has been very encouraging, he says. "Students love the idea and the schools have been very welcoming. They understand it's a very useful tool for their students."

Resumysite is very appealing to students, Hemmer says, because it's not only user-friendly and completely customizable, but it truly represents, online, who they are.

After building their credibility, Hemmer and his partners hope to attract an investor so they have the financing in place to create the company platform and start making sales. While Hemmer hopes to eventually cash in on his idea, he's also motivated to help his fellow students. "I care about college students a lot and it angers me when they can't get a job or the job they want when they graduate," he says. "That's the main inspiration to me. If my new company helps students get hired and makes their lives less stressful and more happy, then I'll gladly do that for them."

– Stuart Kaufman

Junior Greg Hemmer

The Gift of Education

“There is no tool for development more effective than the education of girls and the empowerment of women,” wrote Kofi Annan, the former secretary general of the United Nations. In Nepal, an organization called the Little Sisters Fund has been working to educate economically disadvantaged girls and empower them to become teachers, leaders, and other positive forces for growth in the country, which is among the poorest in the world. With very limited economic resources, the money that is spent on education in Nepal is likely to go to boys, especially since poor families often feel they can’t afford to lose their daughters to school, as those girls are often an important economic asset in terms of taking care of younger children and helping with the family’s agriculture. This leaves its disadvantaged girls with few choices save entering into child marriage, child labor, or sex trafficking.

Usha Acharya, author of *Girl Trafficking and Child Labor in Nepal*; her husband, Jayaraj Acharya, the former Nepali ambassador to the United States; and then-25-year-old Trevor Patzer, who met the Acharyas while touring Nepal, realized this imbalanced situation and established the Little Sisters Fund in 1998 to raise scholarships for Nepali girls and save them from a life of limited opportunities and potential exploitation. The fund also works with families in several supportive ways so the girls can get an education and the family isn’t adversely affected. The young women who have benefited from the Little Sisters Fund then give back to their country by mentoring their juniors and entering into such fields as health care and teaching. Empowering females is a key aspect of the organization.

A few years ago, Keene State Professor Emeritus of Education Len Fleischer and his wife, Erika Radich, learned of the Little Sisters Fund when they were visiting their daughter Siena, a USAID officer in Nepal. Grasping the importance of the fund’s mission, they decided to do what they could to help.

Fleischer, Radich, and Environmental Studies Professor Renate Gebauer have had a close affinity for Nepal for several years and have been volunteering there and leading student service trips there. Keene State’s relationship with Nepal has grown to the point at which the College is ready to welcome Nepali women who are ready to move on to a four-year degree.

Thanks to the substantial fundraising done to date by the Keene State College/Little Sisters Fund Partnership Steering Committee, as well as a significant contribution from the Little Sisters Fund and support from the College, backed by the efforts of campus community leaders, funding is currently available for tuition, room and board, and fees for two Nepali students for the first year of their undergraduate education, with a commitment for further funding from Keene State for subsequent years. The two Nepali women will begin their Keene State careers in the Fall 2017 semester. The College is the first public US college/university to have this unique partnership.

Keene State College is fully committed to establishing and advancing our partnership with the Little Sisters Fund.

This scholarship should have a very long-lasting, long-reaching effect. “It not only would benefit an individual girl with higher education, but would provide her with something to take back to her country at the end of four years, and every summer, where she could provide mentoring and real value to her culture,” says Fleischer.

In return, the Little Sisters Fund organization in Nepal is offering internships to Keene State students

who would be interested in visiting Nepal to teach English. The connection to Nepal is also deepening the College’s ties to the Nepalese refugee community in the Concord/Manchester area. Some years ago, Bhutan expelled thousands of Nepalis



A group of applicants for the Little Sisters Fund Scholarship. Courtesy photo

living there, and many of those made their way to New Hampshire. Currently, there are three students from that community at Keene State, and the College’s commitment should help more of those transplants feel welcome on campus.

“Keene State College is fully committed to establishing and advancing our partnership with the Little Sisters Fund,” says President Huot. “Not only will this endeavor provide support to economically disadvantaged girls in Nepal, it will also enrich our campus and our community at large through our engagement with these remarkable young women.”

Anyone interested in supporting this scholarship effort may contact Marilyn Shriver, Keene State’s director of Strategic Engagement, at 603-358-2371, or marilyn.shriver@keene.edu.

– Mark Reynolds

 Learn more about giving at Keene State and make an online donation at keene.edu/mag.

Checking in with the President



When *Keene State Today* introduced President Anne Huot to readers in the fall of 2013, she was a few months into her tenure and conducting a listening tour, meeting in small groups with faculty, staff, alumni, and other members of the College community to learn about their hopes for Keene State and its students. We sat down with her recently to take stock of the last three years and to look toward the future of the College.

Q: What are some of the things you're most proud of?

I'm proud of the College's longstanding commitment to sustainability. That commitment continues, and we continue to expand our role as responsible global citizens. A couple of examples of that: The Technology, Design & Safety building was granted LEED Platinum status by the US Green Building Council. To earn that designation, we made an active choice to put resources toward installing photovoltaic panels on the roof. Our newest building, the Living Learning Commons, is heated and cooled without fossil fuels. That's a big carbon footprint statement. Keene State was an early signer of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, so every time we build a new building or renovate an older one we put a priority on eliminating greenhouse gas emissions.

I'm proud of leading by example in the area of diversity. In a small, white, rural part of the world, we've recruited what is probably among the most diverse group of upper-level administrators in the nation, which shows that it can be done if you have the will to do it. Our diversity as a leadership team serves to leverage inclusion and equity here at the College.

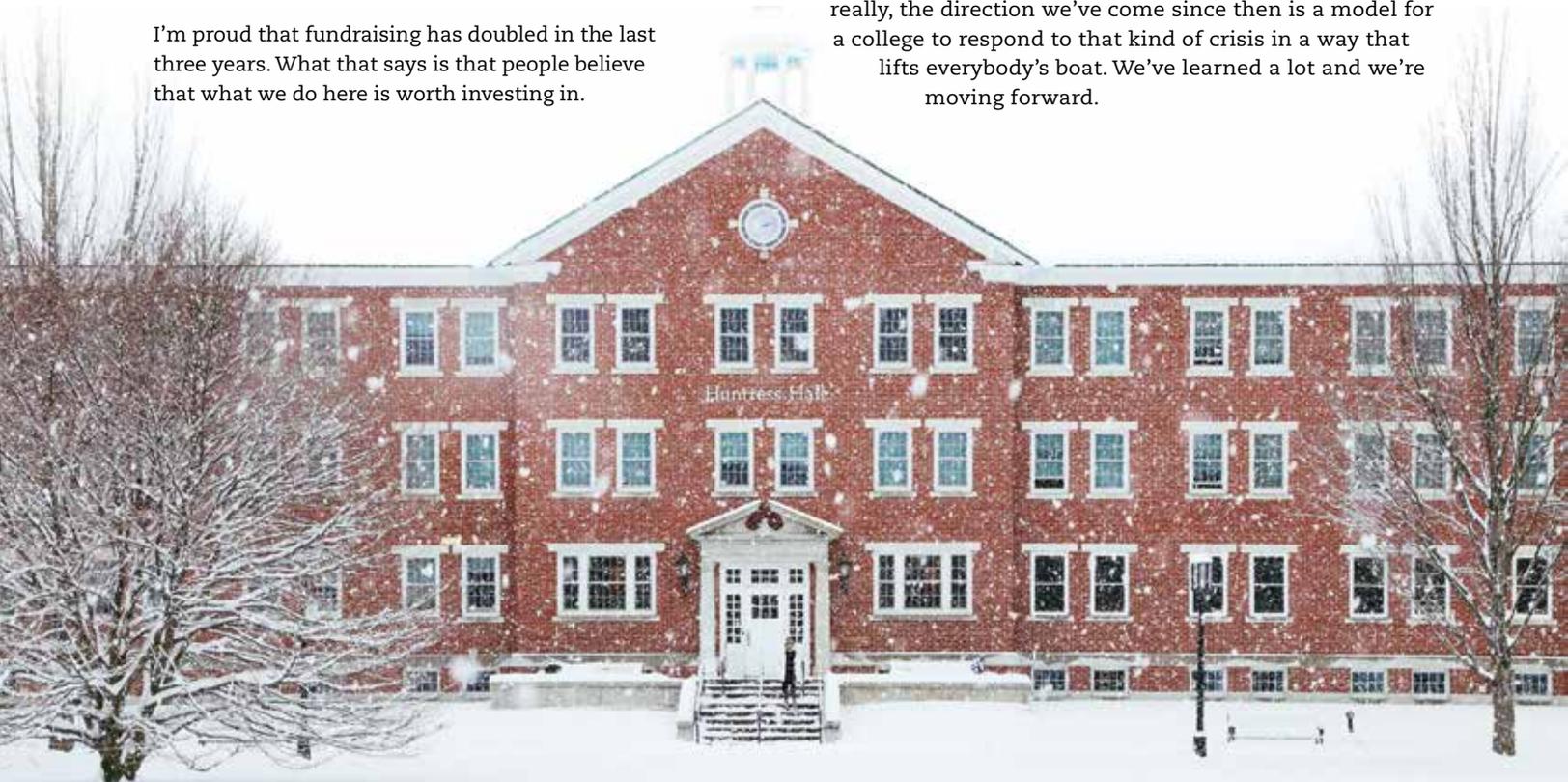
I'm proud that fundraising has doubled in the last three years. What that says is that people believe that what we do here is worth investing in.

I'm particularly proud of the ways in which our planning process has focused on the education of our students. While I can't say that's unique, I can say it is rare. Taking an integrated approach to academic and cocurricular life, with a focus on first-year students, is a big accomplishment. Articulating five college-wide learning outcomes that focus on that holistic approach is a big accomplishment. Including wellness in our outcomes is a big deal, and it fits into our commitment to sustainability as it supports personal sustainability. Our commitment to the first-generation college student is stronger than ever. All of these things are integrated into a package that I hope stays true to what I said to students at my inauguration: "I took this job for you – to invest in and ensure your success."

Q: The College has faced challenges in recent years, too. How have we overcome those?

Everyone's heard about the riot in October 2014, which was a disappointing moment for all of us, but the real story is what's happened since that event. Our students did some serious reflection that led to important changes in the student code of conduct, the creation of the Owl Creed, and a more integrated relationship with the Keene Police Department. Our students are working hard to be good neighbors, and the impact of that has been incredible. Alcohol violations and noise violations have dropped substantially, and community members are praising our students.

Also, the Keene community has again come to see, through our engagement with residents, business groups, and community organizations, the College as a real asset to the city. Finally, the work of the newly formed College-City Commission has already led to improved relationships, including a strong connection with the mayor. So I think, really, the direction we've come since then is a model for a college to respond to that kind of crisis in a way that lifts everybody's boat. We've learned a lot and we're moving forward.



Q: What's your message for alumni?

I want alumni to know that they're an important part of the Keene State College community, and I've prioritized an intense focus on building friendships and rekindling alumni connections. I really mean it when I talk about our students and our graduates being "Owls for life," and I am committed to ensuring that we have staff whose primary mission is to connect alumni to the College. We're planning more regional gatherings for Keene State graduates. We're celebrating our alumni in this magazine, through the First-Person Project, through Appian Way banners that feature Keene State graduates who've gone on to do great things.

I've enjoyed meeting and developing personal relationships with many of you over the past three-and-a-half years. I stay in touch with Anita Nestor '52, who's been a great friend to the College. She was the first alumna that I visited after taking this position, and she still signs her messages to

me, "Your first alumna." Every year Joanne and I play in a foursome with Aaron Testa '14 and his dad during the annual Golf Classic tournament. His dad always talks about how important Keene State was to Aaron.

There are so many others I could name, and so many more alumni I look forward to meeting.

Q: Any parting words to our readers?

Good things are happening at your alma mater. We're building on our successes. We're committed to being a residential, predominantly undergraduate institution that meets the learner of the twenty-first century. We care about the world, and we want our students to care about the world in the same way you have. We've met our challenges head on, and we're moving forward and investing in our future.

 Watch President Huot's Alumni Address at keene.edu/mag.

FACULTY & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Marcia Lehninger



Joseph Darby



Brian Quigley



Patricia Pedroza González



Abe Osheyack



Christopher Swist

Ryan Cain and Abe Osheyack, Athletics
Selected to the NCAA Regional Advisory Committees for men's basketball and women's soccer, respectively.

Patricia Pedroza González, Women's and Gender Studies

Conducted a workshop, Introduction to Chicana Feminism, in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico during the summer.

Robert Kostick, Honors Program

Presented a session, Growing Honors, at the October conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council in Seattle, Washington.

Joseph Darby, Music

Presented a paper, "Publishing Music by Subscription in 18th-Century Britain: Languages of Authorship, Publishing, and Audience" at a Paris conference sponsored by the Society for the History of Authorship, Readers, and Publishing.

José Lezcanzo and Marcia Lehninger, Music, and Patricia Pedroza González, Women's and Gender Studies
Presented a benefit concert for Ecuador Earthquake Relief at the First Baptist Church of Keene in June.

Brian Quigley, Counseling Center
Presented at the October Mental Health Matters Conference in Burlington, Vermont, and the November annual meeting of the New England College Health Association.

Mark C. Long, English
Codirected a week-long program for secondary school teachers, the Environmental Literature Institute, at Phillips Exeter Academy in June.

Kirsti Sandy, English
Published a creative nonfiction essay, "Child Psychology," in the October issue of *Gravel Magazine*. In November, her story "Man of the Floor" was nominated for a 2017 Pushcart Prize.



Christopher Brehme, Geography
Recently returned from the United Kingdom, where he spent a semester as a Fulbright Scholar. He researched his project "Value of the View: How Human Activity Influences Visitors: Perceptions of National Park Landscapes in Northern England."

Christopher Swist, Music
Performed with the Apple Hill Quartet in the Apple Hill summer concert series, playing a piece for string quartet and percussion, Pavel Haas String Quartet No. 2.

Meet Sara Barrett



It's been a busy few months for Sara Barrett, Keene State's new director for Engagement of Alumni and Constituents, who's met with campus partners, friends of the College, and many graduates since settling into her office in the Alumni Center in late summer. Barrett, who brings more than 10 years of experience as an engagement professional, is no stranger to the College, having grown up in Keene.

In partnership with the Alumni Association Board of Directors and Bethany Morin '12, associate director of Alumni and Constituent Engagement, Barrett will focus her efforts to develop and implement a strategy for the lifelong engagement of alumni. This includes new initiatives to provide mentoring opportunities to students in and outside the classroom, including a summer internship program that will be piloted in summer of 2017 and career insight tours that will be launched in spring of 2017.

"My priority is working with volunteers to continue to build a sense of community among alumni within different geographic areas, affinity groups, and generations," she says. The alumni she's already met have given her a clear sense of the difference the College has made for them. "I hear recurring themes," she says. "'I had a great experience at Keene State College.' 'Keene State prepared me for the job I have now.' 'Keene State College changed my life for the better.'"

You can reach Sara Barrett at sara.barrett@keene.edu or 603-358-2370.

[Link to the Keene State Alumni webpages at keene.edu/mag.](http://keene.edu/mag)

1937

80TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Ruth Maker Worrad lives in Newport, NH. Ruth was a home economics student at Keene so was asked to share a handicraft for a display at the college. She was unable to do so, but offered good wishes for putting the display together.

1941

Barbara Jeffery Stimson
678 Pettyboro Rd.
Bath, NH 03740

1942

80TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Peggy Smith Campbell
143 Walton Rd.
East Palatka, FL 32131
flyingnonnie@bellsouth.net

1943

Caroline Nichols Pregent
30 Giffin St.
Keene, NH 03431

Caroline "Nicki" Nichols Pregent has attended nearly every Golden Circle Luncheon for the past two years. Her daughter, Nora McCashland, usually brings her, or she travels with friends. Everyone at the luncheons always gives her a big hand when her name is announced because she is "the one who graduated before the rest of us."

Nicki Pregent writes: "In 2016 we enjoyed the very colorful fall landscape. I seemed to have had

time to catch up on my correspondence. I was able to watch most of the Red Sox games all year.

"On June 23, **Louise Perkins** and **Phyllis Bodwell** joined us for the Golden Circle luncheon at Makris Restaurant in Concord. It was a great day to see friends and enjoy the food. Everyone always has a good time at Makris.

"In August, my daughter took me to the luncheon at Hart's Turkey Farm in Meredith. It was very well attended as usual, and it's fun to chat with everyone.

"In September, the Golden Circle met at the Portsmouth Country Club. **Norma Walker '51** is our leader at each luncheon. She always has something interesting to tell us.

"In October we held our last lun-

cheon of the year at the Common Man in Claremont. This restaurant was built in the former factory buildings. The area is very unique. The speaker, **Alex Cucchi '12**, is currently working on a Ken Burns documentary. He described his job and did say that going to Keene State had prepared him well for getting this great job. At the luncheon, **Joyce Smith '56** was honored for attending all of our Golden Circle luncheons this year. Congratulations, Joyce.

"I have been volunteering with a small group, including **Breeze Mosley '46**, **Norma Walker**, and **Christine Sweeney '43** at Keene State a few times this season.

"The campus at Keene State has changed. Several dormitories have been built. More than 1,000 first-year students were enrolled this

September. The campus is very colorful with flowers and lawns of green grass.

"I hope everyone had a happy holiday. I look forward to receiving news from all of you. See you in 2017."

1944

The group was delighted to welcome **Priscilla Chick Sargent** to the Golden Circle luncheon at Portsmouth Country Club this fall because health issues have kept her home for the past couple of years. In the early days of the luncheons she and husband, Dick, were usually on hand.

1945

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Nancy Scripture Ashford**, who lived in Weare, NH.

Carolyn Wynott Goodwill shared lunch at the Makris restaurant, Concord, with several other Golden Circle alumni. They all enjoyed the program given by **Paula Mitchell Demers '91**, who is one of the First-Person Project alumni. She told about how she selected Keene State and how it helped her when she was a student.

1947

70TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Ruth Washburn
75 Pleasant St. A207
East Longmeadow, MA 01028
w.f.b.r.@charter.net

Class secretary **Ruth Washburn** writes: "**Cecile 'Cy' Plante Bineau** came to Keene Teachers College from Manchester, NH, and entered the home economics program. She and I both married during our college years and finished all required courses, graduating with our class in 1947. Cy and Gil moved to Gorham, ME, and enjoy their home there very much. Gil has now given up flying, but still keeps his lawns mowed and driveway and walks plowed and active, doing exceptionally well as he turns 93. Cy still does her own laundry, cooking, and

housework, along with hooking rugs. She says she has a hip that slows her down, though. They have two daughters, three granddaughters, one grandson, and nine great-granddaughters, and lost one great-grandson but are expecting twin great-grandsons this month. We all wish them well with that event. The good thing is that all of the family is within five minutes to 18 miles from their home. Cy says she really misses luncheons, reunions, and seeing old classmates.

"Once more I encourage everyone to start thinking about how you can manage to get to our 70th Class of 1947 reunion in 2017. It will be a wonderful day if folks can at least make it on the Saturday. Try, try, try!"

Editor's note: Our apologies for misspelling Eulalie "Tootie" Fellows Cogswell's nickname in the fall issue. We'll get it right next time, Tootie, we promise!

1948

Ellie Smith Butler
9 Muster Ct.
Lexington, MA 02420-2001
ellierb@aol.com

1949

Ellie Hugh Gill Muldoon
3D Melville Ct.
Lily Pond Overlook
Pocasset, MA 02559
emuldoon28@comcast.net

1950

Priscilla Holmes Roberts joined those gathered at the Golden Circle luncheon held at the Common Man, Claremont, NH. She hadn't attended in a while due to health concerns.

Once again, **Maurice "Moe" Bowler** came early to Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant to help with welcoming alumni and their guests to the Golden Circle luncheon. The group enjoyed a delicious turkey buffet, which is really Thanksgiving in August. He was assisted by **Elaine Schmidt Chesley '51**.

1951

Norma Wright Walker
19 Eaton Rd.
Swanzey, NH 03446
walker.norma@gmail.com

Class secretary **Norma Wright Walker** writes: "Since our last class notes we have lost **Charles Plimpton, Sally Barker Andrews, Wendell Nickerson, and Martha Bassett Sargent**. Our class is getting smaller each year so it is important the rest of us stay connected.

"I put up a display of crafts made by alumni in the three display cases in the entrance to the Alumni Center. **Ralph Dwire** loaned me two magnificent wooden bowls he had made, **Barbara Sullivan Brooks** sent cards made from photographs plus some poetry she had written to go with each card, **Elaine Schmidt Chesley** sent several items she had made and a book of photographs that included pictures of braided rugs and other items, and I added a Christmas stocking I had knit for Ed many years ago. If you are ever in Keene do stop in to see the amazing handicrafts our alumni do.

"Once again I received thank you notes from Keene State students awarded financial help from the Teacher Education Scholarship. Just a reminder that at Reunion several years ago we had money left over in our fund (\$10,000 plus) that was added to that scholarship endowment. Most of us received financial help when we were students, so it is nice to know we are now helping others.

"In September I was recognized for my work with the Alzheimer's Association at a wine and cheese event held at Bentley Commons in Keene. It was nice to be able to share the time with family and friends.

"This summer I met **Cynthia Shepherd McAlpine '58** for lunch in Keene. She was a student teacher of mine when I taught at Wheelock School. We had not seen each other since then, but recently reconnected.

"Along with the contributions of my classmates to the display cases located in the foyer of the Alumni Center, I want to add mention of the several gorgeous quilts made by **Eileen Oechsli Bohigian '75** who was a student of mine when I taught at Keene State. As I understand it she started quilting while a student. The time and effort put into each quilt is amazing. Eileen recently retired from teaching.

"Had a recent phone call from classmate **Marilyn Wilcox**, who lives in The Villages, FL, thanking me for the picture of our classmates who attended reunion 2016. She told me about working in the dining room and also at the First National grocery store to earn money for her education. Many of us did the same as students.

"Always enjoy hearing from **Pat Parent O'Donnell**, Clearwater, FL. We talked for over an hour, sharing Keene Teachers College stories such as sunbathing on the roof of the dining commons at Fiske, her working in the dining room and serving the faculty in the alcove, and other tidbits including the loss of several classmates."

1952

65TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Winifred Woodbury Langtry
50 Evergreen Lane
Contoocook, NH 03229
langtry@mctelecom.com

Irene DiMeco Parent
27 Lashua Rd.
Ashburnham, MA 01430
bep27iap@comcast.net

Claire Waterhouse Simensen
17 Sullivan Ct.
Salem, NH 03079
cws603@comcast.net

Many thanks to **Winifred Woodbury Langtry** for getting some of her classmates out to the Golden Circle luncheons this past summer. It was the first time for **Irene Jones Dunbar**. Other classmates attending were **Charles Mitchell, Mary Moore Conroy,**

Harold Pickwick, and Claire Waterhouse Simensen. They are already talking and planning some ideas for celebrating their 65th reunion in 2017.

Class secretary **Winnie Langtry** writes: "We had a great time at the Portsmouth Country Club Golden Circle luncheon in September. There was a good-sized crowd and we had six at our table: **Irene Dunbar, Mary Conroy** and her husband, **Charlie Mitchell, Claire Simensen**, and me. Charlie's brother brought him, but sat at another table. The meal was delicious, and meeting the new alumni director, Sara Barrett, was especially pleasant. I wish her well. The weather was great. President Anne Huot was even able to play a game of golf before the meal.

"**Anita Nestor** is doing better and is spending these two months in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, but she will be back in California sometime in January. She is hoping to come east if she possibly can.

"You will probably remember my writing about the service trips we made to Biloxi, MS, starting in 2007, to restore homes and help the homeless. I went to Biloxi four times as a member of the team from the First Congregational Church of Hopkinton. I helped cook and serve meals each day at the Loaves and Fishes center feeding the homeless. I also worked afternoons helping wherever needed – painting, cleaning windows, spackling, or patching holes in walls. It was a wonderful experience and working together with Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, we made a real difference for the people of the community. The variety show our church puts on one weekend every other year raised a lot of the money for the service projects, including help with the food pantry in town and money for the Youth Mission trip as well.

"What a wonderful feeling. Someone asked me last week if I were going again and I said, No, not this year. My body is not as strong as it was and I did not want to fall or be a burden to the team. I

told them that each trip changed my life. I will never be the same. We became a family in so many ways. Without the wonderful training that **Chris '89 and Paula '91 Demers** gave to us to present the shows, we could not have had that experience. Chris and Paula, who are among the alumni featured in Keene State's First-Person Project, are going to Biloxi this year again, and I am sure I will hear from them as the week goes on.

"I did go to the funeral service for **Irene Dunbar's** brother and was so glad to see her.

"Now, there will be a reunion this year. It will be our 65th. I hope we can get as many of our class together as possible. Let me know where you are and we will make sure that you get the invitation."

1953

Donald J. Johnson
695 Clement Hill Rd.
Deering, NH 03244
djj1@nyu.edu

1954

June Haymon
3247 Lucerne St.
Bronx, NY 10465
juneio@aol.com

Class secretary **June Haymon** writes: "**Carolyn Lees Fleming** is still in Swanzey, NH, with summers at Wells, ME.

"**Carolyn Hoben Becker**, Wells, ME, keeps in touch with **Jean Waterhouse Salendeno**, who has dealt with illness and lost Paul.

"**Lola Tanner Burns** is still active outdoors with her friend in Wolfboro, NH.

"**Marion 'Betty' Baston Emmett** is in Chesapeake, VA, with her husband, **Don Emmett '54**. Betty reads many books a month. They have always been active in their church."

Carolyn Ramsay Baston writes: "I am doing well now. Having three TIAs – warning strokes – kept me from traveling to NZ. I have also moved to Looms Village, an independent living unit in South Hadley, MA, with a friend."

Pat McMahon Clark writes: "I'm still living in Sturbridge, MA, where I've been involved for many years in various activities. I continue to visit the senior center, belong to the Garden Club, support church functions, do swimming exercises at the pool, and eat out with Red Hatters and other lady friends' groups. Many of you have probably visited Old Sturbridge Village, an international tourist attraction, which is a hop and skip from my home – come by for a chat about old times!"

Marie Bergeron Drogue writes: "I am still living in Keene, after selling my home of 64 years! Naturally I miss it, but am getting used to my new neighborhood. We commuter mates at KTC were a friendly group and enjoyed many activities: swimming, softball, bowling, basketball, volleyball, you name it. Many thanks to June Haymon for keeping classmates connected. Let us know where you are and what you are up to nowadays. Here's to the Class of 1954!"

PeeWee Mongeon Toomey writes: "During the past couple of years, we have downsized our home in Stoddard, sold it, and moved to a lifecare community in Peterborough, NH. In June, Charlie and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. Now we plan to settle into our new lifestyle, work on photography and genealogy projects, participate in our community, and experience life without home maintenance concerns. Whew! Mission accomplished, leaving us more or less in one piece."

From June Haymon: "Nice to hear all are doing well and busy. I find the more we do the happier we are, so keep up the good work Class of 1954!"

1956

Minot Parker
PO Box 370540
Montara, CA 94037-0540
Tgpubinc@att.net

1957

60TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Cynthia Randall Faust
77 Sand Hill Road
Peterborough, NH 03458
cynjon@comcast.net

Class secretary **Cynthia Faust** writes: "I recently received a letter of thanks from the recipient of our class scholarship. She is a senior this year, student teaching in a kindergarten, and is a member of Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society. John and I attended the Celebrate Momentum event in October for recipients and donors but were not able to meet her.

"I received a note from Cindy DuBois telling me that her mother, **Janice Rafter Adams**, had passed away in September in Minnesota, where she had been living in a home near her daughter. Janice was a member of our little group of Keene Staters that meet in Concord once a year for lunch."

1958

Jacqueline A. Abbott
7 Keeney Dr.
Bolton, CT 06043
jabbott814@aol.com

1960

Gail Spevack Sheldon
241 Blucher Street
Manchester, NH 03102
sheldon-sheldon@comcast.net

1961

Dorothy Bean Simpson
PO Box 1373
Center Harbor, NH 03226
drsimpson2@yahoo.com

From class secretary **Dorothy Bean Simpson**: "Hi, Classmates! Meeting at the Golden Circle sites is a special way of staying in touch with our Keene State friends. Many of us enjoyed our visits to Hart's Turkey Farm in Meredith and Portsmouth Country Club. In attendance were **Don and Ruth Doan MacDougall, Carolyn Tasker Furber, Joe '60 and Priscilla Canney Dutile, Chet and**



The Class of '61 shared a table at the Golden Circle luncheon held at Hart's Turkey Farm in Meredith August 10.

Nancy Andrews Fessenden, Barbara Petelle Moore, Grace and Bob Saulnier, Betty Bennett Schofield, Marilyn Woodward Twombly, Ron and Diane Kierstead '80 Wyman, and Roger and Dotti Simpson.

"It was nice to see **Betty Jean Treat Goff** and her husband as they made an effort to come from Manchester, VT to our 55th reunion Saturday night dinner.

"**Parry Gonye Nye** is as busy as ever. She watches out for her mother, who is in her 90s and lives nearby in Windsor, CT.

"**Bill and Elaine Chicaderis Ellis** are living in Keene, where they moved last June.

"**Dorothy Gosselin Kinaci**, in Winter Garden, FL, stays in touch with many of her past students. She appears to be their favorite teacher. They visit, write, and call her frequently as I witness on her Facebook pages. Lucky students and lucky Dorothy!

"**Pat Karsten** from Boerne, TX, went on a visit to Europe. Hope she comes to New Hampshire to visit her brother and sister-in-law in Campton.

"**Susan Whitlock Freeman** met up with **Charlie and Jackie Hayward Jepson** and **Patty Goyne Nye** at Foxwoods for a 'sleepover.' Great to see you all active and having fun. Susan is very busy with her three daughters and six

'grandgoodies.'

"Our class received an appreciation letter from one of our recent scholarship recipients. She remarked about how our scholarship provided her with the means to continue her studies in education. Our scholarship fund, under the direction of **Bob Saulnier** and Keene State, continues to grow with the help of all of us. Thank you for generously giving. Every donation helps a student stay in school.

"We have 46 classmates who are deceased – 16 since our 50th reunion. So life is way too short. Please keep in touch with your Keene State friends and let us know what you are doing. Write, email or call me. We all care!"

1962

**55TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017**

Stephanie Heselton Baute
515 E. Surry Rd.
Surry, NH 03431
Sbaute515@gmail.com

Martha Crowley Morse
131 Case St.
North Canton, CT 06019
morsesports@comcast.net

1963

Elizabeth Butterfly Gilman
277 Coolidge Dr.
Portsmouth, NH 03801-5740
betty277@comcast.net

Class secretary **Betty Gilman** writes: "**Linda (Woodward) Geiger** was given the William Tommy Cox Memorial Award for Outstanding Dedication to the Volunteer Efforts of the Trail of Tears Association, Georgia Chapter. She says she was 'totally surprised and overwhelmed to receive this special honor.' Congratulations, Linda!

"Travel news finds **Carol (Racicot) Lord** and **Helen (McGettigan) Koehler** headed northeast to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton Island. They sent a picture of the Bay of Fundy without water – the tide was out! By all reports they were the talk of the tour group as they searched for 'medicine stores' that sold liquid refreshments! Helen reports that the two happily returned home and are still friends!

"**Marlene (Childs) Witham** wrote that she has been a member of the Lakes Region Art Association for a long time. Last October, the association opened an art gallery in the Tanger Mall in Tilton, NH. Thirty-two artists are represented there, including Marlene. They sell original artworks, prints, and cards. Each member spends four hours twice a month staffing the gallery. Everyone is invited to come on over and see the art works. The Lakes Region Art Association Gallery is open from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

"**Phyllis (Woodward) Pratt** sent an update saying that she and Cleveland moved in October from Berkeley back to Oakland, CA. 'This makes us closer to the action at our church and our mission to help Oakland become a model city,' she wrote. The Bay area of California remains the best place to live for them!

"Many classmates attended Golden Circle luncheons in addition to those gathering in Sturbridge. No matter where we gather, it seems that we have a great time catching up and enjoying good food. Be sure to keep an eye to the many options listed in *Keene State*

Today or contact Norma Walker to have your name on the mailing list at 603-357-4089 or walker.norma@gmail.com.

"**Pat (Plante) Zemianek, Mary Ellen Sias, Jane (Scott) Turner, Brenda (Peterson) Flint, and Betty (Butterfly) Gilman** gathered in Meredith, NH, on a beautiful August day. It was a good time to catch up on all that is happening in our lives. The highlight and purpose for writing about this gathering was the news that Pat shared with us.

"Pat ran the 2016 Komen VT Race for the Cure on a hot, humid July 23 day in honor of cancer survivors! Pat's time had caught the eye of Ken Young, who records national road race statistics. Pulling her registration form, he asked to have Pat's birthdate confirmed. Indeed, she was born in 1941 and was informed that she now holds an all-time world ranking for a 5K in her age group. Pat started off as a walker and in 2000 she ran the Steve Zemianek Bennington Road Race in honor of her late husband. From there she joined Training for More, a women's running group, and off she went, even running half marathons! At 75 years, Pat is now ranked #70 on the world all-time list for 5K road races for females in the 75-79 age group. One of her teammates sums it up best: "This is fantastic news about an incredible woman. What a role model she is for all females; plus she is as nice as she is fast." The Class of '63 celebrates with her on this outstanding achievement!

"We received thank you letters this fall from two scholarship awardees. Both are seniors majoring in secondary education/history. And both expressed great appreciation and gratitude for the generosity of the Class of '63. We have gone from helping one student for the past couple of years to helping two students this school year. It is due in total to your donations to the Class of 1963 Teacher Education Scholarship. Let's continue to help Keene prepare students to go forth and serve.

1964

Helen I. Jette
37100 Neukom Ave.
Zephyrhills, FL 33541
helenjette@aol.com

Bill Doolan
9189 William Cody Dr.
Evergreen, CO 80439
billdoolan@q.com

Class secretary **Helen Jette** writes: "A number of classmates have inquired as to what I have been up to over the 52 years since we graduated. After graduation, I earned my MA in history from the University of Connecticut. I taught high school for 35 years, two in New Hampshire and 33 in Connecticut, before retiring in 2000. I have always enjoyed traveling and have visited 48 states, most in my motor home, and 25 foreign countries. After retirement, I moved to my summer home in Rhode Island before moving to Florida 10 years ago. I still enjoy traveling in my motor home and usually travel about 6,000 miles in the summer.

"I received the following update from **Margie Worden Guthrie**: 'During my college years, I was madly in love with my high school boyfriend and we married in 1964. My husband was the police chief in Brattleboro, VT, for several years and pinch hit at the sheriff's department. I have been teaching forever. I have retired three times but keep going back to a teaching job. Right now I am working part time (Title I). Rich and I had three children and five grandchildren (one is teaching in Washington, DC). My wonderful husband passed away two years ago, and I am grateful that I have a job to keep me active. Rich and I took a trip to England after his retirement and frequently talked about visiting Ireland. Two summers ago I renewed many friendships or made pleasant connections with high school classmates while creating a yearbook update and planning a reunion.'"

1965

Richard E. Doyle
561 Ocean Blvd. #4

Hampton, NH 03842
rdoyle561@aol.com

1966

Nancy Coutts
175 South Main St.
Brattleboro, VT 05301

1966

50TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

1968

Jan Temple Metoxen
330 Maple Rd.
Longmeadow, MA 01106
jantemplemetoxen68@yahoo.com

1969

Barbara Hamilton
27 Kingswood Dr.
Manchester, CT 06040-6744
barbara.hamilton@att.net

Our sympathies to the family of **Tim Scannell**, who died September 1.

1970

Susan Campbell
15 New Acres Rd.
Keene, NH 03431

1971

Maureen Sheehan Hall
69 Crescent St.
Hooksett, NH 03106
hallsofivy2@msn.com

1972

45TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Debra Davis Butterworth
21 McAuley Rd.
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107
dbutterw@maine.rr.com

Roger Hartwell
198 Palermo Pl.
The Villages, FL 32159
rgrhrtwl@yahoo.com

1973

Kathleen Pickford Stacy
190 Old Hancock Rd.
Antrim, NH 03440
gstacy@conknet.com



The extended McGettigan family of Wilton, NH, boasts 25 teachers, including 13 who are Keene State grads. Together they've put in nearly 600 years of teaching. Shown from left are siblings **Eleanor McGettigan '71**; **Dorothy "Dot" McGettigan Callaghan '61 M'71**, with 41 years teaching in Rochester, NH; **Robert "Bob" McGettigan '64**, a teacher and principal with 33 years in the Hollis, NH, schools; **Helen McGettigan Koehler '63**, with 30 years in the Claremont schools; and **Margaret McGettigan McAuliffe '64**, with four years in the Wolfeboro, NH, schools. Other teaching Keene State grads in the clan include **Mary McGettigan '22** (Milford, NH, schools), **Edna Sheldon '33** (Portsmouth, NH, schools), **George L. Koehler '63** (Claremont, NH schools), **Greg Taylor '69**, **Steven McGettigan '73** (Merrimack, NH, schools), **Niki Rogers McGettigan '73** (Temple, NH school), **Sheila Callaghan Colson '90** (Rochester, NH schools), and **John McAuliffe '94**.

1974

Jane Cappuccio Stauffer
28 Beckford St.
Salem, MA 01970-3239
jcsrks@verizon.net

1975

Eileen (Oechsli) Bohigian
emoquilt@aol.com

Dianne (Reidy) Janson
diannej@maine.rr.com

After 27 years at the University of New Mexico coaching cross-country skiing and soccer and 14 years at Bosque School teaching and coaching soccer and tennis, **Niklaus Weber**, a three-sport letterman at Keene State (Soccer, X-C Skiing and Tennis), retired at the end of the 2016 season. His soccer and tennis teams both won the 15/16 State Championships and he accounted for an additional 16 state titles. Niklaus played soccer and tennis under Ron Butcher's tenure and X-C skied for the same two years. A

Bosque Championship field was named in his honor and he was also inducted into the NM Ski Hall of Fame.

Class secretary **Dianne Janson** reports: "Despite the arrival of snow (that started in October for some of us) this year, we encourage you to keep in touch! We recently heard from **Frank Easton**; his news follows.

Frank Easton writes: "In June, **Peter Ketchum '77** found me through Class Notes, and it was wonderful to reconnect. Peter reports he is 'finishing his 38th year in the ConVal School District.' His wife, **Sue (Kelley) '79** and he are together at Great Brook Middle School in Antrim, NH. She is teaching seventh-grade math and he wears many different hats – PE teaching, athletic director, assistant principal duties, and he just officially retired from coaching after 35 years. We are now talking about trying to get



Upon her retirement from teaching, **Eileen Oechsli Bohigian '75** (left) donated a collection of children's books and puppets to the Craftsbury, VT, library. She's at left with the library director. The library boasts a children's wing in honor of the grandmother of Eileen's friend and '75 classmate **Frank Easton**. Easton, whose father and aunt donated to the library to create the children's wing, writes: "those puppets & books are to become part of the library to continue having an impact on the lives of the children of the community of Craftsbury."



Dale Ramsay '80, left, and **Jim Sears '77** attended Keene State at the same time, living on the same hall in Carle Hall as first years in 1975. Jim picked up an associate's degree from Keene State and then transferred to Worcester Polytech Institute. They reconnected 40 years later at the University of Louisville, where Dale is director of intramural and recreational sports and a faculty member in the Sports Administration Department, and Jim is the associate vice president for facilities management. Dale writes: "We re-lived all the antics of life in Carle Hall in the '70s, wondering what had become of our beloved floor-mates **Bruno, Eddie Smith, Brownie, Moulie, Osberg, Burkie, Irish, Pierre, John Roy, Chet, Gerard**, et. al."

the guys from Belknap House together again.

"I recently went to Keene to see an alumni craft exhibit **Norma Walker '51** put together at the Alumni Center (I highly recommend everyone go see it). I also stopped for a wonderful visit with Eleanor Vander Haegen, professor emeritus.

"I spent the last 40-plus years in HR with several companies from New Hampshire and Massachusetts to Oregon and Texas. I eventually returned to New Hampshire, where I spent the last 17 years as vice president of human resources for Sprague Resources in Portsmouth. I was also President of the Board for Big Brothers Big Sisters for several years, during which we were honored to be selected as a Gold Standard Agency. Upon retiring this past spring, I moved to northern Vermont, where I was adopted by a 7½ pound Australian Shepherd puppy named Gem, who is convinced she rules the roost – and maybe she does! NOT!

"I believe the education I got at Keene prepared me for a successful career. But the learning didn't stop there. The part I've



The Class of 1976 contingent celebrate their 40th at Keene State's June reunion. From left are **Steve Morrill**, **Elizabeth Barrett Aikele**, and **Phil Bellingham**.

enjoyed the most about my first six months of retirement is the recognition that reconnecting with other KSC alums has had a major impact on my retirement. **Chuck Maranhas '74** and I get together regularly (when he's not off doing his FEMA flood relief duties), and he has been coaching me to improve my skills in my newest avocation, photography. (You can see some samples of Chuck's work at the alumni craft exhibit at the Alumni Center.) Several other Keene State alums now join us on periodic photo shoots around New Hampshire and Vermont, including **David Gagne '73** along with **Dianne Reidy Janson** and **Eileen Oechsli Bohigian**. I've learned that not only has reconnecting with Keene State folks been immensely pleasurable, it has also made my transition to retirement measurably more entertaining and satisfying.

"It is great to reconnect. I look forward to hearing from other Keene State folks and hope you'll join me on a photo shoot up here in Vermont."

1976

Philip Bellingham
20 Transit Ln.
East Hartford, CT 06118

Class secretary **Phil Bellingham** writes: Once again, hello, '76ers. Occasionally I think back to our

college years during the 70s. For example, computer science classes with Don Land were, to say the least, interesting. We used punch cards to program a computer using FORTRAN IV. Wow, has the computer industry changed. Hope you are all doing OK, '76ers."

1977

45TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Sabrina Brown Maltby
13 Main St.
Raymond, NH 03077

1978

Dianne Glaser-Gilrein
P.O. Box 1391
East Dennis, MA 02461
tgilrein@aol.com

1979

Bill Reed
3 Mayfair Ln., Apt. 206
Nashua, NH 03063-7645
williamreed3@comcast.net

1980

Allison Ashley-Bergstrom
8 Dockham Shore Road
Gilford, NH 03249
abergstrom@sbcglobal.net

Cathy Stuart Zurek
78 Morse Ln.
Boxborough, MA 01719
zurek@comcast.net

1981

Nancy Colciaghi Pallas
6153 W. Fallen Leaf Ln.
Glendale, AZ 85310
nanpallas@gmail.com

1982

35TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Janet Carsten Shaffer
janetshaffer@verizon.net

1983

Patricia K. Hodgeman Bush
Berkshire School
245 N. Undermountain Rd.
Sheffield, MA 01257
pbush@berkshireschool.org

Jacqueline Haight DeFreze
502 Portsmouth Ave.
Greenland, NH 03840
jdefreze@yahoo.com

Valerie Belanger McKenney
46 France Rd.
Barrington, NH 03825
mckenney.val@gmail.com

1984

Mary Beth Lucas Connors
295 Megan Dr.
Manchester, NH 03109-5924
blarney7@comcast.net

Louise Perron Tetreault
61 Manville Hill Road, Apt. 16
Cumberland, RI 02864
lee4t@yahoo.com

1985

Alison Ahmed
alisonjahmed@aol.com

Lisa A. Gagnon
1510 Old Cape Saint Claire Rd.
Annapolis, MD 21409
sankyu21037@yahoo.com

1986

Tori Berube
toriberube@aol.com

Michael Trabucco
mptrabucco@hotmail.com

Class secretary **Michael Trabucco** writes: "Hi everyone – Happy New Year! Michael Trabucco here (again), hoping this year is a wonderful one for all of you. You know

what would make my year wonderful? If a bunch of you sent me short emails, messages, and pics for our Class Notes! Especially if these emails, messages, and pics came from some of you who've never sent anything before. (Just sayin'.)

"In August, I had the great pleasure of seeing my best friend from Keene State, **Holly Hansen**, get married! It was a sunny day in Connecticut, and everyone had such a great time. Her college roommates, **Paula Mercier** and **Nancy Delekto**, were there, too, so that added to the fun. Holly, as usual, looked beautiful, and it was so sweet to see how excited her husband, Tom, was to be marrying her. Congratulations!

"It was really nice to recently hear from **Tony Ejarque** out of the blue. He writes, 'I should have graduated in '87, but somehow pulled strings to graduate in '86. I'm currently the executive director of the Rochester Opera House in Rochester, NH, and co-owner of The Governor's Inn, also in Rochester.'

"**Jill Weiner Marocchini** writes, 'My youngest daughter is a freshman in college, and is running cross-country. I have seen Keene State at many of her meets. It brings back many memories of when I ran at Keene State freshman year.'

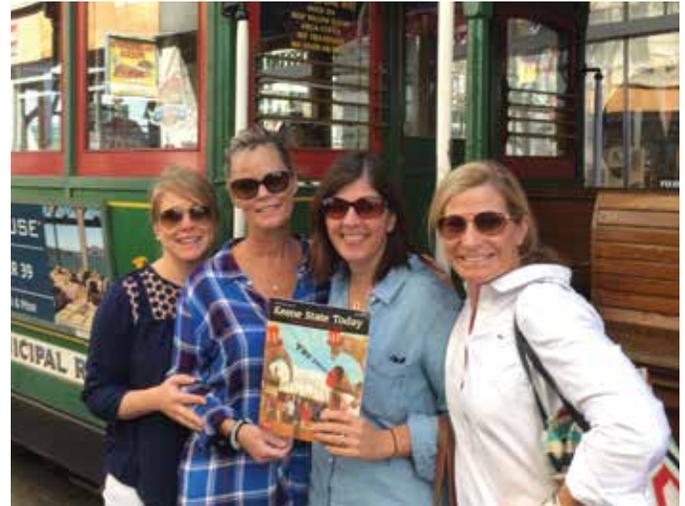
From **Patricia Cassin Warach**: 'I'm a widow and an LPN at Dover Rehab, and recently bought a home in Dover. My daughter, Elizabeth, is working for the Alumni Department at Emmanuel College in Boston, and my son, Colin, has been working for a moving company.'

"One last thing: If anyone wants to get together in the Boston area, let me know! Maybe we could try planning a group dinner or something. Take care, Michael T."

1987

30TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Lisa Corrette Livingstone
l.livingstone@verizon.net



A group of Keene State alumni from the class of 1988 took a trip to San Francisco, CA, in July 2016. From left are **Beth Young Entwistle**, **Jodi Tobias Bailey**, **Dawn Kull Kluchinski**, and **Kelly Getman Danahy**.

Samantha Barrett McKinlay
2400 County Line Rd.
Ardmore, PA 19003
mckinlay3@ymail.com

Michelle Morris Ayer
41 Hemlock Rd.
Hingham, MA 02043
michelleayer@me.com

1988

Jeffrey LaValley
187 County St., #1
Attleboro, MA 02703
jeff_lavalley1966@yahoo.com

Susan Lundgren Regan
79 Winthrop Rd.
Guilford, CT 06437

1989

Maribeth Marsico Gesler
mbmars@cox.net

1990

Lauren Aborjaily Griffin
17 Monhege Path
Marlborough, CT 06447

Shelly Brodeur Masson
shelly_m627@comcast.net

Maureen Cicchese Musseau
75 Pinehaven Dr.
Whitman, MA 02382
mmusseau@comcast.net

Melinda Treadwell was named provost of Antioch University New England in Keene. Formerly the

graduate school's vice president for academic affairs, she now holds the highest leadership position. Before moving to Antioch, Melinda was acting provost at Keene State.

1991

Karen Dicey
kldicey@yahoo.com

Amy Eshelman
102 Newberry Rd.
East Haddam, CT 06423
aleshelman@hotmail.com

Kathleen Kerr St. Germaine
19 Great Woods Rd.
Plymouth, MA 02360-1826

1992

25TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Joan Crosby Anderson
General Delivery
Wilnot Flat, NH 03287-9999

Kate Shepard Dugan
42 Middlefield Dr.
West Hartford, CT 06107
patedugan@snet.net

The Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock, NH, named **Sharyn D'Eon '92**, principal of Chesterfield School, its 2016 Educator of the Year "for her lifelong dedication to helping kids

explore their local landscapes and helping teachers gain confidence and competence with outdoor natural science investigations."

1993

Shelli Bienvenue Cook
18 Heathrow Ave.
Manchester, NH 03204
shellicook@yahoo.com

Seth M. Klaiman
2 Sweet Fern Trail
Saunderstown, RI 02874
smkri@aol.com

1994

Melissa Sawyer Bowler
158 Shaker Rd.
Canterbury, NH 03224
melissa@slgl.com

Dawn Deurell
17 Chestnut Cir.
Merrimack, NH 03054-6611
deurell@aol.com

Penny Rioux Joyal
106 N. Adams St.
Manchester, NH 03104

1995

Cara H. Staus
arac95@yahoo.com

Erin Delude George
9 Bigelow Hill Rd.
Troy, NH 03465-2106
egeorge@antioch.edu

1996

Karen Holmes Reinhold
dccxi@comcast.net

Aaron Kay Sales Parker
5832 Wooded Acres Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37921
rparker924@comcast.net

Lt. Col. **Patrick J. Egan Jr.** is attending the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA. The War College provides graduate-level instruction to senior military officers and civilians to prepare them for senior leadership assignments and responsibilities. He is accompanied by his wife, Stephanie, and their three children, Brennan, 10, Rowan, 7, and Declan, 4.

1997

Danielle Dearborn Gagne
1587 Waterwells Rd.



Theresa Patsos '10 married **Kevin Polley '10** September 9, 2016, at The Peak at Killington Mountain, Killington VT. Attending the wedding were, from left, **Mike Burgoyne '11**, **Jose Lugo '07**, **Ryan Kupstas '11**, **Nicole DiPierdomenico '11**, **Daniel Lavallee '10**, **Kara Wood Kittredge '10**, **Sarina Habib Lugo '10**, **Aimee LaPlant '10**, **Stacey Frenette '10**, **Theresa Patsos**, **Kevin Polley**, **Joseph Dionne '12**, **Mary Valiante '11**, **Kyle Ciccaglione '09**, **Bryan O'Leary '10**, **Jeff Haskel '09**, **Carmen Picillo '09**, **Taylor Trudeau '10**.

Alfred Station, NY 14803
gagne@alfred.edu

1998

Deb Clogher Burleigh
44 Clinton Ave.
Budd Lake, NJ 07828
deborahclogher@yahoo.com

Lisa Demers Harvey
lharvey2010@comcast.net

Kristen Cranson Nelson
P.O. Box 208
Greenvale, NY 11548
kanelson02@hotmail.com

1999

Jason Hindle
8 Spruce St.
Somersworth, NH 03878
jsnhindle@yahoo.com

2000

Danielle LePage Zimmerman
danni@thezims.net

2001

Christine Leland Williams
mrsquattro@gmail.com

2002

15TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Jessie Gannett Heath
59 King Road
Chichester, NH 03258
jheath@wrsdsau59.org

2003

Angela Watson
55 Davidson Hill Rd.
Westminster, VT 05158
angela_watson7579@yahoo.com

Danielle Popyk
danielle.popyk@gmail.com

2004

Alison (Thompson) Cizowski
101 McLellan Drive, Apt 1007
South San Francisco, CA 94080
alit8@aol.com

2005

Valerie Nettleton
1250-210 West Adams
Hill Circle
Bloomington, IN 47403
valerie.nettleton@gmail.com

2006

Adam Wefers
154 Sagamore St., Apt. 2
Manchester, NH 03104
awefers84@hotmail.com

2007

10TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Adam Levesque has been appointed safety management consultant with the MEMIC Group, which specializes in workers' compensation insurance. A safety

major at Keene State, Adam has an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University.

2008

Kelly A. Mullane
532 King Street
Chappaqua, NY 10514
kelly.a.mullane@gmail.com

2010

Matt Gill
69 Conleys Grove Road
Derry NH 03038
mgillnh@gmail.com

2011

Kelly Payeur
766 Ocean Ave
Portland, ME 04101
kellypayeur@gmail.com

2012

5TH REUNION
June 9-11, 2017

Alex Cucchi spoke to the Keene State Golden Circle Alumni luncheon held at The Common Man in Claremont, NH, this fall. He spoke about his work as an assistant editor with Florentine Films, Ken Burns' documentary film production company.

2014

Emily Reed
emilyreed2014@gmail.com

2015

Chelsea Harris
chelseajharris10@gmail.com

Cailey Meagher is safety manager with Jacobson & Company. She oversees 400 men and women on

29 jobsites throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens.

2016

Emily Kenney works as an EHS engineer at Analog Devices, Wilmington, MA. She's living in Somerville, MA, with four roommates.

**NEXT CLASS NOTES DEADLINE:
SPRING ISSUE, FEBRUARY 24**



Note: We've been tracking down information on alumni we've lost contact with, which accounts for the unusually long *In Memoriam* list in this issue.

Thelma A. Gagne '30
April 29, 2003

Ruth G. Peirce '31
July 29, 2009

Frances E. Hallisey '32
March 25, 2007

Mildred Holcomb Moore '33
March 28, 2007

Marion Rollins Stone '36
July 4, 2016

Dorothy Woinick Curley '37
April 12, 2010

Geneva Smith Jones '38
November 21, 2007

Eva French Maurice '39
August 6, 2008

Virginia Headberg Bailey '41
March 21, 2006

Phyllis Osgood Bean '42
September 21, 2016

Lena Fournier McGuire '42
April 14, 2012

Louis Libbares '44
April 17, 2009

Nancy Scripture Ashford '45
October 11, 2016

Geraldine Swift Harless '45
March 25, 2010

Barbara Brackett Howe '45
May 2, 2011

Raymond A. Langer '45
Day unknown, 1947

Alice Schribner Fletcher '49
August 22, 2009

Lois Wadleigh Kaminsky '51
November 14, 2007

Virginia Fox Bicknell '50
June 29, 2007

Wendell Nickerson '51
August 3, 2016

Charles H. Plimpton '51
September 17, 2016

Martha Bassett Sargent '51
September 20, 2016

Sally Barker Andrews '52
Date unavailable

John C. Stevens '52
Mary 14, 2010

Paul E. Christiansen '53
October 4, 2016

William H. Cross '53
April 4, 2008

Joan Hanson Hicken '53
November 17, 2009

Claire Truehon Martel '53
May 17, 2010

Elizabeth Kilgore '55
August 5, 2015

Robert L. Simpson '55
August 15, 2016

Richard E. Cobleigh '56
September 14, 2016

Janice Rafter Adams '57
September 30, 2016

Marjory Morrill Ridlon '58
April 16, 2007

Barbara Emmons Hanscom '59
April 29, 2013

Amy LeClair Holiday '59
August 16, 2006

Sandra Perron Panzeri '60
August 9, 2016

Frederick J. Morgan '61
September 12, 2016

Pauline Robertson Pate '61
November 29, 2012

Paul A. Dupont '63
October 17, 2006

Frank N. Ryan '63
November 5, 2011

Linda Bell Trepanier '64
October 23, 2016

David S. Bechok '65
August 7, 2016

Harry Loyzelle '65
August 8, 2008

Francis G. Tate '65
September 14, 2016

Hazel F. Pomiecko '69
March 10, 2011

Timothy F. Scannell '69
September 1, 2016

George Nostrand '70
September 21, 2016

Patricia A. Pellegrino '70
April 28, 2012

Joseph A. Forseze '71
July 25, 2008

Deborah DiSalvo Brady '72
September 25, 2007

George D. Hanna '72
June 29, 2009

Freda Mary Michael (Sister Aurelia) '72
November 2, 2016

Caren D. Calafati '74
September 17, 2014

Richard D. Gregory '77
February 16, 2016

Karen Nissen Reed '78
August 2, 2009

Janet Chapin Kirby '78
August 25, 2016

Kathleen O'Connell Romano '78
April 28, 2012

Ruth Westlund '78
December 11, 2008

Cheryl A. Santucci '78
June 8, 2011

Nancy Waters Materne '79
August 17, 2016

Lynn Burns Stauble '79
July 12, 2015

William R. Steele '79
March 2, 2012

Helen M. Fahy '80
November 27, 2009

Ann Marie Boniakowski Lowery '80
May 25, 2016

Sue-Ellen Rumrill '80
February 4, 2009

Mitchell J. White '80
July 10, 2013

Lucille LaFountain Martineau '81
October 5, 2009

John D. Miller '81
March 24, 2007

Alan J. Benjamin '82
March 25, 2010

Anthony A. Guglielmi '82
September 13, 2006

Kathleen S. Jacobs '83
October 27, 2011

William G. Johnson '85
October 29, 2016

Beverly L. Haley '86
July 1, 2013

Margo A. Keating '86
February 25, 2011

Sean M. McGrath '87
September 13, 2010

Carleton D. Richardson '96
October 9, 2016

Earl S. McGraw '06
September 21, 2016

** Deaths reported as of of November 4, 2016*

In Memoriam

Daniel Colina '11

Arlington, VA

Account manager, Great Minds

Major: Social Studies, with political science and sociology concentrations

"I work a lot. In addition to my full-time job as an account manager with a nonprofit that develops curriculum, I'm a private track and field coach, tutor, and college counselor. My plan is that I want to start my own business that ties into college counseling and athletics. I'd be a coach but also I'd prepare athletes for college and the recruitment process."

 Read Daniel's oral history at keene.edu/first-person.



Robin Carnes '83

Silver Spring, MD

Co-founder, Warriors at Ease, a nonprofit that trains and positions yoga and meditation teachers to work in military communities, especially with people suffering from combat-stress related symptoms.

Major: English

“As soon as I was at Walter Reed Hospital working with active-duty service members who’d had trauma, I thought, Everything I have ever done in my whole life led to this, because I need to be able to relate effectively with men, so my corporate work was really helpful, and I need to be able to talk in way that makes sense to people who are brand new to yoga and very skeptical about it; I need to put it in very practical terms and I need to hold myself with a certain kind of authority but still have this softness to me so that I create safety with them.”

 Read Robin's oral history at keene.edu/first-person.



A man with short hair and a beard, wearing a dark shirt, tie, and vest, is sitting on a black chair in a theater. He is looking towards the camera. The background shows rows of empty theater seats.

Joshua Midgett '07

Shepherdstown, WV

General Manager, Contemporary American Theater Festival

Majors: Theatre & Dance, Economics

“Immediately after graduation from Keene State, I was fortunate enough to receive a year-long theatre management internship with the Trinity Repertory Company in Providence. It was eye opening. That’s when I began to tap into all those things that I remembered learning in economics, and got to see that creative industries and arts industries and the theatre profession are part of that bigger picture that we talked about in all of those economics classes.”

 Read Joshua’s oral history at keene.edu/first-person.

We're changing with the seasons!

Reunion 2017
June 9–11



Alumni Weekend
2017
October 13–15

Reconnect with friends from your class, your major, your clubs, your teams, your fraternities and sororities, and more.

.....

STARTING IN 2018, REUNION IS MOVING TO FALL!

We heard you, and we share your enthusiasm for gathering on campus in the fall. Please join the Alumni Association Board of Directors in uniting traditions old and new.

Come back while classes are in session, the campus is energized, the teams are playing, and the leaves are turning gold. We all have great memories of Keene State during foliage season – and now we'll be able to make more. Dates and details to come!