Dear Friends and Colleagues,

What a great year for the Arts and Humanities community at Keene State College!

Many readers will recognize individual stories of students, faculty, and staff in the following pages. One of the constant joys of the dean’s office is the privilege of seeing all of these stories all the time.

More students than ever before are presenting research at regional and national conferences, performing around the state, and participating in workshops around the country. They work with high school students on musical auditions, intern at regional news organizations and nonprofit agencies, and collaborate across disciplines to produce works of remarkable creativity and beauty.

Our faculty have been recognized for their regional and international contributions: one was named New Hampshire’s Poet Laureate and another found a lost film from 1911 in the Film Archives, screening it in the Putnam Theater to international press attention. We welcome five amazing new faculty in Art History, Graphic Design, Music, Spanish, and English, and they have already brought their energy and experience into classrooms, hallways, and campus conversation. Sara Hottinger began this spring as our new Assistant Dean of Arts and Humanities, and three new administrative assistants have joined us in the Redfern and Morrison.

This was a great year for alumni. Shawn Ahern ’10, dancing with Pilobolus, brought the inventive dance company back to the Redfern; Jennifer Dunnington ’93 was elected to the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; and three recent English majors worked in the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, and taught English in Korea.

Women’s and Gender Studies capstone class photo.

WGS Receives Grant

The Women’s and Gender Studies Department recently received a generous donation from an anonymous fund at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The donation will be used to send Women’s and Gender Studies Capstone students to the National Young Feminist Leadership conference in Washington, DC, in March of 2014. The Young Feminist Leadership Conference is sponsored by the Feminist Majority Foundation and provides students and young activists with a chance to develop their leadership skills and network with a variety of feminist leaders, activists, and policy makers on a national stage. In addition to two days of workshops, our students will get the chance to meet with members of the New Hampshire congressional delegation as part of the extended conference Congressional Visit Day.

The Women’s and Gender Studies Capstone course is taught every spring to junior and senior WGS majors and minors. Students are expected to put their knowledge of feminist and queer theory into practice in an experiential project. The faculty member who teaches the course designs the project and the accompanying research assignment. In recent years, Women’s and Gender Studies students have worked on behalf of a College committee charged with revising the College’s sexual assault policy. WGS Capstone students conducted focus groups in the dormitories about sexual assault on campus in order to assess KSC students’ understanding of the sexual assault policy. They reported the results of those focus groups to the committee, who incorporated many of their findings into the final revision of the policy. WGS Capstone students have also partnered with the Doris “Granny D” Haddock archive at the Mason Library and brought together a group of community members who had worked closely with Granny D. Students conducted oral histories with these community members, which were then added to the archives, and hosted them at an event where their stories were shared with the public.

(continued on page 2)
Students Attend 2nd Annual Choral Directors Conference

(Back row, l-r) Emily DeAngelis, Danielle St. Amand, Kenneth Ballou, Sandra Howard (chapter advisor), David Parker, Lauren Weiner, Kerri McCormack, Brittney Fournier (Front row, l-r) Ariel Hamilton, Hannah Hall, Samantha McCloaghry, Kaitie Hart, Amanda Williams, Elizabeth Fecto

Members of Keene State College's American Choral Directors Association collegiate chapter traveled to Plymouth State University on Saturday, September 28, to attend a one-day professional development conference. The Second Annual New England Area ACDA Collegiate Conference brought nearly 100 attendees together to spend a day focused on movement and body awareness for conductors and singers.

The event began with a group yoga warm up, followed by a session focused on Laban movement and conducting gesture. Attendees applied Alexander Techniques and movements to enhance choral diction, posture, and breath. The day culminated with an open rehearsal presentation by PSU’s Chamber Singers to demonstrate the benefit of movements to free the body when expressing music through singing.

The KSC collegiate chapter of ACDA created and hosted the first annual conference in September 2012 in collaboration with New Hampshire’s state chapter. The conference will rotate through KSC, PSU, and UNH in an effort to provide pre-service choral music educators with an opportunity to expand their knowledge base and professional network.

Community Connections

The cities of Keene and Einbeck, Germany, established a partnership back in 2002, and from that beginning, Professor and Chair of Holocaust and Genocide Studies Paul Vincent looked for ways to involve the College in the relationship with Einbeck, though our sister city doesn’t have an institution similar to KSC. In 2004, a teacher and the director of the city’s museum traveled from Einbeck to Keene to attend the Cohen Center’s second Summer Institute on the Holocaust. This inspired people of Einbeck to create a film documenting the impact of the November 1938 Kristallnacht pogrom on their city (the local synagogue was, indeed, destroyed by fire as a result of that incident), and it was shown at the 2004 Kristallnacht Remembrance.

In July 2010, an Einbeck city councilor had the idea to develop some sort of choral exchange. That led to a collaboration with Assistant Professor of Music and Director of the KSC Chamber Singers Sandra Howard that resulted in the Keene and Einbeck Collaboration Concert held in the Redfern Arts Center Alumni Recital Hall. The concert featured The Keene State College Chamber Singers, The Brass Ensemble, The Chamber Singers of Keene, and Voices, from Salzerhelden, Germany.

The evening included a world premiere of a composition by KSC music major Miriam Sharrock that combined all three choirs and ended with an accompaniment by the Brass Ensemble. Former Keene mayor Pat Russell was in attendance, as was the family of our late mayor, Mike Blastos (to whom the concert was dedicated). Senator Molly Kelly ’83 and Keene Police Chief Ken Meola were also in the audience. Attendees packed the Alumni Recital Hall, and it is estimated that 75 disappointed people had to be turned away. The concert also brought in donations of food and money to benefit The Community Kitchen of Keene.

The evening was a remarkable example of local and global sharing. “Last night’s collaborative concert was the finest example of ‘town-gown’ cultural cooperation that I’ve experienced in more than 28 years at Keene State College,” Dr. Vincent said.

WGS Receives Grant (continued from page 1)

Dr. Patricia Pedroza is teaching the WGS Senior Capstone course this spring. Her students will collect oral histories from some of the 20 extraordinary women of Keene profiled by the Keene Sentinel in August of 2013. Students will focus on what these women did to develop their leadership skills and how they envision their commitment to the community and to the state. Our students will be able to connect what they learn at the National Young Feminist Leadership conference to the very real work that extraordinary women are doing here in Keene. The Women’s and Gender Studies Capstone students will present the work that they do to the campus and community on April 30th at 4 p.m. in the Student Center Atrium Room.

—Sara Hottinger

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—Sara Hottinger
KSC Sends Four Students to NCUR

Four KSC students—history majors Kyle O’Brien and Alexander Habibi, theatre and dance major Matt McDougal, and music major Jordan Chase—presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at the University of Kentucky from April 3–5.

Sending four students to the conference is a real accomplishment for the students and the College, according to Dean of Arts & Humanities Andrew Harris. NCUR is the largest undergraduate research conference in North America, featuring over 2,000 student presentations and reflecting all disciplines in higher education. “It is the kind of conference that we ought to seek out for more of our students, as it offers them a wonderful opportunity to present their work in front of students from colleges and universities all over the country. Student presentation there speaks not only to the quality of student research required for acceptance, but also to the institutional culture that supports a high level of student scholarship and faculty mentoring,” Dr. Harris explained. Keene State is the only institution in New Hampshire that is sending students this year.

Jordan Chase’s project, “Orchestration of a Large-Scale Music Composition,” is a reflection of the project he completed over the summer under a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) grant. “Receiving the SURF grant gave me the opportunity to learn about the orchestral instruments and apply the knowledge I learned to my compositional studies,” Chase said. “The study of instrumentation, orchestration, and formal structure in music enhanced my understanding of music theory at its core and of the compositional process as a whole.

Alexander Habibi’s research project focuses on the philosophy of the South African anti-apartheid activist Steven Biko, who is credited with founding the Black Consciousness movement that sought to unite and instill pride in oppressed black South Africans during the apartheid era. Biko was detained at a roadblock, tortured, and murdered by security police. “I chose the topic because I studied abroad in Cape Town last spring semester and was fascinated by the struggle South Africans waged against an oppressive, minority-ruled state,” Habibi explained.

Matt McDougal will be presenting about his work performing 35 different roles in the production of the one-man Pulitzer Prize winning play I Am My Own Wife, written by Doug Wright and directed here at Keene State by Timothy L’Ecuyer ’03. “This play tells the true story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, a German transvestite who lived openly in East Berlin through both the Nazi and Communist regimes,” McDougal said.

Kyle O’Brien will be presenting a paper, “Lifting the Veil,” on early German Romanticism, a literary movement in the late 18th century. The paper’s title refers to the poet-philosopher Novalis’ (Friedrich Von Hardenberg’s) ideas about the poet and his place in society. “I focus on the concept that it is the poet who can lift the veil of truth and that the poet becomes worthy to do so through a ‘circuitous journey’ in which he leaves and returns home with knowledge of the Truth, creating a return to a golden age,” O’Brien said.

URCE Institute (June 2–6)

This summer the School of Arts and Humanities will be offering the first faculty institute on the development of courses and curricula that focus on undergraduate research opportunities.

Undergraduate research, in a variety of forms including creative endeavors in the visual and performing arts, has been shown to have a positive correlation to student GPA, retention (especially of first- and second-year students, higher achieving students, and minority students), overall satisfaction with the undergraduate experience, and continuation to graduation.

Throughout the week of the institute (June 2–6), faculty will work together and with the institute facilitators to develop specific ideas about how undergraduate research and creative endeavors (URCE) can be more fully incorporated into the curriculum of the programs in which they teach. Each discipline has its own understanding of what URCE looks like in that field, and each program has its own culture around the ways that students and faculty work together most productively. The programs offered in this institute will respect those differences and present faculty with a range of tools and possibilities that best suits them and their work.

The institute will benefit faculty who are coming to undergraduate research from a variety of backgrounds, with a variety of interests and expectations, including individual course or assignment redesign, department/program curriculum development, and the reorganization or redesign of campus-wide programs.

–Nick Germana
Long-lost Mary Pickford Film Premiered at KSC

Mary Pickford, known as “America's Sweetheart,” was among Hollywood's first superstars. A remarkably talented screenwriter, producer, and actor, she won the hearts of moviegoers across the continent and co-founded United Artists (with D. W. Griffith, Douglas Fairbanks, and Charlie Chaplin) and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The Keene State College Film Archives has discovered, among its holdings, *Their First Misunderstanding* (1911, IMP, 10 mins), a long-lost film written by and starring Mary Pickford. The film is Pickford's first for IMP (the Independent Motion Picture Co.) and the first time she was credited and promoted by name. Realizing the film's importance, the Library of Congress agreed to restore it, and Christel Schmidt, author of *Mary Pickford: Queen of the Movies*, came to campus to host the world re-premiere of this historic film. This important discovery even made waves in Hollywood, where it was reported in the *Los Angeles Times*.
Mark My Words—a Graphic Design/Writing Student Collaboration

Last fall, Melissa DiPalma, a lecturer who teaches a course in book and magazine design in the Graphic Design program, approached English Department Chair Kirsti Sandy and asked if Dr. Sandy's writing students would be willing to submit pieces of short fiction or nonfiction for a journal the graphic design students were creating. Sandy enlisted the help of Associate Professors of English Kate Tirabassi and Brinda Charry, and they offered students in their upper-level fiction and nonfiction classes the opportunity to submit work. Out of many submissions, 13 were selected to appear in the journal. “Each author was paired with a graphic designer, and they worked as a team to explore the themes and content within each piece,” DiPalma explained.

“What made the collaboration particularly exciting was that most of the writers and graphic designers had a chance to meet and discuss the work and the process. In one instance, the graphic design student used the writing student's photographs as part of the finished piece. Another used one of the graphic design student's original watercolor paintings,” Dr. Sandy said.

The finished product, Mark My Words, is now online and open for enjoyment. issuu.com/melissadipalma/docs/mark_my_words_13

Alice B. Fogel Named New Hampshire Poet Laureate

Alice B. Fogel seems the perfect choice to be the state's new poet laureate. A lecturer in the Keene State College English Department, Fogel is nationally known as a poet – her most recent poetry collection, Be That Empty, spent four weeks on the National Poetry Society's bestseller list – and also as a kind of ambassador for the art form. Her 2009 book, Strange Terrain: A Poetry Handbook for the Reluctant Reader, based on a program she created for the New Hampshire Humanities Council, is aimed at helping people feel more comfortable with poetry.

"Alice Fogel's work makes poetry more accessible for all people, helping convey the human relationship to the natural world in a way that all poetry readers can appreciate," Governor Maggie Hassan said in a statement. "I am excited for her to serve as New Hampshire's next poet laureate and am confident that she will help build on the Granite State's rich poetic history."

Fogel, a resident of Acworth, hopes to bring that experience to other residents of the state during her five-year term. "New Hampshire has a great history of nurturing the arts," she says. "I'm thrilled to have benefited from some of that support, and to be able to do my part in sharing it with others. I hope to bring more readers to the many good poets in New Hampshire and beyond."

Julio Del Sesto Recognized for Volunteerism

Keene State College Assistant Professor of Journalism and alumnus, Julio Del Sesto '07, has been recognized by Keene-based Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities. He has been named a Cedarcrest Champion for the impact he has had on the Center through his voluntary web design and social media consultation work worth more than $20,000 in the past year. Del Sesto has also involved four interns to provide voluntary work to the Center.

"I am deeply honored. Cedarcrest Center does incredible work for such amazing children and families. I am very pleased to be able to bring my research and scholarship together with a service project to benefit the Center," said Del Sesto. "I'm fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Jeff Fuller, Cathy Gray, and all the wonderful, compassionate people at Cedarcrest – people whose daily work is award-worthy. Although websites and social media are important to a non-profit organization like Cedarcrest, they can cost lots of money – money which could be better used for medical and classroom equipment for the children at the Center."

This is the tenth year that Cedarcrest Center has given these awards. Each year the Center recognizes an individual and an organization that have made a significant or unique impact on the Center, including on the lives of the children, those who care for them, or on the Center's ability to connect with the community.

"Julio brought to our website development project the perfect balance of technical and design skills, knowledge of nonprofits and social media, and commitment to our mission and daily work. We are enormously grateful to have had the benefit of his time and talent," said Jeff Fuller, Director of Development and Community Relations at Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities.

For more information about Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities, visit http://www.cedarcrest4kids.org/.
What the degree did for you; it was about staying open to new things and to my professors at Keene were very adamant of being open to new things, and very precise chemistry to create pieces that look like they’re carved from ice.

Chris Bell ’11: Open, Learning, Creating

Design and Technical Theater major Christopher Bell ’11 was recently back at the Redfern, working behind the scenes with Pilobolus for their big show in October.

Shawn Ahern ’10 introduced Bell to some of the Pilobolus executives, who said they were interested in having Bell intern with them, and he jumped at the chance. Since Pilobolus is a world-renowned company that works with artists all over the world, Bell’s work with them opened the door to many important professional connections.

“I hooked into a group of artists that were creating the holiday windows for Bergdorf Goodman, the luxury-goods department store on Fifth Ave. in Manhattan, and they were looking for someone of my skill set,” Bell explained. Not long into that project, it became apparent that Bell would need some help. “I mentioned Gary Beisaw ’12 to them. They had a phone interview with him that night, and Gary flew out from Texas a few days later.”

“The project involved a process called resin casting which I was not too familiar with,” Bell recalls. “It required lots of mold making and very precise chemistry to create pieces of art to be used in the display. I never expected to be doing anything like this, but my professors at Keene were very adamant about staying open to new things and to keep challenging yourself. It wasn’t about what the degree did for you; it was about what you did with the degree.”

“When I left Keene, I took opportunities to try everything. Though my degree is in Technical/Design, I took classes in dance and acting and even did some performing. I was constantly striving to be well rounded. My professors always stressed the importance of collaboration. The conversation between directors, performers, designers, and technicians is vital, and I wanted to understand things from all these perspectives. That let me acquire new skills, and I was able to keep creating, which is what I most enjoy. My hope is that I will never be complacent and I’ll continue to grow and challenge myself as an artist.”

Molly Jae Chase ’10, Swing Dresser on Broadway

What’s a swing dresser? It’s a stagehand who maintains the quality of the costumes worn in a theatrical performance, each time it’s performed. Dressers are responsible for assisting cast members with backstage costume changes, when necessary, and they often assist with quick costume changes. As a swing dresser with The Book of Mormon on Broadway, Molly Jae Chase ’10 had to learn six of the dressing tracks for the show so she can handle one of them at any time. “At The Book of Mormon they are all extremely fast paced and heavy loads with around 30 quick changes each,” Molly explained. “It is extremely hard work, but the most fun I’ve ever had at work.”

It seems that Molly acquired more than just technical skills as a Theatre and Dance major at KSC. “I learned how to be confident in both myself and my craft,” she said. “I learned about the importance of professionalism, and community. I learned how to think outside the box and not be afraid to take risks. I learned about hard work and versatility and drive, just to name a few.”

“Our program has something every school should be jealous of, and that is teachers who inspire,” Molly remembered. “The professors make sure that they reach out to every student in every class and somehow make the students crave learning about their craft. We have an extremely driven department that makes sure we not only have the skills we need to do the things we want, but also the skills in crafts that affect what we want to do. As someone who focused on costumes, I also had to take carpentry, acting, and scene painting, etc. Some students took a directing or a stage-managing class. And students studying to be actors or dancers had to have one credit that had them participate as part of the backstage crew, and vice versa. We were constantly inspired by our mentors, and they taught us that hard work is the only way to really get where you want to go, and that you can do it without being cutthroat.”

Three English Majors Living and Honing their Craft

Three recent English grads—Adam Hogue ’11, Hillary Bailey ’13, and Dylan Freni ’13—are out in the big world, using the skills they learned at KSC and living interesting lives.

Adam Hogue ’11

Adam Hogue is currently living and working in Providence, RI, and is a contributing writer for PolicyMic. Prior to coming back Stateside, he spent two years teaching English in Gwangju, Korea, where he got to do a lot of traveling around the East. PolicyMic recently named him “Pundit Of The Week.” If you know Adam, or would like to know him, you’ll really enjoy the article.

Hillary Bailey ’13

Hillary Bailey is working with AmeriCorps and currently helping flood victims in Colorado. When she tells people that she took a professional writing course, “I automatically become their proofreader and/or document developer,” she said. “My professional writing skills have allowed me to work as a media rep for my team.”

Hillary kept a blog, “The Walking Girl: A Journey Through the History of Keene, NH,” as part of her internship with the Historical Society of Cheshire County last spring.

Dylan Freni ’13

The Clare Literary Journal recently published poet and copywriter Dylan Freni’s poem, “The Sleeping List.” Dylan will be attending the MFA program at the University of New Hampshire next year and, besides his day job writing copy for a website based in Exeter, is the poetry editor for The Squalor Review. He also writes about poetry on his blog, Diagnostic.
“The Writing program at Keene helped me to find what my strengths and weaknesses are as a writer, and also helped me to realize my potential.” Dylan explained. “Now, having a career in marketing as a writer, I am experiencing success both in my professional and creative worlds thanks to the vital skills I learned from my mentors and peers at Keene State.”

**Jennifer Dunnington ’93 Joins the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**

Motion Picture Music Editor Jennifer Dunnington ’93 was invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ class of 2013, honoring her for the work she’s produced during her career. The Academy welcomed 276 members, including Jennifer Lopez, Lucy Liu, Jason Bateman, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Michael Pena, and Chris Tucker.

“I am thrilled to be a part of the Academy and to play an active role in the screening, voting, and celebration of widespread talent in the film community,” Jennifer said.

**Artist Shawn Huckins ’07 Featured in Huffington Post**

Since he graduated with a degree in Studio Art at KSC, work by Shawn Huckins ’07 has appeared in galleries around the country. He has won the Award for Excellence in the 2007 Ridgefield Guild of Artists 30th Annual Exhibition, the New Haven Paint and Clay Club Prize, and the Thorne-Sagendorph Student Exhibition People’s Choice Award, as well as the Thorne’s Biennial Regional Juror’s Choice Award. His latest series, “The American ___ tier,” was recently featured in the Huffington Post, and will be in a solo exhibition at Design Matters in LA in September.

For the series, Huckins accurately reproduced early American paintings and photographs, and then superimposed upon them the kind of slang, tweets, hashtags, and bad spelling and grammar modern Americans are likely to see on cell phones and social media. “Each work is meticulously replicated from the original painting,” Huckins explained. “The lettering on top is also hand painted. Nothing is photoshopped and/or digital. All of my works are original acrylic on canvas paintings.”

Huckins, who graduated magna cum laude, credits KSC with creating many opportunities for him. “What’s great about Keene is that there isn’t one methodology to their teaching practices in the arts,” he recalled. “The faculty comes from a diverse background, which is great in showing students various perspectives on tackling a goal or vision. It allows the students, as cliche as it is, to think outside the box and to broaden their thought process.”

**New Faculty**

**Daniel Carberg**, tenor, is an internationally renowned performer and teacher. He has sung with Sting, Piffaro, The Catacoustic Consort, and LIBER, and he’s been featured on National Public Radio’s Performance Today. Joining the Music faculty at Keene State College, Dan serves as the coordinator of vocal activities, teaching applied voice, diction for singers, and vocal pedagogy and directing a select vocal ensemble, the Keene Vocal Consort. He holds bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a doctorate from Indiana University in Bloomington. Dan’s specialties include early music (medieval, Renaissance, and baroque) and jazz.

**Lisa Renee DiGiovanni** specializes in 19th–21st century Spanish Peninsular and Latin American literature and film from a transnational perspective, with an emphasis on the relationship between history, literature, memory, nostalgia, and gender. She joins the Modern Languages faculty and teaches introductory to advanced courses that integrate language, culture, literature, and film while emphasizing critical thinking, interdisciplinarity, and active learning.

Visual communication designer **Randall Hoyt** has joined the Art Department as an associate professor. Before coming to KSC, he taught for 11 years at the University of Connecticut. Randall’s award-winning studio practice encompasses screen-based and environmental design projects for national and international clients including The Guggenheim Museum, The Museum of Money and Financial Institutions, American International Schools, the American Institute of Architects and Yale University. Hoyt received his MFA in Graphic Design from the Yale School of Art in 2001.

**Emily Robins Sharpe** joins Keene State College as an assistant professor of English and an affiliate faculty for Women’s and Gender Studies. Her teaching and scholarship focus on global Anglophone literatures, with particular emphases in transnational modernism, post-colonialism, Jewish literature, and the digital humanities. Sharpe has a BA from King’s College-Dalhousie, in Nova Scotia, and a Master’s and PhD from Penn State University.

**Retirements**

Professor of History **Carl Granquist** has announced his retirement. What’s next? “Well, I’m hoping to begin scanning my collection of 53,000 slides and also to do some travelling in Europe in the autumn months,” he reported.
Murray Mast and Christopher Swist Perform on Premiere Recording of Inuksuit

Music Lecturer Murray Mast and Resident Artist Christopher Swist were performers on Cantaloupe Music’s premier recording of Inuksuit by John Luther Adams. This recording has made NPR Classical’s 10 Favorite Albums of 2013, the New York Times’ Favorite Classical Recordings of 2013, the Boston Globe’s Best Albums of 2013, The New Yorker’s Notable Classical Recordings of 2013, and the New Music Box’s 2013 Staff Picks. This piece is scored for a battery of percussion instruments (from nine to 99 musicians) dispersed throughout a large space. Each performance of the work varies depending on location and number of instruments: This version was recorded in the woods in Guilford, Vermont. The KSC Percussion Ensemble staged Inuksuit on Appian Way back in 2011 and will be performed again this year around Brickyard Pond on May 2.

How did these two faculty members become performers on the recording? Swist first played in the piece at its New York City premier at the Park Avenue Armory in Feb 2011. “Inspired, I had the KSC Percussion Ensemble perform the New Hampshire premiere of Inuksuit on Appian Way in April of 2011,” Swist explained. In June 2011, Mast joined with a group of 99 musicians for an outdoor performance at New York City’s Morningside Park. “Eventually a smaller group (30) was formed to do the recording at Guilford Sound in Vermont in June 2012 that included both Murray and me and that’s how we ended up on this critically acclaimed recording,” Swist said.