

Keene
STATE COLLEGE

THE Hoot

KEENE STATE COLLEGE OBSERVER



Dear Alumni and Friends,

The College eagerly awaits students' return to campus! With safety guidelines continuing, Keene State welcomes students to campus this week. Plans are in place to best ensure a healthy and successful new year!

Share your updated information with [Advancement/Alumni Offices!](#)

Campus Updates



Photo: Steven Berlanga (bass), J.D. Burnett (Kinnara Ensemble's musical director), Caleb Herron (percussion), Heather Gilligan, Wanda Yang Temko (alto), Chelsea Helm (soprano), and Cory Klose (tenor).

World Premiere of Civil Rights-Themed Song Cycle by KSC Professor

In 2019, Keene State College Professor of Music, Heather Gilligan, DMA, was commissioned by Atlanta-based Kinnara, one of the nation's premier professional chamber choirs, to write a 25-minute work for vocal quartet and percussion that focuses on issues of civil rights and social justice. Gilligan devoted a year and a half to the work, titled "Southern Dissonance: Portraits of a New South," and Kinnara premiered the song cycle on January 14, 2022 in Huntsville, AL. With texts by John Lewis, Stacy Abrams, Martin Luther King, Alice Walker, Langston Hughes, and Jimmy Carter – all southern activists, many of whom are Atlanta-based, the work is about progress and persistence. Gilligan said of the piece: "Uniting texts by a variety of writers and political figures from the Civil Rights Movement to present day, the composition weaves together themes that are as relevant now as they were then, exploring issues of voter rights and the idea of standing one's ground. In addition to the premiere in Huntsville, the piece was also performed in Atlanta, GA, both during Martin Luther King weekend. It will also be recorded and published. Congratulations, Heather!



Keene State College Recognized as a Top Overall Performer in Campus Sustainability

Keene State has achieved the second highest rating for sustainability in higher education and has been recognized as a top overall performer in AASHE's 2021 Campus Sustainability Index. The College's focus on sustainability in the categories of curriculum, purchasing, and research were highlighted; with special mention of heating plant, which is fueled by a renewable and low carbon resource.

Without the commitment to making Keene State a more sustainable campus by our students, faculty and staff, this would not have been possible!

View all KSC sustainability rankings in the [AASHE Stars Report](#).

Learn more about sustainability at Keene State [here](#).



Announcing Men's and Women's Golf as New Varsity Sports!

Keene State Athletics is thrilled to add women's and men's golf to their varsity programs beginning in Fall 2022. "This is an exciting time in Keene State athletics history," said Phil Racicot, Keene State College Director of Athletics and Recreation. "Our coaches have proven that they are outstanding recruiters of high-achieving student-athletes. We look forward to welcoming more quality student-athletes to our campus to help them reach their potential in the classroom and on the course while contributing to the vitality of the athletics department, and to the community as a whole."

In November 2021, Dr. Jeff Timmer was appointed as the first head golf coach for the teams. Dr. Timmer is a long-time member of the KSC Department of Human Performance and Movement Science. He has taught classes in golf since 2002 and played golf at Calvin College (Grand Rapids, Mich.), where he was an All-Conference honoree his final three seasons.

View more details about the [varsity golf announcement](#) and the new coach, [Dr. Timmer](#).



Come on back to the nest, Owls - Keene State College is hiring!

Consider a career at Keene State College.

Check out available positions [here](#).

Spotlight



Royal Recognition for Keene State Alumna

Eliza Maher Hasselquist '99 graduated from Keene State with a passion for biology and a solid introduction to the research process. Now living in Sweden, she is employed as a researcher while pursuing her Ph.D in biology and ecology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences' Department of Forest Ecology and Management in Umeå.

In December 2021, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden presented a scholarship to Eliza for her lead on a project to research management of forest growth close to wetlands. The King Carl XVI Gustaf 50th Anniversary Fund for Science, Technology and the Environment award is intended to promote research, technical development and enterprise that contributes to the sustainable use of natural resources and the preservation of biological diversity. Eliza's work explores how specific actions affect water quality and /or tree growth in terms of both economic and climate impact.

When asked what inspires her scientific pursuits Eliza says, "Humans have a hard time dealing with uncertainty, and it's important for science to put that uncertainty into context. Research provides information that contributes to making informed choices about the environment." Eliza attributes her career choice in part to undergraduate research opportunities with Keene State professors, Suzanne Whittemore and Renate Gebauer. Congratulations, Eliza!

View the award announcement [here](#).

Generosity



Keene State Students Thank You!

Throughout 2021, alumni and friends of the College have stayed engaged, whether by participating in campus activities (virtual and in person), volunteering time and talent, offering financial support, or sharing messages of encouragement.

Please view this [message of thanks](#) from a few of our many grateful students!

A Keene State Global Initiative is Recognized with Sustaining Commitment

The Keene State College Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program is an acknowledged leader in the field of genocide studies and

prevention. Its Summer Institute offers educational leaders from around the world the instruction to develop and provide curriculum focused on genocide prevention to a new generation of students. Attendees who complete the Institute join a global corps of educators who serve as leaders in Holocaust and genocide education in their schools, communities, and professional organizations. In recognition of the leadership of the Summer Institute's director, Cohen Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies Jim Waller, the Charles E. Scheidt Family Foundation has committed to underwriting the Summer Institute for the next five years, with support totaling \$300,000.

Waller expressed his gratitude for the Scheidt Family Foundation's commitment and vote of confidence in HGS's global outreach: "Through our previous Institutes, we've seen a remarkable growth of collaboration and teaching in genocide prevention among our alumni. This generous gift from the Scheidt Family Foundation enables us to continue to multiply the impact of that work globally." For additional information, contact Dr. Waller at jwaller@keene.edu.



Support the Owls during the Athletic Giving Challenge!

For the seventh year, Keene State varsity athletic teams are competing against each other to see who can raise the most money for their team during the month of February.

Thanks once again to our friends at Fenton Family Dealerships, our varsity teams have something on the line: the team(s) with the most overall dollars raised, as well as the highest number of alumni donors will unlock additional prize money for their program. You can make this happen!

Every donation to Owl Athletics goes directly to the team you choose to support. Our student-athletes rely on outside support from YOU to keep them on track and able to focus on what matters most: the classroom, and not how their season is going to be paid for. Please visit KeeneOwls.com/2022AGC to support the Owls!

Events

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

2022 Keene State College President's Outstanding Women of New Hampshire Awards

On Thursday, March 24, 2022, Keene State College will celebrate Women's History Month with the 32nd annual President's Outstanding Women of New Hampshire Awards.

This year's theme is:

Women Providing Healing/Promoting Hope

We will pay tribute to and recognize the women who have ceaselessly worked as caregivers and frontline workers, both during the ongoing pandemic and before it, contributing to our community's health and well-being. We invite nominations for women who have been involved in:

- Physical, mental, emotional, or social health and healing, either as providers of such care or as facilitators
- Scholarly research, writing, speaking, and teaching pertaining to health and well-being.

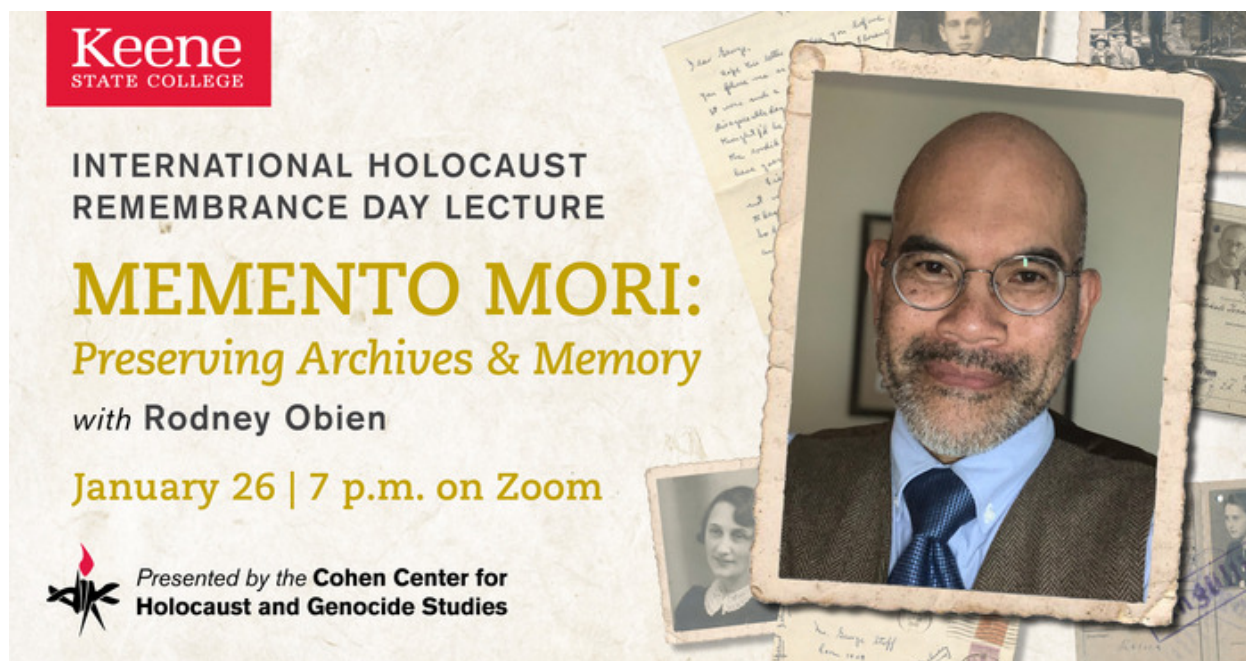
With these themes in mind, the President's Outstanding Women of NH will be awarded in the following categories:

- Keene State Student
- Keene State Faculty or Staff
- Greater Monadnock Region
- State of New Hampshire

Please visit www.keene.edu/campus/diversity/women/ for details and to nominate outstanding women you know by noon on Friday, February 4, 2022.

Thank you!

The President's Outstanding Women of NH Awards Committee



International Holocaust Remembrance Day ~

MEMENTO MORI: Preserving Archives & Memory with Rodney Obien

January 26 | 7 p.m. on Zoom

The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27th, the anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this day of commemoration, the UN urges every member of state to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism and to develop educational programs to help prevent further genocides.

Please register [here](#) to join this webinar with Rodney Obien, associate professor and Head of Special Collections and Archives, Mason Library.

Alumni Gatherings in Florida: Change of date!

The Advancement/Alumni Office has made the decision to postpone the traditional March gatherings and visits in Florida. The decision was made based on current COVID infection rates and future trends, and our hope is to visit alumni and friends later this spring. Please be on the lookout for more information around dates and events.



Save the Date!

Academic Excellence Conference

Saturday, April 23, 2022

The Academic Excellence Conference is Keene State's annual celebration of students' creative projects, performance, research and other scholarly work/activity. The conference is one of several end-of-year events that showcase students' excellence and achievements in their field. Collectively, the Academic Excellence Showcase is a week-long series of events in the spring that includes Theater and Dance's "Evening of Dance", BFA Graphic Design Portfolio Night, BFA/BA Art Studio Art Opening, culminating in the Academic Excellence Conference held on April 23.

Celebrating Alumni at the Palace Theatre: April 29, 2022

Join Keene State College alumni and friends at the Palace Theatre in Manchester, New Hampshire for The Producers! Before the show, join fellow alumni for a pre-show reception, where we will be honoring Peter Ramsey '76 with the Alumni Association Achievement Award.

Visit [Alumni Events](#) for more details.



Join us at Keene Country Club for the 31st Annual Keene State College Golf Classic

The Keene State College Golf Classic, sponsored once again by Chartwells Higher Ed, is back for the 31st time on June 3, 2022 - submit your foursome, or pledge your support with a sponsorship today!

We hope that you'll be able to join us for a fun day of golf to support Keene State College Athletics. Enjoy a day on the course with friends, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members, all to benefit the best student-athletes in the game, **by par**.

Register for the Golf Classic [here](#).