Every four years, a whirlwind of presidential politics sweeps through the state of New Hampshire, bringing with it candidates, political operatives, paid and volunteer workers, and journalists from major and not-so-major media outlets. Keene State College is always part of the excitement, with candidates coming to speak on campus and at nearby venues in town – offering plenty of opportunities for students to interact with the presidential hopefuls. The few months of time between the New Hampshire primary and the November general election provides a great opportunity to take a look at politics at all levels, from the presidential to the personal.

It’s All About Democracy
A column from President Anne E. Huot

FEATURES

New Hampshire Primary
Office Holders
Staffers
Activism
Research
Lobbying
Journalism
Civic Engagement

KSC Giving
Faculty & Staff Accomplishments
Class Notes

On the Cover: Presidential Politics! Design by Tim Thrasher
Inside cover: Ted Kennedy at Keene State in the early 1980s.

Online Only
Visit keene.edu/mag for special online-only content, links to more stories about political engagement at Keene State, and links to more information on the features in this issue.
On New Hampshire’s Political Culture

Professor Michael Welsh has taught in Keene State’s Political Science Department for over a dozen years. He writes here about the impact of the New Hampshire presidential primary on students who have grown up in the Granite State.

**IN MY CAREER I HAVE TAUGHT AMERICAN POLITICS TO STUDENTS** in various other places, from large public universities to small private colleges. Keene State students are different, and that difference has a lot to do with our first-in-the-nation primary.

You notice it your first time in the classroom, even when no election is under way. The current events discussion moves (and sometimes even shifts) itself. Policies are discussed as if they matter, and as if opinions about them make a difference.

**Professor Michael Welsh in the classroom.**

**Life Behind the Scenes**

It’s all about democracy. Our college motto, “Enter to Learn and Go Forth to Serve,” and our promise of “Wisdom to Make a Difference” provide a thoughtful window into this issue of Keene State Today. With more than 106,000 hours of community service annually, equating to approximately $2.3 million in real contributions to our community, our students demonstrate their commitment to giving back for the betterment of the lives of others.

Regardless of their chosen major, by the time Keene State College students complete their undergraduate experience, they develop critical thinking, creative inquiry, intercultural competence, civic engagement, and a commitment to well-being that will serve them as active citizens and lifelong learners.

This issue is all about politics. Yet, isn’t it really about democracy, about government exercised by the people, about the belief that all people are equally? An effective democracy relies on participation by the people, about the belief that all people are socially equal? An effective democracy relies on participation by the people, about the belief that all people are socially equal?

**Professor Michael Welsh**

**For professionals who work on campaigns, New Hampshire is the place to be during presidential primary season.** “You meet people from all over,” Bedell says, “people with all kinds of experience in other states working on a variety of races.” In the New Hampshire primary, “the voters are engaged at a really different level. We have the quintessential New Hampshire stereotypes, like the town halls, and we have people who say, ‘Well, I’ve only met Jeb twice, but this is truly what I wanted to be doing with my career. And I’m leaning toward him.’ Where else does that happen? These people are actually very thoughtful and they are careful in deciding whom they’re going to vote for, and they take it very seriously.”

**Bedell, head of the New Hampshire Republican State Committee.**

**By mid-March she was settled in Philadelphia and working as state field director for US Senator Pat Toomey’s re-election race.**

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**Michael Welsh**

The median student voter in New Hampshire is a person with a wonk’s knowledge of the array of candidates and a conspicuous understanding of political rallies. The late season Hillary or Romney event in the Mabel Brown Room will be important and is likely to be replayed that night on TV, but it will be staged and carefully managed. The Dennis Kucinich or Ron Paul meeting in the Flag Room, on the other hand, will be a chance to ask a hard question and to watch a candidate provide a thoughtful response. Neither, by the way, is nearly as likely to happen for students at similar colleges in other states where primaries or caucuses come later.

Political analysts and commentators for years have made a reasonable case for permitting some other state or combination of states to start the primary process. Were we to switch or even rotate first primaries, however, one of the consequences would be the slow erosion of an active and generations-old political culture here in New Hampshire. It is a culture that infects even some students who have yet to vote, and makes teaching politics at Keene State uniquely challenging and rewarding.

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**Michael Welsh**
First in the Nation

In the months leading up to New Hampshire's February 9 primary, presidential hopefuls Ben Carson, Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Carly Fiorina, George Pataki, and Rick Perry came to campus for town hall meetings sponsored or co-sponsored by Keene State’s American Democracy Project (learn more about the ADP on page 22). Others, including Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, John Kasich, and Donald Trump spoke at other venues in Keene.

In fact, the entire state of New Hampshire was teeming with candidates in the fall and early winter, and Keene State students took the opportunity to talk with them, hear them speak, and work on their behalf. Here are a few of their stories.

KATIE VAN VEE
Sophomore Katie Van Veen snessed her way into a selfie – a self-portrait taken with a cell phone – with Hillary Clinton when the former secretary of state came to campus.

“At the end of her talk, she was shaking everyone’s hand,” Van Veen remembers. “I said, ‘She’s doing selfies, I have to get in her hand’ and snap a really quick one.” Cooler yet, the story of her photo with Clinton ended up being really fun. “It was an amazing experience, because she remembered me from when I’d asked the question,” she says.

COLLEEN WILLIS
Colleen Willis traveled halfway across the country in an effort to put Martin O’Malley in the White House, gathering signatures to put him on the ballot in Vermont and Indiana. While working on the campaign, she got to see the more creative side of the presidential candidate. “It actually went to a concert of his,” she says. “He plays guitar and has his own Celtic band. He sang a mix of Celtic and American patriotic songs that was really funny. He’s good at guitar, has a good singing voice and a good stage presence.”

ANNA WRIGHT
Junior Anna Wright spent the months leading up to the New Hampshire primary cold calling and knocking on doors to gain support for Hillary Clinton in the Keene area.

TANNER SEMMELROCK
Last October, during a special town hall meeting in Hollis, New Hampshire, broadcast by NBC on the Today Show, Holocaust and genocide studies major Tanner Semmelrock had a chance to ask Hillary Clinton a light-hearted question. “What’s your favorite book?”

“The Brothers Karamazov,” Clinton responded – because “it’s just an amazing story about faith.” When Semmelrock learned she was coming to speak on campus later that month, he bought a copy of the book and asked her to sign it. “It was an amazing experience, because she remembered me from when I’d asked the question,” he says.

ALYSSA DEMARCO
May graduate Alyssa DeMarco met with many of the presidential hopefuls through her involvement with the American Democracy Project. Being a Holocaust and genocide studies major, she often asked candidates about their efforts to prevent atrocities in the world. An interaction with Hillary Clinton brought her a few minutes of fame. She remembers: “When Hillary Clinton was here in October, I got to sit on the stage. I had talked to her beforehand about preventing atrocities, and she said, ‘I definitely want you to ask that question while I’m out there.’ And so I got to raise my hand while I was on stage and ask my question. I thought that was just really neat. It was on C-SPAN. I had my big C-SPAN debut!”

ERIK LABIENIEC
Erik Labieniec, a sophomore political science/economics major, worked on the Bernie Sanders campaign. Labieniec says he got a good response from a “dormstorming” – going to the dorms to get students to commit to voting, and then texting them a reminder on the day of the primary. “We tried to get as many people out to the polls as possible,” he says. “We had a few dorm doors slammed in our faces, but nothing too bad. I love working on the campaign.”

JOSH POLOSKI
Political science major and May graduate Joshua Polski worked as a volunteer and an intern for the Clinton campaign. During his time working for Clinton’s camp, Polski learned that what decides a campaign isn’t how much air-time a candidate gets, but the work put in by those who believe in the message. “Campaigns aren’t decided by TV ads, by debate, by legislative aides and all that stuff up at the top,” he says. “Campaigns are made by people like me. It’s the people on the ground, the people who are going door to door, who are calling and talking to people, who are finding out what’s important.”

JAMES SPINETI
Like many students, sophomore James Spineti interacted with a number of candidates and campaigns. He had a chance to shake John Kasich’s hand at a town hall meeting and to ask him about his stand on refugees. He had his picture taken with Martin O’Malley. He made his way to Boston to join tens of thousands of people watching Bernie Sanders speak.

VOLUNTEERING, she says, “is great. Everyone is always super friendly and we could have fun while being serious and getting things done. I mainly made phone calls, canvassed a little bit, and helped with events like debate-watch parties.” She and other volunteers also drove to Concord to greet Sanders when his plane landed in New Hampshire.

“Would you happen to be the candidate when he spoke at the Coliseum Theatre in Keene a week before the primary? ‘It was scary at first, but everyone was very welcoming and extremely enthusiastic, she said of presenting Sanders at the event. “There was a lot of energy in the room, so it ended up being really fun.”

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HILLARY CLINTON
Hillary Clinton signing a copy of The Brothers Karamazov for Tanner Semmelrock.

BARRETT & KRAUSMAN
Find more photos of candidates on campus and a link to the Boston Globe story on Katie Van Veen at keene.edu magg.
BIG MAYOR

When Chris Koch ’94 tells the high school students in the leadership class that he teaches that being a leader is about giving back, about empathizing, about rallying the community, he knows what he’s talking about.

Koch, a vocational education major at Keene State, has been mayor of Belville, Idaho, since 2006. “Belville is a city of roughly 2,200 people,” he says. “We have a public works staff, we have clerks, we have a police department, a fire department, a library, like every other town. The easiest way to describe my job is ‘overseeing the day-to-day operations of the city.’ I’m the boss of the bosses, but I still answer to my city council.”

Koch, who grew up down the road from Keene in Peterborough, New Hampshire, followed a college friend, Matt Gerby ’92, to Idaho after graduation to sample the ski bum life. He’s still in Idaho, and still skiing, though he discovered early on that he needed a job to fund these expensive downhill runs. He was offered a teaching job in Shoshone, Idaho, but wanted to move closer to the mountains, where he worked a variety of non-teaching jobs for eight years. Nine years ago, he began substitute teaching at Wood River High School, and eventually worked his way into the full-time job he holds today, teaching the leadership class and serving as the school’s technology rep.

Koch lives with his wife of 15 years, Kim, and their three dogs, Ollie, Aurora, and Huckleberry. He got his start in city government in 2001 as a planning and zoning commissioner, and then began serving as a city councilor. While he was president of the city council, the mayor resigned and Koch became mayor— and has since been re-elected to four two-year terms. The part-time position keeps him busy for as few as five and as many as 20 to 30 hours a week, depending on whether, for instance, it’s budget season or there are job vacancies to fill.

“The most difficult thing,” he says, “and this is probably the case for any elected official, especially at the local level, is trying to balance a budget of X amount of dollars and having your constituents all want something. You’ve really got to start weighing out what’s important and what’s not, what’s factually responsible, what’s not, and really make those tough decisions on how to get everything done on limited funds. The recession hit us pretty hard. We were starting to boom there, and the recession kicked us in the pants for a little while. I think we’re starting to come out of it, but it was hard. The water bills keep going up, and yet people are losing their jobs. At the end of the day, people want to make sure the toilets flush and the lights stay on.”

But it’s not all tough decisions. Three years ago, Koch’s status as an area celebrity landed him a slot in Battle of the Blades, a kind of Dancing with the Stars done on ice. Local notables were paired up with world-class figure skaters, who trained them for a couple of months before the pairs performed routines for an audience of 5,000 people. Koch and his partner performed what he calls “The Wayne’s World version of ‘Bohemian Rhapsody.’” It wasn’t pretty at all, he says (“I’m 6-foot-5, 260 pounds, and I’m not a good figure skater”), but it raised a considerable sum for local charities. He also gets invited to participate in many activities at Belville Elementary School, which are always highlights of his week.

He adds, “I had a blast doing Battle of the Blades. It’s like something I try to teach my students: You need to live outside your comfort zone. If you stay within your comfort zone, you’re going to lead a boring life. Try new things, try different things. You never know what you’re going to find that you really like.”

The thing Koch has found that he really likes? Making a difference in his community. He loves giving back, about empathizing, about rallying the community, he knows what he’s talking about.
“You have to know a little bit about everything.”

As part of a group of 30-something artists and business owners (he and his wife, Debra, own a yoga studio), Vega started a grassroots organization to make Holyoke a better place to live. In 2009, he ran for City Council and won; two years later he was elected to a second term. He was one of the city’s first Latino at-large councilors.

“There was a big shift in Holyoke,” he says. “While I was on the City Council, we elected the youngest mayor in Massachusetts – with perhaps some help from his second major, psychology – that brought out the politician in him. His dad was very involved in local politics, and was a community organizer in Holyoke. So politics was always kitchen table talk at dinner. It was always something on the periphery, but not something I thought I’d be involved in, he remembers. That changed when he moved back to Holyoke in 2002 after 15 years as a film editor – and discovered the city was facing the same issues that it had when he was growing up there. “It’s an old mill town, it had a high teen pregnancy rate, immigrants and migrants had come here, and it wasn’t moving forward.”

Unlike in New Hampshire, in Massachusetts being a state legislator is a full-time, salaried position. Vega, a Democrat, plans to limit his service as a state representative to 10 years, should his constituents see fit to elect him to another term. He notes that half his time is spent legislating – reading bills and understanding the issues – and half is spent on constituent services. “That’s the rewarding part,” he says. People call his district office when they have nowhere else to turn, says Vega, when they need help finding housing, paying for food, accessing unemployment benefits or tuition assistance. “We can help them, and that’s the part of the job that helps your community.”

Through legislation, too, he notes, “we’re doing things that are going to better people’s lives. The unfortunate thing about being in politics now is that some people have a negative view of politicians. When you actually talk to people and tell them how politics affects their lives almost every day, they have a different appreciation.”

He makes a point of being visible in the city – along with his wife and family (he has two daughters in their early 20s, and a two-year-old son). “People see us on a daily basis. I’m at events. We’re at restaurants. We grocery shop in town. We use social media to show people who we are. It’s helpful. People in general want to know their elected officials.”

What’s his job like, day to day? It’s a lot like attending a liberal arts college, Vega says. “You have to know a little bit about everything. Any given day, we’re talking about education policy, we’re talking about energy, we’re talking about building laws and the judicial system. It’s like being back in school and going from one class to the next on totally different topics. You have to really rely on people who are experts, and do your homework. I’ve learned quickly in politics, there are three or four sides to every issue. You have to figure out who your good classmates are and who are the people you can work with – elected officials but also people who are experts in a field.”

In other words, he says, “it’s a lot of collaboration.”

Making a Difference

IT’S NOT SURPRIsing

that education is one of Molly Kelly’s key interests. The 1983 graduate and five-term New Hampshire state senator cites her Keene State education – and the encouragement she received here to go on to law school – as pivotal in her life.

“I came here as a single parent with three young children,” she says. “I knew I needed to complete a bachelor’s degree, as an education was necessary not only for myself but for my children as well.”

She arrived at Keene State in the early 1980s, she notes, and the college was “at the beginning stages of becoming more than a local commuter college.”

“History gives you the past, and philosophy gives you the context to ask the meaningful question and move forward,” she says. “It has often been my experience in the Senate that we begin a debate with questions before we have the opportunity to ask the appropriate question. For instance, I believe that it might be wise to first ask a question such as ‘What is just’? before a Senate vote on a legislative solution that will affect our economy, education, healthcare, and the quality of our lives.”

Kelly, a Democrat, has served on the Senate Education Committee since first being elected; she chaired the committee when her party was in the majority. She also sits on the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, the Public and Municipal Committee, and the Capital Budget Committee.

The manageable size of the 24-member State Senate, especially as compared to the 400-member New Hampshire House of Representatives, means members work closely together, notes Kelly. Certain types of legislation cross party lines, she adds. As an example, she cites the Benefit Corporation Act, which establishments a new form of for-profit corporation. Like traditional corporations, benefit corporations focus on making a profit for shareholders; but also have an additional fiduciary duty, one that must have a positive social and environmental impact on the community. “We were able to pass this bipartisan legislation,” she says, “because we could work across party lines based on long-term relationships among both parties.”

It’s a win-win kind of bill, she adds, in that benefit corporations bring value to the community, attract college graduate talent and capital investors, and ultimately provide many economic opportunities in a healthy community.

Kelly got an early start in politics. “My parents were involved in politics such as the Civil Rights movement in Indiana, and they passed along to me and my many siblings that sense of responsibility to your community,” she says. “I believe that I walked with my father in more civil rights marches than I ever did with my friends.”

That led to involvement in the presidential primaries after moving to New Hampshire. “It was easy to get involved,” she remembers. “We have so many opportunities to become active in campaigns here in our New Hampshire communities. We all want to make a difference somehow in this big world of ours. So we look for that place where we think we can do our best. The political forum has been the place that works for me.”

After earning a law degree at Franklin Pierce Law Center – now the University of New Hampshire School of Law – Kelly followed parallel careers, working in higher education, in nonprofits, and in finance, while pursuing politics. She began her involvement in Cheshire County politics as co-director of Michael Dukakis’ 1988 presidential campaign, she worked on Paul McEachern’s gubernatorial campaign under campaign manager Jeanne Shaheen, and she later worked for Shaheen’s gubernatorial and US Senate campaigns. As governor, Shaheen appointed Kelly to chair the state Commission on the Status of Women.

Ten years ago, Kelly knew it was time for her to step up. She ran for the State Senate. “After supporting other elected officials, I found my own voice,” she says. “It’s truly an honor and a privilege to serve the people of my community.”

Kelly’s family has grown since her days at Keene State. She and her husband, Art, head up a family of 16, with four adult children, three in-laws, and seven grandchildren. “The impact that education had on my life and those of my children has been immeasurable. So education is the care for me, the cure of what’s important,” she says.
Years on Capitol Hill

“Why Kansas?”

That was the question United States Congressman Pat Roberts, who represented Kansas, put to Lisa Gagnon ‘85, a New Hampshire native and DC transplant who was interviewing for a job with him back in 1993.

“You know, I’ve never been there, but every state I’ve ever been to has many fine qualities and interesting things about it,” Gagnon told him. “Your choice is to hire me, because I know Washington and I’ll learn Kansas, or you can hire someone from Kansas who has to learn Washington.”

She got the job. “I’ve always been on the blunt side, and apparently that was appreciated,” she says.

By then, Gagnon, a journalism and public affairs major, had been working on Capitol Hill for six years, first for a media outlet called the Senate Republican Conference and then as deputy press secretary for John Seymour, a Republican senator from California. Seymour’s defeat by Dianne Feinstein occasioned the interview with Roberts, and it led to 21 years of working for the Republican legislator from Kansas, first as his press secretary during his last four years in the US House of Representatives and then as his administrative director after he was elected to the US Senate. The administrative director position, from which she retired in 2013, was “very much like running a household – except with a lot more people, and a lot more bills to pay,” Gagnon says. She was responsible for the maintenance of the office, decorating new office spaces and coordinating renovations, keeping supplies stocked and equipment running, acting as a personal assistant to the senator (“I was not embarrassed to get him a cup of coffee,” she notes), organizing office parties (“not paid for at government expense,” she adds), and overseeing the budget. “We never ran out of money, and that’s a big deal in Congress,” she says. “I often called myself the ‘cheap Yankee.’ I’m always looking for the best bargain.”

The years working on Capitol Hill were memorable ones for Gagnon. She remembers meeting celebrities including Jimmy Stewart, Sonny Bono, and Barry Manilow. She remembers setting up offices in borrowed space after Senator Roberts’s staff was displaced for three months when anthrax was discovered in the Hart Senate Office Building in 2001.

Gagnon first moved to Washington in 1987, shortly after her wedding. Her husband, Dave Thibault, a UNH grad, had landed a job with then-Congressman Judd Gregg of New Hampshire. After Dave died in July, 2007, the Roberts office was closed for the morning so the entire staff could attend the funeral. Her last few years working in DC, Gagnon was a single mother to their three teenagers, all adopted from Russia. Sitting at a retirement party she’d organized for a coworker three years ago, she realized she was ready to step down herself.

These days, Gagnon puts her organizational skills to work for a variety of clients. Her business, I Can Help!, handles personal shopping, all kinds of organization, home staging, decorating, and running errands – pretty much whatever needs to be done. She shares a Maryland house with her new partner, Robert Kenney, a computer programmer.

“Why Kansas?”

It’s very much like running a household – except with a lot more people, and a lot more bills to pay.”

At the Helm of the Home Office

Seth Klaiman ‘93 likes to joke that he is responsible for Barack Obama becoming president. Back in 2003, he’d just wrapped up a job working for United States Senator Jack Reed’s re-election campaign, and he was offered a chance to meet with Gary Chico, who was running for a US Senate seat in Illinois and was in need of a campaign manager.

Klaiman declined. “I said, I’m not leaving Rhode Island. Rhode Island is home, and to be home is more important than any job.”

But if he had moved out to Chicago to manage Chico’s campaign, Klaiman jokes, then Chico, of course, would have prevailed in the election. Instead, his opponent, a young up-and-comer by the name of Barack Obama, won the primary and then the Senate seat – and would go on to win the presidency.

While Klaiman knows he can’t really claim credit for the Obama presidency, he has played a part in many successful political campaigns. At Keene State, he notes, he did not take any political science classes – but he did serve as student body president and chair of the Student Assembly. He graduated with a BA in psychology, a BS in occupational safety, and an associate’s degree in chemical dependency.

After college, an internship with a judge led him to abandon his plans for law school. Instead, he jumped into a couple more internships, one with a US congressman and one with Rhode Island’s lieutenant governor: That work launched him into a career that alternated between fundraising for nonprofits and working on state and national election campaigns for Democratic politicians. For four years, he did both, through his own consulting firm.

Klaiman closed down the firm three years ago when US Congressman Jim Langevin, whose re-election campaign he’d managed, asked him to join his staff and run his district office in Warwick. “As district director, I’m essentially the chief of staff for the congressman’s Rhode Island office,” he says.

It’s an interesting and varied job, he says, citing a day in December when he attended an event with former President Bill Clinton, who was in town campaigning for his wife. “I was talking to the former president of the United States, and then that afternoon, I was talking to a constituent about his Medicare issue. Frankly, the constituent issue is more important to me than talking to the former president,” he says. “The constituent was relying on me and my boss, Congressman Langevin, to help resolve the issue.”

In fact, helping constituents is a key piece of the work that goes on at the district office, and people call daily with problems: “My boss says that we are often the call of last resort. We can help them get their veterans’ or Medicare benefits or deal with an immigration issue. We help fund fire trucks for cities and towns. It sounds corny and clichéd, but we really make a difference in the lives of individual people. That’s the crux of what we do here. The congressman’s Washington, DC, office deals with legislation.”

As district director, Klaiman’s job includes standing in for Langevin when he’s in Washington. “By no means am I the congressman, but I have to represent him a lot,” he says. “It’s in a lot of ways I help fulfill the role. He keeps up with policy issues in a general way, and if he’s asked a question he can’t answer, he calls on the people with the answers in the DC office.”

“As my Jewish grandmother used to say, ‘I know nothing about everything and everything about nothing,’” he jokes.
“MY DEFINITION OF ACTIVISM,” says Katelyn Adams ’10, “is advocating for the equality of all people. I do this by educating and empowering individuals to find their own voice, and working collaboratively with them to bring about social change.”

Advising for Girls

Adam works for Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell, a Lowell, Massachusetts, nonprofit agency with a mission of empowering all girls to be strong, smart, and bold through innovative, intentional, and educational programs for girls ages five to 18. “At Girls Inc.,” she says, “we really try to foster independence in our members. We give them the tools they need to be successful, and we’re constantly empowering them to advocate for themselves.”

Advocacy isn’t about being a voice for the voiceless, she says; that’s a concept that takes away people’s dignity and personal power. Instead, she says, advocacy is “inspiring individuals to find their own voice to become agents of change.”

Adams began volunteering at Girls Inc. through a service learning program at Middlesex Community College, from which she earned an associate’s degree in liberal arts and sciences. She transferred to Keene State, where she earned two majors: one in elementary education and one, an individualized major in the Women’s and Gender Studies Department, in feminist anthropology. The latter was inspired by her part-time and volunteer work at Girls Inc., she notes. “The city of Lowell is incredibly diverse with so many rich cultures. We have a large refugee population, and I became very eager to learn about these cultures and how women are treated in those communities.”

Advocating for Girls

In its after-school, vacation week, and summer program offerings, Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell provides academic assistance, programming on prevention of adolescent pregnancy and substance abuse, self-defense, leadership, financial literacy, media literacy, and more. The classes are targeted to the girls’ needs and goals. There is also a strong emphasis on encouraging girls to pursue math and science — fields in which women are not highly represented and that provide opportunities for lucrative careers.

“At Girls Inc. we don’t talk about politics or religion,” says Adams, who has been program director for the agency since her Keene State graduation, “but I feel that everything that we’re doing here is tackling political issues in a much softer way — and all of our programs target those issues.” Girls Inc. leadership programs provide the girls with skills to be activists and advocates for themselves and their communities, she adds.

For instance, through a program called Photo Voice, the girls took pictures of problems they see in the city. One subject of the photos was the dance floor at Lowell High School. “It was falling apart, and the dancers were getting hurt,” Adams says. “The girls took pictures and wrote about their experience and brought it to City Hall. As a result they received a brand-new dance floor.”

Adams, who received Middlesex Community College’s 2013 Distinguished Alumni award and who returns to Keene State to talk with women’s and gender studies classes, will be taking the next step in her own education soon. She was recently granted a Community Engagement Fellowship at Merrimack College in Andover, Massachusetts, and will be leaving Girls Inc. to enter the intensive year-long master’s program at North Shore Community College. That opportunity may take her to new work in higher education, or to new challenges in youth work. “I’m excited about that new journey coming up,” she says.

It’s a journey that will provide her with more chances to empower people to bring about change.

Keene State’s Women’s and Gender Studies Department has an activist focus and, like the community college Adams attended, offers service learning opportunities. Through the two schools, Adams had many community volunteer placements, including in schools and at women’s shelters. “It wasn’t until volunteering at Girls Inc. that I figured out this is the cause and the work I want to be doing,” she says.
William Bendix with a student.

Bendix’s research highlights the fact that there’s currently no mechanism in place for such accountability. While Congress passes laws relative to national security, including provisions allowing for surveillance of US residents, the Justice Department and other legal offices in the Executive Branch of government write interpretations of those laws that define the way intelligence agencies implement the laws—and those interpretations are classified, or secret.

“The classified interpretation is not known to anybody except Executive Branch officials and a handful of members of Congress,” says Bendix, “and that’s extremely problematic, because a handful of members of Congress aren’t in a position to effectively check the president, especially on something that’s secret.”

In other words, there’s no path for Congress or a group of legislators to object to a classified interpretation, to say, for instance, This was not our intent in creating this legislation.

Bendix cites an example: Under the George W. Bush administration, coercive interrogation methods like waterboarding, which met the standard for torture, were approved for use on prisoners. The president, by law, is required to inform Congress of any actions taken by the Executive Branch. And the Bush Administration did brief Congress on the enhanced interrogation techniques—but only the chairs and the ranking members of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees.

“What can four members do in response to a classified briefing concerning a secret program that they cannot reveal to the public or their colleagues?” asks Bendix, who hopes the book he is writing with Professor Paul Quirk of the University of British Columbia will offer methods to enhance Congress’s oversight of national security programs.

“There are institutional fixes that can be made that wouldn’t necessarily blow up the clandestine programs or the necessary secrets involved in maintaining security programs, but that would at least bring some level of accountability to both the Executive and Legislative branches,” he says. “If members on both sides know that they have to officially register their position on a clandestine program, then maybe they’ll take it more seriously.”

A big challenge for the federal government, says William Bendix, who studies Congress, legislative deliberations, civil liberties, and homeland security policy, is that it’s necessary to have secret policy but secret policy is contrary to an open democratic society.

For the past decade, Bendix, an assistant professor of political science at Keene State, has been tracking Congress’s activities in response to September 11, looking at extremely complex legislation like the Patriot Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Amendments Act. “The concern that drives this research is, Just how competent is Congress in this area?” he says.

The country needs to have security strategies that are not publicly known, but we also need to have public accountability. “How can we have the kind of accountability that is fundamental to a democratic society and at the same time have these secret policies in place that allow us to have effective security?” he asks. Bendix’s research highlights the fact that there’s currently no mechanism in place for such accountability. While Congress passes laws relative to national security, including provisions allowing for surveillance of US residents, the Justice Department and other legal offices in the Executive Branch of government write interpretations of those laws that define the way intelligence agencies implement the laws—and those interpretations are classified, or secret.

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What’s the effect of immigration on religious nationalism? It’s a topic that Philip Barker, assistant professor of political science at Keene State, has been researching since he was a grad student. “I’m interested in the extent to which religion is tied to national identity, primarily in Europe,” he says.

Barker’s 2014 book, Religious Nationalism in Modern Europe: If God Be for Us, takes a historic look at Europe as a primarily secular continent, with a few exceptions, including Ireland, Poland, and Greece, where religion is a strong part of national culture. Those places, he notes, were all, at one time, threatened by some “religious other”—and shaped their identities in response to that.

Now, with migration becoming a huge issue in Europe, he’s studying what happens when there’s an influx of migrants, who are primarily Muslim, into historically homogeneous regions. He speculated that migration and the refugee crisis would bring with it a resurgence of religious nationalism, the kind that can set up an “us-against-them” division between natives and recent arrivals. To test that theory, he’s been looking at a collection of broad-based surveys conducted annually in Europe to see how questions about religiousness correlate with those about nationalism—and found that someone who is more religious is likely to be more patriotic, and vice versa. But has that connection between patriotism and religion increased as more people from outside of Europe have settled in European countries?

Barker found that the numbers of immigrants coming in to a country aren’t part of the equation, but the immigrants’ origins are. “If the immigrants, even if it’s not a big group, are mostly non-European, the country starts to think of itself in religious terms,” he says. “In some ways, that’s discouraging if you are hopeful for a welcoming, open world. But what’s encouraging is that as diversity increases, that sort of religious nationalism decreases.”

In other words, over time, as more and more immigrants arrive and the population becomes more diverse, the people become more accepting and more open about what it means to be, for instance, Swedish or German. “If you want to cling to your traditional notions of whatever it means to be American or French or whatever, then in the long run, tolerance leads to tolerance. Diversity in letting immigrants in leads to a more normalized view of things. My take on it is that you have this rough patch, but there’s hope,” says Barker. “There’s hope for a more tolerant future. I think, even if in the short term it’s ugly.”
Politics and Music with a Twang

In the case of the rural South, does culture shape politics, or does politics shape culture? A 2016 Keene State graduate spent the last year and a half analyzing country music songs to look at that and other questions. Why country music?

“Country music is a reflection of southern culture,” says Jay Whittemore, a political science major who was gearing up for graduation when he talked about his research this spring. “It’s really the best indicator we have of that.”

Whittemore is looking at ways lyrics have changed in the half century since the Civil Rights Movement occasioned a major shift in politics in the South, with many white, conservative Democrats migrating to the Republican Party. Since then, the formerly Democratic stronghold has become a Republican stronghold.

“I started out with an interest in how the Republican Party is able to balance conflicting interests within its coalition,” he says, using as an example the business elite and religious conservatives. “On the issue of stem cell research, business elites love it because they can gain a profit from it and it’s got a high-tech connection. But religious conservatives are opposed to it. So my interest is in why Southern rural people switched to the Republican Party – why that process began, and why rural people abandoned their economic interests and social issues. “We see that in country music, poverty’s now associated with actual wealth.”

He noted that in 1980s country music, negative and neutral mentions of country life disappeared and positive mentions began to increase, from 17.5 percent in 1980 to 50 percent in 2009. “That seems to correlate to Republican self-identification in the South,” he says – but cautions that an upward trend in both doesn’t necessarily mean that one caused the other.

Whittemore, who is applying for jobs in research or policy in New York City, was still analyzing his findings mid-spring, when he talked about his research at the New England Political Science Association in April. A northerner whose taste in music runs in other directions, he’s done a bit of listening to country songs in addition to studying their lyrics. “Sometimes when I find a song that really baffles me, I listen to it,” he says. “Before, I hated country music, but through this whole process, I kind of gained a weird appreciation for it.”

Jay Whittemore ’16

lobbying for peace

DURING THEIR FINAL SEMESTER

At Keene State, Tanner Semmelrock ’16 and Charlotte Meyers ’16 took what they learned during their time as Holocaust and genocide studies majors and brought it to Capitol Hill to influence legislation.

The two went on their own to American University in Washington, DC, to attend the Lemkin Summit to End Genocide and Mass Atrocities, an annual conference for students and community leaders. While there, they spent time asking difficult questions to expert panelists and heard the US Ambassador to the United Nations speak on an array of crises, including those in Sudan and South Sudan. They also received training on how to combat genocide in the real world, as well as policy and advocacy training to prepare them for their final day in the District of Columbia.

On that day, Semmelrock and Meyers took to Capitol Hill with three other summit participants to lobby for three pending bills, the Atrocities Prevention Act of 2016, the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, and the Global Anti-Poaching Act. They spoke with staff members for several numbers of Congress from New England, including five from Connecticut’s Congressional delegation and Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Representative Annie Kuster, both of New Hampshire.

While they were initially nervous meeting with the legislative aides, they say they were soon starting to feel like pros.

“I think for the first meeting or two we were definitely on edge,” Semmelrock says.

Semmelrock and Meyers both note that having the ability to speak face to face with the people who are representing them in Congress and tell them what they feel is important was a powerful tool in getting their message across.

“Obviously having that connection of being able to say ‘we’re your constituents’ was really nice,” Meyers says.

That connection may have had an influence on the success of their efforts. They were able to get the support of a number of the representatives they spoke with. The Atrocities Prevention Act of 2016, for instance, calls for the authorization of an Atrocities Prevention Board, which would provide a government approach to preventing atrocities and promoting peace.

“Now it’s passing through the Senate pretty successfully, and we did have a hand in that,” Meyers says, referring to the group who lobbied with them.

“It was inspiring to meet with other dedicated individuals who are just as passionate about genocide prevention as we are,” Semmelrock adds.

Passionate enough to lobby for real change.

“I think it just shows how much power one citizen has,” says Semmelrock, “and that you can bring about change by working at it.”

– Jacob Barrett ’17

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Nearly 70 percent of the people living in Sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to reliable electricity. "This means many things - children can't study or read past dark; babies can't be vaccinated, because there aren't refrigerators to keep the vaccines cold; homes are being lighted and heated with charcoal and other toxic fuels, which cause more deaths than HIV/AIDS and malaria combined; shops can't stay open or run, so the economy fails... The list goes on and on," Conlon says.

The act will bring access to reliable electricity to nearly 50 million people by the year 2020. "This is literally life-saving legislation, and while I feel that my role was very, very, very small in its success, it's nice to know that I was a part of something so much bigger than myself - something that will make an incredible impact on so many millions of people," Conlon says. "And I think that's an important lesson for all of us; the crisis of global poverty can feel very overwhelming and daunting, but there is a lot that you and I can do as citizens to make a difference. Something as simple as calling your representatives, writing a letter, and just paying attention and getting involved and passionate about issues can truly make a difference."

- Mark Reynolds

On the Frontlines for the Student Newspaper

Kendall Pope’s advice to emerging journalists covering politics: Be confident and assertive. Pushy, even.

“'You’ve got to be aggressive,' says Pope ’16, who cut her teeth covering the 2016 presidential primaries as managing executive editor for the Keene State student newspaper, The Equinox. A senior this year, Pope joined the press corps at many political events on campus and in the Keene area and had the chance to speak with candidates including Marco Rubio and Martin O’Malley. Equipped with a press pass, she mounted her small camera on a tripod next to reporters and camera operators from statewide stations like WMUR and national stations like MSNBC. She was in the trenches.

"During the Rubio event, one reporter from MSNBC turned to me and asked me a question like I was meant to be there and knew what I was doing," she says. "It was a great feeling to work alongside the other reporters. It gave me a lot of confidence when covering these events." She also had the chance to talk with members of a CNN crew when Hillary Clinton came to campus. Jake Tapper, CNN’s chief Washington correspondent, broadcast his show The Lead from the Student Center quad. “I saw a teleprompter and a fold-out table lined with laptops and gear, and he was sitting there. I thought, He looks familiar.” When she realized it was Tapper, she says, “I approached them and told them I was involved with journalism at Keene State, and they were very welcoming and filled me in on what they were doing. Jake Tapper even posed for a picture with me.”

Pope found that most of the candidates who came to speak in this neck of the woods were happy to talk with her. She filmed on-camera interviews with Rubio and O’Malley, asking both men about student debt. O’Malley seemed eager to participate, helping with her intro to the clip and giving a cheerful wave after her signoff.

"He was really into it,” Pope remembers. Unlike Tapper, who interviewed Hillary Clinton while she was on campus, Pope did not land a one-on-one with the former secretary of state - but it wasn’t for lack of trying. When the Clinton campaign first scheduled a speech at Keene State’s L. P. Young Student Center, Pope did what she could to be ahead of the game. She called Clinton’s press secretary almost daily, trying to get that so-very-rare interview, but couldn’t get a definitive answer.

Regardless, she showed up to the event with her video camera and made her way to the area designated for the press, where she was met by seasoned veterans. “There was CNN and MSNBC, and I was posted up with my little Canon. It was pretty cool to be among the big guys,” she says.

Pope recalls the chaos of bodies and camera flashes as reporters tried to get a last-minute quote while Clinton was leaving the Mabel Brown Room.

"It was just a mob of people,” she says, with reporters pushing, shoving, and jumping up on chairs in an effort to get the candidate’s attention. Unfortunately for Pope and the rest of the journalists, Clinton ignored the media and left the room.

Pope noted that Keene State’s location makes it a hub for political activity. She encourages all students to pay attention to what’s going on in the world of politics. "I think it’s a really cool time to be a college student in New Hampshire, and especially in Keene,” she says. “It’s definitely something all students should take advantage of, whether they’re interested in politics or not.”

- Jacob Barrett ’17

Link to the O’Malley interview at keene.edu/mag
ON THE HILL FOR THE HILL

When the Supreme Court heard arguments in the case that would make same-sex marriage legal in every state of the union, Lydia Wheeler ’09 was there, in the courtroom. “The atmosphere outside was just electrifying,” she remembers. “There were protesters on both sides, and you could see how important the issue was to so many people.”

Wheeler’s job as federal regulations reporter for The Hill, a noted daily political newspaper in Washington, DC, has her covering rules that come out of federal agencies as well as the hot-button social issues that come before the nation’s highest court.

A journalism and political science double-major at Keene State, Wheeler learned the newspaper trade through a high school internship at her hometown newspaper and covering meetings at Keene’s City Hall for one of her college journalism classes.

“I fell in love with journalism,” she says. “I fell in love with informing people and writing about people’s lives. There’s nothing quite like that.” Mark Timney of the journalism faculty, her advisor, encouraged her to pursue jobs in the field.

“We have a government for the people and it’s important for the people to know what their elected leaders are doing,” she says. “Sometimes my job can be very stressful. I’m on Capitol Hill and I’m competing with all these other journalists that are trying to get the same stories,” she says. “At the end of the day, I never rethink what I chose to do. I really enjoy my job; I learn a lot, and every day is different. I write about different things all the time and it really keeps me interested.”

Wheeler was lucky enough, for instance, to be back in the courtroom in June 2015 at the Supreme Court where the 5-4 decision on the same-sex marriage case was announced. “It was incredible to be part of history covering Obergefell v. Hodges,” she says. “It was also a whirlwind day. The Supreme Court has a strict policy on no phones, cameras, or recording devices in the courtroom. It forces you to take good notes and listen carefully. In big cases you don’t always get a seat where you can see all of the courtroom itself. I think I wrote three versions of the story – before the decision was ever made.”

“My job is mostly behind the scenes,” says Brindley, whose work includes arranging interviews with guests, getting audio put into the show, managing social media activity, and writing web stories.

Before making his way to NHPR in 2012, where he served as a reporter before becoming producer of Morning Edition in 2015, Brindley worked primarily in print journalism. At Keene State, he wrote for the student newspaper, The Equinox, becoming an executive editor his senior year. After graduation, he landed a job at the Nashua Telegraph, where he mainly covered stories focusing on education in the area.

“Everyone who is not a full-time student reporter for The Equinox, so it was a little different,” he says. “I like that. I like the deadline driven, as–it’s-happening coverage,” he says. “I enjoy being able to decide what we think is an important story for our listeners and being able to pursue that. That means talking with people who make big decisions, but also being able to shine light on voices that might not get an opportunity to have that stage.”

Brindley also covers other local and national political activity and other issues facing the state, including the influence of political polls on elections and proposed legislation, along with New Hampshire-based stories. But in the Granite State, he says, it’s covering the presidential primary that has a unique allure to it.

“Ending up at NHPR was a career choice for me,” Brindley says. “I never thought about ending up anywhere else.”

“Sometimes when you’re a student, it’s not necessarily new, but this was the first at Morning Edition, so it was a little different,” he says. “The job is just another way of telling the story, using sound. I think a great aspect of radio is being able to hear people’s voices, their accents, and the way they are speaking – and then getting sound in the field.”

Getting the word out about the first-in-the-nation primary via the medium of radio has put an interesting spin on things for Brindley.

“Having worked as a reporter in New Hampshire for over a decade, I’ve covered a few primaries, so that wasn’t unique to it.”
Five thousand hours. That's the amount of additional time that children in middle-class and upper-class households spend in non-school educational activities, as compared with children in working-class and low-income households.

Filling in the gap

of kids involved and costs. DeMarco got involved in fundraising for five youngsters who will be performing in the MoCo Arts School of Dance June show, “Aladdin’s Wonderful Lamp.”

The Keene Housing Kids Collaborative and MoCo Arts are each covering 40 percent of the tuition for the five young dancers who live in subsidized housing; the families are responsible for the remaining 20 percent. But costs go beyond tuition, notes DeMarco. Kids in the show typically spend several hours a day at rehearsals in the weeks leading up to the performance. Most of them bring rolling suitcases filled with their dance costumes, makeup, and hair supplies, along with blankets and iPads and board games to occupy them when they’re not onstage.

“For these kids, it was already a financial strain to join the program,” DeMarco says. “Their parents can’t drop off take-out dinner four nights in a row, and can’t send them with carry-on luggage filled with electronics.”

But, with the help of American Democracy Project students, the five budding dancers will be well equipped. A Keene shop, Dilly’s for Kids, is donating a $100 gift card for each young dancer, so they can purchase any dance equipment they need. And they’ll each get a basket containing fleece blankets, playing cards, and coloring books so “they’ll have things to do during rehearsal breaks.” “We’ve raised quite a bit of money through the CALL program”— Keene State’s Cheshire Academy for Lifelong Learning, which offers courses for senior citizens – “and through a fundraiser,” says DeMarco. In addition, she has pulled in students and faculty in the Honors Program, the music education association, and the Theatre and Dance Department to help out, along with students in the Dietetic Internship Program, who’ll be putting together healthy snacks for the dancers.

The upshot is that there is enough money now to expand the funding beyond the “Aladdin” dancers.

The idea of the Kids Collaborative is to level the playing field and help the kids to become successful in school and then in life. “It’s very cool,” says DeMarco, a self-described “sociology nerd” who double-majored in sociology and Holocaust and genocide studies, and who was one of two students selected this year to win Keene State’s Outstanding Women of New Hampshire Awards.

The award recognized her engagement with the community, something she says is always crucial, adding that college is a great time to be involved.

“…as a citizen and human being?” – Aristotle

ABOUT THE ADP

The American Democracy Project is a multi-campus initiative focused on higher education's role in preparing the next generation of engaged citizens for our democracy. The project began in 2003 as an initiative of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in partnership with The New York Times.

The goal of the American Democracy Project is to produce graduates who are committed to being active, involved citizens in their communities. The project is not just academia; our colleges and universities have been described as “Stewards of Place”; their work includes preparing students to become tomorrow’s “Stewards of Place.”

“In an area like Keene,” she says, “there are so many needs that can be met by students. If every student volunteered their services in relevant ways around the city, we could make an enormous impact.”

– Kendall Pope ’16

keene.edu

CITIZENSHIP AND HUMANITY IN POLITICS:

What kinds of actions develop a citizen and human being?

Associate Professor Wes Martin has been teaching in the Political Science Department at Keene State since 1998. Among his scholarly interests are the integration of political concepts, experience, and reasoning into the political and personal practices of ordinary citizens. Here he offers four ways we can all meaningfully incorporate politics into our daily lives.

Aristotle framed two important propositions for us in his key works on governance. First, we become citizens of a community to the degree that we participate extensively in its governance. Second, we realize our potential as human beings only when we meaningfully acknowledge, our connections to the people who make up our community. These propositions are valuable because they encourage us to view citizenship and humanity not as fixed categories but, instead, as qualities that we nurture gradually over long periods of work with other people. In brief, they tell us to attend to the development and interdependence of community治理 ("politics") and self-governance ("ethics") in daily life.

Given these considerations, what kinds of actions develop a citizen and human being? The usual answer to this kind of question urges us to honor and emulate the exercise of political leadership in seeking and holding public office, and in deliberating and casting formal votes. However, even though such "large" acts help to shape our communities in ways that we can readily identify, there are relatively few opportunities for people in any given community to serve as political leaders or office-holders, and there are relatively few opportunities for people to cast decisive votes on the matters that affect our lives. Perhaps we should broaden our search for answers.

If we turn from large acts to the little things that matter in politics, we can still consider tasks that determine how well we live, but the tasks involved become sustainable precisely because they can be incorporated into any person’s daily life. Accordingly, here are four “little” tasks that matter:

1. Read and think carefully about public affairs, daily. News reading and analysis are political acts. They are to politics what attentiveness is to a personal relationship. I ask my students to read at least...

one American and one foreign news source each day. Continuity and variety in sources will help you develop perspective, as pick a small number of diverse news providors and follow them to see how they treat problems over time.

2. Engage in regular conversation with somebody who does not share your approach to politics. Politics is not just rule-making that binds people; politics is also deliberative work on issues that divide us. Although it is often noted that politics is the art of authoritative and legitimate compromise, it should be noted that politics is also what we do to solve problems when we start with basic disagreements. You might begin with an in-law that you have to live with…

3. Enumerate as often as you can the kinds of laws that you believe to be valuable – and worthy of your observance. Again, politics is not just rule-making; politics is also obedience to rules. Tell a colleague or your child which taxes you think you are happy to pay and why, which speed limits you are prepared to observe and why, which crosswalks you are prepared to respect with grace and patience and why. This advice reminds us that beyond a minimum standard there are degrees of citizenship that range between dormant (acknowledging the letter of the law without conforming to it) and active (acknowledging that politics requires submission to being ruled, in part, by others).

4. Finally, enlarge the circle of people whom you include in your political conversations. If you combine well-informed conversation with appreciative-albeit-critical consideration of existing laws, you will be contributing to the stock of ideas that your community can use to govern itself. Your political influence will simultaneously be magnified and transmitted to the people who need those ideas.

– Wes Martin

Find Wes Martin’s recommendations for news sources and suggested readings in Aristotle at keene.edu

Wes Martin in the classroom.
As a result of her study-away experience, Agla has joined the Global Culture Club, which allows international students to come together and interact with other students. “This is important to me,” she says. “Since I studied abroad, I feel like I can really relate to these students, and offer them advice.”

“My Spanish is ten times better because of it.”

Agla’s interest in the Spanish language is further demonstrated in Agla’s show, “Radio Belenlagas” on Keene State’s own radio station, WKNH. This show is conducted completely in Spanish, which allows her to practice speaking the language and gives other students the opportunity to experience spoken Spanish along with popular Spanish music.

Agla’s love for the Spanish language as well as Hispanic culture carries over into other cultures as well. She traveled to India with the Honors Program’s global engagement initiative in January 2015. “Our group looked different than the people all around us – it was really eye-opening for us, and was a really valuable experience,” says Agla.

The interest she has in graphic design led her to a work-study job in the Academic Affairs Department and the Multicultural Office, where she designs event posters and performs various office tasks. “It considered majoring in graphic design, so it’s more than just an interest,” she says. “It’s something I can put on my résumé.”

Agla is one of this year’s recipients of the Frank H. Blackington Jr. Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship, one of many managed by the Keene Endowment Association, was established in 1997 by the family and friends of Frank H. Blackington Jr., a member of the Keene State faculty who specialized in foreign languages. Kristen said the scholarship has made all the difference for her in the type of work-study job she was able to choose. “Because I can focus on the concept and the experience of the job, instead of the money, it allows me to focus on my studies.”

~ Michelle Green ’16

For links to more information about the Keene Endowment Association and ways to make a donation, visit keene.edu/mag
This is a special anniversary year for the Class of 1943; classmate Barbara Jeffery Stimson penned a letter encouraging all classmates to come to reunion. Barbara, who died in February 2015. Her husband, John, who passed away in the 1990s, was a leader of several groups. Ruth Velma Pierce Smith, who lives in New Hampshire. We would love to see you, Martha.

Phone Lakeview has marked the days on her calendar until Reunion 2016, because she plans to attend to celebrate her 65th anniversary of graduating from Keene Teachers College, as Ruth recently retired from teaching. Now she is very active in her church, sings in the choir, and is a leader of several groups. Ruth enjoys her membership in the Red Hatters.

Grieving Rhoda Bos started another way of doing things. The newly formed class list by beginning at the end of the alphabet, so mine came earlier than usual, which was very nice.

It doesn’t take any warm clothes with her to go to a consignment shop to get together with so many alums.

She also told me of a birthday call from Elaine Schmidt Chesney, who is spending a lot of time in Maine and was looking for some Christmas cards as well as snows and snowmobiles. Bioble hopes to have someone drive her to Keene for our 65th.

I had a birthday call from Elaine Schmidt Chesney, who is spending a lot of time in Maine and was looking for some Christmas cards as well as snows and snowmobiles. Bioble hopes to have someone drive her to Keene for our 65th.

Mitchell ’91 Demings being honored in the latest Keene State Today magazine. They have done so much with their education from Keene State and for several years I have tried to get someone to tell a bit of their many stories and how and why the events and challenges parents have affected the drama activities in the Concord area. Every other year a variety show is put on in Hopkin- ton, and Paula usually directs it. Her mother, Sue Mitchell, and dad, Dick Mitchell, and her grand- parents were all involved for over 30 years putting on shows for the PTA and the church. The church organ- ised were given to local chari- ties for many service projects. Thousands of dollars from each show have been used for the bet- terment of the area, and the fellowship that is developed in the whole town lives on year after year. They also act in the Concord Community Players shows and work and teach in the local school system as well. Their daughter, Katherine, a senior at Concord High School, is also a member of the Women’s Club. She has done a variety show is put on in Hopkin- ton, and Paula usually directs it. Her mother, Sue Mitchell, and dad, Dick Mitchell, and her grand- parents were all involved for over 30 years putting on shows for the PTA and the church.

When we were all younger, our family usually had someone drive her to Keene for our 65th.

I had a birthday call from Elaine Schmidt Chesney, who is spending a lot of time in Maine and was looking for some Christmas cards as well as snows and snowmobiles. Bioble hopes to have someone drive her to Keene for our 65th.

As you are reading this we will be one away from our 65th reunion this year. Mark your calen- dars and try to attend. It is usu- ally the first or second weekend in June. Watch for the actual date in future issues of Keene State Today.

Winnie Langille writes: “What a thrill it was for me to see my friends Chris ’89 and Paula

Velma Pierce Smith used to live in Canada but now lives with her daughter in South Boston, MA. Velma met her husband at Keene Normal School.

Peggy Smith Campbell 143 Walton St. East Palatka, FL 32131 peggy@smithsvilla.org

Barbara Jeffery Stimson 678 Pettry Bldg. Bath, NH 03740

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Class Notes

1960
Gail Speak Sheldon
241 Blucher Street
Manchester, NH 03102
sheldon-sheldon@comcast.net

Gail Sheldon writes: “Sister Claire Coll continues her daily work at the Barakah Retreat & Renewal Center in Pittsfield, NH, where she lives as one of five inter-congregational sisters. The

1955
Alfred Crosby Gallo
3406 S. Palm Ave
Palm Beach, FL 33477-6342
alredagallo700@msn.com

“We had some sad news from our class: Joy Johnson Falkenham passed away from complications Alzheimer’s on February 23, 2016. She was my bridesmaid and a friend for all these years.”

1961
Dorothy Bean Simpson
PO Box 1373
Center Harbor, NH 03226
drsimpson2@yahoo.com

Dorothy Bean Simpson writes: “The Reunion Committee hopes you will join us at the Keene State Reunion fun! We hope you re-

1963
Elizabeth Butterfly Gilman
277 Coolidge Dr.
Portsmouth, NH 03801-5740
betty277@comcast.net

From Mary Ann St. Cyr Brockel-
man: “My Keene roommate Joyce Stothart Welch and I are enjoying our annual Florida reunion here in Naples. Joyce loves living here and is very busy with friends and activities. I'm here until April – plenty of time for more sunshine and shopping before Mike and I have to return home to Massachu-

1956
60TH REUNION
June 10-12, 2016

Minot Parker
PO Box 37040
Montclair, CA 91762-0404
tgparkin@att.net

1957
Cynthia Randall Faust
77 Sand Hill Road
Peterborough, NH 03458
cynthiana@comcast.net

1958
Jacqueline A. Abbott
7 Keeney Dr.
Boston, MA 02142
jabbott88@aol.com

1959
Carol Gatzomb-Riel
350 Pako Ave
Keene, NH 03431
nigalatcom83@yahoo.com

“Bob “Lefty” Joy ’60 and his grandson Ryan, who coaches the women’s soccer team at Plymouth State University, got together with

1960
Stephanie Heselton Baute
15 E. Surry Rd.
Surry, NH 03431
albe2015@comcast.net

A group of Kappas has been meeting for lunch every month for the past five years at the Puritan in Manchester. Thanks to Barry Osborne ’69 for sharing photos of the lunches.

1961
Martha Crowley Morse
131 Class St.
North Canaan, CT 06019
morsesports@comcast.net

Editor’s note: We apologize for inadvertently leaving out a few class secretaries’ names, including those for 1962, in the winter issue. Martha Marks has been on the job reporting for the class and helping to organize reunions for 53 years! Stephanie Baute joined her a few years back. They are eager to hear your news!

1963
Richard E. Doyle
561 Ocean Blvd. #4
Hampton, NH 03826
rdby961@aol.com

Doris Berg, Annette Mackie
Tilden, and Shellie Long write: “As we approach our 50th reunion, we have to return home to Massa-

1966
Nancy Cloutier
175 South Main St.
Brattleboro, VT 03530

“Join us on Facebook! Come to the 55th and enjoy your Keene State

1968
Jan Temple Melson
330 Maple Rd.
Longmeadow, MA 01050
jtemplemelson68@yahoo.com

Jane Gthabue has published a memoir about his teaching career. Titled It’s Not Special: A 12-Year Journey in Special Education, it includes a chapter on his Keene State. He writes: “It may think that everyone know. When making your donations, simply indicate the Class of 1965 Endowment and its

1970
Susan Campbell
1969
Barbara Hamilton
27 Kingswood Dr.
Manchester, CT 06040-7444
barbara.hamilton@att.net

Susan Campbell
North Canaan, CT 06019
scampbel@msn.com

An endowment fund to support scholarships has been established by the Class of 1969. For more information, contact Barbara Hamilton.

1971
Maureen Sheehan Hall
68 Cressat St.
Hinsdale, NH 03621
hallsofivy2@msn.com

1972
Debra Davis Butterworth
21 McAuley Rd.
East Hartford, CT 06118
debadavisbutterworth@yahoo.com

1973
Kathleen Pickford Stacy
28 Beckford St.
Salisbury, MA 01952-3229
kms2002@msn.com

1974
Roger Hartwell
198 Palermo Pl.
The Villages, FL 32159
rgbert3@yahoo.com

1975
Eileen Oechslin Bohigian
emooquil@aol.com

Eileen Bohigian and Dianne Reidy write: “As we approach our golden years with retirement plans in the works, our inquiries

1976
Philip Bellingham
20 Transit Ln.
East Hartford, CT 06118

Philip Bellingham writes: “Greetings, class. Just a short note. It’s been 40 years since 1976! Wow! Remember those days? Try to show up at reunion weekend June 10-12. It will be a HOOT! As in Owl”

2016
40TH REUNION
June 10-12, 2016

New class secretaries for the Class of 1975: Eileen Oechslin Bohigian (lhd); and Dianne Reidy Janson.

1977
Sabrina Brown Maltby
13 Main St.
Raymond, NH 03077

New class secretaries for the Class of 1976: Philip Bellingham and Dianne Reidy Janson.

2016
45TH REUNION
June 10-12, 2016

Betty Gillman writes: “Wayne Murray sent a few times letting us know that all is well with his humor and Sarah!

1962
Stephanie Heselton Baute
15 E. Surry Rd.
Surry, NH 03431
albe2015@comcast.net

1968
Jan Temple Melson
330 Maple Rd.
Longmeadow, MA 01050
jtemplemelson68@yahoo.com

1969
Barbara Hamilton
27 Kingswood Dr.
Manchester, CT 06040-7444
barbara.hamilton@att.net

If you have any ideas and plans.

1970
Susan Campbell
19 New Acres Rd.
Keene, NH 03431
scampbel@msn.com

1971
Maureen Sheehan Hall
68 Cressat St.
Hinsdale, NH 03621
hallsofivy2@msn.com

1972
Debra Davis Butterworth
21 McAuley Rd.
East Hartford, CT 06118
debadavisbutterworth@yahoo.com

1973
Kathleen Pickford Stacy
28 Beckford St.
Salisbury, MA 01952-3229
kms2002@msn.com

1974
Roger Hartwell
198 Palermo Pl.
The Villages, FL 32159
rgbert3@yahoo.com

1975
Eileen Oechslin Bohigian
emooquil@aol.com

Eileen Bohigian and Dianne Reidy write: “As we approach our golden years with retirement plans in the works, our inquiries

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Philip Bellingham
20 Transit Ln.
East Hartford, CT 06118

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Sabrina Brown Maltby
13 Main St.
Raymond, NH 03077

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Sabrina Brown Maltby
13 Main St.
Raymond, NH 03077

New class secretaries for the Class of 1975: Eileen Oechslin Bohigian (lhd); and Dianne Reidy Janson.
Kristina Hooper Kemp '86 writes: “I got together with Sun Anderson Fortier '86, Steve Fortier '86, Monica Larson Wissman '88, and former Keene State student Chris Conners for fun in the sun last July in Clinton, CT. Our little group hadn’t all gotten together since Sue and Steve’s wedding in 1988, when I was told to bring the ‘bubbly’ (champagne) and I brought the soup kind. Oops! Anyway, we had a fantastic time catching up with Chris, who resides in Colorado with his wife, Suzanne, and designs and makes beautiful furniture. Sue and Steve are YMCA lifers (running the show), and the Y is all the better for it! Monica is teaching in Massachusetts, and is married to Derrick Wissman ’88. They live in Florida, MA (yes, there is such a place), with their four children. We couldn’t get Derrick off of the mountain that they live on to join us at the beach. Maybe next year! I am a social worker in New Haven, CT, and have lived and worked there for 30 years. All of our kids are pretty much grown, so we are enjoying the ‘empty nest, more freedom’ stage of life. And … we ALL work in our chosen fields! Thanks Keene State, for the education that prepared us for life!”

Lauren Abrajano Griffin 17 Monhegan Path Marlborough, CT 06447 Shelly Broderick Masson shelly_m672@comcast.net Maureen Ciccone Musseu 75 Pinehav Dr. Whitman, MA 02382 mmusseu@comcast.net

Hopefully we’ll see some familiar faces at reunion in June. Due to social media, I’ve definitely re-encountered fewer class notes during the past couple of years. I’m in touch with a few folks, including Gregg DiChiara ’92.

“…and one quick shout out to Patty Adams Farmer ’92 for doing such a great job during her years as director of Alumni and Parent Relations. Best wishes in your new adventures!”

Karen Dicy ’91 writes: “My big news is that I finally found a wonderful man to call my husband, who’s also a Keene State alum! Stephen Oszlak ’88 and I got married September 6, 2014, at the Three Chimneys Inn in Durham, NH. It was a beautiful autumn day for an outdoor garden wedding, with family and friends and dancing into the night. Quite a few old friends with a Keene State connection were there to help us celebrate, including best man Steve Langs ’09, Robin Jones Stewart ’92, Gregg DiChiara ’92, Fred Titchcomb, Tammy Espig Peirars ’83, Gerar Gianattasio ’85. Julie Larsen Duggan, John Tim, and my cousin Robin Todd Riley.

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My name is Patty Adams Farmer ’92, and I’m a new mom to a baby girl, Madeline Anna, born July 11, 2016. I worked in our local preschool for several years, but am now working part-time at my in-laws’ business, where I’m responsible for administrative tasks and mainly social media. I’ve definitely re-encountered fewer class notes during the past couple of years. I’m in touch with a few folks, including Gregg DiChiara ’92.

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Well, the wedding was a blast. For a few hours, they were all there for 30 years. All of our kids are pretty much grown, so we are enjoying the ‘empty nest, more freedom’ stage of life. And … we ALL work in our chosen fields! Thanks Keene State, for the education that prepared us for life!”

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Hello, fellow reunion goers! It’s hard to believe it’s been 25 years since we graduated from Keene State!

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Class Notes

Nichole Garneau Treadway ’07 and Bill Treadway ’05 were married July 31, 2015, in Sugarbush, VT. Nichole played field hockey for the Owls, and the wedding attracted a number of Keene State athletes. Pictured are, from left: front row, Stephen Gevettlive Johnson ’07 (field hockey), (07), Kerry Gilmore Momnie ’05, Eric Momnie ’05 (lacrosse), Bill Treadway, Nicholos Treadway, John Mayranyki ’05 (baseball), Amanda Rosenbeck ’07 (field hockey), Kristin Zulak Olson ’06 (field hockey); second row, Matt Johnson ’08 (lacrosse), Rob Parker ’06, Mac Tiani ’08 (baseball), Beth Davis ’09, Sarah Newman Dunoiror ’09, Dayan Thurston ’07, Nick Baiseau ’04 (baseball), Justin Cox ’05 (baseball), Corry Bell ’06 (baseball), Amanda Bell ’06 (softball); back row, Liz Watson ’07, Pat Austin ’06 (softball), Chrisme Ahrene ’07, Michelle Tiani ’03 (field hockey), Matt Wood ’08. In attendance but not pictured were Matt Orzulak ’05 (baseball) and Lauren Hannum ’08.

Jacqueline Rossbotham ’07 married Robert Dziedzic ’07 on June 6, 2015. Now living in Connecticut, the two were married at a yacht club in Jacqueline’s home town on Long Island. Picture from left are Christopher Kurban ’07, Dan Trujillo ’08, Tony Simoes ’08, Jennifer Cleaveland Santa Fe ’10, who played basketball for Keene State, married Angela Santa Fe August 21, 2015, at Zukas Beach with Keri and Josh Cleaveland, head coach Keith Boucher and his wife Terri. ’10, Jen Kinney ’09, Chantyl Gable ’13, Liz Zwiebel ’11, Alyssa Sapp ’12, Courtney Cirillo ’12, Meghan Buckley ’12, Chelsea Remi ’12, Jen Kloinie ’09, Chanty Gable ’13, Liz Zwiebel ’11, Alyssa Sapp ’10, former assistant coach Ryan Margulis, former assistant coach Kate Margulis, head coach Keith Boucher and his wife Tami.

Jennifer Cleaveland Santa Fe ’10, who played basketball for Keene State, married Angela Santa Fe August 21, 2015, at Zukas Hilltop Barn in Spencer, MA. Angela played basketball for Keene State in the 2015-16 season. (keene.edu/alumni/newsline), our news blog aimed at alumni and parents. We post news as it comes in, but make sure you’re on the list for the monthly email wrap up. It’s a handy way to keep abreast of the best from Keene State. Done something outstanding? Know another Keene State grad who’s done something newsworthy? Let us know! Email mreynolds@keene.edu.

Class secretaries wanted!

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In Memoriam

Mary Kachavos Kellechey ’45
November 26, 2015
Bertha “Jackie” Berry Slade ’45
November 19, 2015
Marion Stevens Croighton ’46
April 20, 2015
Margaret Larkin Feldblum ’47
February 2, 2016
Barton Van Wie ’49
March 4, 2016
Carlton W. Nullar ’50
August 30, 2015
Evelyn Bruce Quimby ’52
September 28, 2015
Irene Dunn Wright ’52
December 5, 2015
Patricia Winn Slayton ’53
November 6, 2015
Gladys Clark Whiting ’53
February 3, 2016
Joy Johnson Felkenham ’54
February 24, 2016
Virginia Mclawey Taylor ’55
January 10, 2016
Marjorie Sherman Pyle ’56
February 16, 2016
William L. Brackett ’57
January 19, 2016
Roger A. Frechette ’57
December 10, 2015
David E. Hackett ’58
September 26, 2015
Robert L. Mallat ’58
December 24, 2015
Verna Erwin Irons ’59
December 22, 2015
Richard C. Kosickowski ’59
January 19, 2016
Charlene Fletcher Cobol ’61
March 4, 2016
Nancy Marshall Holmkev ’62
February 1, 2015
Donald W. Robinson ’62
August 7, 2015
Randall J. Locke ’66
February 5, 2016
Patricia Winn Slayton ’67
May 10, 2008
Raymond J. Raudonis ’67
November 24, 2015
A. Carol Shelley ’73
November 18, 2015
Michael D. Sullivan ’75
February 2, 2016
Suzanne Chase White
Hedgepock ’76
October 22, 2015
Karen E. Jones ’76
December 10, 2015

Next Class Notes Deadline:

Fall 2016
Issue: June 4
Winter 2016
Issue: Oct 31

Mail or email to your class secretary or to classnotes@keene.edu or Alumni Center, Keene State College, 225 Main St., Keene NH 03435-2701.

Keene State Today

Class Notes

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A donation to the KSC Fund provides support for Keene State students to follow their dreams of becoming journalists, dancers, teachers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and more – and to go on to make a difference in the world.

Donate to an area of the KSC Fund that speaks to your passion:

- Tuition Assistance, which helps students cover the cost of tuition;
- Student Academic Support, which provides funding for student research and experiential learning;
- Student Activities, which supports clubs, organizations, and campus life.

Please show your support for current students by making a donation at www.keene.edu/donate or by using the enclosed envelope. Thank you!