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Keene State Today

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



Stellar Students

Meet Our Newest Alumni

Keene
STATE COLLEGE

Tough Times, Strong Commitments

This issue of *Keene State Today* will hit the streets just as the College is dealing with the effects of a nearly 50-percent cut to our state appropriation. In real dollars, that's a cut of \$6,318,860 to our annual operating budget. These are tough times for the State of New Hampshire and for the University System of New Hampshire. Keene State College is committed to doing its level best to support our state and minimize the impact of these cuts on our students.

In fact, the College is strengthening those commitments in important ways. First, we are redoubling our commitment to academic quality. We are strengthening programs, maintaining regional and national accreditations, and increasing standards as we focus on what students need to be successful in their lives and careers in an increasingly competitive job market. For evidence of that in this issue, please see our story "Partners in Science" (page 4) and read the profiles of graduating seniors (page 10) to appreciate the breadth and depth of Keene State's educational experience.

Second, we are addressing the needs of our community and our state head on. More and more, our academic programs are engaging directly with the community through service learning, internships, and undergraduate research. The number of students who volunteer has never been higher. We are also addressing the workforce needs of our state as we proudly

introduce a new nursing program in fall 2011. Please read "Educating the Nurse of the Future" on page 18 for more on this exciting new major.

Third, even in the face of dramatic budget cuts, we have increased our financial aid budget. We have to. A college education has never been more important, and Keene State has a core commitment to access and affordability. We make an extra effort to assist our most needy students. It's part of who we are.

The importance of our alumni, friends, and community in helping us achieve our mission is critical. You help us educate our students through your support of our programs and your direct involvement. You make college affordable for our students through your incredible generosity.

Our commitment to academic excellence and student success is unwavering. Our investment in our community continues unabated. But in difficult times, it's good to know we have alumni and friends who are just as committed to our success. Great things are ahead in the new academic year. Thank you for helping us achieve them.



Mel Netzhammer
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Notice Anything Different?

You've probably noticed the new KSC logo and a slightly different look to this issue of *Keene State Today*. (Wait till you see the next issue!) We want to put our best foot forward and create a fresh and unified look and feel in our publications and on the web. We want our appearance to reflect our best qualities: a beautiful campus, for instance, where there's a true sense of community and small classes taught by dedicated and excellent faculty. And students who come here with plenty of talent – but maybe not lots of money – and get the training and encouragement they need to really make a difference in the world.

As it's been for more than 100 years, we're still committed to the motto "Enter to learn, go forth to serve." We're thinking of it today as the wisdom to make a difference.



Wisdom to make a difference.

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On the cover: Mary Benson '11, BA magna cum laude, English, will begin graduate work in creative writing this fall. Photo by Will Wrobel '11

Corey Vogt pitched for the Red Sox staff at Fenway Park during a pre-draft workout on May 31. He threw about 30 pitches and met Theo Epstein, the Sox's general manager.



Courtesy Corey Vogt

Keene State Pitcher Drafted by Red Sox

On June 8, **Corey Vogt '11** became the first-ever Keene State College baseball player selected in the Major League Baseball first-year player draft. A right-handed pitcher from Suffield, Conn., he was chosen in the 39th round by the Boston Red Sox. Vogt was a dominant closer in the Little East Conference, earning All-Conference honors as a junior and senior at KSC. He had four saves, a 2.82 ERA, and 30 strikeouts in 22-1/3 innings for Keene State this past season. Vogt signed a contract with the Red Sox and reported to the organization's extended spring training program in Fort Myers, Florida. He will be assigned to one of three minor league affiliates on the East Coast.

Commissioner's Cup – Again!

Keene State continued to hold a firm grip on the Little East Commissioner's Cup, the top athletic program award in the conference, bringing home an unprecedented 11th consecutive trophy at the end of the 2010-11 academic year. Keene State captured six Little East championship titles and finished either first or second in the final regular-season standings in nine of its 17 varsity sports to average 7.931 points. UMass-Dartmouth (6.709) edged Eastern Connecticut State University (6.690) for second place, while Western Connecticut State University finished in fourth (6.565). "Keene State continues to set the pace for athletic excellence in the Little East Conference," said Commissioner Jonathan C. Harper. "By winning the award every year the Commissioner's Cup has been offered, the Owls solidify themselves as a regional and national power in Division III."

Senior Athletes Honored at Awards Dinner

Four Keene State athletes were honored at the 2010-11 Senior Athletic Awards Dinner on May 1. **Katie Bradford** (Lebanon, N.H.) was named female athlete of the year, and **Bryan Kolacz** (Brentwood, N.H.) and **Bobby Doyon** (Keene, N.H.) were selected male athletes of the year. **Samantha "Sammy" Datti** (Durham, N.H.) was the recipient of the senior scholar-athlete award. The women's soccer team and men's cross country squad were presented with the Don Carle Award for having the highest cumulative GPA among Owl teams.

Bradford completed her four-year soccer career as the Owls all-time leader in goals (67) and points (164) and holder of the season assists (16) mark. Recognized for her play as a three-time All-New England and All-Little East team member, Bradford capped her career by earning LEC and ECAC Offensive Player of the Year honors as a senior. Bradford, a nutrition major, was also recognized for her work in the classroom, receiving District Academic All-America honors this past fall. A two-sport athlete who also played on the KSC softball team, Bradford help lead the Owl soccer

team to back-to-back ECAC titles the past two years.

Kolacz, the most honored field athlete in the school's history, put the finishing touches on his sensational Keene State track career in 2011. As a sophomore, he won a national D-III championship with his first-place finish in the hammer throw, and went on to earn All-America honors in the event as a junior. During the indoor season, Kolacz has captured All-America honors the past two years in the weight-throw event. A two-time U.S. Track and Field and New England Field Athlete of the Year, Kolacz had been a dominating performer at the regional and conference level. Last winter, he posted the second longest weight-throw toss (20.04 meters) in Division III history. At the NCAA outdoor championships this spring, he finished a strong second in the hammer throw with a personal-best toss of 209 feet 6 inches. A physical education major, Kolacz also earned district and national Academic All-America honors the last two years. He balanced student-teaching assignments with his rigorous work-out schedule, and was described by his professors as an inquisitive and appreciative student.

Bobby Doyon rewrote the Owl baseball record book, setting marks for home runs (37), RBIs (211), hits

(275), doubles (61), and stolen bases (59). The first two-time All-American and Little East Player of the Year in the program's history, Doyon was also the recipient of numerous LEC, ECAC, and All-New England honors. As a junior, he was the only active player to be named to the D3Baseball.com All-Decade team. During Doyon's tenure, Keene State made two trips to the NCAA tournament and captured its first-ever LEC championship. The safety studies major is planning to play in baseball's independent league, hoping to take his considerable talent to the next level.

Known as the "Little General" on the Owl women's volleyball team, Sammy Datti displayed excellence on the court and in the classroom at Keene State. The environmental science major developed into one of the team's top defensive players. This past season, the dedicated defensive specialist/libero finished third on the team in digs (352), while also being a highly effective server. A four-time member of the Little East All-Academic team, Datti, a two-year captain, led the Owls to the program's first ECAC championship last fall. Datti explained how she prioritized athletics and academics: "I put my class work first and then I get to go out on the court and play." She graduated magna cum laude.



Bobby Doyon, Katie Bradford, Sammy Datti, and Bryan Kolacz were honored for their athletic and academic achievements at the senior awards dinner.

Partners in SCIENCE

KSC biology professors, a slew of talented students, and scientists from nine other New Hampshire colleges and universities are working together to support original biomedical research through mentorship and shared resources.

By Susan Peery

photographs by Mark Corliss

Keene State biology professors Loren Launen and Susan Whittemore can sling scientific lingo at you faster than you can catch it, but they also know how to get down to basics. When someone observed that the three main subjects of biology might be 1. life, 2. death, and 3. what happens in between, they nodded.

"Stuff that rots' is my main interest," said Launen.

"I love bringing things to life," responded Whittemore.

Their scientific and professional interests overlap in several ways. As biologists, both are interested in the effects of chemicals in cells, especially toxicology. As teachers, both are committed to providing research opportunities for their students – real experiences, not pre-choreographed lab exercises. The two professors collaborated in writing the Keene State portion of a statewide \$15.4-million award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for biomedical research in New Hampshire.

The 2010 award established the IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). Dartmouth Medical School (DMS) and UNH, the lead institutions, oversee the grant, which

offers funding for faculty and students at partner institutions. In addition to KSC, partner schools include Plymouth State University, Colby-Sawyer College, St. Anselm College, Franklin Pierce University, New England College, River Valley Community College, and Great Bay Community College.

"Before INBRE," said Whittemore, "we were doing science in isolation. Now we have the funding to collaborate. The grant supports something we are deeply committed to – doing scholarship with students. Integrating teaching and research is an effective way to teach science." The INBRE program also helps faculty gain new skills that they can apply to their research and classes. Experts in quantitative gene expression methodology from Dartmouth College offered a two-day workshop at KSC in June. The workshop was developed in response to Whittemore's desire to learn more about this powerful research tool, one that wasn't available when she was a post-doctoral fellow 18 years ago. Likewise, Launen's project brings visiting scholar Dr. Sinéad Ní Chadhain, a molecular microbiologist from the University of South Alabama, to KSC to enhance the research and education base in molecular environmental

microbiology. Launen adds, "Before INBRE, we already had our state-of-the-art David F. Putnam Science Center, but now we can bring in equipment and resources that benefit all biology students. The partnerships between schools help us get respect and put us on the map. Our students who go on to graduate work have a competitive edge – Dartmouth and UNH are surprised and impressed by the quality of our students."

The students who do best at lab work are not necessarily the shining stars from high school. "Only a small percentage of students have the work ethic for science," Whittemore says. "The good ones have a willingness to do repetitive procedures, and do them precisely and consistently – it's really challenging." She and Launen both teach freshmen as well as advanced students, and they are always looking for students with the focus, intuition, and attention to detail that is required.

In Whittemore's lab in the Science Center, she and her students raise African clawed frogs (*Xenopus laevis*) under carefully controlled conditions. The aquatic frogs – Whittemore calls them "the lab rat of the amphibian world" – are the gold standard for assessing toxicity, because their sensitivity to certain environmental toxins

Students Jeff Trethewey '11 (foreground) and Jarett Miller working in the biology lab with visiting microbiologist Sinéad Ní Chadhain and KSC biology professor Loren Launen.

parallels that of humans. The frogs require daily care and observation (weekends and holidays included!), with strict protocols set by the Institutional Animal Care Use Committee (IACUC), a federal governing body that does regular inspections.

Whittemore and Launen are both involved in INBRE-funded pilot projects that involve their top students. Whittemore is leading a study of the effects of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) on early development, using African clawed frogs as a model organism. PAHs are deposited in soil, water, and air as a result of incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. Her student researchers, all biology or chemistry majors, haunt the lab, learning the hands-on techniques and painstaking lab skills that will serve them well in graduate school or professional life. The research they are doing will be applied directly to human health issues.

Launen is leading a study of petroleum hydrocarbon degradation in Great Bay Estuary (N.H.) salt marshes, highly sensitive ecosystems in which pollutants are removed mostly through indigenous microbial action (i.e., rotting). Her study, aided by collaboration with Dr. Ní

Chadhain, focuses on characterizing the degradation genes in the microbes. In addition to providing basic information on the microbiology of contaminated sites, the project will help illuminate the factors that limit or enhance the remediation of contaminated salt marshes. She is working closely with the UNH environmental studies department and Jackson Estuarine Lab, particularly INBRE mentor Dr. Steven Jones.

Through INBRE, the two KSC professors gained new professional mentors and rewarding connections. Some of their students gained the opportunity of an undergraduate lifetime. KSC junior Deena Snoke (Waterford, Conn.), one of Whittemore's students, was awarded a prestigious Dartmouth College summer undergraduate research fellowship for a 10-week research experience in the neuroscience lab of Dr. Leslie Henderson at Dartmouth Medical School. Dr. Henderson is also Whittemore's mentor for the INBRE project.

At KSC this summer, Whittemore also ran a research program with two students, Krist Hausken and Elizabeth Richardson. Both are senior Biology majors. (Krist

is also getting a BS in Chemistry, while Liz will get her teaching certification in Biology). INBRE funded the summer research experiences as well as those during the academic year.

Jeff Trethewey '11, who received an INBRE grant as a senior to work on Dr. Launen's research, was admitted to graduate school in microbiology at the University of Tennessee with a sizable tuition award and a stipend. Dean Gordon Leversee credited Launen's mentoring and the extra support of the INBRE grant for Trethewey's success. (A complete list of current NH-INBRE-funded projects is online at keene.edu/grants.)

Other Keene State faculty in biology, chemistry, and environmental studies have also received much-needed research funding through INBRE, and, perhaps more importantly, made critical connections with researchers and peers at other institutions. Students present at conferences, publish scholarly papers, and build relationships that lead to professional success. The partnerships forged here uplift the next generation of scientists in a world that needs their expertise and their service. ■



Biology students Jade Halsey '11 and Liz Richardson visit one of Professor Whittemore's African clawed frogs (Xenopus laevis), which are used to study the effects of environmental toxins.



Who Does Science?

Professors Launen and Whittemore both remember exactly why they got into careers in science.

Launen: "I grew up in northern Ontario, and I can remember the moment in the library in Beaver Lake when I was about eight years old, looking at a book about how things break down in the forest. The illustration showed the nutrient cycle, and I was fascinated. I came back to this subject in grad school and became an environmental microbiologist."

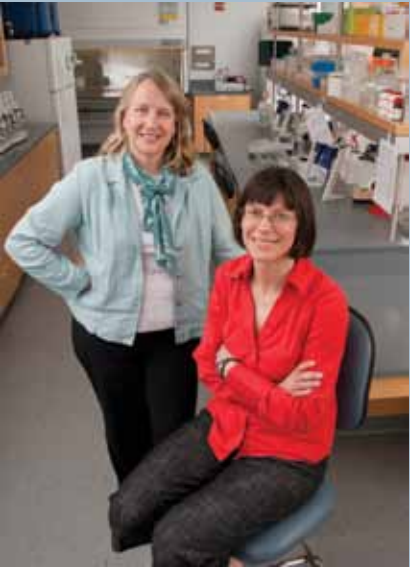
Whittemore: "I loved National Geographic shows on animals while I was growing up in Lancaster, N.H., and Speculator, N.Y. (population 365) in the Adirondacks. I was young and naïve, but people encouraged me. Studying animal reproduction and development got me into physiology, my area of expertise."

To identify students like themselves, Launen and Whittemore scan their classes from freshman year on, looking for students with that special spark. "My current INBRE student Jarett Miller wrote to me even before he started at KSC," Launen said. "He began his project in the first semester of his freshman year and turned out to excel in microbiology."

"We bring promising students into the lab and see how it goes," Whittemore says. She added that good students often recruit others

in class. "They have a certain swagger – they own their own nerdiness." To assess the toxicity of PAHs during development, her students learn to inject frogs with gonadotropin, breed them, isolate the viable embryos, and study them at regular intervals as they progress through development.

Jade Halsey '11, one of Whittemore's long-term research students, came to KSC as a first-generation student and graduated with a BS in Biology and minor in Chemistry this spring. Halsey said, "My first year in college was challenging, and I often wanted to quit. Getting involved in research taught me to think. Learning science hands-on in the lab has allowed me to truly grasp the concepts presented in class and apply them to the real world." Jade is currently employed at New England Peptide in Groton, Mass.



Biology professors Whittemore and Launen brought INBRE resources to KSC.



Frugality 101

Keene State offers an excellent education at an affordable cost – and that requires it to manage its resources carefully. Prudence Pennypincher, please meet our Office of Finance and Planning.

by Mark Reynolds

If you polled alumni from any class in Keene State's 100-year history, it's likely they'd all be aware of the College's careful fiscal management. Since its days as Keene Normal School, the College has worked hard to steward its limited resources, continue to grow, and offer more bang for the educational buck.

"This is a campus that has never been frivolous," noted Jay Kahn, vice president of finance and planning. "It's always been extremely prudent with its public resources."

What else would you expect from a college in the heart of New England, home of the frugal Yankee? "Ours are the values of New England," Kahn explained. "We share that 'make do' sensibility that is firmly rooted in this part of the country. Frugality is something New Englanders know about."

Besides the need to save money, a lot of the motivation behind fiscal responsibility is the widespread commitment simply to be good citizens. Save resources, save money, and help the planet as best you can.

Heat

The first and most important way to cut costs is to cut energy use. When the steam plant that provided heat for the campus for nearly 100 years needed an upgrade, the design team did their research and found that a cogeneration steam turbine offered energy efficiency and significant savings. As a result, the new plant that opened in 2009 features a pair of super-efficient new boilers that turn a turbine that can generate nearly 400KW, or 12 percent of campus electricity. The steam provides heat to the buildings. Kahn estimates that the plant will pay for itself by 2016 and save \$5.6 million over the 30-year life of the boilers.

The campus has also become much more efficient in heating its buildings. When Fiske and Huntress halls were renovated, each room got its own temperature control, with

set parameters. Sensors in the window frame automatically turn the thermostat down to a minimum level if a window is open. "If you want outside air, you can have it. You just can't have it at the same time you're getting heat," Kahn explained.

"We also do a lot with heat-recovery units," said Bill Rymes, supervisor of plumbing and heating operations. "We take exhaust air coming out of a building and we run it through an air-to-air heat exchanger. We recover about 80 percent of the heat energy that would otherwise be exhausted outdoors, and we use that to heat the fresh air that's coming back in. Most of our buildings now have that system built into them."

Electricity

"We've become our own commodity trader," Kahn said. "There are four parts to an electric bill: transmission, stranded costs, peak load, and electrical production. We can bid on the electrical production component, which is the largest part of the bill. So we go out to the public market and see where electricity is going to be the cheapest. Every year, the market becomes bigger as more players enter to sell electricity.

"Last year we saw that electric production costs were pretty reasonable, so we locked in a 24-month contract, instead of the usual 12. We got the price down from 9¢ per kilowatt hour to 6.5¢, saving \$440,000 per year. When we saw fuel-oil prices hit bottom in 2009, we bought for 30 months, saving \$240,000 over the previous year."

Converting the campus to more economical lighting has also led to important savings. KSC received a federal grant to change the

old metal-halide lamps in Spaulding Gym to fluorescent fixtures, which cut electric use and improved the lighting quality. The College also replaced the 30-year-old light fixtures in the Redfern with energy-efficient fluorescent lights and switched to efficient LED lights in the Redfern parking lot.



Water

The College recently replaced all of the 2.5-gallon-per-minute showerheads in residence halls with 1.5-gallon-per-minute heads. Rymes calculates that saves more than \$250,000 over an eight-month academic year. Not bad for an initial \$4,000 investment!

The plumbing shop also replaced all the flush valves on toilets with dual-flush valves and could see a reduction in water usage. Since water and sewer rates are based on meter size, the plumbers changed the old water meters to smaller ones. This saved \$8,000 per year in one building, though the savings varies from building to building.

Efficient New Buildings

Pondside III is LEED-Silver certified; One Butler Court is also built to the same standards. Both halls have dual-flush toilets, water-saving showerheads, reduced-flow faucet aerators, and efficient HVAC systems.

The new Alumni Center also boasts several energy-efficient features, including a condensing hot-water boiler that's more than 90 percent efficient, occupancy-sensing lighting, a roof made of recycled materials that resemble slate, porous pavement designed to divert storm water underground and minimize the impact on city drainage, and energy-saving R40 insulation.

The new Technology, Design, and Safety building going up this summer, planned as a zero-net energy building, will feature monitors that can control energy use in each room, depending on how many people are there. For example, if there's only one person working at a machine in the wood shop, only the fan and lights serving that machine will be on.

Contract Savings

By carefully reviewing its contracts with outside vendors, the College has come up with some creative ways to save money. When asked for the most dramatic example of these savings, Dr. Kahn replied: "These aren't dramatic, and that's what's great about them. We've found ways to maintain essentially the same level of service by modulating the amount of effort that goes into it." For example, the cleaning service cleans the administrative buildings on campus only three days a week instead of five. This means \$43,000 in savings over the course of a year.

KSC had a maintenance contract to protect the hundreds of network switches around campus. A maintenance contract typically covers them all, but the College realized that it was unlikely they would all fail at the same time. It reworked the agreement to cover only a portion of the switches and saved \$85,000 per year.

KSC was also able to save \$225,000 per year by reworking its contract with dining services, \$15,000 per year on transporting athletes and students on field trips, \$15,000 per year on shipping and freight, and \$80,000 per year by modifying student-information and learning-management systems contracts.

The Student Center used to contract out for all its lighting and sound for speakers and events, but now it has trained its own staff to do that, saving \$15,000 per year.

Going Paperless

By putting more of its information online, KSC has been able to save more than \$100,000 per year on paper and mailing costs. The hefty course catalog, as well as handbooks and policy manuals, are now online only. The admissions process is also online only.

The Human Resources Office saved \$33,000 per year by posting job openings

on the web and cutting back on the number of print ads it runs, and it limits the number of candidates it brings to campus for interviews.

Improved Technology

The IT Department is in the process of virtualizing the servers, which "creates savings in hardware and software, benefits in disaster-recovery efforts, improved security, and fewer utilities costs," noted Laura Seraichick, KSC's chief information officer. So far, those efforts are saving the campus \$36,000 a year, with more to come.

Keene State College is required to provide equal access to academic and campus programs and activities to students with documented disabilities. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) has found resourceful ways to cut these costs while still meeting the institutional access needs of the students. For example:

By converting printed textbooks into electronic formats for visually impaired students to use on their Braille notebooks, the College saves about \$50,000 per semester.

By converting printed books into electronic formats compatible with such devices as text-to-speech converters for students with reading disabilities, ODS saves about \$57,000 per year.

By training staff in the highly technical skill of converting music scores into Braille, ODS saves about \$4,500 a score.

Recycle, Reuse, and Resell

When The Princeton Review's *Guide to 286 Green Colleges* recently listed Keene State as one of the country's most environmentally responsible schools, it was spot on.

Keene State recycles just about everything it possibly can: glass and plastic bottles, aluminum, cardboard, paper, batteries, ballasts, and fluorescent light bulbs. It composts all the leaves and grass clippings as well as the precooking food waste from the Dining Commons, and it collects batteries, ink-jet cartridges, clothing, books, and Styrofoam peanuts for environmentally safe disposal and reuse – about 249 tons of material in all in 2010.

On the second Saturday of most every month since 2001, KSC has held a surplus

sale, where it sells used furniture, office equipment, machinery, and tools. People from the Monadnock region show up early to get great deals on dressers, chairs, beds, rugs, computer monitors, printers, welding equipment, dump trucks – you name it. "We average \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year in gross sales," says Jim Draper, director of campus purchasing and contract services.

Best of all, any furniture that doesn't sell through the surplus sale is picked up by the Institutional Recycling Network (IRN), out of Concord, New Hampshire. IRN ships the furniture to Haiti, Nicaragua, or other places in need. The savings is significant, according to Mary Jensen, KSC's sustainability director. For example, it costs \$35 to dispose of a mattress. If, instead, the College sends 100 mattresses to Haiti, it saves \$3,500, and 100 people in Haiti get a decent place to sleep. In 2009, KSC sent nearly 12,000 items, or 37 tons, through IRN for reuse and recycling in development and relief efforts in Honduras, Haiti, and Nicaragua.

Are We Really That Frugal?

"Are we really as frugal as we say we are?" mused Jay Kahn. "We've used some national statistics to compare our per-student costs to some of our peer institutions. We've seen repeatedly that our costs are 18 percent below that of our peers. Then we go a little bit deeper into the data to see if we are putting our dollars toward our highest priorities – instruction and student learning – and we see the College is putting 57 percent of its general operating budget into instruction. Only one other campus matches us at that level. So, we're the lowest cost per student, and we're putting the greatest amount toward instruction."

What makes KSC able to meet these goals? "In part, it's because we contract out some services," Kahn explained, "and we have lower staffing levels in our support offices. Also, I think it originates from the College's mission, which is more focused than that of many of our peers. Our primary mission is serving undergraduate students in a residential setting, so we don't have the mission spread across multiple degree levels like others do. We can maximize our use of resources by focusing right here." ■



Meet Our Newest Alumni: The Class of 2011's Stellar Students

The commencement ceremony on May 7 brought the class of 2011 together for the last time. The largest graduating class ever, the 2011 alums show all the range of talents, accomplishments, and dreams that one could hope for. Here are just a few of our new alumni.

Profiles (except his own) by Ryan LaLiberty '11

Photographs by Will Wrobel '11

Brin Adams, Concord, NH; BM, music education option, with a specialty in piano. She will finish her coursework in the fall semester and apply for jobs teaching chorus and general music in middle school. Brin has supported herself by teaching figure skating in the Boston area several days a week.

At KSC: A scholarship recipient in 2010 and 2011, Brin was involved in many music ensembles, including the band Accidental Harmony. She student taught in area schools.

"I transferred to Keene State two years ago. My piano teacher and my education teacher got me involved in music education, and I've developed as a musician and learned how to teach music to others. Coming from a school where I wasn't really involved, I learned how important it is to become part of a community. I'd advise incoming students, whether they are freshmen or transfers, to get involved with what you love to do, as much as you can."



Jacob Meier, Merrimack, NH; BS, chemistry; was the recipient of the Merck Scholar Award for exemplary research. He will begin a PhD program in chemistry at South Dakota State University on a fellowship that includes full tuition and a stipend. Jacob will study under Dr. Brian Logue, who uses analytical techniques for solar cell applications and detection of chemical warfare agents.

At KSC: Jacob participated in research from his sophomore to senior years and focused on analytical chemistry and developing methods of separating environmental pollutants, using mass spectrometry on lichen samples from the Monadnock region. He presented at several high-profile regional and international conferences, and received a summer research fellowship (2010) and an undergraduate student research grant.

"I'm able to talk to all of my professors openly. It's great. I've done a lot of independent research, something I might not have been able to do at another institution. My professors have opened my eyes to all of the possibilities after graduating."



Jackie Vanacore, Poughquag, NY; BA, sociology; international studies minor; received the Senior Service Award. She will travel to Guatemala in summer 2011 to teach English, and plans to join AmeriCorps and eventually work for an international nonprofit.

At KSC: Jackie studied in Florence, Italy (2009); participated in the ASB trip to Florida Everglades (2010); joined Global Youth Connects human rights delegation to Bosnia-Herzegovina (summer 2010); was a volunteer coordinator for the KSC Community Service Office; volunteered on executive boards of St. Jude's "Up Till Dawn" fund-raiser, Habitat for Humanity, and Alpha Kappa Delta/Sociology Honor Society; was an academic peer advisor and orientation leader; was part of American Democracy Project/eCitizenship group; and co-led KSCRight2Vote.

"The small classroom setting has allowed me to get to know my professors and peers, and our administrators and faculty encourage student projects and initiatives. My advice to new students is to get involved, travel, and try new things!"

Deanna "Dede" Garceau, Princeton, MA; BA summa cum laude, French, Spanish, and Education (triple major); scholarship recipient and winner of the Senior Service Award and Batchelder Memorial Award for French. Will teach French and Spanish at Alvirne High School in Hudson, NH, in the fall.

At KSC: Dede had five jobs – in the Student Center, CDC, Aspire, as a modern language tutor, and in the Office of Disability Services as a note-taker. Elected to National Society of Collegiate Scholars and honor societies for French, Spanish, and education. Studied in Paris and in Quito and Tamarindo, Ecuador. Was chosen by the faculty to carry the Arts and Humanities gonfalon at commencement.

"What worked for me at Keene State was doing as much as I possibly could. The best thing I can suggest for new students: if you can function on four or five hours of sleep a night, do it."





Ryan LaLiberty, Keene, NH; BA magna cum laude, American studies, minor in philosophy. He received the Robin Dizard American Studies Award and Senior Service Award. Ryan will attend University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies.

At KSC: Ryan was a projectionist in the Putnam Theatre (a job he inherited from his brother, Justin '10), and president of the Film Society. He worked in the library archives; went to Selma, AL, for alternate spring break (2011); presented and performed on guitar at the Academic Excellence Conference as a freshman; and presented at many conferences, including the Popular Culture conference in Texas (2011).

"I majored in American studies because it encompasses everything I love – art, music, history, literature. The faculty and students here are on a first-name basis, with great opportunities for research. Some of my best work has come from pushing the boundaries of a class. I took a physics class and wrote about minimalist composer Lamont Young. My advice to new students: Don't sit home on Facebook. If your days are packed, it's a good sign. And be sure to have fun."



"The biology faculty has been amazing, working with me one on one. I love that, and it was a big factor that kept me here. I don't have a main focus in biology yet, but all the research I've done is in vertebrates. My advice to new students is don't be scared about figuring out what you want to do. If your heart is there, nothing else matters."

Vanessa Ward, Auburn, MA; BS summa cum laude, biology. After graduation, Vanessa rode her bike from Baltimore, MD, to Seattle, WA – 4,000 miles – to raise money for a cancer foundation.

At KSC: Vanessa received scholarships and NH-INBRE grants. She presented independent research at the Academic Excellence Conference (2008, 2009, 2011). She ran cross country and competed in hurdles and mid-distance events on the track. In 2011, Vanessa received the Aubrey S. Thomas Jr. Biology Award for academic achievement in biology, and took Physics II during the summer at Clark University. She participated in Habitat for Humanity, alternate spring break, and Ultimate Frisbee.

Kristin Mehalik, Londonderry, NH; BS, elementary education; sociology minor; received 2011 Outstanding Women of New Hampshire and Senior Service awards. She will complete the student teaching requirement this fall in second and fourth grades in Nashua, and aspires to be a school principal.

At KSC: Kristin volunteered for Habitat for Humanity (four years; last two as president) and became a Big Sister in 2008; established a chapter of Girls, Inc., at Keene Middle School; worked in the Student Center as a scheduler; volunteered at the 100 Nights shelter in Keene; was a member of Kappa Delta Pi (national education honor society); and served as a teaching assistant in two sections of the course Issues in Education.

"There's a real feeling of home at Keene State. My professors in the Education Department, especially Dr. Nancy Lory and Mia Manning-Osborn, have guided and mentored me for the past four years. And being part of organizations on campus has helped me develop a strong sense of community and school pride. My advice to incoming freshmen: Get involved!"



Bryan Kolacz, Brentwood, NH; BS, physical education with teacher certification. He is a member of Phi Epsilon Kappa (national physical education honor society) and is applying for physical education teaching jobs in Portland, OR.

At KSC: Bryan is the most honored field athlete in school history. He's a five-time All-America thrower, and recently finished second in the hammer throw at the NCAA D-3 track and field national championships with a personal-best throw of 209 feet 6 inches. He was national champion in the event his sophomore year and earned All-America again as a junior. Bryan was named the LEC's top indoor field athlete for the last three years, and is on the 2011 KSC All-Academic team.

"Keene has a hometown feel, and everything is within five minutes' walk, so it's easy to be prompt, which really helps with my athletic and academic schedule. At KSC, everyone is always learning and everyone continues to change. I've had so many good role models. My education professors taught me a lot about working with younger children. The way they speak to children is an inspiration to me."

Sinéad O'Mahony, Dover, NH; BA, economics. She is finishing her coursework in the fall semester and applying to grad school for public administration and future work at a nonprofit.

At KSC: Sinéad won an outstanding leadership award as a sophomore and earned an AmeriCorps scholarship in 2011 for doing 300 hours of community service. She directed Keene State's Up Till Dawn fund-raiser for St. Jude's Hospital, which raised \$18,000 in one night. Sinéad volunteered weekly at the Community Kitchen and helped organize the annual Alzheimer's Walk. She also worked for Admissions as a tour guide and for Athletics as Hootie the Owl.

"Giving back is a huge part of my life. Just about every day I'm either working on a new project or finishing up another. What I love about Keene State is that people believe in me. There's a family atmosphere, and the faculty want to see the students strive and achieve. My advice to new students is to do things that take you out of your comfort zone – things you can look back on in 10 years and say, 'Wow. That was cool.'"



Alex Trombly, Swanzey, NH; BA cum laude, theatre and dance (technical design specialization). He is employed by MOCO Arts in Keene as a technical director and freelances at area high schools.

At KSC: Alex was the winner of the Julia McHale Redfern Prize in Performing Arts (2010), named Student Employee of the Year in 2009, worked directly with the Redfern's faculty technical director for all KSC shows and performances and for some touring companies; worked at MOCO Arts in Keene; and was a member of Alpha Psi Omega (national theatre and dance honor society).

"As a theatre major, I spent a lot of time at the Redfern, and Craig Lindsay, the faculty technical director, gave me hands-on experience from the start. It's a small program, so you get that one-on-one attention. But I'm sure if the program grows, the faculty will hold onto that value. My advice for new students: If you are passionate about a subject, go to your professors and say, 'I want to get this experience.' You are responsible for your own success."



Meagan Blais, Jaffrey, NH; BA summa cum laude, double major in Holocaust and genocide studies and European history, minor in German. She will travel for a year while applying to the University of Amsterdam's master's program in Holocaust and genocide studies. (Meagan is shown here with Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein.)

At KSC: Meagan, assistant director during her sophomore year of *Kaddish* (a musical work by Lawrence Siegel that memorialized the Holocaust), won the Hildebrandt Award for Holocaust Studies twice as well as the F. Burton Nelson Award for Holocaust Studies. She was also awarded the Dr. J. Duane Squires History Prize (2011). Meagan was a member of National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Phi Alpha Theta (national history honor society), traveled to Europe with the KSC-sponsored Holocaust study group (2010), and worked off-campus at a ski and snowboard shop.

"My favorite class, Rethinking the Holocaust, was taught by Dr. Paul Vincent and Hank Knight. It was incredible. The faculty at the Cohen Center helped me focus and develop what I really want to do. I'd tell new students to work hard and play hard, and to take school seriously. This is the best time of your life, but it is what you make it."



Mary Benson, Keene, NH; BA magna cum laude, English, with a minor in writing. She won the Eder Creative Writing Award and will attend grad school at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to earn an MFA in creative writing, with a focus on poetry. Mary aspires to publish throughout her life and teach at the college level.

At KSC: Mary tutored at the Writing Center and also worked part-time at a local bagel shop. She took every creative writing and poetry course she could find and loves the work of Phillip Levine, Anne Sexton, Robert Lowell, David Foster Wallace, Ernest Hemingway, and Raymond Carver. She can't stand William S. Burroughs's *Naked Lunch*.

"Take your professors seriously, because they have a lot to offer. If you can build a good base with them, they can guide you in the long run."

Zach Beaver, Bedford, NH; BS, applied computer science, minor in criminal justice. He will attend graduate school at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania to study student affairs and higher education, and will intern at Seton Hill University.

At KSC: Zach won a Dean's Scholarship and Senior Service Award. He was president of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and a member of Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and KSC Pride. Zach trained advisors and developed programs in the Student Center, served on Student Conference Fund and Academic Enrichment Fund committees, worked as a RA, and served on the Budget and Resource Council.

"During my time at Keene, I've really been able to take advantage of opportunities. If I saw something I wanted, I went for it, and if there was something that wasn't here, I could help make it happen. My co-curricular experiences have been so wonderful they will be my career. I hope to be a student affairs administrator at a college."



Mollie-Jean Burgess, Narragansett, RI; BS, athletic training. She will enter graduate school at Old Dominion University in Virginia in the athletic training master's program. Mollie-Jean would like to work as an athletic trainer in a hospital or clinic setting or for the military.

At KSC: Mollie-Jean was president of Phi Upsilon Kappa (national physical education honor society), a delegate to Eastern Athletic Trainers Association and student program chair. She worked as a nanny for a Keene family, at the front desk in the Rec Center, and summers as a camp counselor.

"I found a mentor in Dr. Wanda Swiger. She's been there for me through all the bumps and bruises of college – academically, clinically, and personally. I have a passion for teaching, which I got from her. My advice to new students: learn time management, not only for academic coursework, but also for your social life too. Try to find a balance early on."



Chris Riley, Halifax, MA; BS, architecture; works for College Gate and College Academy in the summer. He will be interning with architects for a year, then entering a master's degree program in sustainable design.

At KSC: Chris is on the executive board of Campus Ecology and served for three years on the President's Council for a Sustainable Future. His favorite research project was about translucent concrete, a new product that changes the aesthetics of concrete.

"The architecture program here is all about sustainability, and there were so many correlations with that throughout my four years. Even the Dining Commons tries to prepare foods grown through sustainable agriculture. Maybe it's the community of Keene or the principles of the school, but the people and their ways here already are sustainable. What I love about my major is that our design solutions have an enormous impact on people's lives. We are designing the future."

Anna McLean, Gilford, NH; BS cum laude, biology; winner of the Senior Service Award and Gianferrari Prize in biology. She will work at the Ragon Institute for HIV research in Boston, and then apply to PhD programs to study developmental stem-cell biology.

At KSC: Anna worked in labs on campus and two recent projects where she studied planarian flatworms, specifically their rates of stem-cell division under starvation conditions and how the worms are affected by the toxicity of polyaromatic hydrocarbons; interned at Johns Hopkins Medical School (summer 2010) and completed an award-winning independent research project with Professor Kristen Porter-Utley; was a member of Beta Beta Beta (national biology honor society) and the Biology Club.

"We have awesome faculty in the Biology Department. If I had gone to a bigger school, I wouldn't have had the one-on-one relationships that you can build at Keene State. The same goes for research opportunities. The faculty here inspired me to follow my goals. Knowing your professors and their own networking and experiences is really important for science students."



"ASSE provided me with education outside of class and exposure to professionals in my field. For my capstone project, I was a safety consultant at Manchester School of Technology. The whole safety faculty inspired me to work hard and develop a mentality for problem-solving. Because of my major, I will be able to save lives and make a difference to those around me. My advice to new students is to use all the resources Keene State has to offer – you will be giving yourself a huge hand up. Study hard, work hard, and have fun."

Julian Washington, Waitsfield, VT; BS cum laude, safety and occupational health applied sciences. Julian would love to travel the world, but for now he is focused on using his degree to get a job.

At KSC: Julian was a college scholarship recipient, made the dean's list, was a member of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) and Rho Sigma Kappa (national safety honor society), and attended ASSE Safety 2011 Exposition in Chicago in June through a UPS Diversity Scholarship.



"I have found a lot of support from the faculty. Because it's a small campus, teachers have a personal connection with every student, and they make everyone feel welcome. As an RA, I tell new students to get involved in any way they can, whether it's super-involved like running for a class office or just joining a club."

Kelly Payeur, Rochester, NH; BA cum laude, anthropology (individualized major), minor in studio art; Honors Program. Kelly's moving to Burlington, VT, to work for a year, and then she'll go to graduate school to study photojournalism or archeology.

At KSC: Kelly was the president of the senior class and a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She received the Senior Service Award and was the recipient of the President's and Morrison Foundation scholarships. Kelly was an RA (resident assistant) for three years and a desk coordinator in a residence hall. She went to Namibia (2009) and Belize (2010) for global service-learning projects. As a senior, she did an archeological independent study researching and analyzing stone tool fragments from Belize to discover a link with the ancient Maya.

And How Did You Like the Food?

Herewith, an unscientific survey of the eating habits of KSC's stellar grads, *Homo sapiens ravenous*:

Highest number of favorable mentions:

- Valley Vegan station in the Dining Commons
- Chicken Patty Wednesdays
- Specialty salads in the DC
- The DC's Thanksgiving dinner

Particular favorites:

- Sesame nuggets at Valley Vegan
- Curly fries

"When they turn the stir-fry line into meat and potatoes."

- Eggplant parmesan and sweet potato fries ("although my mom's eggplant parm is better")
- Honey mustard (on anything)
- Tofu stir-fry

"I have a deep love of the margarita pizza."



Mark Corliss

Educating the Nurse of the Future

Keene State's new nursing major will help shift nursing education and practice to a 21st-century model, one that recognizes and meets the complex demands of the job today.

by Susan Peery

Keene State's newest academic program puts the College smack in the middle of a national conversation about health care, and in a position to make a difference in the outcome. Several years ago, Governor John Lynch and Steve Reno, then chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire, identified an imminent shortage of baccalaureate-educated nurses (expected to hit the state in 2015) and recommended expanding nursing education to Keene and Plymouth. At the same time, the nursing profession was taking a hard look at its own educational models and whether they fit the state of nursing practice.

The American health care system, as it was established about 100 years ago, was built around treating acute illnesses, communicable diseases, and injuries. But the health challenges facing us today are different. Most care relates to chronic conditions (diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, and mental health conditions) experienced by an aging population and compounded by increasing levels of obesity. New technology demands high-level skills and the ability to access information and make fast decisions. Modern health care requires a team approach and the ability to navigate a complex world of regulations.

As the plan to develop a nursing program gathered steam, new USNH Chancellor Ed McKay, KSC President Helen Giles-Gee, Provost Mel Netzhammer, and Dean of Professional

and Graduate Studies Melinda Treadwell threw their support into solving the questions of curriculum and licensing requirements, budget and space considerations, faculty development, and the community cooperation that would be needed for a successful program.

In a fortunate coincidence, two of the people who have been key in developing KSC's new nursing major arrived here with the same vision for the program. Both are top-level higher-education administrators. Both began their careers as nurses. Both believe in the power of a liberal-arts education. And both know that the way we educate nurses has to change.

Mary Ellen Fleeger was USNH associate vice chancellor for academic and student affairs from 2003 until this summer. While working in that position, she also helped spearhead successful efforts over the last two years to start nursing programs in Keene and Plymouth. A registered nurse who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing and public health, respectively, she is joining Keene State's new nursing faculty.

Thomas Connelly, the new director of Keene's nursing program, left his job as president of St. Elizabeth College of Nursing in Utica, New York, to come to Keene. He has a wide variety of nursing experiences, including practice, education, research, and administration. He served on the "Nurse of the Future" initiative in Massachusetts for several

The nursing program's new team (from right): Director Thomas Connelly and professors Mary Ellen Fleeger and Carolynn Ernst. A third faculty member, Cindy Cahoon, and administrative assistant Shelley Green also began work this summer.

years, and was drawn to KSC because the new curriculum is based on the recommendations of his initiative and those outlined in *The Future of Nursing*, a landmark report by the Institute of Medicine (see thefutureofnursing.org).

"I feel so privileged to help bring this to life," Connelly said. "We will be pioneers in implementing the new approach. We will explore the ways that nursing can partner with other disciplines in a liberal arts college. We will help nursing students discern that this is a commitment to lifelong learning. And just as a nurse's first priority with a patient is to assess the situation, we will also assess who we are as a department, what we can bring to the campus and the community, and how we can truly go forth to serve."

Registered nurses have historically come to their profession in one of two ways – by getting a bachelor of science degree in nursing (BSN) and passing the RN licensure exam, or by earning an associate's degree in nursing (ADN) from a two-year program and then passing the licensure exam. The goal of the new initiative is to increase the number of BSNs in the workforce, taking advantage of the diverse background provided by a liberal arts education combined with professional training. Improving the nursing care provided to patients will in turn improve health outcomes. The BSN initiative also positions nurses for better pay and better opportunities for advancement to leadership and teaching roles, all sorely needed.

"The most complicated curricular problem we had to solve was how to create seamless articulation from an associate's degree to BSN," explained Fleeger, "which requires cooperation with community colleges and nursing schools, and agreement on the content and portability of all coursework." Fleeger's outline of seamless progression from high school to two-year and four-year programs, based on models she helped develop in Oregon and on the work Connelly was involved with in the "Nurse of the Future" initiative, helped define the program Keene is offering.

Keene State's nursing program has two tracks. One, for students entering college, will admit 32 students for the spring 2012 semester. For the first two years, they will take required integrative studies courses and some nursing prerequisites before progressing to the nursing major in their junior year. Students in this program, called "pre-licensure," will take a minimum of 16 credits per semester.

The second track, called "RN completion," is for current registered nurses who hold an ADN. KSC will admit 16 RN completion students in the first cohort. They will earn 32 nursing credits as well as completing other requirements for a BSN. Because most students in the RN completion track are also working as nurses, it is expected that they will take eight credits per semester to complete their

degree. (For specific requirements for both tracks, see keene.edu/nursing.)

"The nursing major is good for Keene State in several ways," noted Dean Treadwell. "It meets the state's needs; it allows KSC to develop a program grounded in the liberal arts, which meets our mission; and it serves a national need for liberally educated nurses with critical skills. In order to do this, the campus had to come together to create a curriculum – biology, health science, chemistry, athletic training, psychology – that meets accreditation. Our program also requires a world language, as part of a true liberal arts education."

"Collaboration was not just among faculty but with other institutions in the area," Treadwell continued. "We met with a regional nursing consortium dedicated to bringing

"And just as a nurse's first priority with a patient is to assess the situation, we will also assess who we are as a department, what we can bring to the campus and the community, and how we can truly go forth to serve."

nursing education to our area. The Keene Chamber of Commerce did a needs assessment, which was very helpful. We worked with River Valley Community College to ensure good transfer of credits. They will begin requiring their nursing students who intend to get their BSN to take statistics. We will be able to use their simulation lab, and we'll be able to use the testing labs at Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene. Clinicals will be at Cheshire Medical Center, Peterborough Community Hospital, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, and psychiatric facilities in the area."

This summer, as the State Board of Nursing accreditation visit neared, Fleeger, Connelly, new administrative assistant Shelley Green, and two new faculty members were busy moving into the second floor of Keddy House. The Admissions Office, swamped last spring with nursing applicants, was getting ready to receive applications for the second cohort of students. And somewhere, the spirit of Florence Nightingale, mother of all nurses, was smiling. "Nursing," she once said, "is an unending process of learning." ■

The Doctor Is (Still) In

Welcome to the world of Dr. Howard Smith '42. Ever since his early years at Keene Teachers College, he has shown the world what an education coupled with a sense of mission can accomplish.

by Mark Reynolds

More than a few people consider Keene State a “people’s college” – a place where students without great wealth or means can come to get a good start in life. Take Dr. Howard W. Smith, for example.

Dr. Smith – just “Howard” then – came to Keene in 1938 from the family farm in Brunswick, Vermont, a town with 35 voters (and hardly more than that now). He’d looked at Dartmouth and UVM, but, with just \$283 in his pocket, Keene was the only school he could afford. His uncle drove him down, dropped him off, and said, “Good luck!” The young man immediately got a job at Goodnow Foods Inc. on Main Street and registered for classes. Tuition, he recalls, was \$52 per year.

Howard knew that the harsh life of a farmer in northern Vermont was not for him, and he dreamed of going into medicine. But he’d learned that, whereas medical school required four years of college, dental school only required three. With his limited resources, that seemed like a more achievable goal. So he set his eye on the prize, did well in his classes, and worked hard at the grocery store. He also joined Alpha Pi Tau and lived at the frat house on Main Street. He claimed, “The athletic fraternity needed a few academics to balance out the jocks.”

One summer day, a woman came into the grocery store and asked Howard if he would buy a load of fruits and vegetables from her. She was from Boston, but had a summer home on a small farm in Sullivan, and was trying to teach her children to earn money by their own labor. Howard bought her produce, and evidently impressed her enough that she asked him about his goals. He told her about his three-year plan to get into dental school; she listened, and went off in her station wagon.

A year or so later, after he’d put in his three years of undergraduate work, that same woman pulled up at the store, found Howard, and said, “Get your things, I’m here to take you to Boston.” And away he went.

The woman turned out to be the wife of Dr. Richard Sweet, a highly respected surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital. The Sweets took the young man into their home, where he



Dr. Smith at home in Lake Placid.

lived for his first two years of dental school at Tufts. Howard also impressed Dr. Sweet, who helped him with his toughest subjects, such as biochemistry. One day, Howard mentioned that he thought he should get an MD degree to go along with his dental training. The doctor said, “You need some oral surgery

first,” and used his clout to get Howard enrolled in the oral surgery program at Mass General. At that time, only Harvard grads could get into the medical program there, but Dr. Sweet simply went to the chief of oral surgery and told him, “Smith is coming here next year.”

Howard finished his requirements for dental school early and went down to New Haven Hospital in Connecticut for some extra training in oral surgery. This was during World War II, when there was a real shortage of dentists, so he began seeing dental patients at night, free of charge, since he did not yet have a license. Pretty soon, he had staff members from the hospital and Yale Medical School coming in for care. One of those people, he recalled, was the wife of the dean of the medical school. “I asked her for an application to med school. The next time she came in, she brought me one. I filled it out, and she took it back to her husband. And I was admitted.”

When he matriculated at Yale, this independent and resourceful young man saw yet another opportunity: “I found that my first two years of medicine at Tufts were more demanding instruction than what was expected of me at Yale, so I set up my own dental practice, and all the people I’d taken care of there became my patients. I practiced almost full-time dentistry while I was going to medical school.” He made enough money to buy the building his office was in.

During his fourth year of med school, Howard married one of his classmates, Ora Kingsley, soon to become Dr. Ora Kingsley Smith. About that time, he also got a visit from General Wilfred Hall, an ear, nose, and throat surgeon, and head of the medical facilities of the Military Air Transport Service out of Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. General Hall oversaw 21 hospitals scattered around the world and, consequently, traveled often. He needed someone to take care of his patients while he was away, so he recruited the newly minted Dr. Howard Smith to come to Washington, DC, and work for him. Shortly after that, Gen. Hall was appointed as chief medical officer for NATO. “So he turned all of his patients over to me, which included several Pentagon people and other military

brass,” Dr. Smith said. “I inherited his practice, but I didn’t get his rank.”

When Dr. Smith got out of the service, he went back to Yale for one more year of residency training, “which was nothing, because I’d been operating on 25 patients a week at Andrews,” he recalled. “Afterward, I opened an office and applied for my boards as an ear, nose, and throat specialist.”

of several years at a clinic in Oxford, England, devoted to caring for children with facial deformities. He expanded his practice at home, established several offices around Connecticut, and started a Yale-related satellite program, specializing in ENT and head and neck surgery at the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven.

“Most of a profession’s technical skills come from outstanding teachers, and the expectation is that the student must repay the favor; not to that teacher but to some future student. I experienced that at Keene early on in my career. Several teachers gave me exceptional courage to pursue a life in education, not only for myself but for others.”

An Offer Yale Couldn’t Refuse

Yale Medical School asked him to teach on its faculty and offered him a salary somewhere in the range of \$5,000, which was low, but the going rate at the time. Dr. Smith realized that he was in a position to start returning some of the good favor that had come his way in life, so he replied that he would instead donate \$5,000 each year to the department and teach for free. As he said, “It was an offer they couldn’t refuse.”

As Dr. Smith continued to practice, he realized that he needed soft-tissue training (plastic surgery) to round out his expertise as a dental surgeon and ENT specialist. He spent portions

Paying It Forward

In 1979, when Dr. Smith turned 60, he decided he would retire when he turned 70, “because I saw a lot of people who were 70 and shouldn’t still be practicing, and I didn’t want to be one of them.” When 70 came, he left his thriving practice and his full professorship at the Yale University School of Medicine. His wife wanted to move to New York City, so that’s where they went.

But Dr. Smith was no ordinary 70-year-old. It wasn’t long before he was back in front of the classroom, this time as a full professor at Columbia University School of Medicine – pro bono, of course. He also saw other ways in which he could share his special skills and expertise. Honduras

has one of the highest rates of cleft lip and cleft palate in the world, so in 1995, Dr. Smith set up a foundation called the Honduran Medical Institute in Tegucigalpa. Even now, at age 92, he travels there four times a year to train Honduran surgical residents in the correction of facial deformities and other head and neck abnormalities, as well as maxillofacial surgery.

The Honduran Medical Institute has graduated 10 native specialty surgeons so far. On each of Dr. Smith's four annual visits, his team sees 75 to 100 children, from which they select 25 or 30 for surgery each week. "We are training Honduran surgeons to treat their own congenitally deformed children," Dr. Smith said. "A fair guess is that our program performs operations on 350 patients with facial defects a year, plus an equal number in other specialty visits. All pro bono!"

Ora Smith's family had a long association with Lake Placid, New York, and the couple began spending time in that beautiful spot in the Adirondacks. In 1980, Dr. Smith was appointed the chair of the Alpine Medical Committee for the Winter Olympics there. The Smiths became so enamored with the area that they began acquiring land. Their holdings now include several buildings and 400 acres of land around the lake. One of those properties includes Camp Carolina, an 18-room Adirondack Great Camp, built in 1913. In 2010, the Adirondack Architectural Heritage recognized the Smiths for their preservation of this magnificent and historic camp.

His properties in Lake Placid have given Dr. Smith the perfect space to pursue some of his other interests. He's got well-appointed machine and woodworking shops, where he restores and builds fine furniture and works on the dozen or so vintage wooden motorboats he owns. Several of his own oil paintings hang on the camp walls. He employs a full-time caretaker for his property. The caretaker came with some woodworking skills, but Dr. Smith has also trained him to be a decent machinist, helping in the boat restorations.

Training med students, Honduran surgeons, and machinists – the good doctor seems born to acquire knowledge and impart it to others. "All knowledge is not in textbooks or journals," he pointed out. "Most of a profession's technical skills come from outstanding teachers, and the expectation is that the student must repay the favor – not to that teacher, but to some future student. I experienced that at Keene early on in my career. Several teachers gave me exceptional courage to pursue a life in education, not only for myself but for others."

Though Howard Smith came to what was then Keene Teachers College just to get the three years he needed for dental school, the College's motto, "Enter to learn, go forth to serve," was not lost on him. "Though I never intended to teach when I went to Keene," he noted, "I ended up teaching longer than most anyone who ever went there." ■



Dr. Smith with his meticulously restored pride-and-joy Bobolink.

Dr. Smith (at left) with Honduran doctors and hospital administrators at his Honduran Medical Institute in Tegucigalpa. Smith travels to Honduras every three months to train surgeons in maxillofacial and corrective surgery.



What Do Gertrude Carmichael '36 and Sinéad O'Mahony '11 Have in Common?

Some things are constant, including Keene State's sense of community.

by Mark Reynolds

As a member of the Marketing and Communications staff, I hear a lot of talk about "the KSC community." I talk a lot about it myself. But it's more than just talk; it's a value that people here on campus take seriously. I've been in several campus-wide meetings where people stood up and offered to sacrifice their time or money to help others in need. I recently sat in on a campus meeting to organize relief aid for tornado victims in Joplin, Missouri. And I've seen how people on campus are committed to helping our students and each other, making sure that everyone's time at Keene State College is positive and worthwhile.

These reminders of community especially came home as I talked to alums of every era at Reunion 2011. The weather was beautiful, which made for many happy attendees, and all readily shared their strong feelings of connection and community.

Minot Parker '56, now living in California, combined his return to campus with a visit with local family members. An educator for 40 years, he appreciates what Keene has given him. "I like coming back," he said, "I'm one who really values public education, and Keene State did so much for me; it let me have a pretty good life ... I really believe that this school still follows the principle engraved on the Appian Gateway: 'Enter to learn, go forth to serve.' So many colleges have lost sight of what their real mission is – particularly the big ones, where they have a

football team, and that's it. That's what keeps me connected."

Back to join many of his classmates for their 25th-year reunion, **David Coe '86** remembered that "the thing that brought me to Keene to begin with is the sense of community and family, and that hasn't changed at all. Even though the campus has changed, the camaraderie among the people, among the classes, is still strong. The people who come to Keene are people who really care about community. A lot of times you go to colleges and the interest is in getting an education to go out and make tons of money. But when I was here – and even the students I talk to now – people really cared about the community and people, and that hasn't changed."

A Sense of Place

A lot of the sense of community comes from Keene State's picturesque campus. Every alum who's been gone for even 10 years remarked about the changes they saw on campus, and everyone thought the changes were for the better. As Minot Parker pointed out, "I like what I see. Obviously, someone put a lot of thought into how they wanted the campus to evolve."

Here with the class of 1961 to celebrate their 50th-year reunion (and take their place in the Golden Circle), **George and Nancy Cote** were pleased with how well the new buildings and other physical changes kept

with the look and feel of the original campus. They hadn't been back since they graduated, so there were lots of changes to see. "The changes are wonderful," they said. "It has really improved."

As the oldest alum at Reunion, **Trudy Carmichael '36** said she felt like she was "Queen for a Day," due to all the attention she received during her visit. Obviously, the campus had changed dramatically since her days at Keene Normal School. "It's a beautiful, beautiful place!" she exclaimed. "I went to Fiske today, where I used to live and work. I waited on tables in the dining room downstairs to help pay my expenses. Oh my gosh, has that changed – Fiske! It's a beautiful building."

I ran into class of 1986 alums **Derrick Demarche**, **Christopher Gray** (also an adjunct professor in technology, design, and safety), and **Deb MacPhee Brown** as they readied for their class gathering on Oya Hill on Saturday. They all agreed that campus had changed dramatically since they were students, including the spot where they were standing. However, they also agreed, as Christopher noted, that "KSC has preserved some of that small-college atmosphere. Having toured multiple colleges with my own children, there aren't many like Keene State."

I just had to ask: "What's the difference?" Deb responded, "It's a sense of community," and Christopher observed, "Once you come off Winchester Street, or you come off Main Street, you're on campus – it's all right here." The campus is well integrated; it's not sprinkled around other parts of town, and it's easy to get from one campus building to another.





"That's what I liked about it," Derrick noted. "You're kind of confined, but it doesn't feel confined. You can just walk downtown whenever you need to.... And they've done a nice job of improving the buildings and adding new dorms."

The Facebook Connection

Andrew Jennings '01 and **Bill Williams '02** were partying with several of their classmates on the Quad when I strolled over to watch the fun. When I asked them what drew them back for Reunion, Bill replied, "I think it's Facebook. We're all friends [on FB], and we post that we're going up for Reunion, and people just show up."

"I loved my time at KSC," Andrew said. "I started out at UNH and transferred to Keene, and I love the smaller school. UNH is big classes, big everything, but here you see everybody pretty much every day, which is nice because you get to know everyone. When I got here in the late '90s, the College started to grow. At that point, it became very popular to go to Keene, and then the campus started doing a lot of renovations and building. The changes are great – the gym is amazing, and the new dorms are awesome."

Family Ties

John Barry '71, son of the College's first alumni director, **Fred Barry '36**, has deep roots at KSC. "I've got a special connection, because my father was here for years, but this is a great place. The 'tell' is at the awards luncheon, where there are a lot of really dedicated people who are still volunteering years after they've left." John is another alum who's been around longer than most and seen lots of changes to the campus. "The College has done an amazing job of integrating the architecture," he said. "They haven't just thrown up glass boxes. And the trees and landscaping really make a great impression."

Pam Sanderson '79 and **Martha LaFleur '67** were Reunion volunteers I met in the Student Center. "I am a legacy student," Pam said. "My mom was in the class of '43, so I used to go to some alumni events with her." Pam started coming back for Reunion four years ago and decided to get involved with alumni activities.

Martha, who now serves on the Alumni Board of Directors, grew up in town and followed in the footsteps of two older sisters who graduated from Keene. "So I've been a part of the College community, and I continued that involvement after I graduated. I did some teaching here for a while. This is a place that's been dear to my heart for a long, long time. It's a good feeling; certainly the College has changed tremendously,

and it's all for the better. It's really nice to see the deep connections between people. Witnessing that is quite joyful."

A final testimony of family and community connection came from newly minted alum **Sinéad O'Mahony '11**. Born in the United States, she moved with her parents to their native Ireland when she was an infant and spent her early life in Cork City. Eventually, she made it to KSC and, after being in this one spot for four years, has put down some roots. "I would consider Keene my home," she said. "I've made a lot of connections here, and I can't walk down the street without meeting someone I know. I've really felt like Keene State is more of a family than it is a school where you walk across campus and you're just a number. The president will say 'hello' to me when she sees me."

She told a story about a day she was walking down Appian Way, feeling low for having not done so well on a test. She remembered how Dr. Hank Knight from the Cohen Center pulled on her backpack to straighten her up and said, "What are you doing? It's a beautiful day; you should start smiling." It was just another example, she said, of how "people here notice you and care about you."

"As a freshman, I was definitely a lot quieter, very reserved, more soft spoken," she recalled. She was shy and trying to fly under everyone's radar. "Four years later, I'm a very different person: I've been Hootie the Owl, the school's mascot, a number of times. I've led campus tours. Everywhere I've gone on campus, I've felt that people are interested in me and want to know who I am. A lot of schools talk about community, but Keene really does embrace that work, and redefine it," she said. ■



This Year's Alumni Association Award Winners

During the annual Alumni Association luncheon during Reunion (June 4), four outstanding alumni received awards for their remarkable achievements.

Sprague Drenan Award

Recognizes a bona fide Keene State College alumnus/na whose participation in and support of alumni activities and events are noteworthy.

Raynor Smith '69, a retired math teacher, served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors for six years in the late 1990s, standing as board president for one year and serving on the Executive Committee for several years. He was a consummate KSC booster, combining his passion for KSC athletics with a desire to motivate the alumni community to stay engaged with KSC throughout the year – not just for Reunion. As class agent (fund-raiser) for many years, he reached out to his classmates, seeking their support for their alma mater. Smith is also a member of the Alpha Pi Tau alumni group and maintains his connection to many alums, albeit from a distance; he and his wife retired in the early 2000s to North Carolina. His KSC roots are still strong, however. He stays in touch with what's happening on campus and recently mentioned that he listens to KSC basketball games or watches them from his home on the Best Western Owls Media Network. He is a lifelong Owl fan and alumni advocate.

Alumni Achievement Award

Recognizes a bona fide Keene State College alumnus/na whose professional achievement in his or her chosen field brings honor to him or herself and the College.

Dr. Richard Simensen '61 is a noted neuropsychologist specializing in the effects of genetic disease on development, cognition, and neuropsychological functioning. Though semiretired, he serves on a research team that is investigating a wide variety of X-linked mental retardation disorders. He has taught developmentally disabled children and prepared teachers for the special-needs classroom. As the custodial grandparent of a child with special needs, he has special insight and empathy for special-needs children and their families. In 1999, he was selected to be a fellow in the Division on Mental Retardation of the American Psychological Association. He holds active membership in the American Psychological Association, the International Neuropsychological Society, the American Association on Mental Retardation, and state organizations.

Outstanding Service Award

Recognizes an alumnus/na, staff or faculty member, friend, or associate of Keene State College or an organization that has provided outstanding service to Keene State College through leadership, commitment, and influence in programs and activities of the College.

Raymond Jobin '63 recently retired from the education faculty at Keene State. He also taught elementary methods, geography, and instructional media and has served as a mentor to hundreds of students in early education. He has also been a key liaison for the College with several state education organizations, including coordinating the New Hampshire Geographic Alliance Summer Institute and the NH Geography Bee. He continues to serve KSC as adjunct faculty.

Alumni Inspiration Award

Recognizes the exceptional accomplishments of an alumnus/na who graduated from Keene State College not more than 15 years prior to the granting of the award and shows promise for continued success.

Rachel Rouillard '97 is currently the director of the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, a collaborative program at the University of New Hampshire that protects, restores, and monitors the environmental health of the Great Bay and Hampton-Seabrook estuaries. She has also served as executive director of the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Authority, economic development program manager at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, urban planner for the City of Manchester (NH), grant writer for the City of Quincy (MA), and urban planner for the City of Brockton (MA). She has a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School and has been named a 2009 Outstanding Woman of New Hampshire and was profiled in *Keene State Today* (fall 2006). She was named a Remarkable Woman of 2006 and profiled in *NH Magazine* (April/May 2006). She received the *Union Leader's* 40 Under 40 Leadership Award in 2005 and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Emerging Preservation Leader in 2003. Internationally, she was a fellow of the Salzburg Global Seminar in 2006.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Keene State College Alumni Association president for the past two years. When I joined the Alumni Association board six years ago, my main objective was to encourage more fellow alums to reconnect with our great college in whatever way worked for them.

Six years later, the past two of which I have served as your Alumni Association president, I can say that we have made great strides toward my main objective. In recent years, alumni have reconnected with the Keene State community by serving as mentors to current students, sitting with seniors to conduct mock job interviews and give feedback to their résumés, and participating as partners in student events such as Chalk Talk, the annual student leader etiquette dinner, and the senior class dinner. In addition, we are expanding our outreach through traditional alumni events like Homecoming and Alumni Weekend and new ones like WinterFest, and through our increased use of social media to communicate and connect.

I think one of our most significant accomplishments over the past few years is that we clarified the role of our Alumni Association within the larger Keene State community. Our new committee and staffing structures better reflect the role that our Alumni Association can play within the college system. Today, we have an established place within the leadership structure of the College – we are now viewed as mission partners by the administration, faculty, and staff.

Fellow alums, Keene State is OUR college. It is ours to celebrate and ours to advance. Our college needs us – it needs you. I hope you will consider one of the many opportunities to become more involved with the Keene State College Alumni Association.



It has been a privilege to work with such fabulous alumni volunteers and the magnificent staff who serve us so well. Thank you for the opportunity.

Sue Fortier '86, outgoing president, KSC Alumni Association

Transitions

Those of you who have had the opportunity to work with Sue over the past six years, and in particular the past two of her presidency, will understand when I say that she has set a high standard and created new momentum for the organization that we need to work hard to continue.

The thing that always strikes me about Reunion is the smiles; everyone seems happy to be there. It may be meeting old friends, it may be the beauty of the campus in late spring (particularly this year), it may be the new friends made during the weekend or the pleasant surprises we find about the changes that have occurred since our last visit. I know that one of the reasons is a common bond we all share, a spirit that is rekindled every time we return.

Sue is right – the association has made great strides over the past several years, and we need to keep that momentum going. We need to be innovative in keeping up with the modern forms of communication, without forgetting that a smile and a hug from old and new friends go a long way. If you have ever observed the Golden Circle alums at a gathering, the “twitter” they have is as wonderful in their support for the College as is the Twitter that today’s grads use to keep in touch. We need to embrace both. If you were at Reunion and you haven’t yet checked out the photos in *KSC Newsline*, please do. They will make you smile and look forward to next year.

The Alumni Association has a great staff and a dedicated board of directors who want to support the College and all alumni. I invite you to work with us in continuing to expand our outreach, our programs, and our support for Keene State College.

Alan Hodsdon '68, new president, KSC Alumni Association

Introducing Your New USNH Trustee and Board Members

This year, the KSC Alumni Association elected one alumni trustee to the University System of New Hampshire board of trustees and five new members to the Alumni Association board of directors.

The University System of New Hampshire is governed by a 27-member board that includes six alumni trustees that represent the institutions within the system. KSC’s new alumni trustee, Bob Baines ’68, will serve on the USNH board for four years; he’ll also serve as an ex-officio member of the Alumni Association board with full voting rights.

University System of New Hampshire KSC Alumni Trustee

Robert Baines ’68

As a first-generation college student, everything I have achieved in my life, I trace back to the opportunities provided to me at Keene State College. I also have two daughters who are Keene State graduates. I am looking forward to using my experiences as a teacher, public school administrator, mayor [of Manchester, NH], and college president [of Chester College of New England] to effectively advocate for the priorities of the Keene State community. I am now in a position to serve Keene State College and help ensure that the doors of opportunity continue to be open for future generations.

Alumni Association Board Members

Blake Richards ’71

Having grown up in Keene, I fondly remember the KTC days! As the school has grown and developed into the dynamic educational facility it currently is, I have always felt pride in my own graduation from KSC and have enjoyed recommending the school to high school students. I enjoy attending Reunion weekend each spring and appreciate all of the hard work the board does to welcome alums back to the ever-expanding campus. I look forward to helping the board and President Giles-Gee continue the innovative educational vision for the future of Keene State College.

Every year, KSC alumni elect five members from its membership (now grown to more than 25,000) to represent the alumni on the Alumni Association board of directors. This 15-member governing body leads outreach efforts that promote the welfare of the College and its alumni. Each volunteer member serves on committees that strive to bring alumni and students together, build institutional awareness and pride, and create valued connections. Learn more about the Alumni Association, ways to benefit from the Association, and how to volunteer and stay connected at keene.edu/alumni.

Here’s what your newly elected officials have to say about themselves and what they hope to achieve for Keene State.

Jonathan Leach ’85

I believe that two of the things that differentiate Keene State College from other colleges are our active Alumni Association and our yearly Reunion celebrations. When I was a student at KSC, I was an orientation staff member. This was a wonderful way to be an official representative of the College and tell incoming students about the College, its programs, and day-to-day life at KSC. After attending my 25th reunion and seeing other alums serving in an official capacity, I thought to myself, Why not serve the College once again?

Charles Owusu ’99

I look forward to working side by side with fellow board members to find solutions to the many challenges college students and graduates face. I am confident that I am a better person because of my time spent at KSC, and my hope is to instill this same confidence in past, current, and future graduates.

I majored in psychology and business management and minored in chemical dependency. As a member of the KSC soccer team, I enjoyed achieving All-America honors and was voted to the All-Defensive Team. As a 10-year-old African boy arriving at Logan airport in Boston from Ghana, West Africa, in 1984, I could imagine none of these things. I’ve been fortunate to learn a lot of valuable lessons since then, but none more important than the concepts of “paying it forward” and taking responsibility for what you say, do, and promise to do.

Gail Rowe ’79

As a 1979 graduate of KSC, I received a rich education that has helped me throughout my life and career. Teachers, mentors, and classmates supported me during my college years and continue to do so. I recently attended a KSC alumni planning session that inspired me to give back to the KSC community. I look forward to bringing my leadership skills to the Alumni board and helping create a vision for KSC’s future. It is an honor to serve on the board; I am dedicating my service not only to the KSC community, but also to the memory of my late mother, Virginia Symonds Garlow, Keene Normal School graduate of 1937 and music teacher for more than 50 years, and to longtime KSC professor and mentor Harold Nugent, who passed away last fall.

Christine Williams ’11

I graduated from KSC in May and am currently seeking a job in the wedding/event planning field. I believe that as a new graduate of the College who just completed living the Keene State experience, I will bring a different perspective to the board. I plan to help the board and the Alumni Association better relate to current students. Last summer, as an intern in the Alumni Relations Office, I witnessed first-hand the work of the Alumni Association and met many alumni. The Association is vibrant and important to the well being and continued growth of the College. I look forward to serving the College, alumni, and students and being part of the ongoing effort to fulfill the Association’s mission: “the promotion of the welfare of alumni and Keene State College.”

1927

Stella Redal Randoy lives in Washington State. Stella enjoys hearing about Keene through the letters she receives and Keene State Today.

Margaret Grover Colburn called Norma Wright Walker '51 in January. She talked about all the snow piled up near her home in Weare. She has family living near by; they keep track of her and bring her meals.

1931

Claris Head Lacey celebrated her 102nd birthday last fall. She lives with husband, Bill, in the house he had built for her. Claris called Norma Wright Walker '51 and told her about meeting with friends at a local restaurant. They had a wonderful time. In May, Norma, along with Mark Reynolds (from the College's Marketing and Communications Office), visited Claris at Webster at Rye, a nice rehab center in Rye, NH.

1934

Madeline Nash Bennett was pleased to receive a birthday card from the Alumni staff and Norma Wright Walker '51. Her cards to Norma are lovely.

1935

Elizabeth Smith McGuirk moved to The Villages in Florida to be with her daughter. She turned 97 on February 1. Elizabeth wasn't up to joining other Keene State alumni when they had lunch at The Villages.

Alberta "B" Patch Slegaitis is enjoying assisted living. She says it's a nice place, and the meals are good. She plays bridge and is a member of the Red Hat Society. She has a lot of company, including family and friends. B notes: "The year 2010 was not all bad. The KSC reunion and celebration was joyful."

1936

Ellen Hartshorn Grauer always selects beautiful cards to share with friends. She lives at Rivermead in Peterborough, NH.

Velma Pierce Smith spends the winter with her daughter, Martha Smith Campbell '65, in Maine. Last year she had to stay longer because she fell and broke her hip. Velma is pleased to say she will be 95 on her next birthday.

Ferne Coffin Fogg has been busy with family and friends in Maine. She recently enjoyed a piano concert at Bates College.

Keene State alumni staff welcomed **Gertrude Emerson Carmichael** to her 75th college reunion. Trudy enjoyed her tour of the campus in a golf cart. She visited Fiske Hall and found her old dorm room. Trudy loved the renovations that have been made to the Fiske social room. She wrote to say that she felt like a queen for a day because every one made her feel welcome.

1940

Dorothy Young Carruthers
22 Sunset Dr.
P.O. Box 344
Contoocook, NH 03229-0344

1941

Virginia Rollins Flint
799 Milan Rd.
Milan, NH 03588
Barbara Jeffery Stimson
678 Pettyboro Rd.
Bath, NH 03740

Our condolences to the family of **Alice Gates Wright**, who died at age 93 on January 31, 2011, following a brief illness. She lived in her own apartment in Carrollton, TX, until two weeks prior to her death. She always valued her close friendships with many of her classmates over the years.

1942

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

Peggy writes: "Hello, classmates. Since it's much easier to communicate by e-mail, would you send me your addresses? It's much easier to keep in touch and enables me to do it regularly. I'm living alone (having lost two spouses) in my home on the St. Johns River in Palatka, Florida. (The bass capitol of the world!) I am 30 miles from St. Augustine and the beaches, 40 miles from Gainesville, and 50 miles from Jacksonville. All five of my children are close by. It's beautiful here in Florida this time of year. I try to walk or ride my bike a couple of miles at least three times a week to keep the old body parts from falling apart and rusting! I talked

recently to **Ruth "Bunt" Berry Dodge '39**, who, until this past year, was spending the winters in Florida with her husband, Cap. She and Cap are now at Havenwood Retirement Home in Concord, NH, along with **John and Barbara Freese**. Bunt was a couple classes ahead of us, and I believe she's had her 92nd birthday. If you have news about our remaining class members, it would be nice to hear from you. I think all of us would like to see some class notes. I would love to hear from you and promise to respond. By the way, aren't we proud of the strides our college is making?"

1943

Caroline Nichols Pregent
30 Giffin St.
Keene, NH 03431

News from **Caroline Pregent**: "It's a great year. Most of our classmates will be celebrating a 90th birthday. Who could have imagined this back in 1943? Last weekend, our daughter, Nora, hosted my celebration. Friends and relatives gathered at the College Camp for a good time. The camp is our favorite place to have a party. I also celebrated with a lunch at the Pub Restaurant in Keene with several members of the Alumni Office staff.

Attention, Alumni Class Secretaries and Agents!

The Alumni and Advancement staff will assist you in communicating with your classes for reunion and non-reunion years. We will gladly provide the following services:

Non-Reunion Years

One mailing every other year for classes after 1985 ('86 to present):

- Odd-numbered class years mailed during odd-numbered years
- Even-numbered class years mailed during even-numbered years

One mailing every year for classes prior to 1986 ('85 and earlier)

Reunion Years

Three mailings in the 12 months prior to your reunion (other than 25th, 50th, and 75th).

Five mailings for Silver (25th), Golden (50th), and Diamond (75th) Anniversary classes in the 24 months before your reunion.

The Alumni Office will host reunion committee meetings at the Alumni Center.

Alumni staff will meet with committees and assist with the coordination of special events, help prepare *Keene State Today* notices, and other tasks.

Development staff will advise on class gift efforts and establish class gift interest-bearing accounts.

Additional Information

Please contact Patty Farmer:
800-KSC-1909
603-358-2370
pfarmer@keene.edu

"Norma Walker '51, the leader of our Golden Circle, was chosen to receive a 2011 Outstanding Women of New Hampshire award. She certainly deserves this. **Lois Moore Querin** e-mails me regularly. She and Ned are both having health problems, but they are able to continue life in their Florida home. Louise Whitten Perkins is now getting settled in her new home at Heritage Heights in Concord. We'll miss her, but she's happy there. We spent countless hours volunteering at the Alumni Center. I hope to see you all soon!"

Polly Croteau is proud of her grandchildren, who are happy teaching: Amy Croteau Watts at Harvard and her husband, Mike, at MIT.

1944

Marjorie Paulsen Hilton
Evergreen Woods
88 Notch Hill Rd., Apt. R122
North Branford, CT 06471

A pretty **Barbara Boudreau Bissonnette**, in her red outfit, joined the Golden Circle alumni and guests for lunch in Dunedin, FL. It's so nice she decided to be part of the group.

1946

Thelma Partridge Mitchell
P.O. Box 52
70 Cedar St.
Contoocook, NH 03229

Shirley Ring Green and her husband, Max, celebrated 65 years of marriage on January 20, 2011.

1947

Ruth Blodgett Washburn will be off to Canada to visit relatives. Then she'll travel to East Longmeadow, MA, for the rest of the summer. Ruth also plans to stop by the Alumni Center in Keene to start making plans for her 65th class reunion in 2012.

1948

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

1949

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

1950

Jim Wheeler
6 General Miller Rd.
Peterborough, NH 03458
wheelerjamesm@aol.com

Maurice Bowler and classmate **Walter Bucklin** attended the Keene State Golden Circle alumni gathering held in Dunedin, FL, in February. Walter's family is preparing to go to their remote cabin in Murphy, NC, for a few weeks.

1951

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

News from Norma: "Our class sends its condolences to the family of **Claude Leavitt**, who passed away in January. He was our class president and a supporter of Keene State College. Charles Manos, Del Langille, and I attended the memorial service in Bedford. Claude had accomplished so much in his professional life. A wonderful video was shown."

"As we celebrated our 60th it was nice to have **Carol Adamsom Reidy, Elaine Schmidt Chesley, Pauline Bullard Brown, Barbara Sullivan Brooks, Dorothy Zekos MacPherson, Del Langille,** and **Stanley Johnson** join me for the festivities. **Martha Bassett Sargent** was unable to attend reunion due to family events. She was missed. My college roommate **Rita Hayes Evens** was also unable to attend. Del had eye surgery at the beginning of June but had a ride to reunion. He certainly is a dedicated classmate.

"A wonderful long letter arrived from **Ruth Lake LaVine** who lives in Maine (for more than 20 years) with her husband, Bob '50. Ruth taught first grade in Poland for 20-plus years. She did Title 1 for several years.

"I called **John Wright**, who now lives in Lancaster, NH. He was on our lost list so it was great to find him.

"Patricia Parent O'Donnell, who lives in Clearwater, FL, set up a Golden Circle luncheon in Dunedin in February, where 13 alumni and guests gathered. It has been 60 years since she and I have seen each other. Thanks, Pat, for all of the time and effort you put in to make the event successful. And

thank you to the Alumni Office for giving me the opportunity to journey to Florida and share in the gatherings held there. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with classmates and other alumni, and visit with year-round alumni who don't come north often.

"Beverly Proctor Boyer spends her summers in Delaware and New Jersey with family and her winters in Florida. Bev's letter is always filled with family activities. She and Elaine Schmidt Chesley attended the KSC alumni gathering in Bonita Springs, FL. Carol Jones Jackson and her husband, Howard '49, also attended. We hadn't seen Carol since graduation.

"Pauline Bullard Brown and her husband, Clayton, headed for Florida in January but returned home in April. **Patricia Perkins Durling** also spent the cold months in Florida.

"Nina Krochmal Witham always writes a nice note on her cards. She and Bob '53 went to Marco Island for several weeks. They enjoyed being beach bums for six weeks.

"Marilyn Wilcox moved to The Villages, Florida. She shared lunch with the Keene State Golden Circle alumni when they met there in February. Paul Davidson '58 and wife, Nancy '72 made the arrangements for the gathering. Marilyn said she likes living there because there is so much to do.

"Martha Bassett Sargent lives in Virginia. Her husband, Dick, is a UNH graduate. Martha enjoys keeping up with KSC news through letters and the magazine.

"A lovely letter arrived from **Irene McAlister**. She had her appendix removed. Her family members took turns caring for her. Irene spends about a month each summer in Nova Scotia. She drives all the way since ferry service has been discontinued. She's done the 750 miles by herself.

"Barbara Avery Clark is a stay-at-home grandmother and loves it. She often thinks about all the friends she made at Keene Teachers College.

"Dorothy Zekos MacPherson and Ken '50 live in Maryland. Ken had some health problems but is on the mend. Dorothy is busy with the usual household tasks. They plan to go to Bethlehem to visit Patsie '53 and Beverly Bonardi Bouchard.

"Charles Manos attended his grandson's high school graduation the weekend of our reunion. This young man is tops in his class, and he's also an excellent tennis player and a National Merit Finalist. Charlie is a proud grandfather.

"We were sad to hear **Archie Gleason** passed away. His sense of humor and fun for living will be missed, especially by those of us who worked with him stuffing envelopes at the Alumni Office. He had a way of keeping us all laughing.

"I wish to thank all of the classmates who took time to write a note or make a phone call as a contribution to class notes. Please let me know any time you have news to share.

"I was honored as an Outstanding Woman of New Hampshire for the Monadnock region in March. It was a beautiful evening with family, staff, and close friends."

1952

Winifred Woodbury Langtry
50 Evergreen Ln.
Contoocook, NH 03229
langtry@mcttelecom.com

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

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

Irene Dunbar retired from teaching in New Hampshire 25 years ago. She's active in the senior community of Ossipee.

Claire Simensen writes: "I heard from **June and Dick Chambers**. Dick celebrated his 80th birthday in December. I guess many of us have reached this milestone. They also celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August. The Chambers spent a week in New Orleans at their son's luxurious hotel and had a marvelous time.

"I'm sad to report that my roommate, **Shirley Coffin Houle Grover**, had a stroke on September 6 and died on the 15th. Some classmates and I were able to visit her after our 55th reunion. She was so glad to see us. Shirley had sight and hearing problems, so she didn't join us at reunion. But, she was always smiling. Hope some

of you will share your news after reading this. We do look forward to hearing from you."

News from Irene Parent: "You all must have heard that **Claude Leavitt '51**, Marion Brown's husband, passed away in January in Florida. We are so sorry to hear about the loss of another friend. Winnie Langtry continues to keep in touch with Anita Rawchuck Nestor. Anita and Alex continue to spend their winters in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Anita said it has been very cold there this year.) They return to California for the summer. Don Carle spent a week with his brother in Florida. He looks forward to the trip every year. Winnie and Claire both reached the big 80 this year. I'm sure most in our class have also reached this milestone. Bruce and I celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary in June and had a great time with family from California, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and New Hampshire. Classmates, please send us news."

1953

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

Many friends and relatives gathered in Winchester, MA, in December to celebrate **Bud Hayward's** 80th birthday. Ever active, Bud operates a flower shop in the WestIn Hotel complex in Boston.

Dean Corrigan and his wife, Jane, split their time between Burlington, VT, and College Station, TX.

Jean and Don Johnson celebrated their 50th anniversary in August at a happy gathering of friends and neighbors. They also completed their four-volume *Human Drama: A World History*, as their last two volumes were published in March. The books are intended for high school students. Their granddaughter, Grace, was selected as one of 40 finalists from around the country in this year's Intel Science Talent Search. She enjoyed the week in Washington, especially meeting President Obama.

1955

Alfreda Crosby Gallo
3406 S. Palm Ave.
Palatka, FL 32177-6342
alfredagal100@msn.com

Shirley Wright is proud her granddaughter, **Maria Franciosa '15**, is attending Keene State.

1956

Mary Ann Pellerin
10450 Lottsford Rd., Apt. 2104
Mitchellville, MD 20721
pellerin.map@starpower.net

Congratulations go to **Margaret McCormack** for receiving the Outstanding Church Women of New Hampshire award at this year's UCC Women's Spring Forum in Laconia. Margaret has served on nearly every church committee for many years and most recently as president of the Women's Fellowship, co-chairman of the Capital Campaign Building Committee, chairman of the Maintenance Committee, chairman of

the WF Hospitality Committee, and liaison to the Antrim Girls Shelter. The Women's Fellowship stated, "Margaret's sharing of her whole being embodies the very spirit of our church; she's open, welcoming, and generous."

1957

Cynthia Randall Faust
77 Sand Hill Rd.
Peterborough, NH 03458
cynjon2fl@centurylink.net

Class secretary **Cynthia Faust** writes: "John and I attended an alumni luncheon in February in Bonita Springs, Florida, hosted by Barbara and Bill Brackett, at the Barefoot Beach Boat Club. About 20 alumni attended. **Kay McLean, Norma Walker '51** and **Ken Goebel** attended from the College and updated us on activities and future plans.

"Rollie Hardwick recently wrote with news about his life and family. He and his wife, Carol, live in Milford, NH. Over the years, they've traveled to the Caribbean – Jamaica, Guadalupe, Martinique, and St. Martin – and to Cancun, Mexico; Key West, FL; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at carnival time; and Hawaii. Since Carol is still working at a law firm in Manchester and spending time with her mother, Rollie has taken over most of the domestic duties at home. His free time is spent at Hampshire Hills Racquet and Fitness Club, where he and his partner are co-captains of the 7.0 mixed doubles tennis team. They have been fortunate enough to win the district contest five years in a row. They also ranked number one in New England at 3.5 levels in 2008. His son Dean has been the K-9 police officer in Milford for the past 18 years and recently retired his dog. He plans to do the last two years of duty dog-free and then retire from the force. His daughter Lea works for a firm in Wilton, NH, that deals with the processing of U.S. currency. His daughter, Donna, is in marketing and works from home. She recently gave birth to a beautiful little girl, Simone-Olivia, who will become the most spoiled child on the planet, according to Rollie. Their family also includes two dogs, a Shih Tzu named Spoke and a Havanese named Kooba; both are friendly and loveable.

Mary Pickett Hopwood spends summer at her camp in the north Maine woods on Moosehead Lake. She and her husband, Paul, discovered the area while Paul was stationed with the U.S. Air Force at Loring Air Force Base near Caribou.

Ed Briggs went to Ireland in February with his daughter's family to visit his granddaughter, who is in Cork studying for a semester. He said the trip was amazing! His son-in-law, Mark, did all the driving. They went about 700 to 800 miles in the five full days they were there! They went to Cork, Galway, Dublin, Kilkenny, Waterford, Blarney Castle, and Bantry. There were green fields and flowers in bloom. The Irish are building an inter-county road system similar to our interstates. This allowed them to travel from Kinsale to Dublin in two and a half hours instead of the three to four hours the guidebook projected. They were in Dublin for two days and spent a night at a relative of Mark's and his Uncle Steve, who went with them. They enjoyed great hospitality and wonderful, traditional Irish food! Supper was a stew with roasted potatoes and baked pears for dessert. Breakfast consisted of porridge, warm scones, and dark wheat bread. The house they rented was all they could have hoped for and only a five-minute walk to downtown Kinsale. The brightly painted store and pub fronts and the cobblestone streets, which are wrapped around a harbor, gave it all the quaint charm you expect from an Irish town.

Mary Pickett Hopwood spends summer at her camp in the north Maine woods on Moosehead Lake. She and her husband, Paul, discovered the area while Paul was stationed with the U.S. Air Force at Loring Air Force Base near Caribou.

Mary Pickett Hopwood spends summer at her camp in the north Maine woods on Moosehead Lake. She and her husband, Paul, discovered the area while Paul was stationed with the U.S. Air Force at Loring Air Force Base near Caribou.

1958

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

Ken Giles' youngest daughter, Pamela, has twin daughters, Samantha and Tabetha. The girls turned two in May. His oldest grandson is 30 and his youngest grandson is 24. He writes, "How time flies!"

1959

Carol Gatcomb Riel
3337 SW Sunset Trace Cir.
Palm City, FL 34990
rielgatcomb59@yahoo.com

1960

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

Charlie Regan is moving to South Carolina. His wife, Betty, accepted a position as the health systems department head at the University of SC. She held a similar position at Morehead State University in Kentucky. Class secretary Gail Spevack Sheldon writes, "Everyone was happy to see Charlie at reunion."

Kathryn "Kay" West Smilo died February 17, 2011, just days after suffering a stroke. She was one of the best and most prompt class responders. Kay and her husband, Rich, attended several reunions both on and off campus. Gail says, "I will miss her letters, notes, photos, and e-mails. I remember her words to us from our reunion booklet: 'Enjoy each day and everyone and everything in it.'"

Janice Brackett went to North Carolina in May to celebrate her grandson's wedding. They also traveled on a cruise to Rome and Florence this spring.

1961

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

1962

Stephanie Heselton Baute
515 E. Surry Rd.
Surry, NH 03431
sbaute515@gmail.com

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

Class secretary **Stephanie Heselton Baute** writes: "I can't believe we are approaching our 50th reunion from Keene State! When we started it was still Keene Teachers College! It's time (actually past time) for us to begin thinking about (and giving money toward) a class gift. What would we like to leave as a reminder and thanks for our time and education at KSC? If you are willing to get together and brainstorm ideas, please get in touch with me by e-mail or phone, 603-352-8227."

"I had a marvelous year filled with adventure. I took two seven-day cruises in the Caribbean. I visited Shanghai and Beijing and climbed the Great Wall. I traveled to Portsmouth, NH, for my 50th high school reunion and visited NYC to see four Broadway plays. I then traveled to Europe and stayed with my nephew, his Finnish wife, their 3-year-old daughter (my god-daughter) and baby boy, Maximilian, in Stuttgart, Germany. We traveled every weekend in the area and visited Neuschwanstein Castle and Munich. I also flew to Spain for a 14-day bus tour of the cities of Spain. Oh, what a fabulous

1963

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

Our condolences go to the family of **George Koehler**, who passed away last summer. George taught math for 27 years. He is survived by his wife, Helen, and three children, Theresa, Kati, and Matt.

1964

Hellen I. Jette
37100 Neukom Ave.
Zephyrhills, FL 33541
hellenjette@aol.com

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

From **Kenneth R. Morris**: "Hello to all classmates from 1964! First, I would like to remind everyone of our fast approaching 50th college reunion in 2014. I would love to see everyone return, but I know many can't make it. However, my goal is to urge folks to start planning for it now. We had a fair showing for the 45th, but we really missed seeing so many of our now golden girls and boys from the early '60s. I'd like to emphasize that we need to think about a class gift for KSC. The class celebrating their 50th in 2009 gave the school a beautiful clock that is about 12 feet tall and stands near (my personal pride and joy) the Lloyd P. Young Student Center. Remember, we were the first graduates of Keene State College, an institution we fought for and walked for, and provided support to Dr. Young in his quest to enhance and enlarge KTC to a full-fledged liberal arts college. This is the key to our college gift. We need to figure it out and start saving for our individual participation in this program! If interested, you can contact me at krmok@comcast.net to organize a committee to start planning. There are people from 2009 who said they were willing to help, so let's talk to each other personally.

"I had a marvelous year filled with adventure. I took two seven-day cruises in the Caribbean. I visited Shanghai and Beijing and climbed the Great Wall. I traveled to Portsmouth, NH, for my 50th high school reunion and visited NYC to see four Broadway plays. I then traveled to Europe and stayed with my nephew, his Finnish wife, their 3-year-old daughter (my god-daughter) and baby boy, Maximilian, in Stuttgart, Germany. We traveled every weekend in the area and visited Neuschwanstein Castle and Munich. I also flew to Spain for a 14-day bus tour of the cities of Spain. Oh, what a fabulous

trip! There was only one problem; I had a three-day bout with an episode of Bell's Palsy, which really scared me and now know what people with strokes go through!

"Take care; I send my love, thoughts, and prayers to all my fellow graduates and morn the loss of **Brother Waterhouse** from the class of '65. He was a warm and loving person and is surely missed by many!"

1965

Richard E. Doyle
561 Ocean Blvd. #4
Hampton, NH 03842
rdoyle561@aol.com

1966

Nancy Coutts
175 1/2 Jaffrey Rd.
Marlborough, NH 03455

1968

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

Ellenmarie Sullivan Widman has been married to her husband, Jack, for 38 years. She received her Masters from UNH and worked as a reading specialist in North Andover, MA. She retired in 2007. Ellenmarie and Jack are snow birds, wintering in The Villages, FL, and spending their summers in Atkinson, NH. They have three children: Mary and Nancy, graduates of UNH, and Joe, who graduated from Plymouth. They also have two beautiful granddaughters: Alexa, 4, and Ava, 5.

Bonnie MacPherson Cahill and her husband, Dick, have been married for 41 years. They have been back in her family home at Cape Cod for 20 years. Bonnie has been a special educator in Brewster for the past 16 years after earning her master's degree. She won't be retiring any time soon as she has only put in 17 years. Bonnie and Dick have three children and four beautiful grandchildren all under the age of five. Another one will be born in the near future.

Alan Hodsdon has been on the KSC Alumni Board of Directors for five years and this year will be president. He is active in the Alumni Association. He works as a contract recruiter for BAE Systems in Bur-



Where in the World Was Wendell Pollock?

It was a little too windy at 14,000 feet for **Wendell Pollock** to read his copy of *Keene State Today*, so no doubt he tucked it into his flight suit. Pollock celebrated his 85th birthday last spring by jumping from an airplane in Florida. He and his sky-diving instructor plummeted (intentionally) in a 5,000-foot free fall before the parachute opened. "Once the chute opened, we floated all around and came down to a pinpoint landing on the field," he reported.

The last time Pollock wore a parachute was during World War II, when he was a radio gunner on a Navy dive bomber. After enlisting at age 17, he served in the Pacific on the carrier *Antietam*. "I always wore a chute, but never had to use it," he said. His crew received word that the war had ended as they were flying over Shanghai, and he remembers seeing the Great Wall from the air.

Pollock, who graduated from New England College after the war, was a top business administrator at Keene State from 1970 to 1988, and has been on the Keene Endowment Association board for 41 years.

Newsline

Want to know more about your classmates and what's happening on campus? Check out Newsline (sites.keene.edu/newsline/), our news blog for alums and parents. We post news as we get it, but you can sign up for a monthly e-mail reminder to check the latest posts. And if you or an alum you know has done something outstanding, let us know!

lington, MA, but expects to retire in December 2011. He is married to **Sandy Boomer Hodsdon '71**. They live in Campton, NH, and have two daughters: Gretchen, who is an admissions rep for Fitchburg State University, and Kiersten, who runs her own day care and preschool in Canterbury, NH. He and Sandy have three grandchildren: Joshua, Josie, and Maddie. Al is still actively ski racing in the USSA Master's circuit and enjoys bicycling and gardening in the summer.

Class secretary **Jan Metoxen** writes: "I attended reunion this year, and the entire weekend was a lot of fun. There were 10 to 12 people from our class, but I would love to see more attend, especially those who live close. It was amazing how well organized it was and how many fun activities were planned. I hope you will consider going next year. I stayed at Pondsides III in an amazing suite-style dorm with three of my Costin House roommates: **Holly Davis Smith, Gail Martin Hatem, and Trisha Dow Farrell**. We all had a wonderful lunch with our old house parents, Dave and Claire Costin. I ran into several other old friends on campus. Some of them have been coming to reunion for years now.

"I also saw **Kathy Herold Woods** at the reunion. Kathy and her husband, Lon, both retired from the Nashua School District. They have two daughters who graduated from KSC. **Ashleigh '00**, is a certified athletic trainer. **Amy '94**, had a double major in social studies and Spanish. She went on to receive a Fulbright Scholar Award, which took her to Australia. She also received the Milken Family Foundation Award for outstanding teaching practices. She currently teaches for Bedford, NH. Kathy enjoys traveling with her husband and spending time with her two grandsons.

"I want to thank all of you who voted for me for the Alumni Board of Directors. I have enjoyed my first year on the board and been impressed with everything the KSC Alumni Office does to help students and alumni. The board works especially hard with seniors, helping them prepare for job interviews and writing résumés. Our board members serve on several committees that help students; work on the alumni website; plan activities such as homecoming, the winter weekend, and reunion; and provide networking and awards

events. The Alumni Office is always looking for volunteers to work in a variety of areas. I have really reconnected with the College and hope I will be reelected to another term in the spring. I encourage classmates to send me news. Please e-mail me or find me on Facebook."

Nancy Ives retired from teaching K-8 art in June 2010. She earned her CNA in December 2010 and has been working part-time at a local health care facility. Her daughter Carrie has cystic fibrosis. She received the gift of a double lung transplant in January 2011 and the family is forever thankful.

1969

Barbara A. Hamilton
112 Avondale Rd.
Manchester, CT 06040
barbara.hamilton@att.net

Fred Forbes is living in Palmetto, FL. For a while he enjoyed the company of his daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter living close by – four generations!

1970

Susan Campbell
15 New Acres Rd.
Keene, NH 03431

1971

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

Jimmy Baker became a grandparent for the first time in with the arrival of grandson James on March 22.

1972

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

Roger Hartwell
17 Meadow Ln.
Enfield, NH 03748

Gordi Davis writes: "After more than 40 years in the VW business, including opening my own shop in 1989, I have downsized and semi-retired to work on antique vehicles from April to September. This summer marks the completion of my fifth year at KSC dining services as a cashier. I enjoy long-distance



Jay Punt '82 and his son, Victor Punt '11, stand together in the Science Center at Commencement on May 7, 2011, 29 years to the day of Jay's graduation.

excursions in the RV or on a Harley. I'm still in close contact with my pals from KSC. What a long, strange trip it's been."

Christine Johnson Kulp wonders what the girls from Holbrook House are doing now. She has wonderful memories of the group. Christine is working, married, and the mother of a son and daughter, who are both grown. She taught for a while, then wound up in Montessori and loved it. Christine is the regional manager for five Montessori schools in Michigan.

News from **Roger Hartwell**: "We finally sold our home in Enfield, NH, and we are now Florida residents. We live in a large retirement community called The Villages. It's in central Florida, about mid-way between Orlando and Ocala. We still come to New Hampshire for the summers and stay in our RV at a seasonal campground in Goshen. We will continue to do so until the grandkids get to that special age when they get too busy for their old granddad. Then we'll stay in the Sunshine State year-round. It's kind of hot in the summer, but I really don't miss the nine months of winter in New England."

Peter Brown writes: "I celebrated my 38th-year anniversary with Suzanne '73. All four of our children are college educated and off on their own. We have two grandchildren. Suzanne is going on her 26th year as the owner of HouseWorks in Nashua, and I am still selling dental equipment. We had a great time this past year visiting Kathy and Paul Malsbenden, Debby and Frank Butterworth, and Jimmy and Brenda Baker. Life has been good. We are blessed and say hello to everyone."

From **Kathy Keegan Malsbenden**: "I retired in 2009 after serving as the technology coordinator for the Merrimack Valley School District for 10 years. It was a great position; I met and worked with many hard-working educators trying to bring 21st-century learning into their classrooms. I also reconnected with some of my KSC classmates at conferences and workshops. That was a real bonus! Before this position, I taught readiness and first grade, had my own preschool, and then moved into fourth and fifth grades. All levels were challenging but fun. I look back on a rewarding career."

Michele A. Reddington writes: "I've been blessed with three wonderful, grown children and six grandchildren, ranging from 14 months to 10 years old. I'm fortunate to enjoy good health and independence. I am still teaching, but due to budget cuts, I'm now teaching elementary PE after 17 years of middle and high school health and middle school PE. It's been quite an adjustment. I hope all is well with my KSC classmates."

1973

Kathleen Pickford Stacy
190 Old Hancock Rd.
Antrim, NH 03440
gstacy@conknet.com
Cheryl Devold Marisov
97 5th Ave.
Neptune, NJ 07753
cherylies@hotmail.com

1974

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

1975

Anne Dunwoody Hunter
20 Highland Dr.
Henniker, NH 03242
Margo Merrow Karamanoogian
27 Sandstone Dr.
Bedford, NH 03110
mmk1953@comcast.net

Theresa Novak Chabot was ordained a Roman Catholic woman priest in May 2010 in a ceremony in Rochester, NY. She leads the Church of the Holy Spirit, a catholic, welcoming community of hope in Manchester, NH. Theresa earned an MA in theology from St. Michael's College in Vermont in 2006, and is a speech language pathologist for the Manchester, NH, school district. She and her husband, Gary, reside in Manchester.

1976

Philip Bellingham
20 Transit Ln.
East Hartford, CT 06118

1977

Sabrina Brown Maltby
13 Main St.
Raymond, NH 03077

News from **Joseph Palumbo**: "My son, James, graduated from Stony Brook University. I run my own soccer academy, and went to play in Italy for the Carpi Football Club this winter. I'm the varsity soccer coach at Somers High School in Somers, NY. I received a Coach of the Year award my first year. I took two teams to Italy to play against the Serie A's, A.C. Milan, Brescia, and Roma football clubs."

1978

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

1979

Bill Reed
3 Mayfair Ln., Apt. 206
Nashua, NH 03063-7645
billreedjr@myfairpoint.net
Martha Petrowski Laflamme
474 Second Ave.
Berlin, NH 03570-2334
mlaflamme@ccsnh.edu

1980

Allison Ashley-Bergstrom
212 S. Leandro St.
Anaheim Hills, CA 92807
abergstrom@sbcglobal.net
Cathy Stuart Zurek
78 Morse Ln.
Boxborough, MA 01719
zurek@comcast.net

Jean O'Neil is leaving her home in Washington State to work in China at the Dalian American International School. You can view her work at jeanoneil.com.

1981

Nancy Colciaghi Pallas
6153 W. Fallen Leaf Ln.
Glendale, AZ 85310
tomnan@hotmail.com

1982

Catherine Gewanter
600 Willis Ave., Apt. 2L
Williston Park, NY 11596-1217
cfgo21@aol.com

Janet Carsten Shaffer
13004 Gleneagles Pl.
Riverview, FL 33569
janetshaffer@verizon.net

April Quinn Beauregard writes: "I'm still teaching at an

elementary school in New Hampshire. I was awarded Cambridge Teacher of the Year and competed for their top award in the education industry, which I just received! I've been interviewed by the newspaper and acknowledged by my superintendent, taxpayers, and colleagues. I've been teaching since I left Keene State College and will be working on my master's degree through Lesley University. I love what I do and love to keep the balance going between personal and professional life. I am working on a book called *Understanding Elderly Parents*, which is based on my own experience as a way to help others who may be going through a similar process. I recently drove by the new Alumni Center and can't wait to see the inside of it! My best to Keene State alumni!"

It is with sadness that we share that **Jody O'Brien** passed away after a long battle with cancer. Jody was a wonderful volunteer who served on the Alumni Board from 1999 to 2003. During that time, she served as vice president and president. She was recognized for her outstanding support of the Alumni Association and KSC with the Sprague Drenan Award in 2006. Jody was active in starting a local chapter for the Association and instrumental in many regional activities. Jody played softball at Keene State and maintained a strong connection to the athletic program. For the past few years, Jody had lived in Maryland. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

1983

Patricia K. Hodgeman Bush
Berkshire School
245 N. Undermountain Rd.
Sheffield, MA 01257
pbush@berkshireschool.org
Jacqueline Haight DeFreze
502 Portsmouth Ave.
Greenland, NH 03840
jdefreze@yahoo.com

Valerie Belanger McKenney
31 Westwood Cir.
Dover, NH 03820
mikevalmckenney@comcast.net

1984

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

Louise Perron Tetreault
4 Avon Ave.
Cumberland, RI 02864
lee4t@yahoo.com

1985

Alison Ahmed-Regen
1194 Lees Meadow Ct.
Great Falls, VA 22066
ahmedregen@aol.com

Lisa A. Gagnon
12 Tack Ct.
Edgewater, MD 21037
lisa_gagnon@roberts.senate.gov

Mary Ann Williams and her husband, **Bob '59**, are enjoying retirement and spending time with their children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1986

Tori Berube
35 Andrew St. #4
Manchester, NH 03104
toriberube@aol.com

Michael Trabucco
361 Park Ave.
Arlington, MA 02476
mptrabucco@hotmail.com

From class secretary **Michael Trabucco**: "Hi, everyone! I have to say, every time I pester people to write something for class notes, I feel kind of bad. Everyone's busy. Life is crazy. But when the responses start coming in, I think, this is so great! My aim is to have news in every issue of *Keene State Today*. This time my goal is to hear from someone who I didn't personally harass. Here's my plea: I would love to hear from people I didn't know – or from those who didn't know me – in school. I encourage you to send in a quick update of your life. What have you been up to? Who would you like to reconnect with? I'm waiting to hear from you, and I wish a happy summer to you all."

From **Lisa Tyler Askew**: "I'm celebrating my 20-year anniversary with Baxter HealthCare Corp. as a pharmacy specialist in June 2011. Then in August, my husband, Eric, and I will be celebrating our 20-year wedding anniversary! We have three children: Erica, age 15; Tyler, age 13; and Trevor, age 12. We live in our hometown of Johnstown, NY. I would love to hear from some of my college ski teammates whom I've lost touch with."

Kellyann Sullivan writes: "I've been married to my husband, Steve, for 17 years. We recently returned to Fall River, MA, the city we both grew up in, and purchased a lovely 100-year-old home we adore! After working for 23 years as a loss control consultant/manager for various insurance companies, I now work as an independent safety consultant. My husband is a high school math teacher and coaches the boys' varsity soccer team. We don't have children; however, our nieces and nephews keep me quite busy with all their activities! And I just adore our black Lab, Sasha! I also keep busy with family, frequently traveling to North Palm Beach to spend time with my mom, and I enjoy cruising Buzzard's Bay and the islands on our boat. I keep in touch with Joyce Manegio, Linda Pritchard, Kristina Hooper, Sue and Steve Fortier, and many others. I'd love to hear from long-lost KSC friends! Time passes; friendships remain. Let's catch up! Drop me an e-mail – sullivankellyann@yahoo.com – or find me on Facebook! I'd also love to hear from

friends who graduated in 1987. Life has been good to me, and I have loads of gratitude!"

Bill Meskill sends his news: "I live in Simsbury, CT, with my wife, Rosemary, and two kids, Ethan and Maddy. I am a high school teacher. Like many parents, my life revolves around my kids. If it's not participating with the swim team with my daughter, than it's Boys Scouts with my son. I never figured I'd be hiking up Mount Monadnock in December or sleeping in a tent when it's only five degrees outside. But that's the fun of being a parent. Two weekends a month, my son and I sleep in tents and get muddy and dirty. It's sad and funny how I get excited when there are no weekend events. It's been 25 years since Keene State; this makes me feel old, real old."

1987

Lisa Corrette Livingstone
54 Regan Cir.
Raynham, MA 02767
lcorrette@aol.com

Samantha Barrett McKinlay
2400 Country Line Rd.
Ardmore, PA 19003
mckinlay3@comcast.net

Michelle Morris Ayer
41 Hemlock Rd.
Hingham, MA 02043
michelle.ayer@citizensbank.com

1988

Jeffrey LaValley
19 Lois St.
Westfield, MA 01085
jeff_lavalley1966@yahoo.com

Susan Lundgren Regan
79 Winthrop Rd.
Guilford, CT 06437

Scott Belanger and his wife, Ellie, attended the wedding of **Tom Cook '87** and Beth Mollo-neaux in July 2010 in Newburyport, MA. Several KSC alums and Alpha Ducks were in attendance, including **Alan Burbank '89**, **Mike Flanagan '89**, **Bob Garrity '87**,

Chris McDermott '88, and **Jim Tatko '87**. Renditions of "Far Beyond Monadnock's Summit" were bellowed as well as several other memorable songs. Scott says, "It was great to reconnect the bonds that were created more than 20 years ago. Keene State was a special time in our lives. We want to re-enroll as freshmen in 2012 to do the things we never tried and do others over again. Warn Ellen Low and Dean Gendron that the Alpha Duck Band is getting back together and Greaser Night is back on for fall 2012!"

1989

Maribeth Marsico Gesler
463 Juniper Ln.
Cheshire, CT 06410
mbmars@cox.net

1990

Lauren Aborjaily Griffin

17 Monhege Path
Marlborough, CT 06447

Shelly Brodeur Masson
173 Raven Cir.
Williston, VT 05495
shelly_m627@comcast.net

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

1991

Karen Dicey
P.O. Box 88
Exeter, NH 03833
kldicey@yahoo.com

Amy Eshelman-Pianka
102 Newberry Rd.
East Haddam, CT 06423
jeremyamypianka@prodigy.net

Kathleen Kerr St. Germaine
19 Great Woods Rd.
Plymouth, MA 02360-1826
kathst@adelphia.net

From **Bethany Mancuso Imbusch**: "I just received my spring 2010 issue of *Keene State Today*. I always look eagerly to the notes of '91 to see if I can learn of any news from old friends. It's usually bare, so I thought I would share my news. It's hard to believe we graduated nearly 19 years ago already. I was a work-study student and was often found lifeguarding at the KSC pool, working in the library, or working in the student union.

"I graduated with a degree in elementary education, then married Stephen Imbusch, who also attended KSC as a foreign exchange student in 1988 from Limerick, Ireland. We moved to Ireland for four years while Steve taught woodshop, and I learned and taught the Montessori Method for educating young children. Stephen also made Irish harps in a shed behind his grandfather's house during those years.

"We moved back to Rhode Island the summer of '97, and Stephen got a teaching job at Walpole High School in Walpole, Massachusetts. I worked at the Ocean State Montessori School in East Providence, Rhode Island. We now live in Barrington, Rhode Island, where our three sons attend public school. Luke is 17, Ciaran is 14, and Sean just turned 7. Stephen earned a master's degree in administration from Rhode Island College in 2002 and became an assistant principal at Walpole High School the same year. This year, Stephen became the principal at

Walpole High School. I continue to be a Montessori substitute teacher; my hope is to get back into teaching elementary education as I love all children!

"I keep in touch with Tina Haller Blinn and Randy and Alison LaCasse. I would love to hear from other classmates."

From **Tara Van Haelen Smith: "Mel Smith '90** and I have had quite a busy year. I went back to school for my MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching) degree, which is an accelerated degree program. I just finished and will be teaching high school Spanish in Canton, Connecticut. Mel and I have been married for 19 years, and we have two children – Alyssa, age 13, and Ethan, age 9. Mel is still working at the Connecticut State Library (16 years) and was recently featured on the TV series 'Who Do You Think You Are?' He helped Matthew Broderick find his relatives. You can imagine the excitement."

1992

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

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

Karen Biglin Piersa recently published a children's book called *The Wishing Shell*. Karen currently lives in a coastal town with her family and continues her work in counseling, education/special education, and teaching.

1993

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

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

1994

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

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



Christopher Papallo '05 and his bride, Courtney, at their May 2010 wedding in Connecticut.

Penny Rioux Joyal
106 N. Adams St.
Manchester, NH 03104
jsj1215@hotmail.com

1995

Cara H. Staus
2180 Stanley St.
New Britain, CT 06053
arac95@yahoo.com

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

News from class secretary **Erin Delude George**: "Have just come

off another year of successful writing with the publishing of two poetry chapbooks, *Dandelion Dance* and *Insideout*. I also finally got to the writing website, www.erinlgeorge.com. I'm looking forward to a productive and passionate 2011!"

1996

Karen Holmes Reinhold
132 Overland St.
Manchester, NH 03103
dccxi@yahoo.com

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



Newlyweds **Anne Mullane Maganzini '05** and **Brett Maganzini '05** with Don Hayes and Mike Ward (former KSC staff), **Adam Fitzgerald '04**, **Katy Leveque '06**, **Jon Legere '06**, **Kate Fleming '05**, **Ben Pelletier '05**, **Andy Lund '05**, **Brenna Leveille '05**, and **Kelly Mullane '08**.

1997

Danielle Dearborn Gagne
1587 Waterwells Rd.
Alfred Station, NY 14803
gagne@alfred.edu

1998

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

Lisa Demers Harvey
lharvey2010@comcast.net

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

Class secretary **Lisa Harvey** writes: "I taught abroad in Spain for a couple of years and have been back for a while. I got married last October. I teach third grade in Manchester."

Heather Gansel sends news: "There's a lot going on here in southwestern Connecticut. For the past four years, I've owned a personal training and sports chiropractic business called CORE – the Center for Fitness and Chiropractic Care. The business combines my passion for fitness and my experience with sports and athletics. My practice thrives in our studio in Stamford. As a chiropractic doctor, I oversee our specialty clinics as well as individual fitness programs. I also personally train all of the fund-raising tri-athletes for the Kids in Crisis: KIC IT Triathlon, a local organization. I also serve on its board. At the end of April, CORE exhibited at the Fairfield County Women's Expo. It was a great local event and an opportunity to showcase our fitness philosophy, skilled trainers, and diverse programs."

1999

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

Roxana (Rox) Fera, a student from Romania and KSC soccer player, writes: "I'm hoping to reconnect with classmates due to my long-term absence from the United States and my inability to attend the recent 10-year reunion."

I'm in China teaching at a university in Hangzhou, near Shanghai. If you would like to reconnect, please e-mail me at roxy_fera@yahoo.com or use my Skype ID: roxana.fera (UK location). I look forward to getting back in touch. The world has become a small place – a global village indeed."

2000

Danielle LePage Zimmerman
3 Tracey Ave.
Nashua, NH 03063
danni@thezims.net

2001

Christine Leland Williams
54 Eastern Ave.
Woburn, MA 01801
mrsquattro@gmail.com

2002

Jessie Gannett
91 Highland St., A
Plymouth, NH 03264

Timothy Thompson, coach of the Hampshire Hills Seawolves (Milford, NH) attended the Jr. National Championship Swimming Association (NCSA) swim meet, held in Orlando, FL, in March. His swimmer (Andy Disco) was one of a 1,000 competitors from all over the country. Andy placed in the top 100. His best showing was 40th place in the 100 breast-stroke.

2003

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

Danielle Popyk
P.O. Box 814
Storrs, CT 06268
popykd@hotmail.com

Mike Seckla '02 and **Sarah Kelly Seckla** had their first child, Finnegan Michael, on February 17. Finnegan weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Winn**, who has been named San Diego's 2011 High School Teacher of the Year and is in the running for California's Teacher of the Year. Jonathan has developed a high-voltage classroom atmosphere that inspires students to get excited about math and excel at AP calculus.

2004

Alison Thompson
18 Mount Pleasant Ave.
Wakefield, MA 01880
alit8@aol.com

2005

Valerie Nettleton
497 Foster St.
South Windsor, CT 06074
vnettlet@yahoo.com

2006

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

2007

Corey Henderson's recent article, "Once Upon a Time: Using Children's Literature to Enhance Second Language (L2) Reading Comprehension," was published in this year's edition of the *New Hampshire Journal of Education*. Corey teaches Spanish at Inter-Lakes High School, where he serves as the school's differentiated instruction mentor and on the School Improvement Team. Corey is currently enrolled in graduate studies at Middlebury College.

2008

Kelly A. Mullane
808 N. Congdon St.
Georgetown, SC 29440
kelly.a.mullane@gmail.com



John Zakzewska Jr. '08 and Sara Holmes '07 on their January 1, 2011, wedding day.



In Memoriam

Grace Musgrove '33
March 2, 2011

Margherita Darling '34
March 26, 2008

Rita M. Morgan '34
March 23, 2011

Ellen Grauer '36
February 25, 2011

Ruth J. Chamberlain '37
April 23, 2011

Doris M. Fowler Saturley '38
March 18, 2011

Carole Traffon Leavitt '39
November 28, 2010

Virginia B. Parkinson '39
December 31, 2010

Olive Gray '41
March 15, 2011

Thelma Louise Hawkins '41
June 14, 2010

Eleanor Johnson '41
June 1, 2011

Alice Louise Gates Wright '41
January 31, 2011

Robert C. Gilman '43
December 9, 2010

Ruth A. Patterson DeJeet '44
February 8, 2010

Hazel P. Marlow '44
January 23, 2011

Carolyn Jeffery '45
June 6, 2011

Millicent Williams Caton '46
January 20, 2011

Alberta Johnson Wood '46
March 14, 2011

Gordon Courchene '50
January 4, 2011

Dean S. Downing '50
May 12, 2010

Allison A. Gleason '51
February 7, 2011

Claude Leavitt '51
January 12, 2011

Joseph W. Hanrahan '52
January 17, 2011

Irving Dinsmore Baker '53
August 16, 2010

Robert M. Geib '55
May 20, 2010

Donald Finley '59
February 18, 2011

Robert J. Crompton '60
January 18, 2011

Kathryn West Smilo '60
February 17, 2011

Kenneth E. Jenkins '61
February 25, 2011

James Shaw '61
April 11, 2011

George Koehler '63
June 24, 2010

Roberta Donahue '63
July 7, 2010

Margaret J. Allen '68
April 13, 2011

Norma Jean Hebert Brown '68
February 24, 2011

Karen Brown Eglington '69
May 9, 2011

Lawrence Lassins '69
March 20, 2011

Mark Malkoski '72
November 5, 2007

Helen Ouellette '72
February 7, 2004

Bruce R. Brofman '73
December 14, 2010

Sally G. Martel '73
January 23, 2011

Diane H. Jennings '74
August 5, 2010

Clayton R. Tanner '75
July 5, 2010

Alexander Carroll '78
October 29, 2009

David T. Fallon '78
August 18, 2008

Jody O'Brien '82
June 25, 2011

Harry J. Blake Jr. '84
October 11, 2010

Stephen L. Taylor '84
November 1, 2010

Timothy J. Dunn '86
January 11, 2008

Jane A. Merrow '86
December 14, 2010

Stephen Geratowski '88
October 22, 2010

Mary Kelly Sohm '91
February 22, 2011

Carol A. Camden '95
February 13, 2011

A. Roy Vezina '96
April 5, 2011

Michael B. DeMaio '97
December 15, 2010

Former Faculty and Staff
Ranger Curran Sr.
April 19, 2011



John Summers '56 Hangs Up His Snowshoes

By Stuart Kaufman

John Summers '56 might be retired, but that doesn't mean he's not busy. Months after closing his well-known Backcountry Outfitters store in Keene, he remains active as ever, building tennis courts and working with the many nonprofit boards on which he serves. A staunch advocate of outdoor sports, Summers practices what he preaches, finding ample time to kayak and canoe around Forest Lake near his home in Winchester.

But you don't spend more 60 years in business without feeling a tug on the heartstrings when you close up shop. Summers says he misses his many loyal customers and keeping up with the trends in the market.

If Summers had followed his father's advice, there might not have been a Summers Backcountry Outfitters store in Keene. "My father told me I shouldn't do it. He said there were too many hours involved in running a retail store," said Summers. "But I had a burning desire to own a store, so that's what I did."

Summers' recreational roots can be traced back to his grandfather, who was a PGA pro, and his father, the squash coach at MIT. Summers and his four brothers grew up in Holliston, Mass., and for high school Summers went to the Holderness School in Plymouth, where he lettered in just about every sport offered. When he graduated in 1947, colleges were full of veterans on the GI Bill. Summers decided to take a job working for New Hampshire Ball Bearings in Peterborough.

After a month, he called the headmaster at Holderness, who sent his transcript to Dr. Lloyd P. Young, president of Keene Teachers College. "When I got through work, I smelled like oil, was covered in oil, and was tired of doing the same thing," Summers said. "I was ready to go back to school."

Accepted at KTC, Summers spent his first year on campus living in the back of Kappa House. An education major, he also found time to be on the school's soccer, hockey, and tennis teams. At the end of his sophomore year, Summers decided to enlist in the Army and was sent to Germany, where he met his wife-to-be, Marty, and made connections in the recreational sports industry.

Returning to Keene State, Summers started selling skis, boots, and other equipment out of his living room closet while he was living in the military barracks at the end of Marlboro Street. His best customer was the Keene State ski team. He soon moved the operation to Church Street, where a friend had a small print shop. The store, then called John Summers' Ski and Sport (and later, Ski and Mountain) wasn't much bigger than his living room closet. "If you got more than two people in there, you couldn't turn around, but it was a space," Summers told the *Keene Sentinel* in an interview last winter.

Two years later, he set up shop on Main Street in the space now occupied by Brewbakers. Because it wasn't far from campus, Summers got a lot of foot traffic from KSC students. Committed to establishing a top-of-the-line winter sports shop, he filled the store with high-end equipment and waited for profits to roll in. But things didn't go as planned. He had the right shop, but the wrong town. "This was not a resort town, and I was trying to sell expensive stuff," Summers told the *Sentinel*. "I went around to all the banks with my hat in my hand. They told me I was going to fail."

A new location and renewed interest in recreational sports did wonders for Summers' business. When he moved to his present location on Ashuelot Street in 1980, Summers was able to expand his inventory and start an equipment rental service.

In its heyday, there was something for everybody at Backcountry Outfitters. Kayaks and canoes, in all colors and sizes, leaned against the building or were suspended overhead. Skis and snowshoes that lined the walls in the winter gave way to paddles, rods, and tennis racquets come springtime. Since you need the right attire for your athletic pursuits, Summers had the perfect parka or the widest assortment of waders. In the fall, there was always a "Welcome, KSC Students" sign on the building.

As he got ready to close his shop last winter, he said it had been a good run. "I never expected that it would last this long," said Summers, looking at the barren walls that once stocked his livelihood. "But I enjoyed it tremendously because I helped a lot of people. I wouldn't have been able to survive all these years without the loyalty of everyone that patronized my business." ■

Phonathon: An Opportunity to Help

Robbie Venezia '01 had taken Phonathon calls frequently over the years, but he had not been able to donate to the KSC Fund before this year. “I was always broke and trying to pay off my college loans,” he explained. “But my father died suddenly last summer, which threw me for a loop. I inherited some money and thought about how to honor my dad. He was interested in education, the ASPCA, and gay causes, and I know he would have been pleased to see me support them, too. When the Phonathon call came, I asked how much a semester of in-state tuition cost, and I was able to give \$3,500, or roughly half of the cost for one person for one semester. I knew the economy was bad, and I had a chance to do something to help people.”

Robbie, a Spanish major, will return to Keene State this fall to earn teacher certification in his major. He would love to work in a Spanish-speaking area and teach English as a second language. Thanks to his generous gift, one in-state student will receive strong financial support to start his or her college education.

Phonathon is an important annual fund-raiser for Keene State, and a wonderful opportunity to talk to real live students about their KSC experiences while you recollect your own college memories.

Phonathon fiscal year 2011

- Weeks of calling:** 21
- Nights of calling:** 75
- Number of student callers:** 19
- Number of student managers:** 2
- Total calls made:** 51,203
- Credit-card pledges:** 283
- Specified pledges:** 1,697
- Highest gift pledged:** \$10,000
- Total gifts pledged:** \$101,741.58

Thank you!

Stats courtesy of Genny Alexander,
director of annual giving at Keene State.



Send your news to your
class secretary or to:

Sarah C. Johnson
Class Notes Editor
Keene State College
229 Main Street, Keene, NH 03435-1502
classnotes@keene.edu

Visit *Keene State Today* online
to comment on stories and
share your memories.
www.keene.edu/kst/



Wait a Year and See

From the **KSC Arboretum**

by Jeff Garland, Keene State College arborist

Eastern redbud

Chris Justice

What does it take to landscape a new building?

If it's our Keene State Alumni Center, here's the answer:

Three thousand vinca plants, 66 mountain laurel, 15 inkberry bushes, 10 green ash trees, six Japanese tree lilacs, six 'Coral Burst' crabapples, six 'Kousa' dogwoods, five red oaks, four Eastern redbuds, three Fraser firs, three witch hazels, two white ash, and two sugar maples. Plus a lovely Stewartia for the entry and many assorted dogwoods and grasses. (So far.)

The landscaping plan began before the site was cleared. Dirtworks PC of New York City, the landscape architecture firm that designed the award-winning courtyard for the David F. Putnam Science Center, was hired for the Alumni Center project. Dirtworks' designer Erin Upton made frequent trips to Keene to study the site and consult with staff, alumni, and citizens of Keene about their vision for this corner of campus. The plants we chose for the building – the 'Kousa' dogwood, witch hazel, and the Japanese tree lilacs, for example – echo similar plantings on campus and in downtown Keene.

Staff moved into the Alumni Center in March 2010, construction debris outside was cleaned up, and only a few weeks later, KSC gardener Joe Britton, Erin Upton, and I found ourselves tramping the muddy fields of Salmon Falls Nursery in Maine, where plants we had ordered from all over the Northeast were being assembled. We approved each specimen and got to choose plants from Salmon Falls' own vast collection. This is really the fun part – looking at beautiful plants with people who share your passion for them – and we were not at all deterred by heavy rain. We walked all over three fields of firs to find the perfect third Fraser fir, which you can see on the north side of the building.

Then came the sunny day when three box trucks filled with plants pulled into the Alumni Center parking lot, and the installation began. We consulted the paper plans. We modified, we shifted, we considered, and we dug a lot of holes. We stood inside Centennial Hall and looked out at the roundabout to find the best spot for the trees. Everyone on the grounds crew, plus landscapers from Salmon Falls Nursery, worked on getting every last plant into the ground, watered, and mulched.

Will we make any changes? “Wait a year and see” is the gardener's maxim, and that's what we intend to do. This spring, Barbara Ryans Brackett and her husband, Bill, both class of 1957, generously donated a perennial garden for the courtyard, and Joe Britton installed it in time for Reunion. Thankfully, the cycle of plants never stops.



'Kousa' dogwood

Micjael Matros



Japanese tree lilac

Chris Justice

Happy Birthday, Alumni Center!



Keene State's new Alumni Center opened on June 4, 2010, with great fanfare and celebration, just as Reunion weekend began. Its first year of life was a busy one. Centennial Hall was used extensively by our students and the greater College community. More than 7,000 people participated in 92 different programs sponsored by student, campus, alumni, and community groups. Here is a small sampling of the diversity of programming and participation:

- Orientation for New Students
- Monadnock Center for Successful Transitions (job training)
- College and Career Summit
- KEA Investment Committee
- American College Dance Festival Conference
- Alumni Association Board Meetings
- President's Council
- Safety and Internship Fair (jobs and internships)
- Community Partners Celebration
- Monadnock Conservancy Board Meeting
- Cohen Center Hildebrandt Awards
- Communicorps Project Presentation
- Keene Rotary Club Luncheon
- KEA Annual Meeting
- Golden Circle Luncheon
- Pauline Dionne Retirement Reception
- Reunion 2011 Welcome Back Social

Alumni continue to support the fund-raising goals for the building, particularly for alumni program funds. To date, nearly \$600,000 has been raised. Alumni are still able to make gifts that include naming opportunities – we have several offices and reception spaces available, along with two benches near our entrances. **To give to the Alumni Center Campaign, please call Ken Goebel, director of development, at 603-358-2378, or e-mail kgoebel@keene.edu.**