

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS | WINTER/SPRING 2025

# KEENE STATE TODAY



CHAMPIONING  
SUSTAINABILITY,  
Fully, Relentlessly

////////////////////



# FEATURE

- 10** On Unspoiled Grounds: History, Nature, and Knowledge Collide When Students Collect Data at College's Cabot Preserve

**In this issue:** Driving sustainability across the campus and shaping educational opportunities in environmental studies, in and out of the classroom, remain top priorities at Keene State. Inside, read stories about how students, faculty, and staff are engaged in cutting-edge research and spearheading eco-friendly and green initiatives.

# NEWS & STORIES


- 5** Historic Campaign Goal Surpassed Ahead of Schedule
- 6** Traditional Materials Meet Modern Innovation at Keene State College
- 8** Building Lasting Change Through Sustainable Product Design
- 18** Eco Houses: A new residential option at Keene State
- 20** With a Landmark Gift, the Cohen Institute is Established
- 22** The KSC Television Archives

# IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4** Letter from the President
- 14** News from the Nest
- 24** Class Notes
- 26** In Memoriam
- 28** Upcoming Events
- 31** From the Archives







**Inside cover:** Chloe March '25, Ryan Rotigliano '25, Sustainability Coordinator Kate Witte, and Environmental Studies lecturer Karen Seaver conducting research at the Cabot Preserve.

## DESIGN

Boston Impressions  
[bostonimpressions.com](http://bostonimpressions.com)

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Charlie Baxter '26  
Jessica Bigaj  
Lena Goins '26  
Rose Kudanis  
Paul Miller  
Hilary Shepard  
Caroline Tremblay, Owl  
& Pen Writing  
Andrea Vickers-Sivret '01

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

William Wrobel '11  
[wwrobel@keene.edu](mailto:wwrobel@keene.edu)  
Ethan Davis '25  
[ethan.davis@keene.edu](mailto:ethan.davis@keene.edu)

## BRAND CONSULTANT

Katie Arsenault  
[katie.arsenault@keene.edu](mailto:katie.arsenault@keene.edu)

## PRESIDENT

Dr. Melinda Treadwell '90  
[president@keene.edu](mailto:president@keene.edu)

**KEENE STATE TODAY IS  
PUBLISHED BY KEENE  
STATE COLLEGE**

## POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to Keene State Today, 229 Main St., Keene, New Hampshire 03435-2701.

Address change: Send address changes to Keene State College Advancement, 229 Main St., Keene, New Hampshire 03435-2701. Or update your contact information at [www.keene.edu/alumni/connect/update/](http://www.keene.edu/alumni/connect/update/)





## DEAR KEENE STATE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS:

As we near the end of a vibrant and successful academic year, I am reflecting on a year of achievements for the Keene State community. Your gifts and talents—as students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends—are what make Keene State distinct.

Paging through this issue of Keene State Today, you will see some of those distinctions featured. As New Hampshire's liberal arts college, we are living our mission, vision, and values through stories of excellence. From illustrations of our abiding commitment to sustainability, to advances in scholarship and practice in the field of Holocaust and genocide studies through our new Cohen Institute, we are highlighting how a foundation in the liberal arts offers broad opportunities and spurs action and transformation.

A big part of that amazing educational experience was at the college-owned Louis Cabot Preserve, a conservation-protected 464-acre peninsula flanked by a pristine lake and pond a half hour from campus.

Be sure to read our cover story about environmental studies majors engaging in a life-changing yearlong capstone project to see the natural world and its outdoor resources up close, study it, and collect research data.

It is symbolic of the kind of partnership and real-world learning that defines our public liberal arts education and academic exploration, and it distinguishes our graduates in so many fields of academic study. Meet some of those senior students as they describe what that experience was like, and how they see it as transformational to who they want to be and what they aspire to do.

Also in this issue, learn how two on-campus "eco houses" directly advance the college's sustainability initiatives, and how wigwams and adobe huts are at the center of innovation in our sustainable product design and innovation (SPDI) and architecture programs.

Speaking of SPDI, and putting that successful academic program on the map, longtime and highly respected Keene State educator Dr. Lisa Hix recently retired, leaving a legacy of forward-thinking, smart change, and a student-first mindset. Read more about that as well.

On Keene State's campus, evidence of our commitment to continuous improvement abounds. We have invested in our residence halls and classrooms, and green spaces. We uphold old traditions and inaugurate new ones. We continue to carry out our 2023-2026 Keene State College Strategic Plan and are modeling transparency and accountability through a public dashboard of success metrics. Every aspect of our plan and every step of its implementation is focused on student and employee success, which in turn supports our vitality as a learning community.

As I spend time with prospective and current students and their families, they tell me they feel a sense of belonging here from their first visit ... they literally see themselves here. That is thanks to this community, to your authenticity, to your openness, and to your belief in our thriving future together.

Every day at Keene State is exciting and promise-filled.

I am proud of our accomplishments together.

IN GRATITUDE, ALWAYS.

**Dr. Melinda Treadwell '90**  
**PRESIDENT, KEENE STATE COLLEGE**



# Historic Campaign Goal Surpassed Ahead of Schedule

## FUNDRAISING WILL CONTINUE THROUGH SPRING

Thanks to Keene State's extraordinary community of supporters, Opportunity Starts Here: A Campaign for Keene State College has surpassed its \$20M goal and currently totals \$26.7M.

The campaign—the largest in the College's history—has already meaningfully expanded access to a Keene State education for its students and significantly elevated the experiences it can offer both inside and outside the classroom.

"We are profoundly thankful to all those who have come together to make this incredible progress possible," said President Treadwell. "Philanthropic investment allows Keene State to pursue a margin of excellence for our students of today and tomorrow. This campaign is a resounding statement about the value our community places in Keene State College and we are tremendously grateful for it."

The three pillars of the campaign are student access; program, faculty, and staff development; and high-impact learning. These areas of focus support the College's current strategic plan and will:

- Break down barriers to access a life-changing Keene State College education for a broader range of students
- Build a core education—taught by the best instructors—that will enhance the College's unique mission
- Create transformative academic and co-curricular experiences for students to build their ability to make an impact in the broader world

### STUDENT ACCESS

**\$8.3M** Raised

Investments in scholarships, awards, and emergency funding for students.

### PROGRAM, FACULTY, AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

**\$17.4M** Raised

Investments in program and curriculum development, faculty and staff, and athletics.

### HIGH-IMPACT LEARNING

**\$1M** Raised

Investments in paid internships and experiential learning.

**\$26.7M**

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HOME STRETCH TO RAISE THE BAR  
FOR KEENE STATE STUDENTS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW!



[www.campaignforkeene.org](http://www.campaignforkeene.org)

## OPPORTUNITY STARTS HERE: A CAMPAIGN FOR KEENE STATE COLLEGE



**\$26.7M**  
raised

**6,028**  
Total Donors

**2,284**  
Alumni Donors

**217**  
student donors

**11,299** gifts



**18** Steinway  
pianos funded  
achieving  
**All-Steinway**  
status for Keene



**1** Institute created -  
**The Cohen Institute**  
the first institute outside of UNH

**163%**  
growth for Keene  
Endowment - to **\$24.7M**



**23**  
athletic  
teams  
invested in



**1,250**  
donor-funded  
scholarships awarded

**337**  
different funds invested in

BY THE NUMBERS: Since July 2021



# Traditional Materials Meet **MODERN INNOVATION** at Keene State College

By Caroline Tremblay

Something you might not expect to see on Keene State's modern-day campus is a wigwam—a dome-shaped shelter traditionally used by Indigenous peoples of North America—or an adobe hut, a building style commonly found in the Southwest. Yet, these seemingly out-of-place structures have become a hub of innovative research for the College's sustainable product design and innovation and architecture programs, where professor and student teams collaborate on building functionality and environmental impact.

For passers-by, the structures caused quite a stir.

"Everyone thought it was a hoot. They just wanted to know what it was," Paul Fowler, assistant professor of architecture, said.

But beyond piquing curiosity, the intent was "to establish if that type of structure, which was used long ago, could provide comfort at the same level as we see today," Fowler explained. The answer turned out to be yes. "There's no air conditioning obviously, but heat would be the big deal here in New England. And you can heat one of those structures to be nice and warm."

The wigwam, a temporary structure, served as an experiment to test whether purely visual instructions could be effective for building emergency shelters such as in refugee camps. Fowler acted as a resource for a team of students that took on the construction project primarily using branches and tarps.

In addition, they "tested the wigwam for air quality, hydrothermal properties, and several other things," said Zachary Punch '24, who helped carry the grant-subsidized work forward in the summer of 2024.

When Punch was approached by Fowler and architecture department chair Fernando del Ama Gonzalo about constructing an adobe hut, he accepted and was ultimately awarded a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) grant.

"The adobe hut became an extension of this work. And the department hopes to do different materials in the future," Fowler noted.

**The fact that the College is willing to fund student work like this is brilliant and appreciated. Without that extra help, it wouldn't have been able to happen.**

**PAUL FOWLER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE**

The stipend enabled Punch to concentrate on his research endeavor for the summer of his senior year. "I wanted to know if adobe is a practical building material in New England."

Punch had never used adobe—Spanish for mudbrick—despite being part of the construction world since childhood.

In his early years, he did tree work and later served in the Army operating construction equipment. When his

service ended he built his own business as a carpenter. "So, I knew a lot about building stuff," he laughed.

Since neither he nor Fowler had previously worked with adobe, they talked strategy throughout the process. "We figured that stuff out together. He's great to work with," Punch said.

First Punch built molds and filled them with 25 percent clay and 75 percent sand, with an aggregate mixed in.

"We used ground-up grapevines because they have tannins in them







that are supposed to help hold the bricks together well,” Punch said. When he ran out of vines from his yard he switched to cellulose insulation, a shredded mix of recycled paper products.

After being poured, the material needed to sit for several days before removing the molds. Even then, the bricks couldn’t be moved for an additional week. As Punch got underway with the actual build he didn’t encounter many obstacles, except for keeping things dry.

“It was a huge challenge,” he said. During summer rains he traveled to the project site to cover and uncover the molds with tarps.

While that added some difficulty, Punch is a proponent of the material, which can typically be sourced and mixed on-site. “If you’ve got a stream nearby, you probably have clay and sand. And then you can even use lawn clippings as an aggregate. So that aspect of it is really sustainable,” he noted.

Right now, the adobe structure is undergoing similar functionality tests to the wigwam.

“As far as the moisture content and energy usage of the building, I’d say the adobe seems more sustainable short-term,” Punch said.

“The humidity levels are off the charts,” Fowler added. “You have earthen bricks that were made with a process that used a lot of water, and whenever it rains, they absorb a lot of water that then gets released into the interior.”

The hut will remain in place over the year so data can continue to be gathered.

“Long-term, I’m not sure how it’s going to do because it takes so much more energy to burn off the moisture,” Punch said. “If you go in that hut and there’s no heater going, it just feels more humid than everywhere else.”

So what’s next for the team? “I’m interested in comparing it to something more modern like a straw bale home,” Fowler said. “There’s a revival of straw houses, where they’ll build a regular two-by frame, fill the inside with straw, and then plaster over the outside,” Punch described.

Another idea, raised by del Ama Gonzalo, is a 3D-printed home, typically made with concrete.

“The problem is that it’s fairly permanent,” Fowler noted.

The structures on campus are designed to be removable. Whichever material becomes the focus next, Fowler said, “there’s a vision of a multitude of these happening so we can compare the data.”

**The information they’ve garnered so far has already been put to good use.**

In October 2024, Punch traveled to Massachusetts to present his research on the hut at the Council of Public Liberal Arts College annual conference.

Punch, Fowler, and del Ama Gonzalo also co-authored a paper about the team’s use of software to test and monitor the hut’s energy performance during various times of the year. Del Ama Gonzalo presented it at the International Conference on Sustainability, Technology and Education in Budapest, Hungary.

This kind of hands-on research underscores the department’s focus on innovation and real-world impact, particularly in the area of sustainability—core values of Keene State. Punch’s journey reflects the program’s dedication to preparing students for future challenges, including climate resiliency, and provided him with skills and experience he plans to continue building on as he begins graduate-level study in the fall of 2025.



# BUILDING LASTING CHANGE

THROUGH SUSTAINABLE  
PRODUCT DESIGN

How do we make things  
that **last**?

How can we keep this **local**?

How can we keep these  
skills in our **community**?

---

For two decades, these questions have guided Dr. Lisa Hix, associate professor and co-chair of the Sustainable Product Design and Innovation (SPDI) program at Keene State College.

And now, her example is for others to follow.

A leader, educator, and innovator, Dr. Hix retired in December.

She leaves a flourishing SPDI program with a track record for preparing students to hit the real world job-ready and where market needs are high.

Her imprint is all over the stages of success that mark the popular program; more than 70 students are declared SPDI majors starting the fall semester of 2025.

Hix and fellow faculty members have stayed current with the latest policies and research, guiding students to do the same. This includes integrating global frameworks such as the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, which serve as a guiding tool in the program.

According to Hix, responsible consumption, sustainable industry, and innovation connect directly to product design and manufacturing.

The SPDI curriculum, she notes, reflects the principles of the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan and the European Green Deal, which focus on climate neutrality, resource efficiency, and waste reduction. Using these tools, faculty encourage students to think creatively and push beyond minimum standards to design solutions that reflect best practices and work in the furtherance of advancing sustainability.

“We've built a curriculum and the facilities to deliver the program well. I feel proud of that.”

**Dr. Lisa Hix**

---

She enjoys the success stories, when graduates return for a visit or send an email, to talk about their impactful work.

“Our alumni are amazingly thoughtful people. They are engaged with their communities. They're doing interesting things, and they're contributing in lots of different ways. It's really about people ... so that makes me feel good.”



“We need to identify the **real needs** of people, communities, and the natural world so we can **support one another** and **thrive**,” she explains.

A college course in ecology sparked her interest in viewing the world through a systems lens—or considering the interconnectedness of things. While focusing on industrial design, she dove deeply into user-centered design, and functional product design, two foundations for creating sustainable products.

Her post-graduation goal to design the next space station for NASA didn't materialize.

But “I found the next best thing designing sailing yachts.”

The processes behind these self-contained vehicles delivered a range of experience in her field from prototyping to project management.

She also worked with lighting fixture manufacturers and became a design consultant, which inspired her to earn a master's in business administration. Her graduate classes were often held at satellite campuses around the state, including at Keene State, where she met Dr. Delmar “Del” Ogg, a Technology, Design, and Safety professor from 1971 to 2006.

Ogg's work significantly influenced the SPDI program that Hix went on to help trailblaze.

She says of her initial discussion with him: “I was intrigued by the opportunity to teach what I love and the potential of manufacturing labs.” It was intriguing enough for her to launch a second career, focused on higher education.

It didn't take long for Hix to discover she enjoyed working with students. She was inspired by colleagues becoming increasingly interested in the true meaning behind sustainability. One, she says, was Rick Foley.

Characteristically, she dove in, pursuing a doctoral studies degree through the Cleaner Production and Pollution Prevention program at the University of Massachusetts.

“Part of my dissertation became: How do we create a curriculum around new product design and sustainability?”

As the curriculum for the SPDI program was envisioned, so was a cutting-edge facility to support it.



The resulting manufacturing labs at Keene were brought to fruition with remarkable intention.

“For instance, our CAD design area—our Ideation Lab, as we call it—is next to the manufacturing labs so students can flow back and forth. We're not separating the design from the manufacturing. ... This is integral so the products can be well-designed, durable, and lasting—and so that we can keep experimenting.”

This real-world, hands-on approach can be seen woven throughout the SPDI experience, showcased in Hix's illustrated material lifecycle project, an educational tool she developed to help students visually understand the full life cycle of materials and products, including the impacts on workers and human health.

“What's often forgotten is the worker, the person making the materials, fixing the products, installing, repairing,” she says. “There can be toxic exposure, injury, or even things that just don't work well. So how do we ensure we're paying attention to the people?”

We will end where we began, with one of our college's dedicated, forward-thinking educators posing another meaningful, probing question.

Dr. Hix will be greatly missed by students, colleagues, and grateful Keene State friends alike.





# ON UNSPOILED GROUNDS:

## HISTORY, NATURE, AND KNOWLEDGE COLLIDE WHEN STUDENTS COLLECT DATA AT COLLEGE'S CABOT PRESERVE

BY PAUL MILLER

Keene State students Chloe March '25 and Ryan Rotigliano '25 are fueled by many of the same passions, including driving positive ecological change and inspiring meaningful environmental impact.

They plan to make their shared interests a big part of their livelihoods.



While they worked closely on a yearlong senior capstone project as environmental studies majors, the students encountered challenges they are likely to face routinely as professionals.

Chloe, from Hamden, Maine, aspires to work for a conservation land trust in her home state; Ryan, from Bellingham, Massachusetts, has plans to work as a forester out west.

*"Our environment is connected to every facet of life," says Chloe, who graduated mid-academic year, in December. "If we have degraded ecosystems, that carries over to us. We are not separate from nature; rather, we are deeply connected to it. Our survival is dependent on a healthy planet. By studying the environment, sustainability, and how inequality impacts marginalized people I understand better how a world with so many moving parts is connected."*

She is an environmental studies and sustainability double major and earned minors in Holocaust & genocide studies and geoscience.

Ryan, who will earn his degree in environmental studies, with minors in sustainability and astronomy, says "I hope to use my knowledge of forestry to spark change in others and create a network of people dedicated to conservation and protecting the natural world."

Both students will draw from their many Keene State experiences, academic and otherwise. They understand the value that their capstone project will add to their resumes.

Their capstone project, "Years Since the Axe: Forest Biodiversity in Response to Timber Harvest," was undertaken by Chloe, Ryan, and three other student peers, Liam Conley, Declan O'Hare, and Wyatt Fernando, seniors also.

Their research was conducted at the pristine Louis Cabot Preserve in Hancock, N.H., a 30-minute drive from campus. The preserve is a 464-acre, mile-and-a-half long heavily forested peninsula dividing Spoonwood Pond and Lake Nubanusit.

The Nature Conservancy gifted the land to Keene State, which is exempt from property taxes, in 1967. Requirements of the deed include a key charge that the property remains in its natural state.

A story in an undated Nature Conservancy publication reported that the Preserve also came to the College with encouragement that it be a "living laboratory" for science and forestry education.

The Preserve has been all of that and more as an ecological resource.

The good fortune to participate in scientific work at the Preserve is not lost on Chloe and Ryan, nor is the land's long, fascinating, and venerable history.

It is a special place to have a one-of-a-kind, real-world learning opportunity, Chloe says.

"The project opened my eyes to a world of possibility in forestry research. I learned about standard practice forestry data collection methods and how to identify tree species and read landscape clues to determine land history."

**THE PRESERVE WAS THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S FIRST PROJECT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. TODAY, THE NONPROFIT HAS HELPED TO PROTECT NEARLY 300,000 ACRES AND 680 MILES OF RIVERS AND STREAMS IN THE GRANITE STATE.**



The Conservancy performs an annual walk-through of the Preserve to ensure the College continues to honor the full provisions of the deed. This includes checking for rogue campsites since overnight camping is prohibited on the preserve. Also, the inspection looks for signs of trash dumping, tree harvesting or logging, disruption of natural areas, or permanent dwellings.

Joe Britton, facilities manager for the College and the institution's liaison for the Preserve, said the land is secluded and difficult to access, giving the preserve a feeling of an undisturbed woodland that has not been touched since it was originally used as pasture. Some cattle, horses, and sheep were pastured there in the 1930s, according to an ecological survey conducted by the Conservancy.

The Preserve has been free of farming or grazing since 1948, and camping was common but not since the early 1960s. Notably, more than 80 percent of the land's timber is estimated to have been destroyed by the hurricane of 1938.

Science Professor Karen Seaver, who presided over the students' capstone project, says the property has a certain island feel even though it is, by definition, a peninsula.

"Either way, this is a unique geography, and a classroom unlike any other for these students. On a map, its shape looks like the side profile of a ram. The forest is very different. With so few deer browsing, the underbrush looks remarkably different. One will find some of the coolest white pines you'll ever see. There are vegetation zones even though it's a relatively small place. There are some hemlocks and a mix of pines and hardwoods, but few saplings in the underforest."

"Because there is a lot less mammal pressure, combined with the lack of human disturbance and a leave-no-trace aesthetics rule, it makes for a rare place," she adds.

The students research at the Preserve took eight hours over two visits and focused on collecting data on forest tree diversity, the size of saplings or mature trees, and forest biodiversity and density. This was not just at the Preserve but at four sites in all. Plots in Pisgah State Park and two parcels in Stoddard managed by the Harris Center for Conservation Education also served as abundant outdoor research grounds.

Working over two semesters, the students used data to draw comparisons across a temporal scale, with timber harvesting and pressures on it being a unique data point.

Students used posters, a PowerPoint, and verbal presentations to report findings to campus and community partners; they also submitted a comprehensive written summary of their research.

**It turns out that a white ash tree on the Cabot Preserve property is a new state champ having just been added to the NH Big Trees list.**

NH Big Trees program enlists volunteers across the state to find the largest examples of tree species in respective areas. The list of recorded trees now includes more than 1,000 county, state, and national champions.

A resident of the area, Peter Hansel, nominated the white ash, according to Larry Michalov, a group volunteer. "Not in the best shape but still a champ," Michalov says of the tree.

**Here is the tale of the tape for the tree:**

The crown—or canopy—consists of the branches and the leaves at the top of the tree. Average crown width is calculated by taking two perpendicular measurements. A tape is held to the trunk and fed out to the edge of the crown above from one side to the other. A point value is calculated from the measurements.

This tree has a height of **98 feet**, a circumference of **230 inches**, and an average crown spread of **76 feet**.

As Keene State students learned during a data-collection effort on the Preserve, determining the age of a tree is a different matter and far from exact.

In this case, accounting for several factors and the "estimate of a knowledgeable individual," Michalov guessed the white ash to be **250 years old**.

"I loved the feeling of collaboration and being able to say I participated, completed, and engaged in a research project. Data collection was a fun portion of the project, but the analysis, discussion, and planning made this a valuable project for my future. ... I wouldn't be the person I am today without the faculty, classes, and experiences I have had at Keene State."





"Our efforts at Cabot yielded interesting data since this parcel hasn't been logged since Keene State acquired it," Ryan says. "Time since forest disturbance was a key variable in our study; exploring this older growth gave us an insight into how a forest regrows and thrives."

Ryan has been interested in the outdoors for as long as he can remember, recalling how his parents would take him and his siblings on road trips to multiple National Parks every summer.

The leap from the classroom to the field is hard to describe as a way to learn, and it gives context to what a career in conservation work might look and feel like, Chloe says.

At Cabot, each student was assigned a unique task, making the work of determining the diversity and species composition of mature trees and saplings in designated areas a collective effort.

One student used a prism to conclude if a tree was in or out of a particular sample area, another measured tree diameters, another logged data, and another ran a tape measure to any tree the group was unsure was within the sample area. Lastly, another student measured the saplings.

GPS was used to locate sample areas. Data included tree species and tree diameters at their breast height.

It wasn't all about data. Fringe benefits of being at the preserve were many. For example, students ascertained that beavers were there, as chewed trees were visible. Seaver says it's easy to imagine that minks, weasels, chipmunks, and smaller predators

that eat rodents and small mammals are on site. "A lot of things that can fly in, too; there is probably great Owl activity there at night."

They all saw a lot of noisy blue jays and chickadees, which are classic year-round forest birds. They pulled out a loon raft to find that it was not being used successfully for nesting this time.

Ryan and Chloe are among the more than three dozen Keene State students who have been paid summer interns at the Hancock-based Harris Center for Conservation Education, a donor-supported nonprofit connecting people and nature in the greater region. The Harris Center has also protected more than 26,000 acres of land in the Monadnock Region.

The seven-week internship, funded equally by the College and the Harris Center, offers students specialized training, research, and education. This summer will mark the 12th year of this important program.

It's been mutually beneficial on all fronts, Seaver, and Brett Thelen, the Center's science director, agreed.

"There is still much to learn about the Harris Center's network of protected lands and our lands, in turn, have much to offer in biology, ecology, geology, and other conservation sciences."

summer internship program provides students with real-world experience that simply can't be obtained in a classroom. It's been exciting to see alumni of the internship program build on what they learned during their time with us, and to incorporate our conserved lands into their capstone research."

Chloe didn't take the easy route at Keene State. Ambitious and passionate, she immersed herself in her varied academic disciplines and found time to join several student-run organizations, such as Eco-Reps and the Art Collective.

Thelen says. "We love working with student researchers to learn more about the lands in our care and our







“ **BECAUSE THERE IS A LOT LESS MAMMAL PRESSURE, COMBINED WITH THE LACK OF HUMAN DISTURBANCE AND A LEAVE-NO-TRACE AESTHETICS RULE, IT MAKES FOR A RARE PLACE,** ”

.....  
**KAREN SEAVER SCIENCE PROFESSOR**

Seaver says there is nothing like working with students in the outdoors, the bonds you make, and the work accomplished together.

“I’ve known Chloe since she was a first-year student, so watching her transformation has been rewarding. The capstone, and going through a scientific process with others, is always fun. I’ve always wanted to spend more

time at Cabot, so it feels like I made good on some goals for myself.”

There is no doubt that the premises of this ram-shaped peninsula are special, for educators and students. Not to mention the Louis Cabot Preserve has a fascinating, page-turning preservation history, and a pure, unspoiled quality that is savored—naturally.

Among the values central to the College’s overarching mission is to work toward a sustainable and equitable world.

Ambitious goals for the campus, which the Louis Cabot Preserve is considered a part of, include:

**50 percent** reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030; achieve **carbon neutrality** by 2050.

**100 percent** of campus-powered renewables by 2030.

Qualify as a **Zero-Waste** campus by 2030.

**Efforts and results are not going unnoticed.**

Keene State earned a STARS Gold rating in recognition of its sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability (STARS) in Higher Education last September. STARS is the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System; it measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education.

Environmental Studies Professor Karen Seaver says the Preserve has a real tie to this institutional value and efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

**“We wouldn’t be able to meet some of the criteria that give us such a high rating without the carbon absorption and storage that the preserve is taking care of.”**

Like the Cabot Preserve and other Harris Center for Conservation Education managed lands, the Ashuelot River watershed is another unique resource as it also allows Keene State students to collect field data on property near largely undisturbed forests and wetlands.

In addition to field experiences, the environmental studies major also includes small classes, internships, student capstone projects, and undergraduate research opportunities.

Local partnerships allow our students to participate in solving problems such as air pollution caused by woodsmoke, ecological restoration of river systems, and climate change-related issues.



## 2024 Homecoming

Homecoming Weekend was a celebration welcoming back alumni-athletes and friends.

The action kicked off with Keene State College men's and women's soccer games facing opponents on the Dr. Ron Butcher Field. Alumni returned to the Spaulding Gym pool for the Alumni Swim Meet, and former swimmers showed that age is just a number—and they're still faster than you.

Between athletic events the first-ever Hootie's Hustle 5K, hosted by the KSCAA, had participants running, jogging, or walking their way through the campus showing off their Owl pride. The barbeque was the cherry on top of the cake. Alumni band, InClover, rocked Krif Road as alumni grabbed a burger and reminisced about the good old days.

It was a weekend full of energy, school spirit, and enough memories to last until next year!







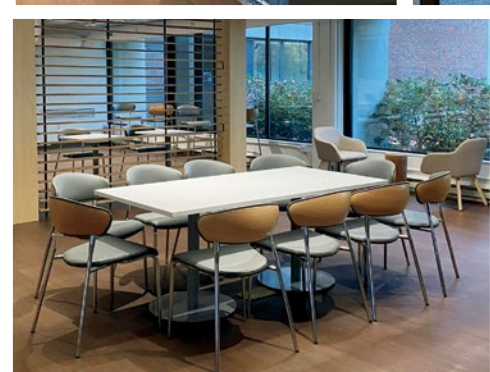
# Hootie's Alumni Night

Hootie's Alumni Night on January 18 featured an exciting evening of Keene State basketball with the men's and women's teams competing against Rhode Island College. Alumni, students, and fans packed the stands, creating an electric atmosphere as the Owls battled for victory in a thrilling doubleheader.



## Facility Updates

Campus updates at Keene State kicked off with the renovation of the Carle Hall lobby, part of the College's strategic plan for campus improvements. The redesigned space features enhanced accessibility, modern furnishings, and a more welcoming atmosphere, setting the stage for further updates aimed at enhancing the student experience.







# Athletics Alumni Hall of Fame

The 2024 Keene State College Hall of Fame ceremony was an inspiring and emotional celebration of excellence, honoring individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the school's athletic legacy.



1972 SOFTBALL TEAM



Held during Homecoming Weekend, the the event featured the induction of a new class of athletes whose achievements continue to shape the College's rich sports history.

Inductees are alumni athletes considered trailblazers within their individual programs. They included the 1972 softball team, Bob Bonnes for men's lacrosse, David Bridgewater for cross country/track, and Alison Bartlett for swim and dive. In addition, Judy Izzo '99 was inducted into the Little East Conference Hall of Fame for her contributions to women's basketball. Judy was inducted into the Keene State Hall of Fame in 2021.

The night included heartfelt speeches with inductees sharing stories of perseverance, triumph, and the importance of their time at Keene State. They joined a prestigious group, reminding everyone that Keene State's athletic spirit is built on passion, dedication, and a deep sense of community.



The night was a perfect blend of nostalgia, achievement, and school pride—capturing the essence of what it means to be part of the Owl family.







# HOCKEY RECEPTION

The hockey reception on January 5 marked the exciting return of varsity hockey to Keene State. Held at Keene Ice, the event brought together alumni, students, and fans to celebrate the revival of the program. The evening featured camaraderie, team spirit, and anticipation for the upcoming season.



# JAZZ RECEPTION

.....

The Keene State community gathered on December 4 for a festive Holiday Reception in the Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery, enjoying seasonal treats and warm company. The event set the stage for a lively performance by the student Jazz Ensemble, directed by alumnus Steve Cady '00, blending holiday cheer with musical talent.





# ECO HOUSE

A new residential option at Keene State

By Lena Goins '26

Keene State College is furthering its longstanding commitment to sustainability by establishing two on-campus eco houses.

Composting food waste at the Dining Commons, providing accessible recycling opportunities, and utilizing a renewable fuel source to heat more than 65 percent of campus buildings are among other initiatives on campus aimed at greener environmental practices.

**Eco houses are a student housing option that requires a commitment to eco-friendly and sustainable approaches. They also promote the importance and benefits of living in a community.**

.....

Cornell University, Dickinson College, and Tufts University are other higher education institutions that have established successful eco houses. The houses at Keene State will be used to promote and showcase sustainable living practices to students, faculty, and the campus community.

Residents of the eco houses will practice sustainable living habits like **composting, recycling, opting for environmentally friendly products, and reducing their energy and water consumption.** They will also be expected to plan an event each semester that teaches the campus community about sustainable living.

Examples of these events include finding eco-friendly substitutes for common products and learning how to reduce waste.

Lena Goins '26 and Sustainability Coordinator Kate Witte seated on steps of new eco house.



All students are encouraged to participate in events to learn about how they can bring eco-conscious practices into their own lives. As the houses become more established, a student-run garden will be created and maintained. This will be for the use of the houses, non-resident students, and eco-centered student clubs such as the Eco-Reps.

Future goals include projects on improving energy efficiency, such as **LED lighting fixtures**, **solar panels**, and more. The houses will also be available for students to conduct **academic research**, such as providing a case study for students in programs like Architecture, Sustainable Product Design and Innovation, and Sustainability Studies.

The larger of the two houses, across from Wyman Tavern at 361 Main Street, will house a maximum of **nine students**. The other house, by the Pondsides II on-campus apartments at 23 Appleton Street, will house a maximum of **five students**.

Since this constitutes special-interest housing, two employees will serve as co-advisors for students in the house: Kate Witte, KSC Sustainability Coordinator, and Dr. Sasha Davis of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Department.

**Lena Goins is a junior at Keene State majoring in sustainability studies and minoring in biology. She is an intern for the Sustainability Office, president of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Club, and vice president of the Eco-Reps Club. Lena will be one of the first residents in an eco house during the academic year of 2025-2026.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Keene State College students are running The Hungry Owl to reduce campus food insecurity.

It is an on-campus food pantry that provides nutritious foods and personal-care items through donations from the community for College students, faculty, and staff who are in need.



To learn about more KSC sustainability efforts, take the online campus tour.





# Landmark Gift Creates COHEN INSTITUTE



*First USNH Institute  
Outside of UNH*

Last fall Keene State College received a transformative gift from Jan and Rick Cohen to establish the Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The Cohen Institute is the only Institute of its kind in the northern New England region and absorbs and significantly elevates the work of the former Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.



The Cohen Institute will produce new research to shape and advance the field of Holocaust and genocide studies and will equip current and future leaders—including Keene State students—with knowledge about the genocidal process and practical tools to combat the root causes of mass violence.

The Institute will scale up to its full mission over the next few years, but it has already made significant strides. KSC Professor of Education John Sturtz has stepped into a newly funded role to support the development of the Institute's programming. The Institute has welcomed two newly funded student interns for the spring term. And the March travel program includes six New Hampshire educators whose trip was made possible through Institute funding.

**"I am ever grateful for the privilege to know Jan and Rick Cohen and for the passion, commitment, and shared dream for Keene State College to do even more to make a difference,"**

said Keene State President Dr. Melinda D. Treadwell.

**"The creation of the Cohen Institute marks the beginning of a new era of ever-expanding and internationally relevant thought leadership, scholarship, research, and educational opportunities for faculty, staff, students, and community members."**

COHEN CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE STUDIES





The Cohen Institute builds on the 40-year-old Cohen Center, which has served as an academic resource center that offers programs, events, and educational materials to people both on and off campus. The work and staff of the Center will be the foundation on which the new Institute will be built.

The Institute will organize its work around high-impact practices, innovative and interdisciplinary research, and thought-provoking programs for the campus community and audiences across the globe. It will offer opportunities for synergistic work with faculty and students across all departments. Many new programs and opportunities will be student-centered: internships, graduate fellowships, research positions, experiential learning trips, a Youth Leadership Institute, and more. Additionally, the Institute will house a research division and seek experts from across the globe to both conduct research and teach in residence.



Dr. Kate Gibeault, director of the Cohen Institute, said,

**“Hundreds of Keene State College students will benefit directly from the Institute’s offerings, and beyond campus, the Institute’s impact will be exponential, with funded opportunities for youth leadership initiatives, new forms of support for local educators, and more.”**

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Athletic Complex along the Ashuelot River Bank includes a Silver Maple Floodplain Forest, an area of conservation importance. Floodplain forests help filter pollutants from entering streams, improve water quality, are critical in controlling erosion, and help to buffer rivers from catastrophic flooding. The floodplain is also home to ecologically important vernal pools, which are populated with threatened species such as Fairy shrimp and Mole salamander larvae.



To learn about more KSC sustainability efforts, take the online campus tour.



For a complete listing of the Cohen Institute’s offerings, please visit [www.keene.edu/cihgs](http://www.keene.edu/cihgs)





# KSC TELEVISION ARCHIVES

As technology rapidly changes, our Keene State College Television News archives need to keep up.

By Rose Kundanis & Robert Audette '93

Some of earliest of 30 years of newscasts were on ¾ inch umatic tape. Then came dvds and now we are uploading to the web.

The newscasts are available for viewing on two channels at <https://mediaspace.keene.edu/channels> through the Mason Library archives.

You'll notice when you visit the website that the broadcasts are not categorized nor are they in chronological order. You can, however, search by date, and we have a hand-written index we hope to upload soon.

**We are asking for help in the next stage:** Determining how best to facilitate an online, alumni-sourced catalog. Would we want to create a Wikipedia page? Our own website with administrative access to a handful? Maybe you have a better idea, so we are open to any and all suggestions.

Alumni Bob Audette, Casey Schmidl-Gagne, Professor and Journalism chair Julio Del Sesto along with Journalism Professor Dr. Chad Nye, Head of Special Collections & Archives Rodney Obien, and Professor Emeritus Rose Kundanis have been working on this project for several years and hope to complete the project with alumni help.

Once again, we'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the GoFundMe and GiveCampus fundraisers to make all this possible.

Join us for the Archives Showcase during Reunion Weekend, June 6-8, 2025

## DID YOU KNOW?



The Thrifty Owl is a free campus thrift store managed entirely by volunteers and the Eco-Reps student organization. The store offers home essentials, kitchenware, office supplies, and professional clothing to the KSC community. By giving these gently used items a new life you're reducing the amount of waste bound for the landfill, which helps reduce your carbon footprint.



To learn about more KSC sustainability efforts, take the online campus tour.







We have some exciting news about the  
**KSC-TV ARCHIVE PROJECT!**

**REC** ●

Our diligent apprentice, Casey Schmidl-Gagne, has uploaded nearly 40 years' worth of broadcasts, 601 of them to be exact, starting from that very first broadcast with anchors Jack Zinn and Phillip Sullivan on ¾-inch U-matic video tape on March 21, 1989.



# CLASS NOTES

1975

**JEAN HARRIS** and **DONNA KUETHE**

became roommates and friends at KSC by the luck of the draw—the freshman room

draw that is. Shortly after graduating, they took the first of many bicycle trips together to Nova Scotia. Over 50 years later, they have remained friends and bicycling companions, sharing their love of cycling, adventure and laughter. On March 7, 2024, now both in their early 70's, they dipped the rear wheels of their bicycles in the Pacific Ocean in San Diego and began pedaling. Arriving in St. Augustine **3,120 miles** and **58 days** later, they dipped their front tires in the Atlantic, having completed the cross-country bike tour along the Southern Tier. They rode with Woman Tours Cycling. Donna, a cancer survivor, added a fundraising component to her ride, **raising over \$21,000** for the Payson Center for Cancer Care in Concord, NH.



1968

**JEAN DULING** announces the publication of her book, "Loonatics Keep Swimming: A Memoir." Recounting a near-death experience and persevering while living with MS, her memoir also shares stories of her love of loons, building a home on a ledge overlooking a pond in Maine, and a pet racoon. Her paperback is available for purchase on Amazon.

1979

**LYNN (PARE) STANARD**

announces her retirement at the end of March 2025 after **40 years** with Berkshire Corporation.

1999

**TINA ULEE** was nominated for an Emmy for her work as a Costume Supervisor on the HBO series, "True Detective". Thank you to Kim Russo for sharing Tina's achievement with us!

1995

**JOHN VITALE** was appointed dean of the Westbrook College of Health Professions by the University of New England last September.



Vitale joins UNE with over **15 years** of leadership experience in higher education, including as dean of the College of Health Professions at Rosalind Franklin University in Chicago. During his tenure, he successfully initiated and expanded multiple health professions programs, led accreditation processes, and strengthened clinical partnerships. Vitale is a national leader in health professions education, having started the nation's first pathologists' assistant academic department and serving as president of the Association of Pathologists' Assistants Training Programs.

## ATTENTION CLASS OF 1975!

Mark your calendars and dust off your red and white! Our **50th reunion** is just around the corner, taking place during **Keene State College's Reunion Weekend, June 6-8.**

We're excited to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate all that Keene State has given us. Plans are still in the works but be sure to check your email and the Alumni Association website for updates as they become available: [www.keene.edu/alumni/](http://www.keene.edu/alumni/)

## WANT TO LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY?

Consider supporting the **Class of 1975 Gift Fund!** Your contribution will **directly benefit Keene State College** and future generations of Owls. Make your gift securely online at: [giving.keene.edu/class-giving/](http://giving.keene.edu/class-giving/)

**We can't wait to see you there!**

### Class of '75 Reunion Committee

Eileen Oechsli Bohigian, Linda Cote, Dianne Reidy Janson, Donna Kuethe, and Henry Maier



## 2001

**CHAD DEROSIER** is proud to announce that he is the new—and first—Custom Crush Manager at Naumes Crush and Fermentation. Naumes Crush and Fermentation is a modern wine processing facility that makes Naumes Family Vineyard and Naumes Suncrest Winery wines and provides full-service winemaking, lab analysis, cold storage, and support services to growers and wineries throughout the region. “As the Custom Crush Manager, I work closely with the Winemaker and owners to run a profitable and successful custom crush winery, overseeing business operations, customer relations, strategic development, and sales and marketing.”

## 2007

**LOGAN BERGERON** was recently inducted into the Leadership New Hampshire Class of 2025. From the Leadership NH website: “Logan serves as Assistant General Counsel at TransMedics, Inc., a commercial-stage medical technology company transforming organ transplant therapy for end-stage organ failure patients. In his local community, Logan serves on the Board of Directors at David’s House, a non-profit that provides a home-away-from-home for families with children undergoing treatment at Dartmouth Health Children’s. He was also recently appointed to the Board of Directors at Future In Sight, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving blind and visually impaired residents of New Hampshire. Before joining TransMedics, Logan spent nearly five years as in-house counsel at a prominent New Hampshire manufacturer and five years at a Boston-based law firm. He also has seven years of experience in construction management in New York and Boston, during which he earned his law degree.”

## 2013

**JULIANNA MARONE** and **JEFFREY SLARK** became friends in 2011, have been in a relationship since 2012, performed together in the a cappella group, Chock Full O’Notes, and got married on October 12, 2024! “We felt compelled to share this photo we took at our wedding reception filled with other KSC Alumni. KSC brought us together and we couldn’t be more grateful.”



## 2014

**EMILY FRANCIS** is happy to report that she graduated from the University of Maine with a PhD in Forest Resources in August 2024.



## 2015

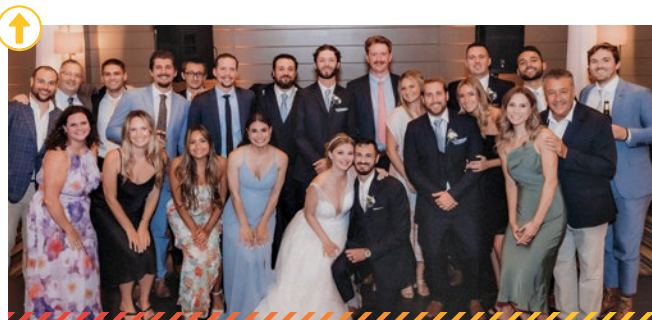
**CURTIS JAMES** married **ANTONINA BUTLER '18** in 2021. He also shared that he received his MS in Safety from KSC in 2022.

## 2018

**KAYLIEGH BURKE** and **EVAN GROSSMAN** sent in this lovely photo from their wedding. “It was a Keene State reunion in Florida.”

## 2019

**ALEXIS DUKETTE** shared the happy news that she and **CARLIN TESTA '20** married on August 17. Their wedding was attended by many KSC hockey alumni from different years, and their wedding officiant was none other than Bobby Rodrigue, the men’s hockey coach!





# IN MEMORIAM

---

**PRICILLA W. WHARFF JONES** 1942  
3/16/24

**JANET JOSLIN CHIN** 1944  
8/10/24

**DORIS BLANCHARD** 1946  
10/14/24

**BRIGIDA J. MOSLEY** 1946  
8/31/24

**OLIVE DORR** 1949  
1/3/25

**SHERMAN LOVERING** 1949  
10/6/24

**PATRICIA PERRO** 1953  
7/21/23

**PRISCILLA W FISHER** 1954  
4/20/24

**JOHN A BURNHAM** 1955  
11/11/23

**BARBARA S. BOWMAN** 1956  
8/26/22

**RAYMOND P. RICHARD** 1956  
10/10/24

**BARBARA SANDERS (ROGERS)** 1956  
4/4/24

**NANCY BEAUDRY** 1957  
7/18/24

**ROBERT E. HEON** 1957  
9/7/24

**JAMES J. MCGUIRE, JR.** 1958  
1/25/24

**ARTHUR E. O'NEIL** 1958  
11/20/24

**SHIRLEY K. WAGENHORST** 1958  
4/29/24

**MARY-ANN LAJEUNESSE (GANEM)** 1959  
8/22/24

**DOROTHY M. BRIGHT** 1960  
8/10/24

**GLORIA KEARNEY** 1960  
7/13/24

**CHARLES E. REGAN** 1960  
6/16/24

**JEANNE ERICKSON** 1961  
7/5/24

**MARGARET PIKE** 1961  
1/12/24

**CHARLOTTE H. TIMLEGE** 1961  
8/8/24



**JOHN R. WOOD, JR.** 1961  
7/23/24

**JANET G. GODDETTE CLARKE** 1964  
4/5/24

**JOAN DION** 1964  
9/17/24

**ELIZABETH A. MORSE** 1964  
11/28/22

**PATRICIA A. HOAR** 1965  
11/30/22

**MEREDITH D. NEWBOLD** 1965  
8/12/24

**WILLIAM STERLING** 1966  
9/11/24

**RICHARD "DICK" FRASER** 1967  
1/4/25

**CAROL A. GILLIS** 1968  
9/14/24

**GAIL HATEM** 1968  
9/1/24

**NORMAN LAMBERT** 1969  
9/14/24

**NANCY BUTTERFIELD** 1971  
12/1/24

**MARTHA A. TERRELL MARTIN** 1971  
4/19/24

**ELLEN JONES** 1972  
8/22/24

**LUCILLE CERNAK** 1973  
11/10/20

**FRANCES ADDORISIO** 1975  
8/14/21

**VESTA HORNBECK** 1976  
10/2/24

**KEVIN J. MACK** 1979  
11/4/21

**H. ALAN NEFF** 1980  
8/11/24

**SHARON KING** 1982  
12/13/24

**ELEANOR E. KAISER** 1991  
7/26/24

**JOHN P. GALLAGHER** 1992  
Unknown

**RUTHANN HASKINS** 1993  
8/28/24

**LISA TAGALAKIS-FEDOR** 1993  
10/11/24

**TIMOTHY J. AESCHLIMAN** 1997  
5/23/24

**PENNY L. HAWKINS** 2002  
6/24/24

**AMY S. JENKINS** 2006  
12/17/24

**SAMUEL J. HILL** 2013  
5/13/24





# Upcoming Events

**SAVE THE DATE**

## VETERANS ALUMNI RECEPTION

### COMMENCEMENT

MAY 10, 2025



Golden Circle

**CONCORD,  
NH. TIME AND  
LOCATION TBD.**

JULY 9, 2025

### REUNION WEEKEND

JUNE 6-8, 2025



Golden Circle

**HART'S  
TURKEY FARM**

AUGUST 14, 2025

### 34TH ANNUAL CHARTWELL'S GOLF CLASSIC

JUNE 13, 2025



Golden Circle

**HANCOCK,  
NH. HARRIS  
CENTER FOR  
CONSERVATION  
EDUCATION**

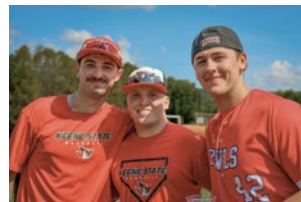
SEPTEMBER 2025

**REUNION WEEKEND**

JUNE 7, 2025

### HOMECOMING

SEPTEMBER  
12-13, 2025



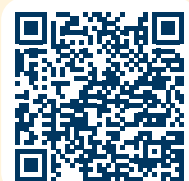
**Registration for  
Golden Circle  
Luncheons will be  
open in May.**

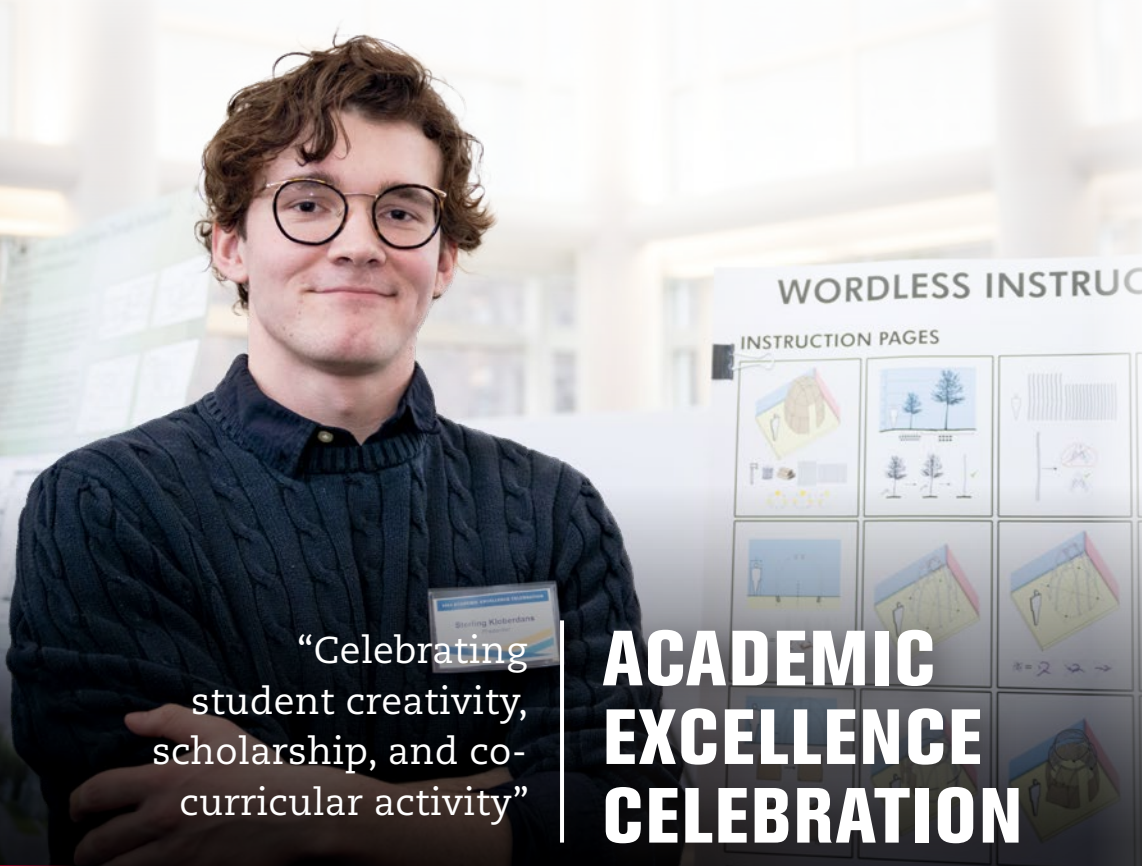
## DID YOU KNOW?

The Technology, Design, and Safety (TDS) Center earned LEED Platinum Certification by the US Green Building Council/Green Building Certification Institute and houses several academic disciplines including architecture, sustainable product design & innovation, and safety & occupational health applied sciences. The TDS Center's solar installations and energy efficiency features include:

- Over 500 solar panels which reduces our energy bill by an estimated 10–20%.
- Solar water heating tubes and highly efficient hybrid water heaters for storage.
- A glass curtain wall and window area are positioned on the south side of the building to maximize passive solar heating.
- Skylights help to brighten the interior of the building without the use of electricity.

To learn about more KSC sustainability efforts, take the online campus tour.





“Celebrating student creativity, scholarship, and co-curricular activity”

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE CELEBRATION

FRIDAY **APRIL 25, 2025**

Visit [www.keene.edu/aec](http://www.keene.edu/aec) for more information.

Join the Keene State College community for a day of celebration! Attend individual and group student presentations in the afternoon followed by an interactive poster session.

Explore additional events scheduled for that day, such as the senior portfolio art and graphic design exhibits at the Thorne Sagendorph Art Gallery and cap the day's events with the Student Saxophone Ensemble performance at Redfern Arts Center.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2019, the Keene State College heat plant fully transitioned to burning recycled vegetable oil, LR 100, for heating about 65% of campus, making Keene State the first college in the nation to have 100% of its heat plant run on recycled used vegetable oil. The official term for the recycled vegetable oil is LR 100: a purified kitchen waste oil that is fully renewable, low carbon, and a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels. Used vegetable oil from the Dining Commons is collected and recycled to make the fuel, thus achieving full circle sustainability.

To learn about more KSC sustainability efforts, take the online campus tour.



# SAVE THE DATE!

## REUNION WEEKEND

### JUNE 6-8, 2025



## DID YOU KNOW?

Pre- and post-consumer food waste at both the Dining Commons and Lloyd's in the L.P. Young Student Center are composted. Food waste is taken off site to Windham Solid Waste in Brattleboro, VT, where it can be turned into compost. All yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, brush, etc.) generated on campus is composted by the Grounds crew. The compost is used each year to supplement garden beds and plantings across campus.

To learn about more KSC sustainability efforts, take the online campus tour.



**KEENE STATE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

# 5K

**HOMECOMING WEEKEND  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025**



.....  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
.....  
**34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
KSC GOLF CLASSIC**



**JUNE 13, 2025**



From the Archives

# A Tradition of Sustainability

CHARLIE BAXTER '26

Keene State College has a long-standing tradition of incorporating sustainable practices into the lives of its students dating back to the early days of the Keene Normal School. During the First World War, the United States began exporting food and goods to Britain and France to assist in the war effort. This resulted in a food shortage on the home front, sparking the need for more Americans to participate in sustainable practices by growing their food.

President Woodrow Wilson recognized this and began the Liberty Garden program to help Americans grow more vegetables in place of the meat and grains that were being sent to Europe. **Wallace "Daddy" Mason, the President of the Keene Normal School, also recognizing this need began the Keene Normal Tomato Club.** Mason led students from the nature studies program in reaching out to the youth of the local counties by sending them membership cards for the club. Once the cards had been filled out with a pledge to agree to plant the seeds and track the plant's growth in a diary, they would be sent packets of tomato seeds.

**In its first year the club had over 1,000 members;** this number would continue to grow even after the war ended, increasing in popularity until the early 1920s. Each year in September came Tomato Day where prizes would be awarded for best diary, tomato quality, and any experiments conducted by members of the club.

Keene State's history of sustainable practices, something that began as a necessity to help the war effort, turned into a fun family tradition whose practices became commonplace within the Keene Normal School and eventually Keene State College. **Today Keene State upholds its tradition of sustainability through a dedicated sustainability program and on-campus organizations such as eco-reps and the environmental outing club.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2021, Keene State College has used single-stream recycling, meaning all recyclables go into one dumpster and all trash goes into a separate dumpster. The recyclable materials are then sorted at the facility. This transition allowed us to recycle more plastics (up to #7) and reduced labor costs associated with collection and sorting.

To learn about more KSC sustainability efforts, take the online campus tour.





**Keene**  
STATE COLLEGE

229 Main Street  
Keene, NH 03435-2701

CLASS OF 1975  
**50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION**

# Reunion 2025

June 6-8, 2025

2017

2016

## KEENE STATE COLLEGE IS SOARING HIGHER

And you can help our  
students reach even  
greater heights!



*Let's show the world what Owl Pride means!*

Together, we can enhance student success for KSC students.

  
**GIVE**  
A GIFT TO  
**KSC**

**GIVE BY PHONE**

**603-358-2543**

**GIVE ONLINE**

**[giving.keene.edu](http://giving.keene.edu)**

