



# HONORS CONVOCATION

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**FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024**

**Main Theatre, Redfern Arts Center**

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## ORDER OF EXERCISES

### MUSICAL PRELUDE

Keene State College Festival Brass

*Under the direction of Dr. John T. Hart Jr., Assistant Professor, Music*

*Instrumentalists: Trevor Adams, trumpet; Michael Vlachos, trumpet;  
Peter Labonte, french horn; Killian Bailey, trombone; Hailey Taylor, euphonium;  
Joseph Reppucci, tuba; and Sebastian Swartout, tuba*

### WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS

Melinda D. Treadwell, *President*

### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

#### Academic Awards

James Kraly, *Associate Dean*

Karen Jennings, *Associate Dean*

Tanya Sturtz, *Associate Dean*

#### Scholar-Athlete Awards

Martin Testo, *Director of Athletics*

#### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship Award

Dottie Morris, *Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*

### CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Kate Tirabassi, *2023 Recipient of the Keene State College Distinguished Service Award and Professor of Communication & Philosophy*

### ALMA MATER

James Slipp '25

*Alma Mater words by Katherine Day Bourne '60, Patricia Piper Bushey '59,  
and Judith Palmer Marshall '59. Music by Ann Weeks Pearson '59. Arranged by  
Dr. John T. Hart Jr. (2021)*

### RECESSIONAL

*Many of the awards being presented here today were made available through the generosity of our alumni, friends, and other donors. We thank them for their support of our high-achieving students and our academic programs.*

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## ACADEMIC AWARDS

### **NH PRIMEX SAFETY STUDIES LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**ELIZABETH L. HODGE**

This award was established in 1997 as part of the creation of the NGM Safety Center at Keene State College to recognize outstanding New Hampshire safety studies students who display leadership qualities that have advanced the reputation of the safety studies program. The NH Public Risk Management Exchange develops innovative risk management solutions in partnership with public employers and other interested parties.

### **SAMUEL A. MARTIN '09 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**TY D. PROVENCAL**

This scholarship was created in memoriam of the passing of Sam Martin '09, a graduate of the safety studies program and member of the men's rugby club. Sam's education opened the door to a wide range of opportunities including work as an EHS Specialist in Afghanistan and a rapid rise to the position of Environmental Health and Safety Leader at G. E. Aviation. Sam was very active with the men's rugby club, and was captain of the team his senior year. The friendships Sam developed in his time at Keene State College will never be forgotten and this scholarship is created as a way for his friends and loved ones to help a student along their path towards the many successes Sam was able to achieve.

### **FENTON FAMILY DEALERSHIP AUTOMOTIVE DESIGN AWARD**

**HAYDN A. JANKOWSKI**

**GREGORY J. KUCINSKI**

Made possible by a gift from the Fenton Family Dealerships, this award celebrates the pioneering work in the sustainable product design & innovation program and is given to recognize superior academic achievement and work on automotive design.

### **ROBERT S. NEUMAN ART AWARD**

**SIERRA REIGH MORIN WINAND**

Established in memory of Robert S. Neuman and in honor of his long service to Keene State College by alumni, friends, and members of the College community. Professor Neuman was an accomplished artist, educator, and founder of the College's art program.

### **BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AWARD**

**RACHAEL C. STOKES**

Established by the faculty at Keene State, the Biology Award recognizes a graduating senior for their contributions to the academic culture of the Biology Department through coursework, research, and service.

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## **AUBREY THOMAS '62 BIOLOGY PROFICIENCY AWARD**

**KATHERINE C. BENJAMIN**

This award was established in 1990 to recognize a senior who has demonstrated scholastic proficiency in biology courses, including ecology and environmental science. It was created by Dr. Aubrey S. Thomas Jr. '62, in recognition of the excellent education provided to him by Keene Teachers College while he was a student in the secondary education math and science teaching major. Dr. Thomas served as a biology professor at Merrimack College for many years.

## **OLIVE FRENETTE JENNISON AWARD**

**ABIGAIL N. HASKINS**

This endowed award was established in 2005 by Edward Jennison in memory of his mother, Olive Frenette Jennison. The award recognizes exemplary environmental studies or biology majors who display a concern for the environment.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ANNUAL AWARD**

**SAMUEL W. ELKINS**

This award was established by an anonymous donor to recognize excellence in environmental studies.

## **NEVER TOO LATE SCHOLARSHIP**

**SAMUEL W. ELKINS**

This scholarship was established in 2016 by Travis '94 and Gretchen Hodgdon, who are both physicians. Travis attended Keene State after a tour of duty with the U.S. Navy and time as an EMT. This award recognizes biology or nursing majors who have exhibited leadership qualities among their classmates through demonstrated action in class and labs.

## **PETER JENKINS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**KATHRYN V. PORTER**

This scholarship was established in 1994 to recognize an outstanding senior who plans to continue with graduate studies. It was created by family and friends to honor Dr. Peter Jenkins' 25 years of service to the College from 1966 to 1991. Dr. Jenkins founded the management and psychology departments, and was a recipient of the Alumni Association's Distinguished Teacher Award.

## **CHARLES E. HORNBECK EXCELLENCE IN LOGIC AWARD**

**DIERDRE C. NOYCE**

This award was created to recognize excellence in logic while honoring the dedication, talents, and contributions of Professor Emeritus Charles "Chuck" Hornbeck.

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**EMILY N. GRIER EXCELLENCE IN PHILOSOPHY****OLIVIA R. WHITTIER**

Award provided by the philosophy faculty in recognition of exemplary scholarship.

**ETHOS AWARD****SMRITI GURUNG****GAGE LAUFENBERG****GINA L. NUNZIATA**

Award provided by the philosophy faculty in recognition of exemplary scholarship in ethics.

**EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATION AWARD****BROOKE RICHARDS**

The Excellence in Communication Award is given to a communication major who has demonstrated outstanding academic, research, service, or other significant achievement.

**DAVID HATCH BATTENFELD AND BARBARA BAGBY BATTENFELD  
MEMORIAL AWARD****RYAN A. HUEBER**

Established in 1984, this memorial award is named in honor of a distinguished humanist and teacher at Keene State College to provide recognition to outstanding students who shows serious interest and aptitude in the humanities. Specifically, Professor Battenfeld's family expressed a preference for the award to be given to non-traditional students, or students who have returned to the College after an interruption of their studies. It was created by family and friends to honor Dr. Battenfeld, a highly respected member of the faculty, who taught English from 1965 to 1984.

**EDER CREATIVE WRITING SCHOLARSHIP****MOSES JOHN PAUL FISHER**

The Eder Creative Writing Endowed Scholarship was established by Doris L. and Donald Gray Eder out of love and respect for creative writing and for Keene State College.

**JAN YOUNG AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH –  
SECONDARY EDUCATION****TERAYSA M. MAJEWSKI**

This award is provided by the English Department faculty to honor the commitment and excellence of Professor Emerita Janet Young and is awarded to the graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence in English and secondary education.

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## **OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN LITERATURE AND WRITING**

**KATHRYN L. SPADAFORA**

This award is provided by the English Department faculty and is awarded to the graduating senior who has achieved excellence in both literary studies and writing.

## **OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN LITERATURE AWARD**

**GRACE O. HARDAKER**

This award is provided by the English Department faculty and is awarded to the graduating senior who has achieved excellence in literary studies.

## **OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES**

**MALLORY K. WARNER**

The Medieval and Early Modern Studies Award recognizes the accomplishment of students who have engaged in significant independent work on the subject of medieval and/or early modern history and literature over the course of their tenure at Keene State.

## **OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN WRITING AWARD**

**KIANA O. SCONSONI**

This award is provided by the English Department faculty and is awarded to the graduating senior who has achieved excellence in writing.

## **THE DR. LAWRENCE BENAQUIST AWARD FOR CRITICAL STUDIES IN FILM**

**MOLLY P. MCNULTY**

This award was established to honor Dr. Lawrence Benaquist, founder of the Keene State College Film Department, who taught at Keene State College from 1969 to 2010. This award, based on merit and achievement, recognizes a student with a major or minor in film studies, with a focus on critical film studies.

## **THE DR. LAWRENCE BENAQUIST AWARD FOR FILM PRODUCTION**

**PAIGE PRIBILLA**

This award was established to honor Dr. Lawrence Benaquist, founder of the Keene State College Film Department, who taught at Keene State College from 1969 to 2010. This award, based on merit and achievement, recognizes a student with a major or minor in film studies, with a focus on film production.

## **MICHAEL D. KELLER MEMORIAL AWARD**

**CAESAR J. BARBOA**

This fund was established by faculty, students, and friends of Michael D. Keller, who was dean of arts and humanities and a beloved teacher. The purpose of this fund is to support undergraduate students in the visual and performing arts such as dance, drama, and music.

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## **LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AWARD**

**KAYLEA J. PLATT**

This award was established in 2000 to recognize the graduating mathematics major with the highest grade point average in the mathematics curriculum. Liberty Mutual acknowledges the importance of mathematics to its business and to all of society, and is committed to promoting young mathematicians who have demonstrated outstanding mathematical achievement.

## **FRANK BLACKINGTON AWARD**

**FERIDE E. SARIBAS**

This memorial award was established in 1978 to recognize an outstanding senior who has demonstrated proficiency in foreign language study. Dr. Blackington, a professor of French who also served as the Director of the Placement Bureau, was known for his exemplary teaching and leadership during his forty years of service to Keene Teachers College (1922-62). This endowed scholarship was made possible through a generous gift from his sister, Myra B. Griswald.

## **HOMER STAVELY EXCELLENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY AWARD**

**SAMANTHA C. HEINRICH**

The Psychology Department established this award to recognize a graduating senior who demonstrates excellence and leadership in psychology. The award is named in honor of Professor Emeritus Homer Stavely, who served on the psychology faculty from 1972 until his retirement in 2005.

## **SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

**RILEY E. BROUILLARD**

**SAMANTHA C. HEINRICH**

This award is given annually to a graduating senior who exemplifies outstanding contributions of both scholarship and service in sociology, anthropology, and/or criminal justice studies. The faculty instituted this award to recognize the importance of both service and learning in these disciplines, and to honor students in their pursuit of excellence in those areas.

## **ALTA LU TOWNES MEMORIAL DANCE AWARD**

**ANALISA N. PALLA**

This memorial award was established in 1996 to recognize an outstanding student in dance. It was created by Professor Townes' family, friends, colleagues, and students to honor Professor Townes for her remarkable career as a choreographer, scholar, and educator. Alta Lu was the founder of the College's dance program and taught from 1975 to 1996.

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## **JULIA MCHALE REDFERN MEMORIAL PRIZE IN PERFORMING ARTS**

**TYLER J. NASH**

This prize was established in 1988 by former Keene State President Leo F. Redfern and his wife, Edmonde, in memory of Dr. Redfern's mother, to recognize a student majoring in the performing arts for achieving excellence. Dr. Redfern served as the College's president from 1969 to 1980.

## **ANN BRITT WALING WOMEN'S STUDIES RECOGNITION AWARD**

**EMMA H. WHEELER**

This award was established to honor Dr. Ann Britt Waling, former dean of professional and graduate studies, a faculty member and a founding member of the Women's Studies Council, who left the College in 2002 after 29 years of service. This award is granted to women's and gender studies students who have accomplished academic excellence and demonstrated a commitment to feminist activism on campus or in the community.

## **WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES EXCELLENCE AWARD**

**SKYLA R. DASILVA**

This award was established to recognize excellence and academic achievement. It is granted to women's and gender studies students who have accomplished academic excellence and demonstrated a commitment to identity activism on campus or in the community.

## **PETER H. BATCHELDER SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE HUMANITIES**

**SAMANTHA B. GOLDBLATT**

**ELIZABETH CATHERINE MARIE GUELPA**

**EVAN M. PARKER**

**CHRISTOPHER L. PERFETTO**

**OLIVIA J. POLIQUIN**

**VICTORIA R. YOUNG**

This award was created by Peter Batchelder to provide recognition to Keene State College students majoring in the humanities, celebrating the academic excellence. Humanities broaden and deepen our understanding of human cultures and enable us to understand the human experience, in the present and historically, delivering a broader perspective on the world in which we live.

## **JIM AND MARY LEONARD SCHOLARSHIP IN MUSIC**

**VICTORIA R. YOUNG**

As life-long music enthusiasts, Jim and Mary Leonard created this scholarship to encourage students to pursue rewarding careers in music. A voice and piano teacher for many, many years, Mary touched the lives of hundreds of children over many years of dedicated instruction.

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## **MAYNARD C. WALTZ MEMORIAL AWARD**

### **KOURTNEY A. WALL**

Created by Mark Waltz '60 and Miles Waltz, this endowed award was created to perpetuate the memory and qualities of the life of their father, Maynard Waltz, who was a faculty member of Keene State College from 1930 to 1965. He taught both educational psychology and Latin, served as a member and chair of both the Education and Foreign Language departments, and retired as professor emeritus. The award recognizes students with strong academic qualities in science and math, high motivation to become a teacher, and qualities of compassion, integrity, citizenship and fairness.

## **THOMAS CROWLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

### **MARIANNE MEDEROS**

This memorial award was established in 1992 by family and friends of Thomas Crowley to recognize education majors who have consistently demonstrated an ability to establish a positive teaching and learning relationship in the classroom. Dr. Crowley, professor of education, taught at Keene State College from 1974 until 1992. During that time he was the chair of the education/special education departments and the first dean of professional studies.

## **CARROLL LEHMAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VOCAL MUSIC**

### **JAMES C. SLIPP**

The Carroll Lehman Award for Excellence in Vocal Music was created in honor of Dr. Lehman's retirement after 35 years of dedication to his students and the program.

## **DANNY PAUL HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

### **EMMA G. HUNTER**

This scholarship was created as a gift from Aubrey S. Thomas, Jr. '62 and his wife, Satoko N. Thomas, in memory of Danny Paul Hunter, who exhibited great potential in music, and whose life was tragically cut short at age fifteen. Consideration for this scholarship is given to full-time students who have demonstrated academic excellence and the promise of future success in the area of music.

## **JESSE F. DAVIS '37 SCHOLARSHIP**

### **TREVOR M. ADAMS**

This scholarship was established in 1993 by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse F. Davis in gratitude for the excellent instruction they received at Keene State College. This scholarship recognizes a full-time who has demonstrated academic excellence.

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## **MARY E. YELDA '47 SCHOLARSHIP IN MUSIC**

**ALEXANDER P. ROYCE**

As a lifelong music enthusiast and a classical pianist, this award honors and memorializes Mary E. Yelda '47 and provides recognition to a music student at Keene State College for excellence in music.

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

**IRIS ROJAS**

This scholarship was created in 2002 with a gift from the Keene State College Youth Chorus (1993-2002), which was founded and directed by Dr. Gladys Johnsen, professor of music at Keene State. The award recognizes students who demonstrate exceptional abilities and promise in the area of music.

## **PRESSER AWARD**

**SIMON R. FURZE**

Theodore Presser (1848-1925) rose from humble beginnings to become a respected music teacher and publisher. Familiar with the many challenges facing musicians, he established The Presser Foundation which supports music performance and education through undergraduate and graduate scholar awards, operating and program support for music organizations, capital grants for music building projects, and assistance to retired music teachers. This undergraduate scholar award recognizes a student for merit and achievement in music.

## **603 BIRCH REALTY NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**ALI ALZAWAR**

This award was made possible through a gift from 603 Birch Realty Broker/Founder Adam Gaudet '06 and realtor Trevor O'Brien both whom attended Keene State College. It serves to provide recognition and financial assistance to deserving students of Keene State College who are enrolled in the College's nursing program, acknowledging the commitment and perseverance needed to be successful in the nursing program, and honoring nurses everywhere for their service.

## **JIM AND MARY LEONARD SCHOLARSHIP IN MUSIC**

**LOGAN A. PHILLIPS**

As life-long music enthusiasts, Jim and Mary Leonard created this scholarship to encourage students to pursue rewarding careers in music. A voice and piano teacher for many, many years, Mary touched the lives of hundreds of children over many years of dedicated instruction.

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## **SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARDS**

### **SENIOR SCHOLAR-ATHLETE (MALE)**

**LOGAN A. PHILLIPS**

Honoring the senior male student athlete with the highest overall GPA.

### **SENIOR SCHOLAR-ATHLETE (FEMALE)**

**ELLE J. LYONS**

Honoring the senior female student athlete with the highest overall GPA.

## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

### **OUTSTANDING JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION SCHOLAR AWARD**

**NAT R. WOOD**

This award is presented to a student who through their academic endeavors and co-curricular activities has demonstrated a commitment to social and restorative justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and community healing. Recipients are committed to engaging in local, regional, national, and international efforts to transform communities where social inequities, injustice, and other problems are having an impact on individuals quality of life and the health and well-being of the entire community.



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