Seniors
Troy Bowen  
Business Administration

Lauren Bowler  
Sports Management

Alicia Bragg  
Education

Jeffrey Breault  
Information Technology

Heather Bromley  
Psychology

Ashley Brooks  
Hospitality

Maegan Buteau  
Retailing

Michael Capalbo  
Communications

Caitlin Carlson  
Communications

Joseph Carpenito  
Culinary

Carla Carpenter  
Advertising/Graphic Design

Caryn Carrabba  
Business Administration

Nicholas Carras  
Business Administration

Vincent Casciato  
Creative Writing

Michelle Chiaradonna  
Hospitality Administration

Stephan Chiavelli  
Marketing

Kristin Cicciu  
Psychology

Kathryn Clark  
Hospitality Management

Andrew Colburn  
Advertising

Sharon Cone  
Business Administration
Student Life
Candids
The Coordinators of Activities and Programming Events (C.A.P.E.) put on three themed weeks throughout the year featuring different events. This year, Fall Week featured a country western theme and events.
Students were able to dress up in western costumes and props to pose for old time photos.

Student Chris Marley takes a ride on the mechanical bull that was provided during one of the western days.

Other events included horsebackriding, laser tag, and a western themed dinner with a country band in the cafeteria.
Every year SNHU holds two club days where students can learn about the different organizations on campus and become involved in extracurricular activities.
Both club days feature booths for every club and organization on campus, free giveaways, free food, and special performances.

Senior Laura Plaistad is serenaded by Club Day 2 special guest, Elvis Presley.

Each club hopes to bring in new members and promote their organization in exciting and unique ways.
Midnight Madness was held in order to ready students for the upcoming basketball season. Hundreds of students attended sporting their Penmen Pride.
Graduate student Chad Ardizzoni hosted the event with the help of the SNHU Cheerleading team and the Dance team.

Many students joined in the festivities in order to support the Penmen Basketball teams on their upcoming seasons.

Many different shooting contests were held to give the students an opportunity to win prizes.
As an election year, the students at SNHU were very involved in the candidates that were running on the national and local levels. Many guests came to speak on behalf of the election.
Senator Hillary Clinton along with Jean Shaheen spoke on behalf of President Barack Obama along with many other local politicians including Governor Lynch.

Many students attended discussion forums on the two major candidates and a mock election that were held to promote student involvement.

Actor, Michael J. Fox, spoke in favor of the advancement of stem cell research and campaign of Senator Jean Shaheen.
In February, CAPE hosted “Cirque du SNHU” which featured The Show Off Show, The Norman Magic Experience, comedian Robbie Printz, carnival photos, Stuff a Circus Animal and indoor skydiving.
Comedian Robbie Printz entertained SNHU students during Winter Week with his hilarious antics about automatic hand towel dispensers.

Senior Greg Williams enjoys one of the events sponsored by CAPE in the Last Chapter Pub.

Heather Vendola, a senior, was responsible for this year's major weekends sponsored by CAPE.
SNHU participated in the second university-supported Relay For Life. Hundreds of students formed teams, raised money, and spent a night celebrating cancer survivors and remembering those who lost their courageous battle.
Nearly 400 students participated in the 18-hour event that took place at the Hampshire dome.

Students participated in theme laps, competitions and other activities throughout the night.

Over $40,000 was raised ensuring that SNHU will keep this new tradition going for many years to come.
Spring Break: Italy
During the 2009 Spring Break, the Coordinators of Activities and Programming Events (CAPE) sponsored an educational trip to Italy to enjoy the Tuscan countryside.

This trip included day long excursions to the beautiful cities of Venice, Florence, Sienna, Lucca, and Montecatini. The sites were a combination of rustic country and modern cities.

Over thirty students attended this once in a lifetime trip to Italy. Though the pictures are worth a thousand words, the experience these students had is priceless.
Every year CAPE sponsors a major concert or comedian during the spring. This year Gavin DeGraw and Special Guest HoneyHoney took the stage and entertained over 1000 people.
Honey Honey, a two person band, opened for Gavin DeGraw at this year's major concert.

Gavin DeGraw is known for his recent hits "Chariot," "I Don't Want To Be," and "In Love With A Girl."

Pictured here are two SNHU students that volunteered their time working security for the concert.
This year's Spring Week was themed Best Week Ever and had a week full of free giveaways, free food, night entertainment and SNHU's 3rd annual SNHU Stock.
A student relaxes with a free massage as part of the spring week festivities. Other events included free Dippin' Dots, a photo booth, and a game show.

The Last Chapter Pub packed in dozens of SNHU students who came to see comedian Geoff Keith as part of the week long events.

SNHU Stock featured a day full of outdoor activities including bands, inflatable games, free food, a dunk tank, and tie dye.
The Leadership Awards marks the end of the 2008-2009 academic year for clubs, organizations, and campus leaders.

This year many were recognized for their hard work and accomplishments in this banquet-style awards reception.
Junior Justin Woodard received the Campus Leadership Award. Justin was also last year's winner of the Emerging Leadership Award.

Senior Lin Li receives the Campus Leadership Award for her hard work and dedication to several clubs and organizations on campus.

Senior Daniel Smith received the prestigious Student Affairs Award chosen solely by the Vice President of Student Affairs and typically given to one student each year.
This spring, SNHU put on a service week dedicated to cleaning up the environment. In turn this helped students make more sustainable decisions.
After signing up, students were given a One Earth, One Container in order to help make the world a more sustainable place to live.

The One Earth, One Container campaign encouraged students to sign a pledge to use reusable "to go" containers instead of the cardboard containers.

By the end of the spring semester, those green reusable containers could be seen in hands all across campus. Students were really helping to make a difference.
The Last Chapter Pub on campus holds many different events throughout the school year, including bands, comedians, talent shows, and BINGO.
Cassandra Coulliard shows off her vocal abilities during the annual talent show sponsored by Phi Delta Psi.

Senior Lon Epstein, enjoys an event at the pub.

BINGO, sponsored by CAPE packs the Pub every Wednesday night.

Radio SNHU's annual One Night Stand Program hosts multiple bands and provides a great night of music for the SNHU students.
Greek Week
The Greek societies here at SNHU and all over North America since their modern inception in 1776 are committed such high-minded ideals as brotherhood/sisterhood, academic scholarship, the development of proper leadership, success, and service to the community. If you agree that these are worthy pursuits and want a college experience to be proud of, Greek life may be for you.
The Student Government Association (SGA) represents all full-time undergraduate and graduate SNHU students. The association is made up of the Senate and the Executive Board. The SGA provides funding of the Activities Fee for all recognized clubs and organizations through the Budget & Finance Committee. As the main voice for the student body at SNHU, the SGA maintains an open line of communication between the administration, faculty and students.
The Coordinators of Activities and Programming Events (CAPE) is a student-run organization committed to enriching campus life at Southern New Hampshire University. By working with other clubs, organizations, and departments, CAPE provides social, recreational, educational, and cultural programming to the campus community.
Our mission is to serve our community as an environmentally sustainable resource through education, service, and activism. To accomplish this purpose we will hold events such as creating your own organic t-shirts, hosting a plant-a-tree day, and volunteering in cleaning up Manchester's ponds!

Kappa Chi

The mission of Kappa Delta Phi National Affiliated Sorority (NAS) is to encourage higher education ideals and practices in our institutions, to promote a spirit of good citizenship, individual character and fellowship, and to oppose discrimination on the basis of race, color, or creed, in order to strengthen and preserve the bonds of sisterhood. Today Kappa Chi chapter maintains that mission by being the most culturally diverse sorority at SNHU.
Kappa Delta Phi

Kappa Delta Phi brothers actively participate in intramural athletics, the Inter-Greek Council, and the campus radio station. We are involved not only on campus, but within Manchester as well. We have assisted the New Hampshire Food Bank, the Cancer Society and maintain a stretch of highway through the Adopt-A-Highway program.

Observer

The Observer is Southern New Hampshire University's student newspaper. We publish once a month between September and May, totaling 6 to 8 issues each school year. We provide the SNHU community with news, sports, entertainment and business that is accurate, informative, timely, restful and well written. We also encourage student submissions of creative works, photographs, and opinion pieces. The Observer is printed by Concord Monitor Company.

Phi Delta Psi

Phi Delta Psi brothers live by four points: brotherly love, social responsibility, integrity, and intellectual awareness. Phi Delta Psi is committed to the good and welfare of the community by volunteering its services to philanthropic events. Philanthropy projects include volunteer work with the American Diabetes Association, Easter Seals, American Red Cross, and tutoring youth. Phi Delta Psi received the SNHU High House Award (Greek Academic Achievement) in the spring of 2001.
Organizations

Phi Delta Beta

As a sorority we stress campus involvement, leadership, and academic excellence. We volunteer around the Manchester community at places such as the Orchards Retirement Home, and work closely with organizations such as Families in Transition and the American Cancer Society. We have received the Greek community service award for the past two years.

Phi Omega Psi

Over the last few years, we raised money and promoted breast cancer awareness, National A.I.D.S. Foundation, and STD awareness. We visit elderly homes and provide them with cards for their birthdays and assist them in going to plays and productions around Manchester. We also volunteer at local soup kitchens and local toy drives.
Phi Delta Theta

We pride ourselves as a chapter with leadership and a positive image in the SNHU community, as well as in the local Manchester community. Phi Deltas are true leaders here at SNHU. Our brothers hold leadership positions in the Student Government Association, Inter-Greek Council, the Observer, and many, many more.

Video Gaming Club

The Video Gaming Club is an organization dedicated to giving SNHU students who like to play video games the opportunity to try video games on campus and have a great time. Throughout the semester, we will be holding various events and free play sessions, in conjunction with the club’s regular meetings.

Young Educators Society

Y.E.S. (Young Educators Society) exists to better understand about the learning and education aspects in everyday society. The club helps promote the professional connection between the School of Education, the University, and the surrounding school communities. Y.E.S. takes the information learned in the classroom and puts it to use in the everyday life scenarios.
Campus Programming & Leadership

Facilities Management

Hospitality
Vice President of Academic Affairs
Men's Soccer
The men's soccer team returned to national prominence in 2008. The Penmen finished the season with a 15-3-4 record, captured the third Northeast-10 Tournament title in program history with a 1-0 win over Molloy, and made their 14th NCAA Tournament appearance. SNHU was ranked No. 11 in the final NSCAA Division II poll, and ranked first nationally defensively, allowing just nine goals all season.

Senior Matt Delaney was a Daktronics First Team All-American and was also named the MVP of the NE-10 Tournament. Junior Adrian Schippers was the Northeast-10 Players of the Year and the Daktronics East Region Player of the Year while leading the Penmen in scoring, while senior Sean Lambert led all Division II goalies in goals-against average (042) while being named the NE-10 Goalkeeper of the Year. Junior Richard Kentish was a Daktronics Honorable Mention All-America.
Women's Soccer
The women's soccer team finished fifth in the Northeast-10 with an overall record of 8-6-4 and made its first NE-10 Tournament appearance since 2005. The Penmen also earned their first national ranking since 1998 after jumping out to a 5-1-1 start with a win over No. 6 CW Post, peaking at No. 17.

Seniors Cary Rivett, Sophia Saint Paul and Nicole Ebner were all named to the NEWISA Senior Bowl all-star game. Rivett and Saint Paul were both All Conference and NSCAA All-Region selections, while Ebner was a NE-10 Second Team choice. Freshmen Emily Mongeau and Ariel Teixeira had an immediate impact, as both were NE-10 All-Conference and All-Rookie Team choices by the league's head coaches.
Men's Cross Country
The men's cross country team fielded one of its largest rosters in recent seasons, with nine runners competing in at least one event. The Penmen competed seven times during the 2008 season.

Senior Alex Brown wrapped up his career by establishing the top three 8-kilometer times in 2008, including a school record 26:41 at the UMass Dartmouth Invitational. He owns the top six and 10 of the top 20 times in program history. Junior Sam Tarrant was consistently SNHU's No. 2 runner all season and was the lone Penmen to compete at the NCAA East regional, posting a 38:05 10K time to finish 125th overall.
The SNHU Women's Cross Country team competed seven times in 2008 and enjoyed one of its best seasons. The Penmen were ranked 10th in the East Region, and three runners combined to record 10 of the fastest 20 10-kilometer times in program history.

Freshman Emma Lundberg recorded the second, third, and fourth-fastest times in program history, with her 19:59 effort at the Pop Crowell Invitational just 11 seconds off of the school record of 19:48 established in 2004. Classmate Jacquelyn Dussault had the fifth-fastest time with a 20:11 time at the same meet, and also recorded three other top-20 times, while senior Svea Dellea-Messner had a collegiate-best 20:33 at the New England Championships, the 12th fastest time in school history. Dussault and Dellea-Messner were also named to the USTFCCCA All-Academic Team.
Women's Volleyball
The women's volleyball team narrowly missed its second ever trip to the Northeast-10 Tournament, winning three of its final five league games but came up just short with a 3-2 loss to Southern Connecticut in the league finale. The Penmen also posted season sweeps of both UMass Lowell and Saint Anselm.

Senior Brianna Doucet wrapped up her career ranked third in both career digs (1,200) and career kills (819), while classmate Nicky Dumond finished with 1,319 career assists, good for third in program history. Sophomore Stephanie Dluginski led the Penmen in kills for the second straight season with 232, while freshman Danielle Coffey was named to the NE-10 All-Rookie Team after leading SNHU with 102 blocks while ranking fourth in kills with 104.
Men's Hockey
The SNHU hockey team finished second in the Northeast-10 Conference with a 3-2 league record and received a bye into the NE-10 semifinals. It marked the sixth straight NE-10 semifinal appearance for the Penmen. SNHU hosted Saint Michael's and was tied with the Purple Knights 2-2 entering the third period, but fell 4-2.

Sophomore Troy Maybury led Southern New Hampshire in scoring with 19 goals and 14 assists for 33 points and was named the Northeast-10 Player of the Year. Senior Dave Carroll and junior John Frey served as co-captains, with Carroll, the squad's lone senior, earning NE-10 Second Team honors, while Frey totaled nine goals and 12 assists. Freshman Mark Smith was named to the NE-10 All-Rookie Team after finishing with five goals and 15 assists.
Men's Basketball
Penmen Basketball

Front Row (L to R): Stephen Wood, Will Dileo, Darnell Wilson, Josh Morgan-Green, Marcus Matthews, L.J. Hunter, Dematrius Jackson, Alex Carmona  
Back Row (L to R): Stan Spirou (Head Coach), Bob Duffley (Assistant Coach), Namdi Williams (Assistant Coach), Gerald Garter, Lucas Croteau, Cory Vejvasky, Troy Bowen, Kelly Coder, James Roman, Tory Stapleton, Jeff Gore (Assistant Coach), Jay Dufour (Assistant Coach)

The SNHU men's basketball team continued to work its way back to its status as one of the premier programs in Division II basketball. The Penmen posted an 18-12 record, won eight of its final 10 games during the regular season and advanced to the semifinals of the Northeast-10 tournament before being eliminated by Le Moyne. SNHU also ended Bentley's 46-game conference winning streak early in the season.

Senior Troy Bowen earned Northeast-10 Third Team All Conference honors after draining a team-high 60 three-pointers and averaging 12.3 points per game. He also reached the 1,000 point milestone for his collegiate career late in the season. Sophomore Tory Stapleton led the Penmen in scoring (13.3 ppg) after missing nearly all of his freshman campaign due to injury. Junior Stephen Wood led the Penmen in both rebounding (8.3 rpg) and assists (100) while scoring 10.8 points per contest.
Penmen Basketball

Front Row (L to R): Megan Spanarkel, Erin Baldwin, Megan Shay, Alyssa Whitney, Stephanie Houghton, Brooke Lefort, Jenny McDade, Libby Gullerot
Back Row (L to R): Karen Pinkos (Head Coach), Mike Roux (Assistant Coach), Christine Duffy, Magdala Johnson, Julia Houghtaling, Megan Smith, Ashara Carrington, Stacy McCullough, Andrea Lozeau, Monica Galamaga (Assistant Coach), Sarah Shea (Assistant Coach)

The SNHU women's basketball team enjoyed its finest season in nearly two decades. The Penmen finished 18-11 overall, posting a winning mark for the first time since 1991, while also recording its most victories since that same season. SNHU was regionally ranked for much of the second half of the season, and recorded its first Northeast-10 tournament win with a 58-38 road triumph over Le Moyne.

Senior Stephanie Houghton led the Penmen in scoring at 10.8 points per game. She wrapped up her career ranked second in program history in three pointers with 149 and 14th in career scoring with 986 points. Junior Julia Houghtaling averaged 9.7 points per game and grabbed 6.9 rebounds per game to lead the Penmen in that category, while Ashara Carrington averaged 9.5 points and 5.8 rebounds per game off the bench.
Penmen Baseball

Front Row (L to R): Brian McCarthy, Joe Santos, Joseph Gargan, Dalton Collins, Curtis Burke, Adam Flynn, Tim Rines, Tobi Thibault
Second Row (L to R): Eric Pelletier, Chris McCabe, AJ Dusablon, Garrett Jewell, Ryan Quinn, Steve Sobranos, Chris O'Neill, Skyler Byrd, Justin Mansfield, Fred Whittle
Back Row (L to R): Scott Loiseau (Head Coach), Reid Willett (Assistant Coach), Bryant Gauthier, Derek Anderson, Kevin Bossart, Brad Monroe, Bobby Wronski, Greg Sullivan, Scott Strong, Ryan Hagan, Richard Pecoraro, Jeff Giannino, Ryan Copp (Assistant Coach)

Under first-year head coach Scott Loiseau, the SNHU baseball team made significant improvement, doubling its win total from 2008. The Penmen snapped a 14-game winless streak against perennial power and in-state rival Franklin Pierce, and swept the season series from the Ravens with 2-0 and 3-2 victories. SNHU also swept three games with AIC and took two of three from Merrimack during the season.

Senior righty Ryan Quinn set a single-season program record by striking out 100 batters during the season in 87.1 innings of work. He was named Northeast-10 Third Team All-Conference, and wrapped up his career ranked second in career strikeouts. Classmate Skyler Byrd ended his career ranked ninth in both hits (128) and runs batted in (60).
Penmen Softball

Front Row (L to R): Elena Anderson, Melissa Loughran, Megan Renning, Andrea Ouellette  
Second Row (L to R): Rachel Dobinski, Samantha Chickering, Valerie Martins, Karissa Bettencourt, Jan Garloff, Ashley Bernstein  
Third Row (L to R): Deb Robitaille (Head Coach), Mel Keeler (Assistant Coach), Michelle Maranto, Kelsey Griffin, Melissa Vitagliano, Amanda Barton, Nicole Arpin, Andrea Clausi, Kyla Puccini, Melissa Pesce, Tara Moriarty (Assistant Coach), Roger Hebert (Assistant Coach), Ashley Smith (Assistant Coach)

After a slow start, the SNHU softball team finished fifth in the Northeast-10 by posting a 17-11 league mark, and a 19-14 record during its northern schedule. The Penmen finished with a 5-1 mark against the league's top three teams, including doubleheader sweeps of Southern Connecticut and New Haven. SNHU also split with league champion Le Moyne at home as the Penmen played their first ever home night games on April 25, attracting their largest crowd of the season.

Four players garnered recognition from the Northeast-10. Nicole Arpin, Ashley Bernstein and Kelsey Griffin were all Second Team All-Conference selections, while Karissa Bettencourt was named to the Third Team, marking her third All Conference selection. Bettencourt and Bernstein wrapped up their careers ranked second and third in program history in career hits.
Men’s Tennis
Penmen Tennis

Front Row (L to R): Derek Thompson, John Niland, Sam Gould, Michael Ricciardi, Luis Ramirez Back Row (L to R): Colin Stone, Cory Lefort, Daniel Horan (Assistant Coach), Sam Hastings, David Spaggiari, Jeff Bunker

The SNHU men's tennis team posted a 6-4 mark during Northeast-10 Conference play to earn the No. 5 seed in the conference tournament. Once there, the Penmen posted their first-ever NE-10 Tournament win, besting Saint Michael's 5-2 on the road before falling to eventual league champion Stonehill in the conference semifinals.

Two players earned NE-10 All Conference honors for the Penmen. Colin Stone was a First Team selection for the Penmen at No. 6 singles and posted a 6-5 singles mark on the season. David Spaggiari registered a 10-1 record in singles play during the season and was named to the league's Second Team.
Women’s Tennis
Penmen Tennis

Front Row (L to R): Amber Chandronnait, Meghan Welch, Catalina Echeverry, Christie Cole, Courteney Blais Back Row (L to R): Greg Coache (Head Coach), Alison Waring, Meaghan Houghton, Lauren Nigrelli, Drew Groves (Assistant Coach)

The SNHU women's tennis program enjoyed its best season ever in 2008-2009. The Penmen posted a school record of 12 victories, going 12-5, and reached the Northeast-10 semifinals for the second straight year. SNHU qualified for the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history and upended Bentley in the first round for its first-ever NCAA victory.

Sophomore Amber Chandronnait was named the Northeast-10 Player of the Year after posting a perfect 12-0 record at No. 1 singles during the conference campaign. She recorded an overall singles mark of 23-1 as she also won the ITA East Regional and finished fifth at the National Small College Championship. Catalina Echeverry also went 12-0 during conference play and was First Team at No. 2 singles. Alison Waring and Meghan Welch were also All-NE-10 performers in singles play, while the doubles tandems of Chandronnait and Echeverry and Welch and Courteney Blais were also honored.
Men's Lacrosse
The SNHU men's lacrosse team got off to a slow start, but won four of its final seven regular season games to qualify for the Northeast-10 Tournament for the first time since 2006. The Penmen played one of the toughest schedules in the country, facing six of the 10 teams in the final Division II poll, including national champion CW Post. SNHU earned key wins down the stretch against Saint Michael's, Assumption and Franklin Pierce.

Senior co-captains and brothers Mike and Sean Ball were each named All-Americans following the season, with Mike named to the Second Team, while Sean was an Honorable Mention selection. The duo were also First Team Northeast-10 All-Conference selections. Gary McKay was named to the NE-10 Second Team, while goalie Brendan O'Brien was named to the league's All-Freshman Team.
Women's Lacrosse
The SNHU women’s lacrosse program maintained its position as one of the top teams in the Northeast-10. The Penmen posted a 13-5 record, defeated nationally-ranked Dowling and New Haven during the season, and advanced to the NE-10 championship game for the second straight season after defeating Stonehill for the first time ever in the conference semifinals. The 13 wins marked a single-season school record.

Senior Julie Kraus was named a Second Team All-American for the second straight season, while Kraus, Libby Parent and Emily Mongeau were each All-Region selections. Mongeau was named the Northeast-10 Co-Freshman of the Year, while Kraus, Parent and Lucretia Joy garnered All-Conference honors. Kraus and Parent were also each named to the ESPN the Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-America team.
Golf
The SNHU Golf Team qualified for the NCAA championship for the third time in the past seven years in 2009, as it also made the field in 2003 and 2006. The Penmen finished fifth at the Northeast-10 Championship and second at the SNHU Penmen Invitational in the fall. In the spring, SNHU finished in the top five of four of its five spring tournaments, including a second place finish at the UMass Lowell River Hawk Invitational.

A total of three players earned Northeast-10 All-Conference honors at the NE-10 Championship. Freshman John Devito placed 11th overall to earn NE-10 Second Team honors, while D.J. Lantz and Andrew Maziarz also garnered Second Team honors with their play.
Penmen Cheerleading
Senior Events
Senior Dinner

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY
CLASS OF 2009

Riding the Wave of Success

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY
CLASS OF 2009
Senior Games
Senior Cocktail
Senior Week
Senior Week
Graduation
Enterprise
Yearbook Staff

Alex Jenkins, Editor-in-Chief
Laura Plaisted, Secretary
Samantha Stein, Marketing Director
Vanessa Cruz, Photo Editor

Leah Ryan, Senior Member
Radmary Bernabel, Member
Jared Gabrey, Advisor
Tiffany Lyon, Advisor

2008-2009
Arizona Senator John McCain wins the Republican nomination for president and names Alaska Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate. Palin is the Republican Party's first female nominee for vice president.

Waves of Change

Democratic Senator Joe Biden of Delaware becomes the 47th vice president of the United States. A member of the Senate since 1973, Biden brings long-time Washington experience to the Obama administration.

Politics in pop culture

Barack has chosen Senator Joe Biden to be our VP nominee. Watch the first Obama-Biden rally live at 9pm ET on www.BarackObama.com. Spread the word!
Get out the vote!

Campaign volunteers

I Voted

Obama's grassroots organization and innovative Web campaign is credited with inspiring young and first-time voters to participate heavily in the election.

First-time voters

The values, fashion and personal vitality of the Obama family resonate with Americans. Public interest in the first family rivals that of the interest in the Kennedy family in the 1960s.
Barack Obama makes history as the first African-American to win the presidency of the United States. The former Illinois senator promises an era of change that captures the imagination of voters nationwide.

**Electoral Votes**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Obama</th>
<th>McCain</th>
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<td>Votes</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>173</td>
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**Celebrations around the world**

McCain/Palin run a strong campaign, winning 22 states. But they are defeated 53 vs. 46 percent in the general election and by a substantial margin in the Electoral College.

**Obama Wins**

Mike Blake/Reuters/London

*McCain concedes*
In January 2009, president-elect Obama attends the ultimate power lunch in the White House, meeting and getting advice from President Bush as well as former Presidents George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

Inauguration 1-20-09

During the inauguration ceremony, Malia Obama captures the moment from a unique point of view.

Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th president of the United States before millions in Washington, D.C. Obama's inaugural address calls for a "new era of responsibility" in the face of economic decline and a pledge to choose "hope over fear."

"We have chosen hope over fear..."
Stocks plummet as years of excess in the U.S. housing market and lax supervision of financial institutions contribute to the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Unemployment rate hits 16-year high in January 2009

With buying power declining in the consumer marketplace, companies nationwide are forced to lay off workers. The national unemployment rate hits 7.2 percent in December and is rising steadily. The hardest hit states are Michigan, Rhode Island, California and South Carolina.

Detroit’s struggling “Big Three” automakers, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, request and are eventually offered a bailout package of just over $17 billion in December.
Many retailers are forced to file for bankruptcy or go out of business after being unable to rebound from the harsh economy and a very disappointing fourth quarter of 2008.

The world's "hot spots" center around the Middle East. Israel mounts a major offensive against Hamas in Gaza, the United States continues to oppose the Taliban in Afghanistan and insurgents in Iraq, and in August, Russia attacks its southern neighbor, Georgia, in a dispute over western influence in the area.

In January 2009, after both engines fail due to ingesting birds, US Airways Flight 1549 ditched in New York's Hudson River. All 155 passengers and crew members are saved, thanks to the skill and courage of pilot Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger.
Changing our World

Environmentally conscious consumers use items such as reusable cloth shopping bags and Klean Kanteen water bottles that don’t leak harmful chemicals like BPA.

Public bicycle sharing systems, already popular in Europe, roll into American cities like Washington, D.C., to help fight traffic congestion and reduce pollution.

Tight money and high gas prices push auto manufacturers to investigate super fuel-efficient and electric cars. The Chevrolet Volt is an early contender and the tiny “Smart” car is already on American roads.
In September, Google and General Electric partner to develop clean technologies. Modernizing the national electric grid to enable wider deployment of wind, solar and geothermal energy will be an early priority.

The green cleaning movement gains momentum nationally as environmentally safe non-toxic cleaning products are used in many homes, as well as state and city institutions.

President-elect Obama asks all Americans to volunteer their time on the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, January 19, and to continue throughout the year. More than 12,000 service projects take place across the country.

Brad Pitt launches the “Make It Right” project to build 150 green-sensitive new homes in the New Orleans Lower 9th Ward, which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Pitt contributes $5 million to the project.

The green cleaning movement gains momentum nationally as environmentally safe non-toxic cleaning products are used in many homes, as well as state and city institutions.
American swimmer Michael Phelps makes Olympic history with eight gold medals. Phelps sets three world records in his five individual wins.

The Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics showcase some of the most amazing performances in Olympic history.

The Olympic Opening Ceremony

Cristiano Ronaldo

Tiger Woods

Karen Jones

Summer Olympics

Sports

The Philadelphia Phillies win their second World Series with a five game victory over the Tampa Bay Rays. The fifth game takes three days to complete after a rain delay.

Red Wings win 2008 Stanley Cup
The Chinese gymnasts take the team title, but Americans Shawn Johnson (floor exercise) and Nastia Liukin (all-around) take individual gold medals for the U.S.

MVP Santonio Holmes makes a tip-lick catch in the corner of the end zone with 35 seconds remaining to lead the Pittsburgh Steelers past the Arizona Cardinals 27-23 in Super Bowl XLIII.

Jimmie Johnson captures the NASCAR Sprint Cup championship for the third straight year in his famous #48 Lowe's Chevrolet Impala SS.
Stephenie Meyer’s runaway best-seller, Twilight, becomes a hit movie starring Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart as Edward and Bella.

Tina Fey

Nick and Norah’s Infinite Playlist

Entertainment

GREEK

Reality TV

Grey’s Anatomy

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Slumdog Millionaire, a surprise entry from India about teen life in Mumbai, and Brad Pitt’s The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, about a man who ages backwards, monopolize Academy Award nominations with a combined total of 23.
MTV spins off the reality show The Hills, following Laguna Beach star Lauren Conrad and her friends to Los Angeles.

Australian Heath Ledger, in his last film role as the Joker in the Batman epic The Dark Knight, wins a posthumous Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama.

Paul Blart: Mall Cop

Bedtime Stories
Rapper Lil' Wayne takes home four Grammys, including Rap Album of the Year for *Tha Carter III* and Best Rap Song.

Due to low ratings, MTV's flagship show *Total Request Live* shut down in November after a 10-year run.

Betty Spears rebounds from years of personal challenges with her fifth No. 1 album, *Circus*. She becomes the only act in Nielsen SoundScan history to have four albums that debut with 500,000 or more copies sold.

R&B singer/songwriter Ne-Yo brings out his third album, *Year of the Gentleman*, which debuts on the Billboard 200 at No. 2. The album garners six Grammy nominations.
The video for Will.I.Am's song "Yes We Can" garners more than 1.3 million hits on YouTube and becomes an anthem for young voters during the presidential campaign.

Classic Rock

Taylor Swift

American Idol

David vs. David

Rocker David Cook, with 58 percent of the fan votes, beats balladeer David Archuleta in the 2008 finals of Fox's American Idol.

Fox's American Idol adds a fourth judge to the popular show. Grammy-nominated songwriter Kara DioGuardi joins regular panelists Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell.
Texting becomes the new writing. Teens everywhere learn to double-thumb miniature keyboards and invent a new language of abbreviations and signs.

The nation converts to all-digital TV in 2009. The Department of Commerce offers government coupons to make the conversion more affordable.

**Lifestyle**

*Slippers to wear every day*

*Argyle & Plaid*

**Digital TV**

* Designer Purses & Shoes

Top style trends this year include baggy pants, oversized sunglasses, designer purses, black nail polish and plaid.

**Big Sunglasses**

Photo by Barry King/ weimages/Getty Images

**Black Nail Polish**

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