



Above: New residence hall, Monadnock Hall.

## News from the Provost

Welcome back to the start of another exciting academic year, and it really has been a very smooth and successful new term start. My sincerest thanks to the dozens and dozens of UC employees who make this magic happen so flawlessly.

As you know, the *U.S. News* rankings came out recently. (We report UC figures only to *US News*.) I am not a huge fan of these rankings as I do not believe they capture the true feel and value of an institution, but they do in fact impact the decision-making of many prospective students and their families. So the good news is *US News* ranked us #1 among Regional Universities-North for being innovative. Additionally, our overall ranking moved from #101 two years ago, to #86, out of 187 schools in the Regional Universities-North category. And this is no insignificant improvement! We can take great pride in the consistent, incremental advances we have made in areas such as class size, faculty-to-student ratio, retention, graduation rates, peer evaluation scores, etc. For context, the following schools in our comparison region scored above us: Keene State College (71), University of New England (78), Western New England University (64), Merrimack College (56), and Endicott College (34). These schools ranked below us: Champlain College (91), Bridgewater State University (102), Plymouth State University (115), Salem State University (137), Franklin Pierce (unranked, i.e. worse than 146), New England College (unranked), and Rivier University (unranked).

SNHU has been chosen out of three hundred schools to receive a \$5,000 Fund for Positive Engagement Grant from Campus Compact. The project was created by Kelley Hobbs, Elizabeth Richards and their team at the CCEL, supported by



SNHU Alumni.

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Jada Hebra. Funds will be used to bring a recognized speaker to campus to discuss diversity issues, for monthly “Lunch and Learn” sessions and other student-centered events, and to cover printing charges for the monthly publication “Digging Deep: A Calendar of Social Justice Events.”

SNHU is teaming up with YWCA NH to open the SNHU Center for New Americans at YWCA NH to help local refugees and immigrant populations gain access to education and other support services in New Hampshire. The Center will provide credentialed ESOL programming, mentorship and coaching, college preparation, cultural orientation, and college-level courses and degrees, and will be directed by Helen Davies in the President’s Office.

Some exciting news from our MFA program; program alum, Elizabeth Rush, had an Op-ed piece, “Harvey and Irma are the new Normal. It’s time to move away from the coasts” published in the September 17th Washington Post, and; Marjorie Herrera Lewis who graduated from the MFA earlier this year, sold the novel she wrote as part of her MFA program, *When the Men Were Gone*, to William Morrow (part of Harper Collins). Film rights were optioned as well! Our sincere congratulations to both alums.

Lastly – from our Athletics Department....what an incredible season this is shaping up to be! The highest winning percentage we have enjoyed for an entire season in the last eight years was .633 (during the 2015-16 season). Our current winning percentage is already at .694 with a 24-10-2 overall record!

- Women’s Tennis – 4-0
- Men’s Tennis – 1-0 (Tiago Fernandes – first men’s player ever to reach the semifinals of the ITA East Regional Championship)
- Men’s Soccer – 6-0-1 (ranked 14th in the country)
- Women’s Soccer – 6-1-1 (ranked 19th in the country)
- Field Hockey – 5-2
- Men’s Golf – three first-place finishes/three individual winners
- Men’s Cross Country – one first-place finish/two individual race winners
- Women’s Cross Country – two individual race winners

And the SNHU volleyball team, led by Dega DaGama, is the recipient of the 2016-17 Association of Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award. This award honors teams who have matched their dedication to the sport of volleyball with excellence in the classroom. ■



Patricia A. Lynott  
Executive Vice President and Provost

## Monadnock Hall

By Shannon Brown

With generous support from the Board of Trustees we are in the midst of an “extreme res-hall makeover” around campus. A new residence hall will open each fall across a three-year span and the first of which just opened.

Monadnock Hall, as named by our student body, just opened and houses 300 students in apartment-style living. This four-story nod to the natural elements found in New Hampshire showcases the best parts of upper-class and community living. Each of the apartments houses four students; most of the apartments have two doubles and a few have four singles. All of the apartments have private bathrooms and a gorgeous open-concept kitchen, dining, & living room. The apartments have an abundance of natural light and comfortable, modern furniture. As seen from the outside, the glassy column of Monadnock Hall is the literal and metaphorical center of the building. This “verticle main street” of the community houses staff offices, a stunning

New residence hall, Monadnock Hall.



multipurpose room with a cathedral-height wall made of exposed stone, a fitness center, a game room, and a plethora of public and private study spaces. Most importantly to our students, though, is that there are laundry facilities on each floor. If you are looking for a quaint place to work outside, Monadnock Hall has a patio facing the west side of campus;



we would love for you to join us there!

Seeing the finished product was as many of us on the team had expected. One big difference is how much more stunning the entry ways are. Seeing the building with all the proper lighting and furniture pulls everything together in celebrating the success of this project on all ends.

When asked about Monadnock Hall, the current Residence Director there, Nicole Noons, responded with, “As a former SNHUDENT, my roommates and myself were over the moon to get to live in a townhouse. It seems illusory to have an apartment-style residence hall as beautiful as Monadnock on campus.” She continued with, “The intentionality and thought that went into designing a building to meet the needs and wants of students is shown not only throughout the apartment spaces, but also the common spaces (or knuckle as we call it). After spending the last two years as a graduate assistant in the Lower Suites I am proud and very lucky to be able to be the inaugural Residence Director living and working in Monadnock Hall and I look forward to the legacy this building will bring to the campus community!”

Across the campus, behind Stark Hall, a second transformation will take place. Kingston Hall (also named by our students), a 382-bed traditional-style residence hall, will open in Fall, 2018. Three of our oldest residence halls

were razed (Chocorua, Winnisquam, and Kearsarge) and construction of Kingston Hall has begun. This five-story hall will consist of singles and doubles, clustered in a way that gives small groups of students access to common bathrooms and lounges. The short wing on the first floor of Kingston Hall will have an expansive common space, including a full-scale kitchen, an innovation space inspired by the SNHU SandboxColLABorative, and a game room. This building will have central air and beautiful outdoor space, and will be used for summer housing and summer conferences in addition to housing students during the academic year.

The remainder of the old residence halls will be razed during spring/summer of 2018 and 2019. This will make way for a third and final residence hall that will house about 100 students. Beyond that we do not know what this third hall will look like or where it will be. We do know it will be designed with our students in mind, named by our students, and brought to life by our students. So, if you are ready to dust off your shower shoes and find out what residential living is like at SNHU, we will save a space for you. Alternately, we are happy to give you a tour of any of our halls anytime. ■

## SNHU Meets VR with New Lab

*By David Carrigg*

This semester marks the opening of SNHU’s first Virtual and Augmented Reality Lab. Constructed over the summer, the lab boasts a collection of high end virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) devices, to be used by students to develop a variety of interactive experiences.

Over the past few years, virtual reality devices have taken center stage as the hot new piece of advancing technology. With applications within many industries, demand for the skills required to develop virtual and augmented reality content will rise. Fortunately, because these technologies have been pushed forward by the video game industry, the students within the game development programs are already experienced with the fundamentals required to develop this content.

The lab features an array of hardware, which includes virtual reality, as well as augmented reality devices. For those unfamiliar, you can describe virtual reality as having the power to transport the user into a completely new world, whereas augmented reality devices have the capabilities to overlay virtual objects in the real world. Because the technology is so new, the number of experiences available

for both types of devices is still very limited, and adaptation into many industries are still in experimental stages. For most people wanting to use these technologies, it can be very difficult to find the simulations or experiences they are looking for. That’s where SNHU’s Virtual and Augmented Reality Lab can provide huge benefit to SNHU and our community.

Over the upcoming year, students within the Game Programming and Game Art programs will be working within the lab to develop virtual and augmented reality projects, ideally to be used by clients external to the game programs. There are already a number of projects lined up for the game development students to work on, many of which are to be integrated into other courses on campus, faculty research projects, or to be used by clients external to SNHU.

The Virtual and Augmented Reality Lab is located on the second floor of the Academic Center Complex. If you’re interested in demoing the technology available, have an idea for an augmented or virtual reality application you would like developed, or are interested in discussing how augmented and virtual reality could integrate into your courses, please contact Dave Carrigg ([d.carrigg1@snhu.edu](mailto:d.carrigg1@snhu.edu)) or Ed Brilliant ([e.brillant@snhu.edu](mailto:e.brillant@snhu.edu)). ■

## Welcome, Brad Dittrich

By Dan Martel

This fall, SNHU welcomed Dr. Brad Dittrich as a new full-time professor in the English Department. Currently teaching ENG-099 (Fundamentals of Writing) and two sections of ENG-120 (College Composition I), he is enjoying his first semester. When asked about other courses he'd like to eventually teach, he mentioned his interest to teach upper-level argumentative rhetoric courses.



New full-time faculty in the School of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Brad Dittrich.

Growing up in the small town of Snow Hill, Maryland, he obtained both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from local Maryland colleges, St. Mary's College, and Salisbury University, respectively.

Dittrich traveled north to the University of New Hampshire (UNH) to earn his Ph.D approximately six years ago. When asked what drove him to UNH, he recalled that he grew fond of a particular author, Thomas Newkirk, during his Master's program studies. Newkirk is well known for his research in education, particularly involving how students learn to write. Dittrich discovered that Newkirk taught in the Composition in Rhetoric program at UNH and was set on attending.

Now that he is settling in here at SNHU, his reflection of this community as a whole is incredibly positive. According to Dittrich, "The campus is great and I've already been welcomed, shown support by more faculty than I would have expected." Dittrich likes to introduce various activities into his classrooms and has been pleased to see that students here are motivated to make the most of every session.

When talking further about his students, he added, "You know it's funny. At other schools office hours are a required part of the job, but students never show up. Here on the other hand, I've been warned that if I have anything important to get done, I should try doing it elsewhere because students love to check in for homework help and just to say hi."

Dittrich has another side to him though. On top of earning degrees and bringing about ten years of work experience to the SNHU community, he also has a passion for community service. Over a span of 15 years, he has traveled to the most impoverished parts of the southern Appalachians to build houses. Another fun fact is that he is a walking encyclopedia for all of J.R. Tolkien's works. Stop by Robert Frost 106D to welcome Dr. Brad Dittrich to campus and to congratulate him on joining this great community. ■

## Alumni Leadership Scholarship

By Audrey Bourque

This past June, the Alumni Board of Directors announced a new scholarship created to inspire the next generation of SNHU leaders: the Alumni Leadership Scholarship, which will support students who have proven leadership skills and the potential to make a huge impact on the SNHU community. Over the summer, 130 alumni, faculty, staff, coaches, family members, and friends of SNHU came together to raise more than \$28,000 (with a grand total of \$55,700 pledged over the next five years).

When we reach \$50,000 in donations, this scholarship will be endowed, and we will be able to give the first award to one of our outstanding SNHU students. And, to celebrate, the Training Room in the Gustafson Center on campus will be

renamed Alumni Hall, and we will install a list of founding donors of the Alumni Leadership Scholarship. This space will honor the collective generosity of our donors and stand as a reminder that leadership in the SNHU community continues far past graduation.

Now, we are excited to announce that we will be extending the opportunity to be recognized on the Wall of Donors to everyone whose gift is received by October 14.

To learn more about empowering the leaders of tomorrow and shaping the future of SNHU, please visit [alumni.snhu.edu/alumni-leadership](http://alumni.snhu.edu/alumni-leadership).

And for SNHU faculty and staff, it's easy and immediate to support the Alumni Leadership Scholarship through payroll deduction: [bit.ly/snhupayrolldeduct](http://bit.ly/snhupayrolldeduct). ■

## Destination SNHU- Homecoming 2017

By Audrey Bourque

At Southern New Hampshire University, Homecoming is a time to celebrate the past and embrace the future. This year, our theme is Destination: SNHU, and we're inviting you to point your compass toward campus and celebrate the journey that brought you to SNHU. Join alumni, students, families, faculty, and friends of the university for in-person and virtual events throughout the weekend!

There's something for everyone, with a golf tournament (proceeds benefit the Alumni Leadership Scholarship), reunion celebrations, the Athletic Hall of Fame induction, CAPE's Major Concert featuring Fetty Wap and opener Matt

Corman (an SNHU alumnus from the Class of 2017!), the 5K, the Street Fair, athletic events, the President's Reception to honor volunteers and the Alumni Award recipients, fireworks, Greek Night, Big Money BINGO, Sunday Brunch, and so much more!

Homecoming this year will be held from October 13-15. See the full schedule and register online: [alumni.snhu.edu/homecoming](http://alumni.snhu.edu/homecoming).

Homecoming is brought to you by the Office of Student Involvement and the Office of Alumni Engagement, and the 2017 Homecoming Committee. ■

## Academic Advising Staffing Changes

By Lindsey Goddard

This past summer was one full of staffing changes for the Academic Advising Office. In July, we said goodbye to two advisors. Sarah (Robbins) Hall has moved out of state with her husband and beautiful new baby girl, Eleanor Sue, who arrived at the end of May. Anna Metzger is still at SNHU but has taken a position as an Assistant Director in the Office of Student Involvement. Neena Fink, who previously worked with students in the School of Education, has transitioned to advising all students in the new College of Engineering, Technology and Aeronautics.

In August, Leah Richards transitioned into her new role as Assistant Dean of Student Success and moved to her new position as the director of the Learning Center. We're excited Sarah Stearns has moved into the role of Director of Academic Advising and will continue to lead our office. We are looking forward to another exciting year as we welcome three new advisors!

Kristin Boelzner joined us just before the start of June Orientation. She completed her master's degree in May of this year. During her graduate program, Kristin worked as a graduate fellow in the writing center. She completed her

bachelor's degree in English from the University of New Hampshire Manchester and a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration from Merrimack College. Kristin will be advising first year and transfer students in the School of Education.

Brian Bishop joined us mid-July and comes to us from COCE Graduate Admissions at SNHU. Prior to his time at COCE, he worked in residence life as an area director and residence hall director. Brian earned his bachelor's degree in Graphic Design from Chester College and his Master's degree in College Student Personnel from Canisius College. Brian will be advising first year and some transfer students in the School of Business.

Abby Thibodeau joined us at the end of July. She comes to SNHU from the University of Massachusetts Boston, where she worked as an instructor of English composition, as well as a writing tutor. She completed both her bachelor's and master's in English from UMass Boston. Abby will be advising first year students in the School of Arts and Sciences. ■