

# Plymouth

MAGAZINE

THE MAGAZINE OF PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY | WINTER 2021

# BETTER TOGETHER

Panthers meet the moment.





## SUPPORTING PLYMOUTH STATE STUDENTS OF COLOR

Eugene and Natalie Martin did everything they could to provide for their children. Although they struggled financially, even spending a couple of years in a homeless shelter, they always managed to come through and ensure that their children had what they needed. They especially wanted them to have the college education they weren't able to have.

Inspired in 2019 by his parents and the life-changing opportunities he found at PSU, Gene Martin '09 gave back by creating the Eugene P. Martin Sr. P'09 and Natalie J. Martin P'09 Scholarship, the University's only scholarship devoted exclusively to persons of color.

**"As a first-generation college graduate, I know the positive effects a college education has on upward mobility. Too often black and brown students face additional financial hurdles and I believe I have a moral obligation to do what I can to help open the doors of opportunity to students of color who may be unable to afford an education without financial assistance."—Gene Martin '09**

*Support the Martin Scholarship with a gift at [go.plymouth.edu/Martin](https://go.plymouth.edu/Martin). Establishing a named scholarship fund is a meaningful way to honor family members, a mentor, or a specific passion of yours. Our advancement staff will listen to your philanthropic vision for supporting students and guide you with options to bring it to fruition. A named scholarship can be established with a minimum five-year commitment of at least \$1,500 annually. For more information regarding named scholarships, contact John Scheinman P'19, director of development, by phone at (603) 535-2805 or via [jscheinman@plymouth.edu](mailto:jscheinman@plymouth.edu).*



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## On the cover and at right:

This issue's cover student, Michayla Sharlow '21, quotes Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."*

Michayla is a communications and media studies major from Franklin, NH. Mackenzie Fullerton '17 photos.

## On the back cover:

Jack Vachon '21 photo.



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Below: The Draper & Maynard Makerspace manufactured personal protective equipment (PPE) to assist regional first responders. Bret Kulakovich photo.







BETTER TOGETHER





## President's Message

When the story of Plymouth State University is written by future historians, 2020–2021 will receive special attention. Our compassionate and determined community continues to rise to the occasion and meet extraordinary challenges.

The world is in the midst of an extended period of disruption in an experience that is both shared and isolating, and the changes wrought by the pandemic signify a historic turning point in higher education. Plymouth State's collaborative culture, which has traditionally embraced change and innovation, has put us in a better position to provide a safer learning environment than many others.

Students told us overwhelmingly that they hoped to return to campus. A large class eagerly arrived after agreeing to stringent health and safety protocols, and our retention rate has risen. Commuting and online students were welcomed back as well, and teaching and learning is continuing through a mix of in-person, hybrid, and remote classes, thanks to faculty and staff's impressive flexibility, devotion, and many hours of effort.

Together, we figured out how to reinvent our operations, including securing campus buildings, refiguring classroom capacities and redesigning their layouts, upgrading our physical plant, revamping food service, and acquiring specialized health knowledge, among many other successful implementations. Faculty, staff, and students made this possible by considering every aspect of reopening, knowing that PSU is at the center of students' lives today and of their hopes for the future.

Plymouth State is continually fine-tuning procedures based on the latest data and recommendations, and we have been highly transparent and actively soliciting feedback. While COVID-19 testing has been limited or lacking at many colleges and universities, Plymouth State has a robust, weekly program—a time-consuming activity made possible by all members of our community. Combined with masks, social distancing, and numerous physical and programmatic modifications, we have a comprehensive safety program and a team in place to rapidly respond to new developments.

PSU not only reflects the world around us but also illuminates and explains it. 'Tackling a Wicked Problem' students are learning about pandemics, and diversity-focused courses are examining borders and immigration, human rights and intolerance, civic responsibility, and race, crime, and class. The practical application of science is demonstrated on campus by our own COVID-testing laboratory.

The pandemic, issues raised by Black Lives Matter, and November's election have engaged our campus. Concurrently, we are conducting a necessary process and discussion on academic priorities, which will result in some program realignments and opportunities for Cluster innovation, combination, and curricular reinvention.

Helping one another and serving our community are fundamental to PSU, and we have much to be proud of. Senior nursing students graduated early to be the first in the state to join the frontlines and we partnered with the Central New Hampshire Regional Public Health Network and the New Hampshire National Guard to convert our ice arena into a COVID surge center. The Draper & Maynard Makerspace manufactures personal protective equipment (PPE) on campus, the



Office of Community Impact spearheaded a PPE collection, and marketing students are making and distributing thousands of free masks. Our collective generosity has resulted in a record number of emergency grants to students awarded by the Student Support Foundation.

We've benefited from teamwork at every level. The towns of Holderness and Plymouth, Speare Memorial Hospital and local landlords, state and federal agencies, private citizens and elected officials, alumni and business owners, and so many others have helped us to meet the moment.

Through it all, Plymouth State has remained a source of inspiration to both students and the region, who look to us for guidance and leadership. I believe that hopelessness is the greatest potential threat to the rising generation. We are all grappling with the pandemic and the accompanying economic downturn, shortcomings in justice and equity, and national tensions, and the University is a safe harbor to consider these consequential issues. We are not only opening doors of opportunity for students to achieve their career and life goals, we are also serving as an irreplaceable anchor of hope and stability in a turbulent world.

I am tremendously proud of all that we are achieving and pledge to continue taking decisive action to promote the University's health and future.

We have begun planning 150th anniversary activities and will keep you posted regarding dates and details. Please plan to join our celebration of Plymouth State's strong and enduring school spirit, which is so evident in this extraordinary year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Donald L. Birx'.

President Donald L. Birx





1,296-panel solar array during installation on the PE Center. Hailey Botelho '22 photo.

## Solar Array Powers PSU Toward Carbon Neutrality

Plymouth State's venerable Physical Education (PE) Center has undergone an energy efficiency transformation. After years of research and planning, nearly an acre's worth of advanced solar panels have been installed on the center's Holderness campus roof, with construction having been completed this fall. Covering all available roof space, the solar photovoltaic (PV) array will offset more than 90 percent of the PE Center's annual electricity consumption.

"This is an important step toward Plymouth State's goal of achieving carbon net neutrality for institutional electricity consumption by the year 2030," says Brian Eisenhauer, director of PSU's Office of Environmental Sustainability.

The 518.4-kilowatt direct current system consists of 1,296 panels rated at 400 watts each. "The array is expected to produce more than 606,000 kilowatt hours of electricity in its first year of operation," notes Physical Plant Project Director Walter Durack, who oversaw the construction.

Plymouth State has a longstanding commitment to campus sustainability. In 2009, the University became a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. As part of that commitment, the University developed a Climate Action Plan in 2010 and pledged to reduce campus greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50 percent by 2025 and to make its operations greenhouse gas neutral by 2050.

When it opened in 2007, Langdon Woods Residence Hall was the first New Hampshire building and one of the first and largest residence halls in the country to receive gold-level certification from the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Program. All new University buildings are built to silver-level LEED specifications at a minimum, including PSU's ice arena. With its energy efficient geothermal system and many other environmental features, it is one of the greenest ice arenas in the world. Merrill Place Residence Hall and Conference Center, opened in 2017, has also achieved gold level LEED evaluation. ■

## Professor Robin DeRosa Named to Leadership New Hampshire Class of 2021

Acknowledging her nationally recognized work to transform the higher education learning experience for students, Professor Robin DeRosa is among the 30 leaders named to the Leadership New Hampshire class of 2021. The statewide program, which has a highly competitive selection process, focuses on building a community of informed and engaged leaders through collaboration and civic engagement.

DeRosa is director of the Open Learning & Teaching Collaborative (Open CoLab), a dynamic hub dedicated to innovative teaching and learning, linking theories, ideas, and research with practice. The CoLab Team focuses on instructional design, open education, interdisciplinary learning, and increasing the public impact of higher education. One of its major projects in the last year was to help found the New Hampshire Open Education Public Consortium, a joint effort across the state's 11 public postsecondary institutions to lower the cost of textbooks and other learning materials for New Hampshire's college students.

The Open CoLab has also played a large role in helping PSU implement its Integrated Clusters education model, which supports interdisciplinary work, project-based learning that extends outside of the classroom, and empowering students to contribute to collective knowledge.

"The focus of my work at Plymouth State University, and with many other institutions in New Hampshire, has been to make higher education more accessible, affordable, and impactful," DeRosa says. "But education is just one part of a larger, complex system. Leadership New Hampshire will help me work more broadly toward improving the public good, linking our work in higher education to other services and sectors. Approaching our challenges holistically, and leaving our silos behind, will help us build a sustainable and equitable future for everyone in New Hampshire." ■

## National Endowment for the Humanities Grant

Exemplifying Plymouth State University's drive to collaborate across disciplines to provide students with a well-rounded education, Assistant Professor Sarah Parrish has received a \$34,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the creation of interdisciplinary courses. The Humanities Connections Planning Grant is allowing Parrish to work with faculty across multiple disciplines, including business and environmental science, to design thematic courses that cultivate visual literacy skills.

"Some students may not grasp how traditional art history classes connect to their lives, which inspired me to make these classes more relevant for all students," said Parrish. "The thematic courses will help students learn to understand the visual world, allowing them to bring those critical thinking skills and new perspectives to their own disciplines and careers."

Parrish has collaborated with faculty from various disciplines to develop three thematic courses. The first course, offered in Spring 2021, "Art, Money, and Power," will focus on the business of art through the ages. ■



Robin DeRosa, Jon Gilbert Fox photo.



## Meteorology Program Awarded \$528,000 National Science Foundation Grant

The Plymouth State University Meteorology Program received a \$528,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support the four-year continuation of an undergraduate research program that explores atmospheric and related sciences, and provides students with research and related professional development opportunities. The award to PSU is one of two grants totaling more than \$1 million to support the Northeast Partnership for Atmospheric and Related Sciences (NEPARS) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), an ongoing collaboration between PSU and Hobart and William Smith Colleges in New York State.

Plymouth State's program is led by Associate Professor Jason "Jay" Cordeira '05, and PSU meteorology faculty members Professor Eric Hoffman, Professor Lourdes Avilés, and Research Associate Professor Eric Kelsey serve as faculty mentors.

"While many REU programs are geared toward third-year undergraduate students, our primary focus is to provide first- and second-year undergraduate students with rich learning opportunities, helping them prepare for careers in STEM fields," says Cordeira. "Students from across the country come together for several weeks each summer to collaborate with peers, faculty, and other professionals, and have the opportunity to participate in research and real-world experiences, such as visiting the Mount Washington Observatory and attending and presenting their work at a national conference.

"This funding provides meaningful opportunities for professional development activities that complement PSU's commitment to our Integrated Clusters learning model and its emphasis on collaboration and developing critical thinking skills." ■

## Redesigning Higher Education Highlights Plymouth State's On-Going Transformation

With many institutions merging or closing across the nation, President Donald Birx brought a vision for organizational transformation to Plymouth State University grounded in holistic integration with student-centered decision-making. The transformation began with reorganizing PSU's 24 academic departments and three colleges into seven Integrated Clusters of discipline-based communities.

Published this spring, *Redesigning Higher Education: A Small New England Public University Changes Higher Education* is co-authored by President Birx, Professor Annette Holba, and Executive Associate to the President Patricia Bahr. The book uses a storytelling narrative approach to provide a practical application of the radical changes meant to transform the higher education experience.

"The story of Plymouth State University is a story of institutional transformation through the willingness to take risks and embrace change," says Betsy Barefoot, senior scholar, Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. "Leaders at all levels have created a leaner, more focused institution through the integration of systems and processes—integration that can serve as a model for other institutions, both public and private." ■

## Graduate Student Receives Prestigious NSF Funding

Hannah Vollmer '21G has been awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship, the first PSU student to achieve this honor. Vollmer was recognized both for her promise as an early-career scientist and her research on two rare alpine plants in the White Mountains of New Hampshire: dwarf mountain cinquefoil, or Robbins' cinquefoil, which exists nowhere else in the world but above the tree line in the White Mountains, and *sibbaldia*, which is typically found in Arctic regions.

The National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, the oldest of its kind in the United States, recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees.

"I was inspired to continue my education after seeing research done at Plymouth State to determine how plant evolution and genetics are related to each other," said Vollmer. "Working with the professors has allowed me to develop my own research and approach this topic from a conservation mindset. The National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, and the two additional grants, reflect the support I have received from my professors and peers. I hope to be the first of many NSF Graduate Research Fellows from Plymouth State." ■

Below: Hannah Vollmer '21G measures dwarf mountain cinquefoil, an alpine plant found in only two small patches in the White Mountains.



## Agrotopias: Professor Abby Goode Explores Sustainability's History

Professor Abby Goode's upcoming book, *Agrotopias: An American Literary History of Sustainability*, will explore the long-running, complex, and multilayered history behind notions of sustainability. She has received scholarly grants for *Agrotopias*, which is under advance contract with the University of North Carolina Press, from the American Association of University Women and the American Council of Learned Societies.

Goode coined "agrotopia" to describe imaginary sites of sustainability. "They are literary fantasies of reproductively controlled, racially homogeneous, sustainable utopias," says Goode. Societal pressures provide the impetus. "In the United States, for example, crises such as the Civil War and Reconstruction gave rise to serious discussions of who should be allowed to stay in the US, and who might establish agrotopias elsewhere." ■





**BETTER TOGETHER**







# BETTER TOGETHER

## Panthers meet the moment

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Photos by Mackenzie Fullerton '17 unless noted otherwise.

### **Flexibility, Adaptation, and Innovation Allow Teaching and Learning to Continue**

In March 2020, when COVID-19 closed colleges and universities across the country, PSU faculty switched gears in a matter of days to deliver classes remotely. Our digital tools, institutional knowledge, and flexible culture that has historically embraced adaptation and innovation have been key to both that immediate transition and to subsequent pedagogical shifts.

“Faculty and staff have done amazing, hard work in teaching and working in a unique situation,” says Interim Provost Ann McClellan. “Everyone has invested a great deal of time to make it a safe and productive learning experience for our students.”

The Spring 2020 semester continued successfully with Information Technology, the Lamson Library, the Writing Center, and the Open CoLab all offering immediate help to faculty, staff, and students at most hours of the day. Student success coaches advised remotely on academic programs, and Career Services did so on internship policies and employment opportunities. These and other offices, including Campus Accessibility Services, PASS, and TRIO, continued to meet critical needs.

Once the semester ended in May, the CoLab’s Slipper Camp (“like boot camp, only softer and on Zoom”) faculty development series centered on curriculum design while planning for fall contingencies. This was followed by summer participation by more than 100 faculty members in further professional development focused on online and hybrid teaching, through which a number of faculty members earned certifications for best practices in online teaching.

Additional trainings, tech upgrades, and classroom modifications took place right up to fall’s reopening, when PSU students resumed their studies in various modalities. Traditional, face-to-face classes are complemented by synchronous and asynchronous formats, as well as a hybrid, combined option.

“PSU is a very student-centered institution and this distinguishes our approach to online education,” adds McClellan. “The University’s pedagogy workshops and classes focus on the human elements involved in adapting to COVID, and we really emphasize incorporating flexibility, kindness, and innovative teaching theories that support students’ basic needs in a time of economic crisis. These augment more standard, practical training such as how to use Zoom cameras and design interactive online teaching modules.” ■ **Peter Lee Miller**





**BETTER TOGETHER**

## Academic Disciplines Respond to COVID-19

*What will be the continuing impact of this epochal event after the virus ebbs? PSU programs shared how a changed landscape have influenced their disciplines and may provide new opportunities.*

### Athletic Training (AT) Master's Program

When COVID shut down organized sports in Spring 2020, students' vital clinical experiences were eliminated. Faculty rapidly adjusted and created online patient-based scenarios and telemedicine simulations to replace the lost clinical hours. When athletic teams could participate in modified practices and intrasquad scrimmages, AT

students were able to get back to their clinical education and practice their skills with real patients in a modified way, including the wearing of gloves, masks, and shields. Students were challenged to construct new research projects that avoided physical contact with subjects and instead utilize survey methods, distance observation, or home exercise and treatment interventions to answer research questions.

### Biology

Faculty ensured that students continued to get hands-on experiences by adapting student inquiry-driven labs in integrative biology, microbiology, and animal behavior, engaging students in collaborative lab projects early in the semester, collecting data using sophisticated equipment, and learning up-to-date techniques and protocols. Subsequent data analysis and reporting occurred either face-to-face or online, allowing students to receive a complete and rigorous experience while being flexible to changes prompted by the crisis. The relevance of course material to the pandemic was incorporated through open discussions about the scientific process, scientific merit, and biomedical and societal impacts. A lecture about virology and discussion of the 1918 flu was added to molecular biology. Genetics was offered with a student-centric mindset. Students could attend in-person with social distancing, synchronously online using Zoom, or asynchronously, offering flexibility to those at high risk for COVID, who needed to support their family, or had other complications.

### Business Graduate Programs

The pandemic is a double-edged sword with both challenges and opportunities. Half of last summer's original MBA cohort members chose to take a mixture of on-campus and online classes and required remote learning assistance even in the on-campus classes. This made it initially challenging to cultivate the "community spirit" among cohort members, but faculty served students by adapting to new instructional technologies, providing accommodations, and encouraging both student-teacher and student-student interactions. We also saw increased challenges to our online MBA and MS accounting programs. Most of our online students are adult professionals and many slowed down their pace of classes due to various health, family, financial, and employment issues. Intensified competition in online business education was recognized as an opportunity to strategically identify and highlight our brand's selling points. The pandemic has forced students to become more farsighted and more understanding of the benefits of a master's degree versus a year of work experience.

### Computer Science

Students made use of Spinoza, a new web tool created by faculty colleagues at Brandeis University, in PSU's intro programming course in Python. Students wrote code to try and solve problems and the system told them whether it was correct, letting them give anonymous help to peers and enabling their

professor to track their progress. Overall, CS students may be in one of the better situations during the pandemic as there are lots of opportunities for new technology to help maintain communication and some sense of normalcy.

### Criminology/Criminal Justice

COVID-19 is having a profound impact on our criminal justice system. The virus in our prisons forces us to question bail and holding prisoners while awaiting trial, and what a "speedy trial" means during a pandemic. Additionally, how will we conduct safe trials when jury boxes are traditionally less than three feet apart? What does this mean for public trials if it's not safe for the public to be present? Will your right to confront your accuser be OK via Zoom? The safety of law enforcement is another serious question, considering that 20 percent of NYPD officers were sick with the virus at one point. How do we not put police in harm's way when quite often they are our first responders? Much research needs to be done.

### Educational Theatre Collaborative (ETC)

ETC's TIGER (Theatre Integrating Guidance, Education, and Responsibility) program recognized the need for addressing the COVID crisis with more online programming for K-12 students. Turbo TIGER ([tinyurl.com/TurboTiger](https://tinyurl.com/TurboTiger)) is allowing the company's high-quality offerings to be shared worldwide instead of its typical three-hour, in-person radius.



Top: Finn Begley '22 photo.



### Meteorology (BS) and Applied Meteorology (MS)

In the stressful process of adapting our courses we gained new skills, technological savvy, and useful gadgets that we would have never obtained otherwise. Remote internships will likely join the variety of other opportunities available to students, and we expect that professional conferences will continue providing some programming online. The pandemic forced us to offer courses we never thought could

work remotely and opened our eyes to new possibilities. Combinations of asynchronous work and synchronous joining of our in-person hybrid courses could attract new remote students to Plymouth State and allow them to complete their entire degrees online. We highly value the in-person student experience but believe we can also deliver a high-quality remote experience and are ready to explore the best ways to do it.

### Nursing

“I am a nurse. What is your superpower?” This description of an RN has never been more accurate. As the pandemic evolved, fearless health care providers worldwide cared for ill patients and PSU senior nursing students remained in their capstone clinical placements. The hospitals wanted them to stay, but there were too many unknowns to take the risk and, while the move to virtual learning was smooth, the group longed to be back at bedside. After much weighing

of pros and cons, there was an offer of early graduation and temporary licensing to get the cohort back to clinical practice. Students rose to the occasion and completed their courses on an accelerated schedule, facilitated by dedicated nursing faculty. These exceptional graduates earned a 100 percent National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) pass rate and are using their patient care superpowers in New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, and Tennessee. ■

## Pandemic Programming: Engaged, Connected, and Socially Distanced

Summer 2020 was filled with unknowns, but students made clear their fervent wish to return to campus, and fall brought a large entering class. The protocols that enabled students’ return necessitated curtailment of most public events, including intercollegiate sports contests, fine and performing arts presentations, and public lectures. But the University stepped up with creatively revised offerings to keep students engaged and connected while socially distanced.

PSU transitioned to remote learning just after spring break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Office of Community Impact (OCI) organized volunteers to collect personal protective equipment (PPE) items for Speare Memorial Hospital and the Central NH Public Health Network. OCI has continued to engage students online through Zoom and social media programs and posts, including weekly Partner Spotlights, Let’s Talk Tuesdays, Social Action Toolkit, Fridays on the Farm, and Virtual Volunteerism programs.

The Office of Student Life’s activities have included scheduling a group climb at the University’s new indoor climbing wall in the Human Performance Center, encouraging students to exercise their voting rights, leading the creation of a new Office of Minority Student Resources (*see p. 14*), and presenting virtual workshops such as “The Freedom to be Yourself,” which gave members of the PSU community an opportunity to come together to talk about equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Plymouth State has also continued to guide its resurgent Greek life population. “We have created a robust policy for the community that supports continued recruitment, risk management education, academic standards, and a detailed expansion process,” says Director of Student Life Tevis Bryant.

Room and board are always critical to student satisfaction, and PSU staff worked diligently to help students adjust to campus life and engage in community development opportunities. “As we opened all of the residence halls, the community advisor staff facilitated floor meetings in all of their communities. These were offered in a virtual format to support social distancing and other COVID-19 precautions,” says Amanda Grazioso, director of residential life and dining. In

addition to these and various other welcome activities in the residence halls, Grazioso’s staff facilitated dozens of community experiences that support PSU’s Habits of Mind learning outcomes (Purposeful Communication, Problem Solving, Integrated Perspective, and Self-Regulated Learning).

The pandemic also prompted numerous dining enhancements, including new take-out options, picnic tables, and outdoor eating spaces in order to reduce the density of indoor eateries. PSU Dining provides a balance of pre-made and made-to-order options to accommodate student schedules and desires, and the Chef’s Table and Breakfast-All-Day stations opened to add even more variety. “Love, Chartwells” events, including make-your-own s’mores, popcorn, hand-made apple cider donuts, and a Southern Comfort night gave students many ways to enjoy food and fun with friends. ■ Peter Lee Miller

John Tully photo.







## United States Coronavirus Coordinator Deborah Birx Visits Plymouth State

Students at institutions like Plymouth State University are showing the way to overcome COVID-19, according to United States Coronavirus Response Coordinator Deborah Birx, MD. “We’re winning now on university campuses because of students—they’ve changed their behavior,” she says.

On October 12, Plymouth State welcomed Birx to campus for a presentation on the University’s response to COVID-19, a tour of campus facilities engaged in relief efforts, and a visit to the on-campus testing site. She gave remarks on trends across university and college campuses nationwide and on the future outlook of the pandemic.

Ambassador-at-Large Deborah Birx is the coordinator of the United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS and US Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy. In April 2020, the White House appointed the world-renowned global health official and physician to the Office of the Vice President to aid in the whole of government response to COVID-19 as the coronavirus response coordinator.

“Not many universities believe in their students enough to open their doors,” says Ambassador Birx, who noted that many institutions remain in online-only mode. The key to the success of PSU and others, she maintains, was comprehensive summer planning along with work by facility managers, mask mandates, and regular testing. The most critical factor, however, is having students work together to prevent the spread of COVID.

The visit to New Hampshire was especially meaningful in that it included family time with her brother, Plymouth State President Donald Birx. “Over the past eight months, not only has Deb been a trusted resource for the nation, but she’s been a sounding board for me, PSU, and the entire University System as we planned for the reopening of campus and the continuation of in-person classes throughout the semester,” says President Birx. “She has given us advice and shared perspectives that have given us the confidence to move forward.”

As the crisis deepened this spring, Ambassador Birx’s team began writing weekly state reports, which incorporated data from over 3,200 counties to provide specific recommendations. Mask mandates were proposed not only for their direct health benefits—“We know masks work” she said repeatedly on her PSU visit—but also as important signals to retailers that reopening could be done while minimizing risks.

Ambassador Birx’s interest in reopening colleges and universities transcends their benefits to students. The shuttering of higher education nationwide this spring deeply affected the “brain trust” of research platforms that she counts on, and since schools reopened they have provided critical analysis and data not only to answer epidemiological questions, but also on social concerns such as the impact of isolation and depression.

Her years of experience gained in combatting AIDS/HIV in Africa have shown Birx how to battle America’s COVID



Gil Talbot '76 photo.

outbreak. “Step by step, day by day, community by community, mapping progress, and listening to people,” she says. Since June, she has listened and learned about the nation’s headway by traveling more than 16,000 miles by car to 37 states and 27 universities. First-hand observations of what communities are doing on their respective Main Streets and how business is transacted in coffee shops factor into her recommendations.

Her discussion on serious pandemic matters was leavened by family recollections. The Birx siblings received Heathkits, electronic products that required assembly, and Ambassador Birx learned to solder at age five and helped build a color television at age ten. “It was great STEM education,” she recalls, and her worldview and commitment to service were also molded at an early age by missionaries who regularly visited the family home.

“Physically distanced and socially engaged” is Ambassador Birx’s mantra for dealing with family situations, whether visiting with her New Hampshire relatives or when asked what we all can do when considering upcoming holiday gatherings.

“This virus can spread among families and friends if you take your masks off and don’t wash your hands,” she cautioned. “We’ve got to make sure that we’re not taking masks off in small gatherings.”

She cautioned that colder weather is steadily driving us indoors and may be foreshadowing a silent spread of the virus. “We’re seeing the same worrying signs as we saw in the south with air conditioning in the summer,” she says.

Recognizing that behavioral changes take a long time and are difficult to achieve, Ambassador Birx models positive reinforcement. Language is important, and instead of telling people where they can’t sit, she recommends letting them know where sitting is permitted.

Ambassador Birx’s extensive experience and detailed inquiry has convinced her that until a vaccine is readily available, the proper course is to continue with the protocols that PSU has adopted: social distancing, mask wearing, and regular testing.

“We really know how to prevent spread of this virus and working together we can.”

■ Peter Lee Miller



# Love-Love: Women's Tennis serves up hope from coast to coast

Long-time Women's Tennis Coach Barbara Rawlsky-Willett has two families; husband Doug and daughters Jessica and Meredith, and a dozen student athletes. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, the families merged.

Both daughters work in healthcare. Meredith is a registered nurse in the interventional radiology department at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon, NH, and Jessica is an attending physician and assistant medical director for the emergency department at San Joaquin General Hospital in French Camp, CA.

In mid-March, both facilities were engaged as the pandemic hit in full force. At DHMC, plans were readied for a potential overflow of patients, while in California the influx had already begun.

"Knowing coach's daughters worked in the medical field and with everything going on, we felt like we should be doing something," said team captain Maggie McCarthy '21. "We wanted to make sure they knew they were appreciated."

Frontline workers were being cheered around the world. In New York City, crowds clapped, banged pots and pans, and honked horns in appreciation. In Plymouth, armed with paper, pencils, and markers, Panthers turned their focus from forehands and volleys to writing and sketching. Team members designed personal thank you cards with heartfelt messages and words of encouragement. Julie Miller '22 used her artistic talent.

Miller sketched a nurse wearing a mask and heart-shaped choker inscribed with the words "THANK YOU." The nurse's large eyes portray a sense of compassion and kindness.



## Emergency medicine can often be a thankless job. And because of that, the thank-yous become even more special and memorable.

Miller had experienced the virus's impact firsthand. She was in Italy for a study abroad program during the spring semester before the outbreak forced an early return to New Hampshire.

"I was basically in quarantine for a month," she said. "I could have gotten really sick. I had to go to the hospital for tests, have lung scans and everything, but all the time the nurses were really nice. I was so appreciative because they were putting their families at risk too."

Alyssa Bettencourt '23, a nursing major, wished she was already working to provide care and support to patients.

"I want to be a nurse because I've been in hospitals a lot," she said. "Staff members have always inspired me. I felt like I had a chance to help them get through that time and that meant a lot to me."

The cards were bundled together and shipped to the two hospitals. "Each told a little bit of our team story," said Bettencourt. "That really personal note meant a lot to me."

It did to the coach's daughters as well.

"The main thing for my colleagues was the importance of feeling that support and recognition," said Jessica. "During that



Left: Coach Barbara Rawlsky-Willett's daughter, Jessica, is an emergency room attending physician.

Above: Panther artwork and letters of support. Courtesy photos.

time, we were in the midst of a COVID-19 surge in California and we were overwhelmed and understaffed, and morale was at an all-time low. It was such an important gesture. Knowing that the support extended beyond our own community was really a push for us to keep going."

DHMC staff reacted similarly. "My colleagues and I were blown away by the kindness," said Meredith, "especially knowing that it came from a group that knew little about us beyond that we were working through the pandemic. We really appreciated being recognized for our hard work and knowing that what we were doing was having such a positive impact on everyone around us."

And that's how a little team from PSU encourages frontline workers from coast to coast.

"Emergency medicine can often be a thankless job," said Jessica. "And because of that, the thank-yous become even more special and memorable."

■ Chris Kilmer '99





## Together, We're Better: Community Collaborations

Above: Community of Caring flags on display.

Below: Museum of the White Mountains Director Cynthia Cutting during installation.

Mackenzie Fullerton '17 photos.

*It's easy to wear a mask. It's hard to recover from COVID.*

That's one sentiment on a handmade flag that flies in downtown Plymouth. There are dozens more with messages like:

*You matter. Love wins. Stay positive.*

*The voice of many is heard loudest.*

These poignant and inspiring thoughts were written, painted, and embroidered by students, staff, alumni,

and community members as part of PSU's Community of Caring flag project. They decorate the artistic streamers that flutter in downtown Plymouth—and across the campus—giving voice to the emotions people are feeling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cynthia Cutting, director of the Museum of the White Mountains, created the 70-foot banners by sewing individual flags together. She read each one, savoring the expressions of consolation, inspiration, and spirit.

"People chose their words really well," she says. "As I sewed, I smiled. I picked up each flag and considered the student or community member who made it. It felt so good, like I was sewing the community together."

That was the intent of the Community of Caring flags project—to bring the wider community together.

"There was a need to share," Cutting says. "It's so touching. It makes visual how people actually care."

### Collaborating, Caring

Bonding the community and keeping

people safe and informed have been key goals behind many PSU projects during the pandemic. In addition to the flags display, PSU also gathered donations of personal protective equipment (PPE), turned the Savage Welcome Center and Ice Arena into a COVID-19 surge center, and manufactured face shields for Spear Memorial Hospital, among other community collaborations.

The University's dozen task force subcommittees focused on specific areas, including safety, communication, academics, community relations, and campus culture. Their combined efforts resulted in a nearly 100-page document, including key protocols for community safety.

"We were very much reassured as a town that there was an extreme amount of planning put into this," says Bill Bolton, chair of Plymouth Select Board and a member of the community subcommittee. "The report is intricate in terms of actions and reactions, and the administration was very attuned to the need to protect Plymouth and its residents."

Students also had a big hand in helping this spring and summer. The



*"As I sewed, I smiled. I picked up each flag and considered the student or community member who made it. It felt so good, like I was sewing the community together."*

*—Cynthia Cutting*



Student Support Foundation continued to operate its food pantry, awarding a record number of emergency grants totaling over \$14,000 to peers.

“This highlights one significant way that our community came together in support of our students,” says Jessica Dutille ’03, ’04MBA, ’20EdD, director of PSU’s Office of Community Impact. “Overall, it has been a time that has certainly tested us, but we have grown together, creating new connections that have sustained us.”

**Assisting Speare Memorial Hospital**  
Michelle L. McEwen ’81, president and CEO of Speare Memorial, explained that PSU staff helped the hospital on several critical fronts. “They were there any time we asked,” she says.

PSU helped Speare Memorial secure PPE donations after hospital staff became aware that N95 masks, gowns, and gloves were hard to source. Community members were eager to donate supplies, but some didn’t feel safe entering the hospital to do so. “That’s where PSU came into play,” McEwen says, noting that the donation center was set up inside the University’s ALLWell Center.

PSU staff and students organized and delivered hundreds of donations to Speare. McEwen says, “The staff was humbled that the community wanted them to remain safe.”

Plastic face shields that cover the mouth and eyes were difficult to obtain. “You can only use one per patient, and we knew we wouldn’t have enough,” McEwen says. PSU’s Draper & Maynard Makerspace used

its 3D printer and laser cutter to create and donate 100 shields to the hospital. (Funds for PPE production were donated by Plymouth General Dentistry and Renee Plummer.)

Speare Memorial also provided a potential overflow space for patients recovering from COVID who no longer needed intensive care but were not ready to return home. PSU melted the ice in its arena, and the National Guard set up cots and supplies that the New Hampshire Public Health Network had in storage. Other equipment, such as oxygen machines, was rented. “If we needed to send patients, we were prepared,” says McEwen.

As an added touch to raise spirits, Stacey Lucas ’01, ’20G, a.k.a. “Veggie Art Girl,” painted the plexiglass above the rink’s boards with flowers and other inspirational images. Thankfully, this surge center was never put to use through the summer as Speare Memorial treated fewer than 20 cases of COVID. But it was ready.

“I don’t know what we would have done if we had been inundated with patients,” said McEwen. “It meant a lot to us to have a place where we could still take care of our community if needed.”

The hospital returned the favor to PSU in the fall, helping with student COVID testing and providing health services.

### Raising the Flags

Community of Caring flags continue to wave on campus and downtown.

The project began in June with the formation of the Greater Plymouth

Community and Alumni Subcommittee. Dutille and Director of Development John Scheinman ’19P co-chaired the group, which also included Selectman Bolton, local landlord Doug McLane, Plymouth Town Manager Kathy Lowe, and PSU staff, alumni, and faculty.

The art project was imagined as a way to engage the community. “We wanted a participatory experience to process what we’re going through collectively and serve as a visual representation on how interconnected we are,” Dutille says.

The panel tapped Cutting’s expertise in installing exhibitions and hosting community art projects. Cutting suggested the flag-making idea as a way to give voice to all hopes and fears.

Material was donated, and Cutting used it to create square- and rectangle-shaped flags, evoking Tibetan prayer flags. She and the committee created kits with instructions. “The direction was to share how you are feeling with your community during this time of COVID,” she says.

In the first two months, over 100 individuals, artist collaboratives, schools, clubs, businesses, and other organizations contributed flags. Cutting began sewing them together in early September, creating the banners installed around town.

Says Bolton, “I want people to see the messages of reassurance, because I think people will be moved by them. They need to see that this is a shared response.”

As part of the project, Tallie Phan ’20 created a Community of Caring flags logo and “BEAT COVID/Together, We’re Better” lawn signs, paid for by subcommittee member Doug McLane.

“We wanted to be proactive and educate students on their role in the community,” Dutille says. “We live and work here and have a stake in PSU’s success, so we took it very personally.”

■ Janice Beetle

*It’s not too late to take part!*

*To request a flag kit, e-mail Cynthia Cutting at [cutting@plymouth.edu](mailto:cutting@plymouth.edu).*

Below: Plymouth Select Board Chair Bill Bolton and Speare Memorial Hospital President and CEO Michelle McEwen ’81. Courtesy photos.



Left: The Office of Community Impact helped to organize the initiative. Mackenzie Fullerton ’17 photo.







# A MOVEMENT AND A MOMENT: BLACK LIVES MATTER AT PSU



Two hundred and thirty-three years after the Constitutional Convention, we continue to strive “to form a more perfect union.” This year represents a watershed toward the goals of racial justice and reconciliation, both nationally and at Plymouth State University.

The PSU community joined the nation in recoiling in horror from the brutal death of George Floyd in May. In a public statement, President Donald Birx shared how it filled him with both sadness and anger. “The discrimination that permeates our country in so many subtle ways hurts us all, and we are all diminished by it,” he said. “It astounds and baffles me that in the midst of a virus ripping through the country, there is still a penchant for hate, prejudice, and tearing down others. Our response must be to continue the ongoing effort to treat each other with love and care.” (*President Birx’s full statement can be read at [go.plymouth.edu/DLB-statement](http://go.plymouth.edu/DLB-statement).*)

**“The discrimination that permeates our country in so many subtle ways hurts us all, and we are all diminished by it.”**

*—President Donald Birx*

Above: Photo by Life Matters from Pexels.

## Office of Minority Student Resources

The Office of Student Life, with the help of many faculty and staff members, has worked hard to create a more diverse and inclusive environment, especially for underrepresented groups and students of color. “Throughout the summer, we all witnessed the nation push back on the racial injustices that have and continue to plague our country,” says Director of Student Life Tevis Bryant. “After discussing these tragedies in depth, we asked: What can we do at PSU?”

Over the course of several meetings, it was evident that PSU needed to provide more opportunities and resources for students of color. Hence, the new Office of Minority Student Resources has been set up in a high-traffic area of the HUB, serving as a “one-stop shop.” Resources will include cuisine, hair care, and on/off-campus engagement suggestions, along with minority scholarship information, connections with leadership organizations (Manchester

BLM, NAACP, etc.), mentorship and community building opportunities, educational diversity training, workshops, and more.

## “Protest Portraits” Feature Our Community

This fall saw the campus installation of “Protest Portraits” by internationally acclaimed portrait photographer Maundy Mitchell. The exhibit consisted of life-size images from Black Lives Matter demonstrations that took place this summer on the Plymouth Town Common.

“We are seeing profound cultural change in the US,” says Mitchell. “Urgent calls are being made to examine systemic racism in our country, and our tiny town in the mountains of New Hampshire is not an exception.”

Jessica Dutille ’03, ’04MBA, ’20EdD, director of the Office of Community Impact, and Michael Heitz ’13, administrative assistant of the Museum of the White Mountains (MWM), were among those photographed. “We are passionate about human rights and want to make sure it’s in our community and our world,” said Dutille, and Heitz explained, “I’m here to listen and to learn, and to show support for an equitable future.” Depicted members of the PSU community also included Michael Cuddihy ’09, MWM Director Cynthia Cutting, and Sydney Maville ’20. Mitchell, the photographer, is the spouse of Professor of Theatre, Theatre Design, and Technology Matt Kizer.

The exhibit can be viewed online at [maundymitchell.com/protest-portraits](http://maundymitchell.com/protest-portraits).

## Task Force Recommendations

At PSU, the issues raised nationally prompted reexamination of our campus climate, and a Black Lives Matter Task Force considered ways to be more welcoming and supportive of students of color. A key proposal is to develop a Plymouth State University Center for Diversity, to be integrated into the Cluster Learning Model and to serve as a resource for northern New Hampshire and beyond. The task force also recommended a cabinet-level position to provide campus-wide leadership and guidance on equity and inclusion. [In October, Plymouth presented that concept to the USNH Board of Trustees and received approval to conduct a search for the position. We look forward to this new opportunity to better serve our students, staff, and faculty of color in the coming year.] ■ **Peter Lee Miller**





Above: "Protest Portraits" installation on campus by Maundy Mitchell. Photos this page by Mackenzie Fullerton '17.



"I felt like the Protest Portraits exhibit really spoke volumes, that this issue wasn't going away and is still very relevant."

—Avery Jones '21  
President, Class of 2021  
Business Administration  
Dover, NH



"The idea of having a one-stop shop for students of color—that's great."

—Zachary Eastman '21  
Business Administration  
homeless/lives at PSU



"When something this big and deep-rooted in society happens, it's something that we have to confront."

—Tam "Tallie" Phan '20  
Graphic Design  
Hanoi, Vietnam



"People here have their different ideologies and political beliefs, but I think if we were moving the progress forward ... we would be bettering our school."

—Michael "MJ" Shannon '22  
Political Science  
Milford, CT





BETTER TOGETHER

# When the World Comes to Plymouth

by Archives & Special Collections Librarian Alice Staples Images from the Spinelli Archives

It was stated in the 1969 *Conning Tower* that, isolated in the microcosm of Plymouth, we sense life but don't always experience it. I think we've proven this statement wrong, and it's about time! [signed CLG, 1970 yearbook]

Up here in the mountains, two hours from Boston, five hours from New York City, we enjoy the pleasures of living in the country: beautiful scenery, less traffic, fewer people. Easy access to skiing, hiking, and climbing is part of what makes PSU attractive to students and residents alike. We exit off Interstate 93 and leave the world behind to shelter in the Pemigewasset Valley.

But what happens when the world comes to us? The COVID-19 pandemic is worldwide, reaching from major cities to small towns, though New Hampshire has had relatively lower numbers of cases. In 1918, the Spanish Flu took its toll on the population of New Hampshire, with 4,319 deaths reported for 1918–1919. The numbers of cases and deaths during this period are not easily available for Plymouth, but students wrote

about the flu. According to Marion Gale's '21 scrapbook, students were sent home on February 14, 1919, and did not return to Plymouth until March 2. Newspaper articles called this a “flu vacation.”

Other pandemics caused Plymouth Normal School students to be quarantined. In 1926, students wrote, “Yes, the scarlet-fever germ believes in Normal school education this year as formerly. However he didn't remain with us very long this year, and utterly failed to cause a panic of fear.” In the 1928 Plymouth Normal School publication, the *Prospect*, students asked, “How can we forget that period between Christmas vacation and Easter? It was at this time that we were all introduced to the hypodermic needle, because of the scarlet fever epidemic; but even quarantine had its joys.”

As we know, PSU was shut down in March of 2020, with students returning home and finishing the semester remotely. There was no Commencement in May. Students returned to campus this fall under strict guidelines to wear masks, be socially distant, and get tested regularly. Classes were conducted face-to-face but also remotely. No “flu vacation” for today's students.

In 1970, the world came to Plymouth State College in the form of the Vietnam conflict. On May 4, 1970, student protesters were fired upon and four killed at Kent State University, and college campuses around the country were in a state of turmoil. PSC was no different. President Harold Hyde had been appointed to a federal panel of university and college presidents to discuss student unrest. In fact, on May 4, President Hyde was at





a meeting of this panel in Iowa when news broke about the shootings at Kent State. The president of Kent State was also on the panel and the meeting immediately broke up, with presidents rushing back to campuses to deal with the situation.

On the evening of May 4, Plymouth State students met peacefully. When Boyd Hall proved too small to handle the gathering, students calmly marched through town to the Field House, where they voted not to strike but to hold meetings, workshops, and other peaceful protests.

Along with President Hyde, who refused Governor Peterson's offer to send the National Guard, Stephen Eastman '71, student senate president, is credited with ensuring that that meeting and subsequent ones were peaceful. When establishing a scholarship in his name, his Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity brothers wrote, "Reflective of Steve Eastman and his innate character, the scholarship recipient shall be a student leader who promotes a caring sense of community that was, is, and forever shall be Plymouth."

In the pre-Civil War era, one of the most famous abolitionists of the time lived in Plymouth. Nathaniel Peabody Rogers was born and raised in a home on Main Street where the Silver Center for the Arts now stands. Rogers practiced law in Plymouth, but went on to edit the *Herald of Freedom*, a New Hampshire anti-slavery newspaper. He and his wife famously broke with Plymouth's Congregational church, located on the common, over the issue of slavery, stating, "... if you will not strike this iniquity, we will not remain in your communion." The church answered, "Cease your agitation or we will excommunicate you." It did.

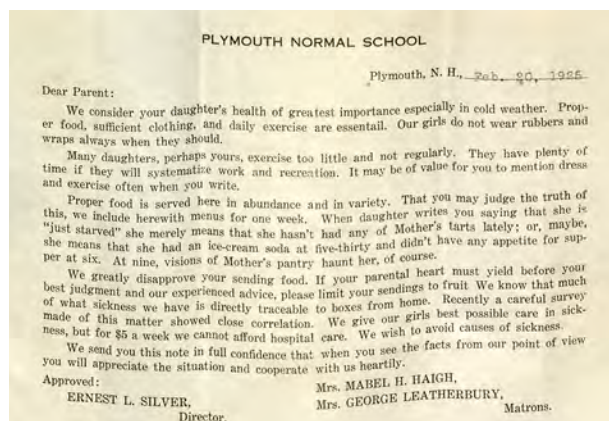
Rogers's son, Daniel Farrand Rogers, considered his father a martyr for the anti-slavery movement, giving up his church and his livelihood to fight for abolition. It is said that the house in Plymouth was a stop on the



Underground Railroad, and Nathaniel's children recalled finding escaped slaves in their home on many occasions.

In 2020, the town common reprised its historic role as a center of justice advocacy with citizens speaking up for the Black Lives Matter movement. Local artist Maundy Mitchell created a beautiful and meaningful series of photographs that were displayed on the common and is now traveling the state, much like Nathaniel Rogers did, to fight inequalities that people of color still suffer. Plymouth State University has pledged to take action to better ensure inclusion of its students of color, striving to live up to the legacy of Rogers's activism.

When the world comes to Plymouth, citizens meet the challenges and work to bring about meaningful change, as they have for generations. ■



Top: Plymouth State College students meet in 1970 in the aftermath of the Kent State tragedy.

Bottom: In 1925, Plymouth Normal School staff provided health recommendations.





## Pride in Her Alma Mater Lives On

Ruth (Birch) Marzec '48 was a fiercely passionate woman. She loved Plymouth State and the friends she made—and kept throughout her life—during her time here. Her deep appreciation of the English language stemmed from her education and experience at Plymouth.

Ruth's devotion to Plymouth State lives on in the wake of her passing in January 2018 through a planned gift toward the Clara Keezer Birch and Ruth Birch Marzec '48 Scholarship, named after her and her mother.

She felt honored to leave a legacy to serve deserving students through her scholarship endowment. Ruth once said, "Without the lessons learned at Plymouth, I would not have had a successful career and happy life with which I've been blessed. May they who get my help, share with others along the way, and prove the love and pride in our alma mater lives on."

*There are many ways you can make a planned, meaningful gift. To find out more, contact Director of Planned Giving Ann Thurston '80, '00G, '07CAGS by phone at (603) 535-2291, or [thurston@plymouth.edu](mailto:thurston@plymouth.edu).*



Thanks to the members of the **Class of 1953** who decided to create a scholarship from their class fundraising efforts to help deserving students complete a PSU education.

### 1950s

**Edythe (Grant) Adams '56** met her husband **Dr. Arnold Adams '55** at Plymouth State and felt her time here had a positive impact on the rest of her life. She is effusive in her praise of Plymouth Teachers College (PTC). The Adams currently live in Maryland, but Edythe visits campus when in the area. She greatly enjoys staying connected to Plymouth State.

### 1960s

**Wayne R. Jacoby '64** majored in education and was actively involved with the Model UN club. After graduation Jacoby taught social studies at a secondary school from 1964 to 1995 in Springfield School District in Montgomery County, PA, eventually transitioning to teaching global education. He received his MEd from Temple University in 1969 and his MA in history from Lehigh

University in 1977. In 1981, Jacoby and two of his colleagues created Global Education Motivators, Inc., which he has been director of since its founding. For the past 40 years Jacoby has been working with youth to empower them with real-world experiential learning across cultures. When asked how PSC prepared him for his career, he says, "It was one of the best things that happened to me in my life. Everything I do evolved from my time with Dr. Hogan and my MUN experience at PSU."



Thanks to the members of the **Class of 1963** for their fundraising efforts to endow their class scholarship.

**Stephen L. Clark '66** majored in English education and chose Plymouth Teachers College for the programs offered. Clark is now retired after 38 years of teaching, and is enjoying time at home with family, and writing. His first book, *Memento Moments Frozen in Time* was published in 2013. (5-star reviews on Amazon!) Clark has nearly completed his second novel, *Tears of the Heart*, which will be published in 2021.

**Madeline (Cancian) Zimmerman '66**, was active in the Outing Club, Newman Club, and Volleyball Team. She was drawn to Plymouth because of its size. "Plymouth prepared me well to be a teacher. The best thing I liked about being a teacher, was being a 'cheerleader' for my students." She married Erwin Eugene "Gene" Zimmerman on August 4, 1968. Her son, Paul Eugene was born in 1975, and daughter Susan Joanne in 1977. Zimmerman attended Seattle University and graduated with an MEd in 1973. She retired in 2002, and now lives in an assisted living facility in College Place, WA, with son Paul living close by.

### 1970s

**Mardee (Gerren) Goldberg '71** majored in physical education at Plymouth State and was involved in many programs such as the tennis and basketball teams, Pickleball Club, and other clubs. Goldberg chose PSC for the physical education program and the sports teams. She mentions how PSC helped her prepare for her career by giving her the tools and degree to accomplish her dream of becoming a physical education/health teacher and coach. After Plymouth, she obtained her MEd from Cambridge College and went on to teach PE for 35 years in Danvers, MA. Goldberg has moved to The Villages, Florida, where she

excels in table tennis and pickleball—even winning third place in table tennis at the Nationals in Ohio 2013—and still plays to this day. Now she invests in real estate with a summer house in Beverly, MA. She has two children, Mindy and Jay, and two granddaughters.

**Linda (Merrill) Landry '71** was featured in an article about her 50th year as a teacher at Canaan (NH) Elementary School. Some highlights from the article include how she began teaching at the school in downtown Canaan in 1971, at the age of 20, after graduating from PSC. Later, she started a loop of teaching third graders one year and fourth graders the next. In 1980, the school burned down, and she and her colleagues had to find places around the town to teach the students. The community came together, and businesses offered spaces to host each grade. During that time, she gave birth to her son in March 1981. Landry has since used her experience from when her school burned to deal with COVID-19 and remote learning. Although there were challenges, she faced them head on with the thoughts of her students. With a positive mindset we can't wait to see what she accomplishes next! *Article at [tinyurl.com/y5s839g3](https://tinyurl.com/y5s839g3)*

**Philippe Maltais '73** has retired after 43 years in the field of Wastewater

Treatment Operation as superintendent in the town of Seabrook, NH. Maltais has also spent time in Manchester, NH, as head of the operations group. At Plymouth State, he was a science major and ever since he has been a strong advocate for protecting the environment of NH. To continue his passion, he joined the Seabrook facility that was awarded the New England plant of the year for Best Operation and Best Chief Operator in 2016. In 2019, Maltais was awarded Plant Operator of the Year from Granite State Rural Water Association.

**Bonnie Doherty '75** has joined the board of the Manchester Historic Association and Millyard Museum.

**Ruth F. (Bono) Sheehan '78** was inducted into the Attleboro High School Athletic Hall of Fame last June. The Hall of Fame recognizes the contributions of men's and women's athletics as an integral part of the education program of Attleboro High School (MA).

## 1980s

**Brian Stone '82** is now a semi-retired independent insurance and financial advisor practicing in southern Maine for over 28 years.

**Maryrae (Reusch) Preston '83** works with her family at Preston Real Estate. In 2015 she opened a seasonal gift

shop on Hampton Beach called Sand and Santa Gift Shop. They specialize in nautical and Christmas decor, and boast a 16' Santa Claus in beachwear down to the sandals on his feet. Folks from all around the world have posed for pictures with their Santa.

**Shawn O'Brien '86** (pictured at right) retired as brigadier general and commander of the NH Army National Guard after 34 years of service in a ceremony and changing of the guard on October 3, 2020. His military career began when O'Brien served in the ROTC program while attending Plymouth State. O'Brien continues his full-time work in pharmaceutical sales for Otsuka USA and is a member of the Plymouth State Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**Tom O'Mara '87G** retired in May 2017 as a professor and coordinator of teacher education at Carteret Community College in Morehead City, NC. In September 2019 he relocated with his wife of 13 years to Hot Springs Village, AR, to enjoy the mountains and lake life.

**Jan (Christensen) Ingraham '87** majored in business administration. In August 2020 she started a new job working for Inmar Intelligence focusing on retailer success across the country with multiple companies. After 30 years in the grocery industry that included an opportunity to work in London for three years, she



Michelle Chatman '92 (on right) with Trish Ferland

developed a passion for international business. Adding to her years of experience in merchandising, negotiations, software implementation, and many other skills, she is ready to tackle a new challenge. Ingraham's time at Plymouth State taught her how to become a versatile leader and she mentions how her experience was "memorable and I look back on those days fondly." Her favorite season was winter, during which she skied and worked locally with school friends, making more special memories to look back on.

**E. Lloyd Soucie '87** was recently elected to the council chair position for Lions Clubs International Multiple District N, encompassing all clubs in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, along with three border clubs in Maine; Fort Kent, Fort Fairfield, and Calais.

**Shawn Griffin '88** was inducted into the PSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2019. Griffin played four years on the soccer team and was the head coach for eight years. He is now head soccer coach at Hobart College. The highlight of his coaching career at Hobart thus far came in the 2008 season, when the Statesmen won a program-record 18 games and advanced to the third round of the NCAA tournament. *Read more at [tinyurl.com/yy45bb5c](https://tinyurl.com/yy45bb5c).*



Retired Brigadier General Shawn O'Brien '86 (on left)

## 1990s

**Michelle Chatman '92**, a Chi Alpha Zeta sorority sister, read the story of a Tau Omega sorority sister, **Trisha Ferland** (PSC 1999–2001), in desperate need of a kidney transplant on the Plymouth State Greeks Facebook page (both pictured above). Ferland has been battling kidney disease for a long time, and in August reached a critical point—end-stage kidney failure with dialysis being her last option while she waited for a donor. Chatman was already in the system as a donor, and soon came the great news that they were a match and that the transplant surgery would take place on September 29, 2020. No words can adequately describe how amazing a gift of life Michelle is providing to Trisha. It's a great example of the Plymouth State Greeks saying, "No Matter the Letters, Greeks Stand Together."

**Paul LaPolice '94** has been named head coach of the Ottawa Redblacks in the Canadian Football League. LaPolice was a wide receiver at Plymouth State. After graduating with a degree in physical education, LaPolice became a coach at the American collegiate level. In 2000, he began working in the CFL. As an assistant coach, LaPolice won a Grey Cup with the Roughriders in 2007 and the Blue Bombers in 2019. *Read more at [tinyurl.com/y39bsyvl](https://tinyurl.com/y39bsyvl).*



Congratulations to **Diane (Tillotson) Tiffany '76**, PSU alumna and long-time staffer, on her well-deserved retirement. Many of you have known Diane, who was the face of the Alumni and Advancement Offices during her 22 years at PSU. Please join us in wishing her well and we are looking forward to seeing her back on campus in the future.

Jon Gilbert Fox photo.



# IN MEMORIAM

*Remembering Plymouth State alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who have passed away.*

**Edith E. (Wallace) Burns '37**  
December 4, 2019, Gainesville, GA

**Ellenor (Blair) Jones '29**  
September 20, 2019, Falls Church, VA

**Barbara F. (Whittemore) Millar '37**  
April 10, 2020, Kittery, ME

**Virginia M. Hallisey '46**  
January 31, 2020, Nashua, NH

**Pauline M. (Wright) Fox '50**  
April 16, 2020, Trumbull, CT

**Isabel A. (Morrill) Thompson '50**  
November 17, 2019, Lacona, NY

**Janice (Webb) Bendziewicz '51**  
June 29, 2020, Clark, NJ

**Rita M. (Blaney) Guarino '51**  
July 8, 2020, Keene, NH

**Douglas L. Robertson Sr. '51**  
November 11, 2019, Manchester, NH

**Ralph V. Fabisiak '52**  
June 29, 2020, Fort Myers, FL

**Vivian C. (Gallagher) Medeiros '53**  
August 20, 2019, Danbury, CT

**Eleanor R. Stewart-Volpe '55**  
July 29, 2020, Laconia, NH

**Genevieve (Gena) Cannistraro DeLacey '56**  
September 30, 2020, Bedford, NH

**Catherine A. (Enos) Carter '56**  
August 11, 2020, Hertford, NC

**Patricia M. (Jones) Kovalik '56**  
October 9, 2019, Las Vegas, NV

**Raymond N. Blanchette '57**  
April 25, 2020, Alfred, ME

**Sheila T. (Thompson) Emery '57**  
July 9, 2020, Columbus, NM

**Richard A. Fagnant '57**  
December 25, 2019, Woodsville, NH

**Darlene R. (Edgell) Brill '58**  
April 26, 2020, Campton, NH

**Lois A. (Kretschmar) Lindh '58**  
October 1, 2019, Manchester, NH

**Marshall E. Bowen '60**  
August 19, 2020, Fredericksburg, VA

**Winthrop "Buzz" Buswell '61**  
October 6, 2020, Wilmington, DE

**Beatrice A. (Scamman) Wolf '61**  
January 6, 2020, Newmarket, NH

**Archie L. Auger '63**  
February 11, 2020, Bristol, NH

**Roland Barnaby '63**  
September 21, 2020, Portsmouth, NH

**Nancy S. Dunnell '63**  
April 24, 2020, Laconia, NH

**Theodore C. Bense '64**  
April 6, 2020, Mirror Lake, NH

**Charles H. Perry '65**  
October 20, 2019, Rochester, NH

**N. Elizabeth "Betsey" Uitts '66**  
June 19, 2020, Chichester, NH

**Charles B. Herrick '67**  
March 18, 2020, Hebron, CT

**Dale F. Keniston '67**  
June 1, 2020, Roanoke, VA

**Betty A. (Gould) Riley '67**  
June 29, 2020, Warden, WA

**Tyrus C. Houston '68**  
April 19, 2020, Warner, NH

**Grace (Skinner) Machemer '68G**  
October 8, 2019, New Gloucester, ME

**Leonard A. Pierce '68**  
June 3, 2020, Ottumwa, IA

**David B. McCabe '69, '73G**  
August 21, 2020, Meredith, NH

**John K. Beaudoin '70**  
June 10, 2020, APO, AP

**Joyce L. Gullison '70**  
October 4, 2019, Farmington, NH

**Mary E. (Piper) Nielsen '70**  
July 1, 2019, Holderness, NH

**Kevin P. Clark '71**  
December 7, 2019, Franklin, MA

**Pamela J. Gale '71**  
October 10, 2019, So. Burlington, VT

**Linda G. (Ramsay) Garland '71**  
December 4, 2019, Campton, NH

**Reverend Robert E. Loring '71**  
February 29, 2020, Ocala, FL

**Warren G. Berry Jr. '72, '01G**  
August 7, 2020, Bedford, NH

**Shari (Pennock) Lemeris '72**  
August 3, 2020, Boscawen, NH

**David M. Anctil '73**  
June 9, 2020, Rochester, NH

**Gary M. Banash '73**  
June 28, 2020, Turners Falls, MA

**Jane R. Dalphonse '73**  
December 16, 2019, Concord, NH

**Beverly E. Edwards '73**  
January 25, 2020, Concord, NH

**Malcolm F. Carr Jr. '74, '75G**  
August 8, 2020, Dillsburg, PA

**Michael Kania '74**  
September 16, 2020, Manchester, NH

**Scott Riel '74**  
May 31, 2020, Lansing, MI

**Richard M. Wood '74**  
June 22, 2020, Goffstown, NH

**Stephen R. Abbe '75**  
January 3, 2020, Alton Bay, NH

**Linda J. (Davis) Amsden '75**  
April 22, 2020, Worcester, MA

**Andrea L. (Jackman) Halnon '75**  
January 21, 2020, Lincoln, VT

**Kenneth H. Tilton Jr. '75**  
June 11, 2020, Cumberland, RI

**Ray A. Floryan '76G**  
February 21, 2020, Amherst, NH

**Michael J. Lee '76**  
June 20, 2019, Boston, MA

**Thomas K. Hogan '77**  
May 31, 2020, Manchester, NH

**Janice L. McKim '78**  
August 8, 2020, Ashland, NH

**Elaine E. Bresnahan '79G**  
June 6, 2020, Plymouth, MA

**John E. Lyford '79**  
January 17, 2020, Tilton, NH

**Heather A. Reid '79**  
December 31, 2019, Gorham, NH

**John O. Scudder '79G**  
July 19, 2020, Center Harbor, NH

**Michael E. Sullivan '79G**  
June 27, 2020, Umatilla, FL

**Patricia A. (Bayly) Cooke '81**  
March 31, 2020, Westmoreland, NH

**Matthew G. Hussey '81**  
March 1, 2020, Rochester, NH

**Ronald A. Lariviere '81**  
September 24, 2019, Shrewsbury, MA

**Katherine L. (Gonya) Davis '82**  
August 4, 2019, Shallotte, NC

**Susan Sielke '82G**  
September 20, 2020, Keene, NH

**Thomas R. Driscoll '83G**  
August 11, 2020, Keene, NH

**Rose P. (Pesarik) Maley '83**  
March 18, 2020, Lithia, FL

**Laurie A. Porter '83, '87G**  
Dec. 31, 2019, Moultonborough, NH

**Rexford B. St. Ledger '83**  
June 29, 2019, Pompano Beach, FL

**Eric N. Christensen '84G**  
November 17, 2019, Wrentham, MA

**Thomas E. Sanborn '84**  
October 21, 2019, Salisbury, MA

**Roger L. Marceau '86**  
August 3, 2020, Laconia, NH

**Lisa S. Nixon '86**  
February 14, 2020, Londonderry, NH

**Kyle Stone '86**  
October 3, 2020, Waterville Valley, NH

**Richard R. Bolduc '88, '05CAGS**  
July 1, 2020, Concord, NH

**Cathleen A. (Arrison) Cere '90**  
November 11, 2019, Manchester, NH

**Barbara M. Lawlor '90G**  
April 10, 2020, Tunbridge, VT

**Mary E. Campbell '91G**  
March 16, 2020, Hebron, NH

**Joel A. Dinsmoor '92**  
August 1, 2020, Laconia, NH

**Robert L. Holden '92**  
July 8, 2020, Nashua, NH

**Mark D. Wichelns '93**  
October 17, 2019, Londonderry, NH

**Christopher A. Buckley '94**  
June 6, 2020, Plymouth, NH

**Barbara A. (Gaskalka) MacEwan '94G**  
December 27, 2019, Greenfield, MA

**Deloris H. Netzbund '94G**  
March 28, 2020, Hanover, NH

**Jay I. Moskowitz '95, '97G**  
March 31, 2020, Plymouth, NH

**Shawn P. Kelley '97**  
April 14, 2020, Newport, NH

**Michael D. Stone '97**  
April 4, 2020, East Derry, NH

**Wayne A. Boyko '98**  
October 21, 2019, Salem, NH

**Jason Pelletier '98**  
September 26, 2019, Kansas City, MO

**Joan A. Thomas '99, '02G**  
May 30, 2020, Plymouth, NH

**Jason R. Brooker '00**  
March 1, 2020, Houston, TX

**William P. Lander '01G**  
June 2, 2020, Ossipee, NH

**Courtney A. Love '01**  
June 1, 2020, Franklin, NH

**Keri L. (Sayer) Collins '02**  
June 8, 2020, Belmont, NH

**Tara D. (Ingalls) Stubbs '04**  
July 16, 2020, Saint Albans, VT

**Janet E. Towse '05**  
November 18, 2019, Alexandria, NH

**Michael W. Chase '09**  
October 16, 2019, Somerville, MA

**Tara S. Krehbiel '11**  
March 23, 2020, Cambridge, MA

**Brandon J. Macek '11**  
January 14, 2020, Goffstown, NH

**Anthony M. LoRusso '12**  
June 5, 2020, Watertown, CT

**Brendan P. Woodworth '18**  
November 22, 2019, Melrose, MA



**Stephanie M. Fralic '19G**

November 6, 2019, Franklin, NH

**Leo Ntourntourekas, Class of 2021**

June 8, 2020, Bristol, NH

**Pamela A. Usanase, Class of 2021**

May 30, 2020, Concord, NH

### Faculty, Staff, and Friends

**Verne S. Atwater, PhD**

October 30, 2019, Amherst, NH

**Richard J. Biederman**

November 20, 2019, Lexington, MA

**John P. Brothers**

August 10, 2019, Shrewsbury, MA

**Jean B. Chisholm**

May 25, 2020, North Scituate, RI

**Jean T. Davis**

April 6, 2020, Manchester, NH

**Jean L. Doyle**

August 20, 2020, Providence, RI

**Charles B. Durgin**

August 5, 2020, Plymouth, NH

**Mary M. Ford**

June 22, 2020, Rumney, NH

**Richard A. Fralick, PhD**

December 20, 2019, Durham, NH

**Rhoda Landroche**

June 14, 2020, Ashland, NH

**L. Douglas O'Brien**

July 10, 2020, Chestertown, NY

**Frank B. Olcott**

August 7, 2020, Rumney, NH

**Fernand Prevost**

December 9, 2019, Concord, NH

**Arthur W. Ramalho Sr.**

August 24, 2019, Lowell, MA

**Edward C. Sargent Jr.**

September 7, 2020, Concord, NH

**Robert E. Slagle**

October 13, 2019, Holderness, NH

**John E. Snyder Jr.**

August 27, 2020, Norwich, VT

**Alan A. Switzer Jr.**

May 4, 2020, Plymouth, NH

**Dr. Millard S. Thomson**

June 11, 2020, Rumney, NH

**Patricia C. Worthen**

October 29, 2019, Riviera Beach, FL

**Leroy S. Young**

April 26, 2020, Hebron, NH

Below: Jennifer '94, Michael, and Amy '20 Luther celebrating Amy's graduation from PSU. "We shared a sip of champagne and lots of cheer."



**Jennifer M. (Aiello) Luther '94** (pictured above) celebrated her birthday this May on the day of her daughter's graduation from Plymouth State! **Amy Luther '20** graduated with a BFA in graphic design. Jennifer and Amy even shared the same graphic design professor, David Martin.

**Dr. Ronald Fussell '97** enjoyed a successful career as a music teacher after graduating. "The Department of Music and Theatre provided an essential pedagogical and administrative foundation to be able to direct one of the largest middle school instrumental music programs in the state at that time," he writes. He went on to school administration and completed his EdD in interdisciplinary leadership at Creighton University, Omaha, NE, where he was awarded the 2016 Graduate School Award for Outstanding Dissertation. In May 2020, Fussell was awarded the inaugural Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award from Creighton. The award recognizes faculty who positively influence students' academic success, foster an environment that is supportive of graduate students, and demonstrate a commitment to caring for students through mentorship and engagement.

**Major Brian S. Smith '97** (pictured above) majored in English with a coaching minor. While at PSC, Smith was a senior class representative, senior class president, and a member



Major Brian Smith '97

of the football team. He was also part of the Phi Beta Upsilon Fraternity (for veterans), serving as academic chair in 1997. Other accomplishments include being listed in the "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges 1997" (pg.1,316), 1997 Outstanding Senior, and a student employee of Lamson Library. Smith was his class agent in 1998 and 1999. After graduating he became a major in charge of the 103rd Airlift Wing, Medical Group, Connecticut Air National Guard (2000–2010) and 927th Air Refueling Wing, Aerospace Medicine Squadron (2011–present) of the US Air Force Reserve Component (2000–present). Smith also completed Air Command and Staff College with the Air Force. Recently Smith took a new job with Blue Pearl as a senior IT project manager, and purchased a new home in Florida.

**Kenneth Butler '99** (pictured above) worked for seven years as the chair of the history and drama departments at the Woodward School for Girls in Quincy, MA. He also taught for eight summers at Phillips Exeter Academy, one year at the Holderness School, and four at both Shortridge Academy and Great Bay Community College. In 2015, his first novel, *Holy Fool*, was published by Touch Point Press. He has spent the last few years freelance writing in Portsmouth, NH, and keeps in touch with several close



Kenneth Butler '99

PSU friends. His second novel, *A Pound of Flesh* was published in 2020 by Dorrance Press.

### 2000s

**Brad Faria '02** majored in English literature and learned a great deal of skills while being a part of the *Clock*. Faria mentions how PSU helped him understand his limitations, to be flexible, and to develop ideas more completely. He was named lead quoting tech at Netria Corporation in Exeter, NH, in August 2019.

**Laura Alexander '03G**, a human resource professional with 30 years of experience in the higher education environment, was named the assistant vice chancellor and chief human resources officer at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. "We are thrilled to find a human resource professional with such deep experience working in higher education," said Chuck Litchfield, vice chancellor for administration and finance. "We look forward to Laura leading the campus toward a comprehensive people plan as part of the 2030 Strategic Plan." Read more at [tinyurl.com/yxp32pxh](https://tinyurl.com/yxp32pxh).

**Major Adam D. Lynch '03** has been selected for promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve. Lynch joined the Marines and entered Marine Corps Base Quantico 17 years ago. He says,





"I've had the honor of serving with some of the most honorable, brave, humble, belligerent, hard-ass, arrogant, drunk, and unflappable bunch of degenerate misfits with the highest morale and lowest morals." He has led the Marines into battle in both Iraq and Afghanistan and has had the privilege of serving alongside amazing leaders, warriors, and true patriots. Although he has buried his fair share of soldiers who left the Earth too early defending what they loved, Major Lynch says, "I will take those experiences with me as I continue to serve this great country ... and I wouldn't trade those experiences for anything."

**Zach H. Cary '04** obtained his BA in graphic design and polished his skills in order to teach them to third graders. During his time at PSU, he was very interested in the great art program and was involved in the USTA and Boxing Club. After graduation he worked as a graphic designer in California but realized he didn't want to sit in front of a computer every day. Moving back to New Hampshire, he obtained his MED at Franklin Pierce University. Now Cary is following his dream career of being a teacher and has been teaching the third grade for 12 years, happily living with his wife of ten years, Heidi, and their eight-year-old son Logan (*pictured above*).

**Shawn Manfredo '04** will be the new head coach for the Fitchburg State University baseball program. Fitchburg State Director of Athletics Matthew Burke made the announcement via e-mail. "We are thrilled to have Shawn at the helm of our baseball team," said Burke. "His wealth of baseball knowledge as well as his energy and enthusiasm made him the ideal choice to lead the Fitchburg State program. It was apparent early in the process that he genuinely cares about the student athlete experience and seeing them grow."



Heidi, Logan, and Zach Cary '04

**Graham Wingate '07** credits the beautiful campus and proximity to his home with his love for PSU. He also notes that the best preparation that Plymouth offered him in terms of his career was the work he did in his business courses. Wingate works as a vice president of accounting services for Bank of New York Mellon, Singapore Branch. He was blessed with a beautiful baby girl, Natalie Wingate (*see Arrivals*). "She keeps me very busy," Wingate received BNY Mellon's prestigious STAR Award on November 6, 2019. He was one of 50 recipients of the award (out of over 50,000 employees) and received it for exemplary service in assisting onboarding one of the world's largest pension fund clients.

**Ashley Frame '07G** earned her masters of education in heritage studies. She chose PSU because of the location and how it accommodated her full-time work schedule. Frame says PSU helped her prepare for her career by giving her the skills and resources she needed to confront a classroom. After nine years of teaching French and humanities, she is now the administrator for Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title Programs at the NH Department of Education.

**Jeremy Foskitt '07** was selected as recruiting manager for Cannabiz Team – Executive Search and Staffing.



Gregory S. Bowers '08

**Mark MacLean '08CAGS** has been named Superintendent of the Year by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association. MacLean started his administrative career as the dean of academics for the Hudson School District, and then became assistant superintendent of schools for the Kearsarge Regional School District. MacLean is now the superintendent of Merrimack Valley and Andover schools. *Read more at [tinyurl.com/y3xoejue](http://tinyurl.com/y3xoejue).*

**Gregory S. Bowers '08** (*pictured above*) is the director of communications & marketing, University of South Florida Foundation. He received a master of education in curriculum and instruction from USF.

**Gene Martin '09** has joined the board of the Manchester Historic Association and Millyard Museum.

## 2010s

**Douglas M. Woodward '10** majored in marketing and is currently a Microsoft business development specialist at Connection in Merrimack, NH.

**Shennen Flannery '11G** has been honored with a Children's Writing Award for her new book, *Little Pond Stories: A Visitor*, now available on Amazon and other national book outlets from AcuteByDesign. The award is granted annually to two new



John Scheinman P'19 (*on left*) with Brian Desilets '14G, '19CAGS before he received his Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Educational Leadership.

authors whose first-time children's books represent the best in storytelling and illustrations. Ms. Flannery is a long-time educator and resides in New Hartford, CT, with her husband, Brian, and two children.

**Don Ingerson '11** accepted a job at the Kaman Distribution Group in Bloomfield, CT, as the accounting manager of the Kaman Fluid Power business unit.

**Todd Kilburn '12G** became chief financial officer of the Idaho State Board of Education in December 2019.

**Meriella (Rollins) Warncke '13** is the senior graphic designer at Home Fashions in Dover, a small family-owned home goods business. She was interviewed for a feature in Manchester's *Hippo* called "On the Job." *Read the story at [tinyurl.com/xyzoved4](http://tinyurl.com/xyzoved4).*

**Alison (Keith) Towne '13G** chose Plymouth State because it was close to home yet far enough away that she could experience independence. "I loved every second at Plymouth and am eternally grateful for the life-long friends I made during my time there!" Being a childhood studies major prepared her for stepmom life, the best title she says she could ever have. Ali works at a community



bank in Rhode Island in the lending department. She loves her work and the knowledge she gains each and every day.

**Charles DeJoie III '14** majored in criminal justice and sociology. After graduating, he worked in the Bronx District Attorney's Office in NYC. Recently DeJoie moved back to New Hampshire and is now an assistant county attorney with the Hillsborough County Attorney's Office.

**Brian Desilets '14G, '19CAGS** (*pictured at left*) is in his first year as principal of Oxford Hills Middle School in South Paris, ME, a school servicing 550 seventh- and eighth-grade students. He has also been accepted into PSU's 2020 doctoral program in educational leadership. Desilets chose PSU because of its reputation in the field of education. "PSU prepared me to be an educational leader in an ever-changing landscape in education. I love being an educational leader because I believe I am able to generate positive change and meet the new demands on educators."

**Kimberly McLaughlin '15** was promoted to supervisor at Leone, McDonnell & Roberts Professional Association. McLaughlin works out of the Dover office.

**Kaylee (Darigan) Lambert '16** majored in communication and media studies and was involved in the PSU Film Club (president, 2016) and Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society. She says, "I fell in love with the campus and the environment immediately, even though it was raining the day of my tour. PSU has a strong community environment, and the size of the school was perfect for me, as I wasn't looking for anything too big." After PSU she interned as a video and graphic designer at WEX in Portland, ME. She went on to become a communication consultant for the corporate team and a



Left: Stefanie Philibotte '16 and Matthew Brinn '16 at their reception venue, Brookstone Park, Derry, NH. They were married on the 10-year anniversary of their meeting when they were just 15!

Stefanie chose Plymouth State because she "had a moment where I sat on the grass looking out at the mountains and knew that I needed to come to PSU. I had this wonderful sense of community, care, and opportunity."

Below: Alison M. Cook (Cramer) Harley '85 with husband David M. Harley on a ski trip to Canada.

## EXCHANGING VOWS

**Alison M. (Cramer) Cook '85** and David Michael Harley were married on December 5, 2019. (*pictured at right*)

**Stefanie (Philibotte) Brinn '16** and **Matthew Brinn '16** were married in Nashua, NH, on October 26, 2019. (*pictured above*)

**Kaylee Darigan '16** and Brandon Lambert were married in Durham, ME, on August 1, 2020.

**Mariah Ford '17** and **Gregory Desmond '17** were married in Manchester, NH, on October 9, 2019.



Briggs

## ARRIVALS

**Heather Adey-Merrithew '03** and **Rebecca Adey-Merrithew** welcomed their son, **Briggs Alan Adey-Merrithew**, on January 24, 2020.

**Meghan** and **Thomas Borick '04** welcomed their daughter, **Mollie Borick**, on April 15, 2020.

**Graham Wingate '07** welcomed daughter **Natalie Wingate** on July 7, 2019.

**Katie (Cottone) Cann '15** and **Billy Cann '15** welcomed their son, **Evan Daniel Cann**, on April 18, 2020.



Evan Daniel



Mollie



Natalie



**We want to hear from you!**

Got married? New job? New baby? Send us your updates and photos:  
[go.plymouth.edu/classnotes](http://go.plymouth.edu/classnotes)



graphic designer for the marketing team for four years until tough times hit with the pandemic. She had to switch to working as a bridal stylist and will be assisting in the marketing for the bridal shop. Though her job was compromised, she wouldn't let the pandemic stop her from having a beautiful wedding in a backyard setting with 50 of their closest friends and family (*see Vows*).

**Mariah (Ford) Desmond '17** chose Plymouth State because it felt like what home should be. "Plymouth taught me to take risks—on things, on people, and on myself." In 2019, Desmond landed a job with one of the largest and most reputable HR outsourcing companies in the world and now has a very rewarding career as a payroll consultant. Ford met **Gregory Desmond '17** the first day of their sophomore year at PSU and were married in 2019 (*see Vows*).



Marvin Harris '19, Boston, MA.

**Todd W. Dickinson '17** earned his BS from PSU. He has been promoted to Hydrogeologist II at Barton & Loguidice, a northeast regional engineering, planning, environmental, and landscape architecture firm

in Baltimore, MD. Dickinson is a member of the firm's environmental practice area.

**James Watson '17** is a retired veteran of the NH Air and Army National Guard. He chose Plymouth because he loved the opportunity to obtain his master of education degree in both an online learning platform and in person. "The hybrid model was excellent!" Watson currently develops curriculum and lesson plans at the NH Police Academy as a law enforcement training specialist. The education he received at PSU gave him the knowledge and confidence to perform these duties.

**Joseph Payne '18** was promoted to senior accountant at Leone, McDonnell & Roberts Professional Association. Payne works out of the Wolfeboro office.

**Simon C. Pierpont '18** majored in English and was very active during his time at PSU. He was a managing editor of the *Clock* student newspaper for two years, had a fellowship in the Admissions Office, and was a member of the Golf Club. The minute he stepped on campus he decided this was the school for him. After graduation, Pierpont was an admissions counselor at Saint Anselm College. He says, "I love that my time spent in the Admissions Office at PSU set me up to go directly into the field of college admission." Pierpont recently joined PSU's Admissions Office.

**Nicholas Simeti '18** (*pictured above*) received a Plymouth State Panther Award in 2018, and is in his third season as assistant coach for PSU wrestling. Simeti says, "Plymouth State gave me the perfect amount of challenges and positive experiences that created a wonderful learning environment. I was able to work with brilliant professors and conduct research that provided tangible outcomes that helped develop the



Justin Montgomery '18 (*on left*) and Nicholas Simeti '18 after climbing Mount Washington in 2019.

community in which I live. Working with real-world stakeholders and presenting research and conducting programs within the community were once simulated experiences, which ended up translating into my professional role at the health department." In 2020, Simeti earned a master's degree in public health from UNH, and now works for the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services as a containment strike team coordinator. This grant-funded position by the CDC provides highly specialized public health infectious disease control with identified COVID-19 high risk populations through investigation, education, and development of programs and policies.

**Marvin L. Harris '19** (*pictured at left*) is LEO, a professional musician and DJ. While at PSU, he was active in PACS and worked with Plymouth State Dining, Student Life, and Campus Recreation. Harris says, "Plymouth State University has the best networking for your career!" *Read more at [djeleomusic.com](http://djeleomusic.com).*

## 2020

**Ashley Hichborn '20** majored in interdisciplinary studies, which allowed her to design her own major. Hichborn combined graphic design, communications, and marketing with a women, gender, & sexuality studies minor to go into a field of advocacy marketing. During her time at PSU she was in student government, PSU Democrats, Film Club, Rock Climbing Club, Climate Reality Club, SAVE ALL (Sexual Assault and Violence Education Alliance), Feminist Facti, intramural volleyball, and was an orientation leader. Hichborn enjoyed her time at PSU and wants to thank everyone who taught her about being an activist and gave her opportunities to speak up about making a change. She recently accepted a position as the digital organizer for Planned Parenthood Northern New England, where she will be doing graphic design and communications work on topics such as cancer screening and prevention, sexual/reproductive healthcare, supporting the LGBTQIA+ community, and normalizing the conversation about sex education and STD testing. ■





# HOMECOMING AND REUNION WEEKEND 2020

*Recap*

# UPCOMING EVENTS 2021



Thank you to those who were able to celebrate Homecoming 2020 with us!

We had a very successful series of events, **with over 2,500 alumni and friends attending virtually or in person!**

Events included:

- Celebrating our 2020 Alumni Award Recipients
- Dare to Disrupt: An inspirational event hosted by the PSU Women's Leadership Summit
- Green & White Games (intra-squad play), with a huge thanks to Panther Athletics
- An evening with Boston Bruins Anthem Singer Todd Angilly '99
- Two exhibits at the Museum of the White Mountains
- 40th Annual PSUAA Barbara Dearborn '60 Golf Classic at Waukegan Golf Club
- Computer Science & Technology Alumni and Student Networking Event
- Spanish Majors and Minors Alumni Reunion



Left:  
Steve Burns '13,  
Jason Dezotell,  
Chelsea Chambell,  
and Ryan Berry '12,  
top mixed-team  
at the 40th Annual  
PSUAA Barbara  
Dearborn '60 Golf  
Classic.

Right:  
Todd Angilly '99,  
Bruins anthem  
singer.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many events have been postponed or held virtually.  
We look forward to when we can safely celebrate in person!

***Classes ending in 0, 1, 5 and 6 will celebrate reunions at  
Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, October 1–3, 2021.***

***2020 Plymouth State Greeks Reunion has been postponed to June 25–27, 2021.***

***2020 Summer Reunion has been postponed to Summer 2021.***

Please visit [plymouth.edu/alumni](https://plymouth.edu/alumni) and watch your e-mail for updates. You can also like us on our Facebook page @plymouthstatealumni to stay in-the-know.



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