

# Campus Currents

The ebb and flow



## Act Like Me

A social change troupe shows how choices matter

STAGE DIRECTION: WildActs performers, front left to right, are Emily Briand, Eric Barron, Ananda DeMaio, Kristianna Smith and Lisa McGurn. In back, from left, are Katharine Mooney, Michele Whalen, Chris Hoerner and Robin Fowler.

SCOTT YATES '07

On a clear night at the end of August, the UNH campus is calm and serene. A few early-bird students are hauling beds into off-campus apartments. But near the Paul Creative Arts Center, a loud bang suddenly pierces the silence.

“Come on, baby, loosen up!” hollers Robin Fowler '09, as he lifts and slams down a stool in center stage. A dozen students circle around him. “She invited me into her room,” yells Bartley Mullin '09. “She made a point to ask her roommate to leave. Come on, this is college!” Mullin stares angrily at Emily Briand '09, sitting a safe distance away. Katharine Mooney '09 delivers the punchline: “You think your dorm is a safe place, but something like 60 percent of all sexual assaults happen where the victim lives.”

Briand and Mullin play the victim and perpetrator, respectively, in this sketch about sexual assault performed by WildActs, UNH's social change theater troupe. They'll reprise the sketch for the incoming freshmen the following week, along with additional scenarios covering alcohol, safety, eating disorders, homophobia, dating violence and making friends—issues that many students in the audience may find themselves facing in the coming months.

Founded in 2000, WildActs members initially worked with bought scripts, but since their second year, the students have been writing, producing and directing the show themselves, says adviser Michele Holt-Shannon, assistant director of the UNH Discovery Program. The troupe also works with theater professor David Kaye, who provides feedback on their method and training.

Most important to the troupe, says Holt-Shannon, “is conveying the importance of things like taking care of each other, claiming their education, making the most of their time at UNH, being a part of the learning community, and that the choices they make matter.”

Senior Mallory Triest saw the show as a freshman and later joined the troupe. “We're using theater as a means of education,” Triest says, “which I think is one of its most powerful aspects as an art form.”

—Priti Prabhakar '04

## ONLINE DATABASES FOR ALUMNI

It's not just recent graduates of UNH who suffer the pangs of withdrawal from online databases when they leave campus: Other alumni know what they're missing, too. Susan Janssen '84, '87G, a math education curriculum developer in Newton, Mass., would love to access online journals and “help teachers apply research directly to their instruction.” Now, an agreement between the UNH Library and the UNH Alumni Association will give alumni free online access to more than 4,200 online full-text journals and magazines, and index and abstract versions of 12,000 more. The databases are provided by EBSCO, where Tim Collins '85 is vice president. To access the databases, visit [www.alumni.unh.edu/library/](http://www.alumni.unh.edu/library/).

of the UNH community



**WHITT, WE HARDLY KNOW YA:** As the fall semester began, Fox News arrived on campus to transform the Whittetmore Center for a Sept. 5 Republican presidential debate. The arena floor was turned into the debate hall, and basketball courts on the

lower level became a spin room and press filing center with banks of phones and Internet connections for 150 members of the media. Fox News later reported that more than 3.14 million viewers watched the debate.

## You There, the Professor in the Back Row

Some professors write or do research during their sabbatical year. Computer science professors Dan Bergeron and Philip Hatcher sat in the back of a UNH classroom, taking courses along with other students.

What they wanted to learn was how to speak a new language—genetics.

Three years ago, Bergeron enrolled in several biology courses, including Environmental Genomics, taught by W. Kelley Thomas, associate professor of biochemistry. Three computer science graduate students joined Bergeron in his goal of learning enough about DNA and the human genome to figure out how computer science could help UNH geneticists and biology students in their research.

Armed with an understanding of what genetic research entails, Bergeron joined Thomas to co-teach an interdisciplinary version of Thomas's applied bioinformatics course. The result, they say, was a collaboration that energized everyone. "Once the students found they could talk with each other, they really became self-motivated," says Thomas. "They constantly

learned from each other, and when they couldn't figure something out, they came to Dan and me. They were always dragging new material out of us."

Class projects focused on newly available genome data for the freshwater crustacean *Daphnia*. The result was "a major genome-wide analysis of genetic variation," says Thomas, the results of which will be published.

Hatcher, looking for ways that his expertise in parallel computing might be useful to biologists, took biology and genetics courses and was a student in Bergeron

and Thomas's course in the spring of his own sabbatical year. He and Bergeron, together with computer science graduate student Morel Henley '05, then collaborated with microbiologist Vaughn Cooper on his study of the pathogens *Burkholderia*. Some *Burkholderia* are bioremediation agents that displace known toxic chemicals, but others are potential pathogens for patients with cystic fibrosis and others with immune system deficiencies. The goal was to separate the helpful *Burkholderia* organisms from the threatening ones.

Is computer science useful in such a study? "The efforts of my computer science colleagues have accelerated my research significantly," says Cooper. "I have access to far more information in an accessible form than I could have imagined a year ago."

As for the professors-turned-students, both say their time in the classroom was rewarding beyond all expectations. "In terms of a sabbatical year, it was the biggest change in direction I've ever taken and the most satisfying," says Bergeron. "And, it was fun!"

—Karen Tongue Hammond '64



# Campus Currents

## Tall in the Saddle

Learning to ride, children with disabilities feel they can fly

**H**is eyebrows even with the saddle, a 7-year-old boy in jeans and a black helmet cuts a diminutive figure before the horse. Caleb Mace stands expectantly on a wooden mounting block, waiting to be helped onto Flash, a gentle Welsh gelding described as having a “puppy dog personality.”

Outside, the temperature is pushing 90. But in the half-light of the ring at the UNH Therapeutic Riding Program, neither Caleb nor the other young riders seem to mind. At a command from the boy, Flash starts a slow amble around the ring, flanked by a team of four volunteers. Responding to a prompt, Caleb correctly points to a picture of a basketball on the wall, then grins in triumph.

“This is so good for him,” says his mother, Peggy Mace of Dover, N.H. She explains that her son has speech and muscle impediments related to Down Syndrome and that this program, with its focus on becoming “able riders,” makes a big difference in his life. “It’s good for his speech, his muscle tone, not to mention the independence he feels. And he loves horses. It’s helped him in ways you can’t really measure. In self-esteem, it’s huge.”

The program defines therapeutic riding as dynamic therapy that uses riding and a horse’s “rhythmic, low-amplitude movement” to reach specific physical, cognitive, social and emotional goals.

Launched in 1989, the UNH program is offered under the auspices of the animal and nutritional sciences department and gives weekly riding lessons to children and adults with a range of disabilities. Aided by a team of interns, instructors and volunteers, the riders perform tasks geared to their abilities, from hooking plastic rings on posts to identifying objects in the ring. Those who can, groom the horses afterwards.

Although the program’s stated focus is abilities, not disabilities, many of the children clearly face big challenges. For example, one participant with hypertonic muscles is helped from wheelchair to horse but tenses up so much he can’t sit in the saddle. “He just couldn’t relax enough to hold on,” program director Cindy Wentzell Burke ’90, ’02G explains to a relative. “We’ll try again next week.”

Looking on from the bleachers is Nicole Lavoie, a chatty 10-year-old with a winsome smile and a nose sprinkled with freckles. She is waiting for a chestnut gelding named Quill. Several years into the program, Nicole says she has learned to walk, trot and jump. What’s her toughest challenge? “The hardest thing for me is getting my fingers on the reins. I was born with CP,” she explains matter-of-factly.

At a signal from Burke, Nicole slides into her walker, scoots forward to be lifted onto the horse and takes off around the ring. Nicole has progressed from being escorted by volunteers to riding on her own—quite an accomplishment, Burke says. Because she uses a walker, being up on a horse is a “huge, huge thing for her. She’s up high. She’s in control, and she can go wherever she wants.” After her ride, Nicole is asked whether she wants to meet Quill outside or lead him to the barn for grooming. “I want to lead him!” Nicole says. A few minutes later, she is sponging the horse off, getting herself wet in the process. “This is the best thing for her,” says her grandfather, Bradley Pike. “It gives her all the confidence in the world, riding that horse.”

—Clare Kittredge



**READY TO RIDE:** Lily Glenn, above, rides the horse Buddy with the help of Chris Platek, left. Inset: Kaylee Fogg grooming.

LISA NUGENT/UNH PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICESW [2]

# Dolphin Defense



## Tech 797 students devise a way to save the La Plata

Along the sun-splashed coast of Argentina, a small dolphin forages for food. The five-foot, 90-pound La Plata dolphin slices through the water, using sensitive sonar to hunt for fish, squid and shrimp. But since a fisherman's gillnet can't be detected by sonar, almost a thousand of these little-known and rarely seen mammals drown each year after chance encounters with nets.

Far to the north, three UNH mechanical engineering students, Paul Gamache '07, Chris Anason '07 and Sam Lightner '07, spent last winter designing and building a 10-foot-long frame out of PVC pipe. The frame will cradle a La Plata dolphin securely and safely in the water so its vocalizations can be recorded.

"A biologist in Argentina who studies these dolphins wondered if we could record the sonar characteristics of the La Plata," explains Gamache. The goal was to find out what frequency the dolphins use to communicate and while foraging. The animal's sonar will be recorded with three underwater microphones, but the sounds they are attempting to record last only milliseconds; a special computer records and stores the data at speeds up to one million samples per second. With this data, scientists may be able to predict what the dolphins can and cannot detect in the water, which in turn may lead to devices that can be attached to gillnets to warn the dolphins away.

This unlikely pairing of biology and engineering transpired last fall when the three students teamed up in their Tech 797 course. After the biology and engineering majors in the class heard presentations on ongoing research projects from a number of faculty members, the trio offered their services to Kenneth Baldwin '77G, professor of mechanical and ocean engineering.

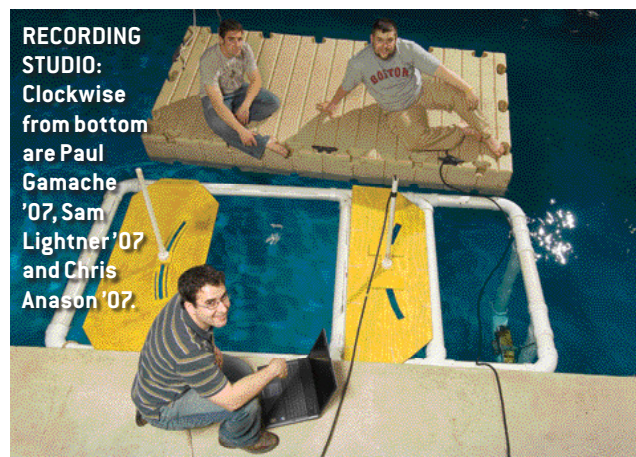
Baldwin had begun studying the La Plata dolphin in 1999 after meeting the Argentinian biologist, Pablo Bordino.

"It's a good experience for students to work with people in other disciplines," says Rob Swift, professor of mechanical and ocean engineering and one of the course's organizers. "People who have different perspectives ask different questions." One multidisciplinary team worked on a system for kelp farming: Student engineers designed a platform to grow kelp in the open ocean, while biology students cultured kelp in the lab.

The projects often expand horizons. "I've developed a passion for ocean stuff," Anason says. Gamache has a new interest in ocean engineering. "I am looking at more school after graduation," he says, "and I hope to enter that field."

—Betty Lynne Leary

PERRY SMITH/UNH PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES [5] ABOVE: ILLUSTRATION BY REBECCA ROBINSON



**RECORDING STUDIO:** Clockwise from bottom are Paul Gamache '07, Sam Lightner '07 and Chris Anason '07.



### FOUNDATION HEAD

**NAMED:** In August, the UNH Foundation, Inc., and its board of directors welcomed **Donald W. Wilson** as

its new president. Wilson was formerly vice principal of University Relations at the University of Sydney in Australia. "Don brings an outstanding background and three decades in higher education fundraising," says Roger Thomas '59, board chairman. President Mark Huddleston adds, "Successful fundraising from private donors is critical to the future growth of UNH. We are extremely fortunate to have such a seasoned executive leading the foundation." At the University of Sydney, Wilson initiated major programs that saw private gifts nearly double in three years, while

significantly increasing the number of donors to the university. "I'm excited by the opportunities that lie ahead for us," says Wilson. "Working with our new president, Mark Huddleston, and given the loyalty of UNH alumni and the community, I am confident that we can secure additional private funds to enable the university's continued growth and success."



### NEW DEANS: Barbara

**Arrington**, senior associate dean and professor of health management and policy at Saint Louis University, has been named dean of the College of Health and Human Services. Arrington earned degrees in nursing, public health and health services from

Columbia, the University of Missouri-Columbia and Saint Louis University, respectively. **Tom Brady**, NSF division director and a biology professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, is the new dean of the College of Life Sciences and

Agriculture. Brady was formerly dean of the College of Science at UT-El Paso.

**Daniel Innis**, dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health at the University of Maine, has joined the Whittemore School of Business and Economics as its new dean. At UMaine, Innis oversaw an expansion of the college, which recently added a School of Public Policy and International Affairs.



# Campus Currents



## Be Prepared

Kristin Cole takes over women's basketball

**K**ristin Cole didn't hit the gym right after she was born. It just seemed that way. "My dad was a coach, and my older brother played, so from the very beginning, it seems I was at the gym," says Cole, who was recently named the UNH Wildcats' new head coach of women's basketball. "I like to joke that I went from the hospital to home to church and then the gym."

It's easy to see why she feels that way. Her father, Larry Knapp, was head coach at Santa Barbara High School in California where Cole grew up. Her brother, Jon Knapp, played for his dad in high school, and later played at Columbia University.

With all that basketball in the Knapp clan, hanging around a gym was second nature, Cole says. By the time she was about 10, she knew coaching was in her future. But first she played the game. At Notre Dame, Cole earned four varsity letters and helped lead her team to its first two NCAA tournament appearances and three conference championships. She won a bronze medal as a member of the 1991 U.S. Olympic Festival Team and after college played pro ball in Sweden.

Her coaching credits are none too shabby, either: Ball State, one year, first place in the Mid-American Conference West Division and co-champion of the conference; University of Las Vegas, two years, taking the Rebels to their first postseason appearance in seven seasons; Auburn University, three years, a victory in the 1997 Southeastern Conference tournament; and Xavier University for the last five years, a stint that included two NCAA tournament appearances and three trips to the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

"Kristin has never been associated with losing," says Marty Scarano, UNH's athletic director. "Her record with every program, as an athlete and coach, is one of excellence and postseason opportunity."

Cole admits she'll have her work cut out for her at UNH: the squad was 9-20 last season, 4-12 in their conference. "Any time you take over a program, it's a challenge," she says. "I was

left with a very talented group of young women—very good people—and very eager to have success, so I've inherited a good situation."

"We like her," says junior Danielle Flowers, co-captain of the team. "Change is good. It looks like she'll push us hard and part of us is saying, 'Great, that's good,' and part is saying, 'That's gonna be painful.' But that's what we need to do." She adds, "We had a tough season, but we're a good team—we lost a lot of close games. With Coach Cole, it'll be nice to have a new outlook, a new person to say, 'Hey, let's get it together.'"

"My philosophy is we'll work hard in all we do—we'll be a very disciplined team," Cole says. "We'll be prepared no matter who we play. We will outwork everyone." —Paul E. Kandarian

## YOU TUBED

Chicago Bears wide receiver David Ball '07, left, makes a one-handed catch during an NFL pre-season game against the Cleveland Browns on Aug. 30. An announcer described it as "the catch of the pre-season." Watch several videos of Ball in action by typing in "David Ball Chicago Bears" at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).



LISA NUGENT/UNH PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES

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# Numbers Game

The 'Cats set records on the field and in the classroom

When kinesiology professor Stephen Hardy watches the UNH football team, he, like many fans, thinks about numbers.

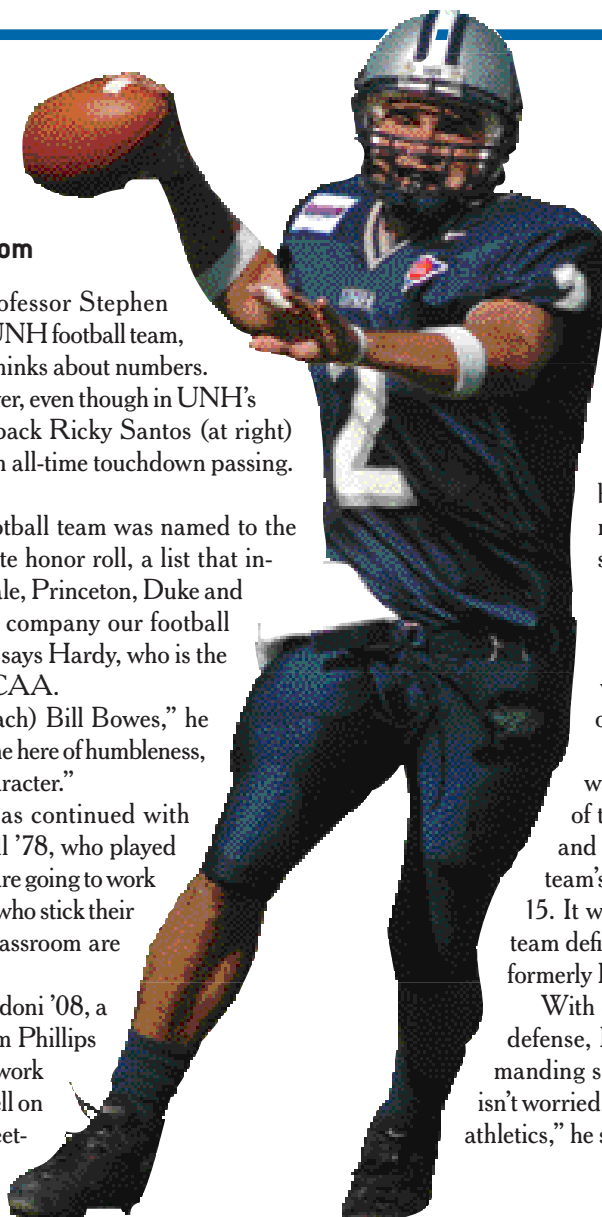
Not statistics or goals, however, even though in UNH's season opener, senior quarterback Ricky Santos (at right) became the conference leader in all-time touchdown passing. No, Hardy is thinking grades.

This past year, UNH's football team was named to the NCAA academic progress rate honor roll, a list that includes schools like Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Duke and Stanford. "When you see the company our football team keeps, it's extraordinary," says Hardy, who is the faculty representative to the NCAA.

"It started with (former coach) Bill Bowes," he says. "He set a tone when he came here of humbleness, hard work and the values of character."

Hardy says that attitude has continued with current coach Sean McDonnell '78, who played for Bowes. "We want kids who are going to work at it," says McDonnell. "Those who stick their nose to the grindstone in the classroom are going to do that on the field."

Defensive end Matthew Perdoni '08, a sociology major, graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy. "You have to work to get a good grade and to do well on the field," he says. "We have meetings as a team that are basically



like taking another class. We're constantly learning new things."

Santos could become the first player to win two Walter Payton awards—the prestigious honor given annually to the most outstanding football player in Division I-AA football, now known as the Division I Championship Subdivision.

"Ricky's a good example because he has a solid work ethic in the classroom and on the field," Hardy says. "He very much represents UNH football—overlooked but also over-performing."

Santos is overlooked no longer. He was named the National Offensive Player of the Week by both the Sports Network and College Sporting News following the team's 48-35 victory over Marshall on Sept. 15. It was the third time since 2004 that the team defied the odds and beat a Division FBS, formerly I-A, opponent.

With only five returning starters on a young defense, McDonnell says the team faces a demanding schedule this fall. But Hardy, for one, isn't worried. "This is something of a golden age for athletics," he says. "I feel lucky that I'm a part of it."

—Rachel M. Collins '81

## SPORTS, STREAMED

Fans of UNH athletics who live too far away to attend as many games as they would like can now watch seven varsity sports online during the 2007-08 season. The new feature—[unwildcats.tv](http://unwildcats.tv)—provides live video of football, volleyball, men's and women's hockey, men's and women's basketball, and gymnastics. Single games are available on a pay-per-view basis; a premium package includes all games plus interviews with coaches and players, archives and podcasts. To watch a video clip of head football coach Sean McDonnell '78, visit <http://www.unwildcats.tv/>.

## A TRIBUTE TO A COACH

Hundreds of well-wishers filled Lundholm Gymnasium on Aug. 25 to honor longtime UNH men's basketball coach Gerry Friel, who died Aug. 20. "You look around at the people here, and that's a true testament to the person he was," said John Laymon '73, who was coached by Friel from 1969–1973. "I wouldn't be where I am today without him." Friel is survived by his wife, Joan, and five children. Jennifer '97 and Jeremy '05 played for UNH; Keith played for Notre Dame and Virginia; Greg played at Dartmouth and youngest daughter Jilliane is currently a high school three-sport athlete. Friel coached at UNH from 1969 to 1989, and then worked on athletic fundraising with the UNH Foundation.

