



2020 HAMEL SCHOLARS &
HAMEL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



University of
New Hampshire

When we welcomed students back to our campuses recently, the semester looked different than any other in UNH's history. Adjusting academic and research programs, student life and our day-to-day operations certainly presented challenges, many of which are ongoing.

At times like these, I am especially grateful to see how hope and excellence continue to inspire our UNH community. These Hamel scholars, the program's 26 newest members, are our next generation of problem-solvers — doctors and medical researchers, public health experts, innovators, entrepreneurs, social-justice changemakers and small-town business owners.

For more than a decade, this program has rewarded our best and brightest students — not only for their academic achievements, but also for the care that they show for others, the intellectual challenges they seek and the passions they pursue at UNH. The generosity of the Hamel family creates a path to personal success for these students and a pipeline of leaders that our world sorely needs.

Thank you for your unwavering support of these remarkable students, the Granite State and its flagship public university.

Warmest wishes,

James W. Dean Jr.
President

Jocelyne Bisson '24

MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Jocelyne shares her first name with her grandmother and aunt, although all three spell it differently.

Jocelyne Bisson's proudest achievement at Manchester Central High School was organizing a benefit concert through the Tri-M Music Honor Society, of which she was president. All proceeds from the event — more than \$800 — were given to a local nonprofit organization. "It felt amazing to give a local organization this money, especially in these uncertain times due to COVID-19. I gained confidence through this event because I was the announcer for the evening, which was something way out of my comfort zone."

Jocelyne plans to study business at Paul College, and hopes to add a second major in either music or English. Her goal is to work for a nonprofit or other community-based organization, and eventually run her own company.

She says her most important community service work has come through Girls at Work, a local nonprofit she's been volunteering with for three years. Its mission is to give inner-city girls confidence and leadership skills by teaching them to use power tools and build wood furniture. As a volunteer, she supervises the participants, provides encouragement and keeps the shop organized. Other volunteer work has included Key Club activities, such as Special Olympics, and helping out at local elementary school events.

She was also involved in varsity field hockey and the swim team, The Little Green Newspaper, band and jazz band, the Little Green Thumb gardening club, and the Rho Kappa History Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society and the National English Honor Society. She earned an NHIAA Scholar Athlete Award, the Instrumental Achievement Award, and the James Connolly Jr. Award.

On her "bucket list" at UNH are attending a hockey game and studying abroad, which would give her the opportunity to travel overseas for the first time.



Hamel Scholars

Alex Carbone '22

EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Alex never missed a day of school from first grade through senior year of high school.

As a nursing major, Alex Carbone is passionate about medicine and health — as well as general wellbeing. He's an advocate of UNH's Wellness Wheel, which encourages students to think about all aspects of their lives as part of their overall wellness, including their intellectual, emotional, financial and physical health.

"I have always loved helping and serving others and nursing is a career path in which I can continue doing this. I have multiple family members who work as nurses and they have always been very influential in my decision to pursue nursing," Alex explains. Once he graduates, he hopes to work as a registered nurse at Boston Children's Hospital.

Since coming to UNH, he's been involved in the Shadow a Wildcat program for prospective nursing students and is a member of the Red Cross Club and the Student Nursing Organization. He has volunteered at a quad rugby tournament, Honors accepted student days and with Special Olympics New Hampshire.

He is a resident assistant in Congreve Hall and building manager at the Hamel Rec Center. He has received a Presidential Scholarship each year he's been at UNH.

His proudest achievement here has been balancing work, school and social activities. "Between working as an RA and building manager, I have maintained Dean's list highest honors each semester, and have established many lifelong relationships with the people I have crossed paths with," he says. "Balancing these aspects of my life has always been important to me and it is something that I have always struggled with. I am proud of my academic achievements and of the impact I have made on the UNH campus."

Before graduation, he'd like to hike Mt. Washington and take part in a study abroad experience.

Ruby Carr '24

NOTTINGHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

She's met Michelle Obama and seven 2020 Democratic presidential candidates, plus Elizabeth Warren's dog.

Inspired by a March for Our Lives event she attended as a high school sophomore, Ruby Carr wants to have a career fighting injustice and being politically active. Since attending that event, she's volunteered, interned and worked on four different political campaigns and studied law and governance at St. Paul's Advanced Studies Program. She plans to study political science at UNH and hopes to perform political campaign work thereafter before attending law school to become a public defense attorney.

At Coe-Brown Northwood Academy, she participated in cross-country, the N.H. Social Justice League, jazz, pep and concert bands, Debate Club, Robotics, Girl Scouts and the N.H. Legislative Youth Advisory Council. Her volunteer work has included planting a garden for a food bank in Manchester through Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership New Hampshire, canvassing for political organizations and helping other students with their writing at the Coe-Brown Writing Center.

She admits that she struggled when COVID-19 shut down her school, and found it hard to stay motivated. But she also realized how she learns and studies best, and that being busy keeps her on track. "I learned that even when I think I'll fail, I can always pull it together in the end, even if I need a little help from the people in my life who are there to support me."

She made the honor roll every semester at Coe-Brown, received the Cross-Country Coaches' Award, and was a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist.

Ruby already has a list of classes she hopes to take throughout her four years at UNH, and she wants to become involved in the music program, club sports and social justice organizations on campus. "I hope to make a meaningful difference on campus, but I'm not sure what that difference will be yet."



Hamel Scholars

Mallory Cashman '22

WELLS, MAINE



FUN FACT

Mallory has performed live in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade as a member of the Macy's Great American Marching Band's color guard.

Mallory Cashman wants to work at Disney World — sort of. The data science and analytics major says her dream job would be working as a data analyst for the Disney corporation. “As a huge Disney fan, I can't imagine a better way to use my technical skills than to be a part of creating magic,” she says.

At UNH, she is proud to have become president of the Wildcat Women in Computer Science (WWiCS) Club, which supports, connects and empowers women in computing fields, where they are underrepresented. “In my first year at UNH, the support provided by the women in this club is what kept me in the computer science department. Having the opportunity to help other young women who are struggling with similar issues that I did makes me feel fulfilled.”

She's served as the fundraising chair for the UNH chapter of Engineers Without Borders and as a student editor for Inquiry, the UNH research journal. She's been heavily involved in STEM programs for young people, including Girl Scouts World Thinking Day in 2019 and 2020, as well as afterschool programming at Woodman Park Elementary School in Dover.

Beyond the Hamel scholarship, Mallory is a past recipient of the Joseph L. Fearer Scholarship and a current recipient of the Roland Burlingame Scholarship through the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

Before she graduates, she plans to travel to Uganda with her Engineers Without Borders team to install a well in a rural village that currently lacks access to clean drinking water.

When not working or volunteering, Mallory spends her free time with friends. “I love to spend the quiet moments watching movies, playing games, or just talking and laughing with the incredible people UNH has introduced me to.”

Karthik Chalumuri '24

KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Karthik loves learning about new cultures and languages, and can speak English, Telugu, French and Korean.

At Keene High School, Karthik Chalumuri and his twin brother created Students for Hope, a student-led group that raises money and collects donated items for local cancer patients at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center. “We started Students for Hope as a way for us, alongside our amazing friends and classmates, to create a positive impact in our community. It was a project that we started in our living room and with hard work and the help of our teammates, it became a reality,” he says.

His other community service activities have included a stint at MoCo Arts, a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching students the art of dance, where he helped paint studios as part of a renovation project. He’s also volunteered at the Keene Public Library and spends an average of 10 hours per week at his local soup kitchen. He was active on Student Council and with the National Honor Society, as well as the French Club and Student Athlete Leadership Council (he played varsity tennis).

Among his high school awards are two from Sen. Maggie Hassan this year: he was named Granite Stater of the Month and received Congressional Recognition. He also received the Saint Michael’s Book Award and the French Book Award.

Karthik will major in statistics and minor in information technology. “I am studying statistics so that I can learn better about how mathematics plays a role in the business world.”

On his UNH “bucket list” are landing an internship, attending athletic events and making the Dean’s List. As for his future, he plans to attend law school and become a corporate lawyer, eventually working in a big city.



Hamel Scholars

Madeleine Clement '24

AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

She's a fungi fanatic, often identifying and harvesting wild mushrooms while she's hiking.

During her years at Souhegan High School, Madeleine Clement was awarded the University of Rochester's Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology, a Scholastic Art Award, and received the FIRST Safety Star of the Day Award and a varsity letter for FIRST Robotics. She was also a finalist in a Poetry Out Loud competition.

She is most proud of her leadership role on her FIRST Robotics team. As team captain of electrical and wiring for three years, she not only learned (and taught) technical skills, but also acted as a spokesperson for her team at fundraising events — she's been the emcee for their annual comedy night fundraiser. She was the safety captain for all four years, teaching others about proper PPE and safety practices around machinery.

Madeleine will major in in biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology at UNH because she wants to participate in the growing field of regenerative medicine as a research scientist. She was inspired by a 2019 visit with employees at the Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute (ARMI) in Manchester as well as by a guest speaker in high school who received a heart transplant that saved her life but left her with many complications. "That presentation sparked something inside of me, and I want to work in regenerative medicine in order to make these medical processes easier and more efficient for patients in need."

Since 2017 she's volunteered at Ledgewood Bay Assisted Living in Milford, socializing with a small group of senior citizens. "I have been able to make friends through this opportunity, and the residents who live there mean a lot to me," she says.

At UNH she's looking forward to meeting new people, joining clubs and studying abroad, possibly somewhere in Europe.

Gwendolyn Collins '24

PEMBROKE, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

She can eat an entire pint of Ben & Jerry's ice cream in 11 minutes.

When Gwendolyn Collins was a freshman in high school, her class was asked to answer a series of writing prompts to help create writing portfolios. Little did she know that English class assignment would provide her inspiration throughout high school. By the end of freshman year, she had written 116 pages. Ever since a teacher printed her work and gave it to Gwendolyn in a binder, she's referred to it any time she feels unmotivated.

"Even though it was freshman year, the portfolio helped me discover who I am as a writer and as a student," she says.

Gwendolyn will major in political science and is also interested in sociology and psychology. While she's unsure exactly what her career might be, she's interested in corporate law as well as clinical psychology and social work.

She's been a Sunday Mass altar server at her church, a team leader for four years of Making Strides Against Breast Cancer events and a volunteer with the NH Food Bank. At Pembroke Academy, she was on the varsity tennis and indoor track and field teams, and was involved in field hockey and tae kwon do. She was a YouthFest youth leader, a member of the Key Club, Math Club and Wellness Club, president of the National Honor Society and public relations officer for Student Senate.

Before she graduates from UNH, she wants to go to a football game and make connections with new friends. She'd like to find the perfect study spot and take a class that may not relate to her major. "I also want to try all of the restaurants near or on campus and ride the Downeaster to Boston."



Hamel Scholars

Olivia Dill '24

TILTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Olivia describes herself as extremely competitive, which is probably what helped her win championships in both volleyball and cheerleading.

When Olivia Dill thinks about her future, she hopes to be making a meaningful difference. “If my dreams were to come true, I’d be working in the White House as the Secretary of State, meeting all of the world leaders. No matter where I end up, I want to be making my mark and using my amazing experience from UNH to better the world.”

She’ll major in political science, because it pairs well with her interests in law and international relations.

At Winnisquam Regional High School, Olivia helped with events such as the FIRST Robotics Competition, the WRHS Holiday Family Dinner and the New Hampshire Veterans’ Home Prom. She was active in Interact Club and in helping the Tilton-Northfield Rotary, and she created a program where she would attend Southwick School’s fourth grade classes twice a week, helping students with homework and assisting teachers.

Olivia received the Volleyball Coach's Award, the Cheerleading Most Improved Award, the Softball Coach's Award and was named Second Team All-State in volleyball. She received the Science Department Outstanding Student Award, the Saint Michael's Book Award, NHIAA Scholar Athlete Award, Alfred H. Pucci Award, WRHS Athletics Chair Award and the John Philip Sousa Band Award.

Her proudest accomplishment is being class valedictorian. “Seeing four years of hard work and dedication to my grades and education pay off was extremely rewarding, and is something I will forever be proud of.”

She is passionate about environmental advocacy and hopes to become active in making UNH an even greener place. She also wants to join Model UN and attend every “pep” event at UNH — anything that showcases Wildcat pride.

Chloe Gross '24

DEERFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

May the force be with her: Chloe is a distant relative of actress Carrie Fisher of “Star Wars” fame.

Chloe Gross hopes that wherever her career path takes her, she is helping people and the Earth. She can envision working at a nonprofit or advising organizations about how to donate unsold goods and reduce waste.

She’ll major in environmental conservation and sustainability to get her start toward that career.

At St. Thomas Aquinas High School she received the George Eastman Leadership Award, the Junior Class Award, the Junior Speech Competition Award and the National Choir Award. She sang in four choirs, earning the Chamber Award and twice earning the Jazz Choir Award, and she ran varsity cross-country for four years — serving as captain during the last two. She also participated in school musicals such as “The Lion King” and “The Wizard of Oz.”

But of all her high school experiences, the most meaningful to her was her time with United Cultures for Arts and Nature (U-CAN) youth congress. The program asks participants to examine environmental inequality and the power of art and education in creating cultural and political change. “I realized how interested I am in the many dimensions of environmental progress,” she recalls. Her work focused on becoming certified in an environmental education program, which she used to create a weeklong environmental camp for kids in grades four through six in her hometown. The program, ecokidsnational.org, is a nationally adaptable program for summer camps and after-school programs — and it earned Chloe her Girl Scouts Gold Award.

In high school her volunteer activities included Sunday school teaching, peer tutoring, participation in Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day ceremonies, and, as part of Girl Scouts, sewing dresses for girls in Haiti. At UNH, she’s interested in the EcoQuest program in New Zealand.



Hamel Scholars

Ryan Iller '24

CHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Ryan enjoys cooking Asian and Mexican food.

Of all his high school accomplishments, Ryan Iller's proudest moment came when he finished an emergency medical technician course and earned his EMT certification. "I had worked very hard for the last two years of high school and I couldn't wait to get it and try to get a job saving people and helping those in need."

The Pinkerton Academy grad will major in engineering, with plans for a career in engineering or the medical field. "I have always been fascinated by learning how things are built and operate. I hope to further my understanding of these concepts and use them to build a successful career and future."

He was a member of the National Honor Society and a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, where he helped build a home for a family that had immigrated from Africa. He was also a member of the Foreign Language Honor Society and Health Occupation Students of America. He was on the outdoor track and field team and says he'd love to run track for UNH. "It's something I've been thinking about and working toward for a long time now and I plan on trying out in the spring during walk-ons."

He loves skiing with his dad and his friends in his spare time, so it's no surprise that one of his favorite things about New Hampshire is getting out into nature — from skiing and snowboarding in the mountains to swimming and skimboarding at the beach.

Looking ahead to his future, Ryan plans to stay in the New England area, finish his time in the Marine Corps, marry his girlfriend and start a family.

Kaitlyn Mazur '24

SANDOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

She has a twin sister named Kira.

During her four years at Timberlane Regional High School, Kaitlyn Mazur was active in many clubs and community service projects. But she's most proud of her work on Project Hope, creating fundraisers for cancer research. She was also a member of Key Club as well as the Spanish Honor Society, where she was an officer and ran a Spanish Club enrichment program at the local elementary school every month.

"These projects were meaningful to me because they not only amplified my passion for helping others, but opened doors to so many new community service opportunities and shaped what I wanted my future career to be," she says.

She'll major in biomedical sciences: medical laboratory sciences at UNH as part of a pre-med track, and hopes to graduate with a minor in Spanish. She plans to attend medical school and become a doctor, preferably in the field of cardiology.

Kaitlyn finished in the top 10 in her class, and received the Junior Distinguished Scholar Award, the President's Gold Education/Senior Distinguished Award, the Patricia Stone OWLS Award and the Bronze Distinguished Scholar-Athlete Award. She is also the recipient of the Chris Harrington Memorial Scholarship Award.

She traveled to Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands on a Spanish and science enrichment trip last April and would love to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country while at UNH. She also hopes to be part of clinical research while a student here.

In her free time, she also loves playing video games and spending time with family and friends.



Hamel Scholars

Nicholas McPherson '24

KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT(S)

An actor and musician, Niko has played the trumpet for six years.

Nicholas “Niko” McPherson will dual major in musical theater and computer science — two admittedly dissimilar paths that, for Niko, make perfect sense. “Theater has always been a major part of my life and performing is something that I would love to make my profession,” he says. “And computer science is another subject that I’m very passionate about, as I’ve always wanted to make video games, so that is another path that I could see myself taking.”

A Boy Scout since he was five, Niko will soon finish work to earn his Eagle Scout rank. His troop has come a long way since his junior year, when membership was just one: Niko. “I worked constantly over the next year to rebuild my troop by visiting local packs and promoting my troop to as many people as possible. At the end of the year, our troop had gained five new scouts,” he says. “Now, we have around 10 scouts and are on track to keep growing.”

He’s been involved in the Drama Club at Keene High School and two student-run cappella groups. He’s been in multiple musical productions and completed two years of leadership training at Camp Takodah in Richmond, New Hampshire. Niko received the 2019 Arts for Life Scholarship from MoCo Arts, and was a recipient this year of both a National Choral Award and an Arion Award for music.

At UNH he hopes to join an a cappella group as well as Mask and Dagger, the student-run theater group. He also hopes to perform in shows, and possibly choreograph or music-direct shows.

Dara McWeeney '22

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Dara can play three instruments: the piano, the violin and the guitar.

Dara McWeeney's proudest achievement at UNH was illustrated by the words of a Williamson Hall resident last year. Dara had been the young woman's RA. After helping the student talk through some struggles, she expressed her gratitude to Dara. "She looked at me and said, 'You being here means so much and I honestly don't know if I could have been here for this semester without you.'"

The moment left Dara humbled and grateful. "It was such a joy to help others when I know how difficult that first year can be. Not only did the moment reaffirm all I had done at UNH so far ... it also helped me realize my passion for helping others and was the main motivator for pursuing a career in which I would be able to help others again and again."

She's majoring in neuroscience and behavior with a double minor in Spanish and psychology, and plans to become a school psychologist. So far at UNH, she's been a service coordinator/floor representative at Hubbard Hall (and a member of the hall council), a community educator for SHARPP and a volunteer at the Waysmeet Center. She was a research assistant for psychology professor Dr. Jill McGaughy and is a member of the Socratic Society, the Yoga Club and NuRhoPsi, the professional neuroscience honor society.

In addition to the Hamel Scholarship, Dara was also awarded the Albert Brown Fund scholarship and is a member of the Marble Scholars program.

During her last two years at UNH Dara hopes to return to being an RA and attend campus events and has been toying with the idea of creating a "just for fun" chamber music group.



Hamel Scholars

Elizabeth Nichols '24

SUNAPEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Lizzy and her dad tap trees each spring to boil sap and make maple syrup at their camp, which is just five minutes away from the Canadian border.

After watching her father successfully run his own business, Elizabeth “Lizzy” Nichols will major in business administration this fall, because she feels motivated to seek her own success in the same way.

Her community service at Sunapee Middle High School included working on Jake Maxfield Connection (JMC) Community Days, events hosted to benefit the JMC Foundation, which focuses on literacy support for children both locally and nationally. She was also the SCES Service Club manager, a member of the Big Sister Club and helped with after-school tutoring and babysitting through the National Honor Society.

She was a member of the varsity soccer and Nordic ski teams and was class treasurer, class vice president and student body representative on the Sunapee School Board. Her awards included student of the month, career high honor roll, the Dartmouth Book Award, the English Student Award and N.H. Scholar award.

Her proudest moment in high school was her senior project, hosting Surf for JMC, a fundraising event that raised nearly \$10,000 for the Jake Maxfield Connection. “I knew we were making a big impact on so many kids’ lives,” she recalls.

At UNH she would like to attend football games and explore the ECenter. Her favorite hobby is hiking, so she’d also like to hike all 48 of the Granite State’s 4,000-footers.

She hopes to own a small business in Sunapee one day. “I love the community that I have lived in and hope to start my own business and raise a family here while giving back to the community by doing things such as sponsoring youth sports teams or holding a position on the school board,” Lizzy says. “Eventually, I hope to run for public office.”

Paige O'Neil '24

HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Paige has synesthesia, a condition in which stimulation from one sensory pathway leads to an automatic and involuntary response in a second pathway. “All my letters and numbers, and my calendar have genders, colors and a place in space. Sometimes I see colors when I hear music or random sounds. It’s a fun condition to have!”

When Paige O’Neil was diagnosed with chronic Lyme disease two years ago, she thought about hitting pause on high school. The disease has left her with a long list of symptoms, including brain fog, short-term memory loss, anxiety, depression, chronic pain, seizures and more.

But she credits her support system — family, friends and community — with helping her persevere and finish high school early via homeschooling.

Instead of waiting until she was better, she explains, “My family and I decided to take it one day at a time. It was never easy,” she says. But friends helped her study (short-term memory loss had made it difficult), and she pushed through. “It took sacrificing in other areas of my life, especially socially, to keep my head above water,” but in the end, she graduated with a 4.0 GPA and some early college credits. “More than that, I learned how to ask for and accept help and the importance of patience, humility and perseverance.”

At UNH, Paige will major in communications, because she loves writing and connecting with people.

During high school she co-founded Down the Line Ministries, which is something she hopes to run professionally as a nonprofit organization after she graduates. The organization seeks to impact the skate, surf and snow sports communities through Christianity. She’s led church group trips in Costa Rica and volunteers as a Sunday School assistant teacher as well as a worship leader.

At UNH she hopes to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country, wants to formally register Down the Line Ministries as a 501c3 and hopes to be part of the Civil Discourse Lab.



Hamel Scholars

Jackson Perkins '24

DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

He has a hockey puck collection he started when he was 6 years old.

Jackson Perkins will combine his love of math and science with his love of the ocean by majoring in ocean engineering at UNH. He's enjoyed fishing trips with his father since he was very young, and earned his boating license last year so they could enjoy more of their shared hobby together. "Some of my best memories have come from fishing and being out on the water. This passion is part of the reason I was drawn to ocean engineering."

At UNH, Jackson hopes to be part of research projects and be able to land internship opportunities. He also plans to make lots of new friends, join some interesting clubs and have fun.

At Dover High, he was a four-year member of the Key Club, World Language Honor Society, golf team and lacrosse team. He was also involved in the National Honor Society, Earth Action Club, N.H. Boys State, Latin Team and the bowling team.

His volunteerism has included working at road races for the past five years, as well as babysitting for teacher workshops and PTA meetings and wrapping toys as part of Toys for Tots.

Jackson is proud to have improved his golf game through lots of practice, and he happily recorded his first hole-in-one during his senior year. He won several scholar-athlete awards for fall, winter and spring sports throughout high school, as well as a New Hampshire Association of World Language Teachers Award and a 2020 NHIAA Scholar Athlete Award.

In the future, he hopes to have a job working for either a private ocean engineering or environmental engineering company or the federal government — anything where he'd be outside and not in an office most of his workday.

Aubrey Porter '22

GOSHEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Her public high school graduating class had just 28 people; it made for close bonds, but she's happy she's at a larger school like UNH.

At UNH, Aubrey Porter is pursuing a psychology degree and remains focused on helping others. The junior has been involved with Alpha Phi Omega (community service co-ed fraternity), Psi Chi (psychology honor society), NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) and the Shadow a Wildcat program. She's also been a peer mentor in the Honors Program. Since freshman year she's volunteered at the Waysmeet Center's weekly food pantries as well as its community dinners and drum circles. She's been on the Waysmeet board of directors and is currently the food pantry coordinator, organizing and managing volunteers and helping patrons receive food.

She got hooked on volunteering through UNH's ProVES pre-orientation program in the summer of 2018, where she volunteered at various local organizations such as the Seacoast Science Center and Strawberry Banke.

When she looks ahead to her future and career, Aubrey hopes to be making a positive difference in people's lives through her work, "whether that is through providing them with food and shelter or counseling and resources." She wants to earn her master's degree in social work, and can envision a career in nonprofit organizations.

Her most meaningful memory so far at UNH has been attending the Audre Lorde Summit, where she formed connections with people she might not have met otherwise and got the chance to share her story. "This event gave me a solid basis of information as I work toward becoming a better ally for BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and People of Color] and a social justice advocate."

She'd like to go on an Alternative Break Challenge (plans this year were interrupted by COVID-19 travel restrictions) and would also love to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country.



Hamel Scholars

Amy Prendergast '24

WINDHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Her bucket list includes throwing the fish on the ice at a hockey game — or even being the one to pick it up.

At Windham High School, Amy Prendergast received several awards, including the Renaissance Award, Swim Team Coach's Award and Boston College Book Award, as well as the Windham Scholars Scholarship and the Women's Service Club of Windham Scholarship.

Aside from her involvement in the National Honor Society and volunteering at her club swim meets, her major community service project involved being a counselor in training at the YMCA Camp Lincoln in Kingston, New Hampshire. "I spent 320 hours one summer fundraising, leading team building exercises, getting to know the campers that attended and assisting the counselors in keeping the children safe and occupied," she recalls. "This was an incredible opportunity, and I was honored to have been selected, as only 20 volunteers were chosen."

She was also honored to be chosen as one of six people highlighted in her senior yearbook — a special recognition voted on by the entire class based on a student's accomplishments.

Amy's family has dealt with cancer multiple times, so she is passionate about cancer research and creating new devices to aid in the fight against the disease. She was an executive committee member of the SMILES Club (Spreading Meaningful Irreplaceable Life Experiences Selflessly) and helped organize a fundraiser for breast cancer research.

Amy will major in electrical engineering because she feels she can make a positive impact in the world through that course of study, be it through medical devices or renewable energy. She sees herself working in the medical device industry making a positive impact on consumers or making breakthroughs in new forms of treatment using specialized electronics.

Anna Roberge '24

MILAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Anna was the marketing advisor for a book her father published.

Anna Roberge will major in human development and family studies at UNH, an interest sparked by her own experiences as a young adult who faced challenges. “I realized that I wanted to help children and teens through these difficult times.” During high school she ran a support group through her church for children suffering from trauma and also made a presentation in front of her school about reducing the stigma around mental illness.

As a member of Gorham Middle & High School’s National Honor Society, she was active in the Adopt-a-Highway Program and the Polar Express Elves, wrote letters to nursing home residents and donated to her local soup kitchen.

She was on the academic honor roll for all four years of high school and earned multiple awards: National Junior Honor Society Leadership Award, Mu Alpha Theta Leadership Award, Saint Michael’s College Book Award for Academic Achievement and Social Conscience, the DAR Good Citizens Committee Scholarship and the Sylvia Evans Award, given by Coos County Family Health Services to honor an outstanding local woman who has devoted her time and energy to community service to improve the lives of North Country residents.

Of them all, she is most proud of receiving the DAR Good Citizens Award. “Although academics have always been a priority of mine, I put kindness and citizenship above that. Receiving this award proved to me that I succeeded in my goal.”

Anna enjoys running in her free time and says at UNH she hopes to join clubs such as the Ultimate Frisbee Club or Tennis Club, study abroad for a semester, participate in an internship or conduct research and make many new friends. Above all, she hopes to spread kindness and happiness, she says.



Hamel Scholars

Anthony Sanville '24

LEBANON, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

He prioritizes his family, which includes three older sisters, above all else, and appreciates his sisters paving the way for him.

Anthony Sanville played football and basketball at Newport High School and was involved in chorus, National Honor Society, the yearbook and prom committees and Student Council — he was senior class vice president. He earned high honors all four years and received both the Clarkson University Award and the Dartmouth Book Award.

But of all he achieved, his proudest accomplishments are the connections he made and the valuable relationships he forged. He says he might not recall every detail from books and tests, but he'll cherish his connections for a lifetime.

Anthony hopes for similar experiences at UNH, where he'll major in business with concentrations in finance and marketing. While here, he wants to meet new people and have new experiences, gain close friends, go to sporting events, become even more passionate about his studies and land some unique internships.

His community service work in high school included running recreational basketball activities, picking up trash in his community and tutoring students in a variety of subjects.

He's passionate about working and feels an urge to always be doing something productive. To that end, for three years he's helped cut and stack firewood, and also spent two years helping friends and family remodel houses and move furniture. "I worked about 25-30 hours a week throughout high school and I gained valuable qualities by doing so, which I believe will benefit me later in my career."

Anthony hopes to have a career that allows him to complete his life objectives: traveling and meeting a special person he will love. "I just want to be happy and enjoy the career path that I choose; I want to be appreciative of the life that I was granted."

Kevin Shegani '24

MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Kevin's voice was used in an Albanian-dubbed episode of a Peanuts cartoon.

Kevin Shegani is passionate about English and history and will pursue an English teaching degree at UNH. His career goal is to become a college professor.

As a student at Manchester West High School, he received the RIT Innovation and Creativity Award, the Saint Michael's College Book Award for Academic Achievement and Social Conscience and the Bausch + Lomb Award, as well as awards from the school's English and science departments. He says his proudest moment was being elected president of his school's National Honor Society chapter — he was honored to be chosen out of a group of highly qualified candidates, he says.

He was on the math team for two years, participated in Breakthrough Manchester at Southern New Hampshire University and Upward Bound at UNH for four years, and was member of the National Honor Society as a junior and senior.

He has been a volunteer at OutFitters Thrift Store and has volunteered during high school cleanup projects and in two community gardens. He was also a volunteer at Manchester's "Santa Shuffle," helping runners in the fundraising race by passing out refreshments.

Kevin says he loves the Granite State's nature and environment, as well as the independent spirit of its people. Oh, and the lack of a sales tax is nice, too.



Suchana Subedi '24

DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Her name means
'information.'

While at UNH, Suchana Subedi would like to try something new that she falls in love with — a sport, a hobby, a food, a career or a field of study. “I would also like to have a more well-rounded view of the world and learn about some part of history or society that I had previously not been introduced to,” she says.

Suchana will major in English at UNH, because she sees that as a good foundation for many different career fields and areas of study, and because she enjoys reading and writing.

Her volunteer experience has included working as an announcer during Portsmouth’s First Night celebration. At Dover High School, she was a member of the World Language Honors Society and earned an excellence ranking in English composition her senior year. She also earned a woodworking award her sophomore year.

She says she’s most proud of leading the Art Club — the club at Dover High with the longest history — for four years. “We broke records for money raised to support a soup kitchen in downtown Dover and we provide an inclusive space for kids to make friends, do art and be creative.”

It’s no surprise that Suchana enjoys artistic endeavors herself: literature, movies, TV, painting and drawing among them. She says when she looks ahead to her future, she hopes to find a job that provides financial stability and contentment that allows her to pursue her passions.

Jasmine Taudvin '22

GRAY, MAINE



FUN FACT

Jasmine is fluent in Morse code, which she taught herself in fifth grade.

After a long and winding journey through majors — from musical theatre to political science to a self-designed major in artistic activism — Jasmine Taudvin says she's happy to have settled on a dual major in journalism and international affairs because she believes it connects some of her biggest passions: social justice, equity, global understanding and the arts.

At UNH she's been active in Circle K (sponsored by Kiwanis International), the Fight4Her campaign and the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program. In high school she organized a mental health awareness committee, working with the principal, guidance counselors and fellow students to carry out a Wellness Day. Recently, she organized a Black Lives Matter protest in her hometown in Maine.

She is a member of the WildActs Social Justice Theatre Troupe, the UNH Concert Choir and the Wildtones a cappella group and writes regularly for Main Street magazine. She was a finalist in the Undergraduate Prize Plays competition for her one-act play, The Vet, and came in second place in the College of Liberal Arts "Hugemanities" competition in the 'change the world' category.

When she looks ahead to her future, she hopes to be working globally on social justice issues — ideally through art, perhaps as a documentary filmmaker. She says her proudest moment at UNH so far was having her self-designed artistic activism major approved, even though she ultimately decided on a different path. "Taking control of my own education and creating a major for what I wanted to study was incredibly important for me. It also led me down a path that eventually helped me realize what direction I wanted to move in, education and career-wise."



Hamel Scholars

Gloria Tawalujan '24

DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

By the time she was in fourth grade, she had visited more than 30 states by car.

Gloria Tawalujan was involved in theater productions as a student at Dover High School and says her proudest accomplishment during those four years was the school's production of "All Shook Up."

"It was my first year being the head stage manager and the show itself had a lot of heavy sets and asked for a lot of cues. By the end of that show, I learned so much about myself and was able to see the ability I have in running a show and being responsible for everything — cast, crew, sets, etc."

She'll major in mechanical engineering at UNH, something she's been interested in since middle school. "My high school had a pre-engineering course and it solidified my interest in the field," she says.

While at Dover High, Gloria was a member of many clubs and organizations, including the World Language Honor Society, the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society, and she received the Society of Women Engineers Award, the Drama Award and the First Generation to College scholarship. She worked with other National Honor Society members to provide a babysitting service to teachers, volunteered to help coach the middle school volleyball team and taught Sunday school at her church.

In the future, she'd like to be working in a big city with other engineers "to create modern technology that will advance human lifestyles," she says, but she can also see herself working with designers and engineers to create massive set pieces for concert and theater performances.

At UNH she hopes to make a lot of new friends and connections and wants to take every possible opportunity to study abroad or at another school in the United States.

Timothy Trasatti '24

ATKINSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

In the summer, he is a sailing instructor and crew member on a sailing team.

Timothy Trasatti has been involved with the Boy Scouts since 2013, completing community service projects that have included constructing a whiteboard kiosk to expand on the existing outdoor classroom at his former elementary school, participating in numerous town and trail cleanups, volunteering at an electronics drive and collecting food for the food pantry.

As an officer for Timberlane Regional High School's Math Honor Society, he spent school lunch hours tutoring, and he volunteered at a fashion show in his school district through Project Hope to raise money for cancer patients.

At UNH, he'll major in chemical engineering and hopes to channel his love of math and science into a career that makes a positive impact on the world.

Timothy was involved in many activities in high school, including varsity lacrosse, soccer and indoor track, as well as the Chess Club, Surf Club, Best Buddies and Project Hope. He was a member of the National Honor Society and the science and math honor societies, as well as Student Council.

He received the U.S. Army Scholar Athlete Award, the Distinguished Junior Award: Ron Hasseltine Challenge Award, the Frank Kelcourse Memorial Service Award and the NHIAA Scholar Athlete award among others. His proudest accomplishment was finishing among the top 10 students in his class because it showed him that his hard work throughout high school paid off.

He's passionate about skateboarding and loves hiking and snowboarding in the White Mountains. At UNH he hopes to study abroad.



Hamel Scholars

Colton Workman '24

GILFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE



FUN FACT

Colton admits he can't cook, but pretends he's a gourmand by putting a hardboiled egg and chives in his instant Ramen noodles.

Colton Workman's metalworking business is where his volunteerism meets his desire to serve his community. His first volunteer project was inspired by his grandfather, who asked him to design a device to make igniting the metal thurible in which incense is burned during church services less difficult and dangerous. He also worked with his grandfather to create a sign to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their neighborhood in Gilford. This summer he worked with senior class officers on a class gift to Gilford High School.

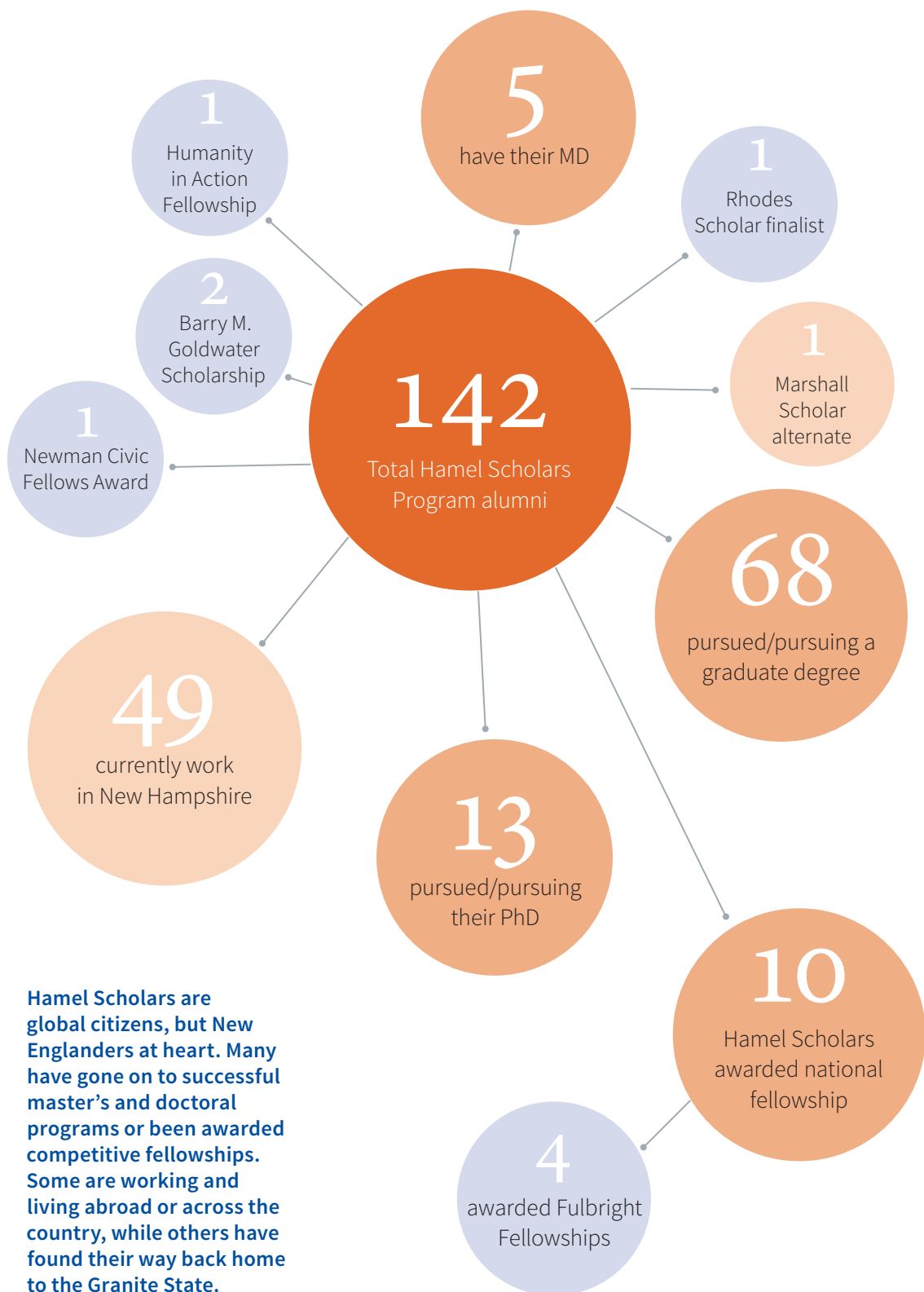
Colton's proudest accomplishment is becoming a juried member of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen. "I am currently the youngest member of the league, and being a part of an organization that usually takes decades of experience and several jury attempts to get into makes that meaningful to me."

Colton will major in mechanical engineering, as his older brother Christian (also a Hamel Scholar) does at UNH.

During high school he volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul's thrift store in Laconia and has coached tennis with Advantage Kids, a nonprofit that merges athletic skills with academic skills for underrepresented children.

At Gilford High, Colton was the recipient of three Scholastic Art Awards, the Clarkson Academic Achievement Award, a sportsmanship award for soccer and the Golden Eagle and coaches' awards for skiing.

At UNH he'd like to clear all of the climbs on the bouldering wall, find a girlfriend and maybe meet his future wife and graduate with a better GPA than his brother. In the future, he hopes to be working with his cousin and brother running their own business: a small warehouse with metalworking equipment like CNCs, mills and semi-automated machines.



Hamel Scholars are global citizens, but New Englanders at heart. Many have gone on to successful master's and doctoral programs or been awarded competitive fellowships. Some are working and living abroad or across the country, while others have found their way back home to the Granite State.



Student Reflections

EVERY YEAR, THE HAMEL SCHOLARS PROGRAM MAKES A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF STUDENTS. WE ASKED INCOMING SCHOLARS TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON WHAT THE PROGRAM MEANS TO THEM:

“When I was notified of my acceptance into the Hamel Scholars Program, I was truly thrilled to have the ability to participate in all the enrichment opportunities. This opportunity made me realize that UNH was the place where I could most benefit from my academics.”

— **Anna Roberge '24**

“The Hamel Scholars Program is the reason I chose to enroll in UNH. The financial aid convinced me to attend UNH, but so did the endless opportunities and connections the program provides. I'm looking forward to the best education I can receive at UNH with a guaranteed support system and group of friends.”

— **Olivia Dill '24**

“When I found out about the Hamel Scholars Program, I was so excited to apply. I love to help others, so much so that all community service aspects of my life have shaped what I want my future career to be. After I was accepted into the program, I was thrilled and excited to learn more about it. It made me truly excited to become a part of UNH so that I could make an impact on the community. The Hamel Scholars Program made me eager and excited to follow my passion of helping others, and therefore ultimately made my decision to enroll at UNH.”

— **Kaitlyn Mazur '24**

“Receiving this scholarship gave me a better feeling that all my hard work in high school paid off by offering me a spot in a prestigious program. This program also helped me financially, which made it better when I made my decision.”

— **Gloria Tawalujan '24**

“This scholarship helped ease the financial burden that my parents would have to face having to pay for two children's college tuitions at the same time (my brother and I are twins and we are both attending UNH).”

— **Karthik Chalumuri '24**

“When I was first admitted into the Hamel Scholars Program, I could not believe it. I sat in my car, right before my robotics meeting started, and I thought to myself ‘did I really just get this?’ I knew from that moment on, UNH was the university I was meant to attend. All of my hard work in high school finally felt worth it, and I am extremely grateful for getting this opportunity.”

— **Madeleine Clement '24**

“The Hamel Scholars Program was one of the most influential factors in my decision to enroll at UNH. Beside the financial assistance it offered, it is also giving me the unique opportunity to pursue some of my passions and network. I will also be surrounded by students who are driven and leaders, inspiring me to try harder.”

— **Gwendolyn Collins '24**



“I loved UNH even before I had applied, but the Hamel Scholars Program opened up so many opportunities that would not have been available to me at any other college. I am incredibly proud of being selected for this opportunity and grateful to have been chosen.”

— **Amy Prendergast '24**

“The Hamel Scholars Program really got me excited about UNH. I liked the idea of working with a group of students similar to myself with a passion for giving back to the community. When I found out I was selected for the program, it definitely played a large part in my decision to attend UNH.”

— **Jocelyne Bisson '24**

“It was an honor to be accepted into a community of elite students.”

— **Timothy Trasatti '24**

“UNH was already high on my list; however, the Hamel Scholars Program played a large part in my decision to enroll at UNH. I was excited that I would be a part of a community of students who are motivated and eager to help others, and after attending the Hamel Scholars dinner it solidified that UNH was the school I wanted to attend.”

— **Elizabeth Nichols '24**

Returning Hamel Scholars

IAN AYER '22

Biomedical Science: Medical and Veterinary Science

PARKER AYOTTE '22

Dual Major: English; Justice Studies

ISABEL BEAULIEU '22

Statistics

ODIN BICKFORD '22

Nursing

SANDRA BLACK '22

Dual Major: Social Work; Spanish

EMMA BLAIR '21

Nursing

SARAH BLAMPIED '22

Dual Major: Business Administration: Finance; Business Administration: Accounting

HOLLY BOIVIN '22

Music Education

MADDY BOUCHARD LIPORTO '22

Dual Major: Psychology; Justice Studies

KYLEE CASNER '22

Dual Major: Sustainability; Health, Sciences, and Society

ALEX CHAREST '22

Mechanical Engineering

EMILY CHEN '22

Dual Major: Environmental Science: Ecosystems; International Affairs

MEGAN CRAMTON '22

Environmental Engineering

SAM CRANFORD '21

Mechanical Engineering

JACKIE DESROSIER '23

Chemical Engineering

ELIZABETH DION '22

Dual Major: Business Administration: Accounting; Business Administration: Finance

KATHERINE DUBOIS '22

Neuroscience & Behavior

NICK EAGAN '21

Civil Engineering

JULIANNE EDWARDS '21

Elementary Education



FAITH FARNHAM '21

Nursing

HOLLY FARRELL '23

Biomedical Science: Medical
and Veterinary Science

TREV FENOFF '22

Environmental Science:
Hydrology

HANNAH FLAHERTY '23

Biomedical Science: Medical
Microbiology

JARED FORTIER '23

Computer Engineering

COLE FOURNIER '23

Environmental Science:
Ecosystems

MACKENZIE FRENCH '22

Biomedical Science: Medical
and Veterinary Science

CHARLIE GASPERONI '21

Bioengineering

SYDNEY GENDREAU '22

Dual Major: Environmental
& Resource Economics;
Sustainability

MADISON GOULD '23

Communication Sciences and
Disorders

ALYSSA GREIG '21

Biomedical Science: Medical
Microbiology

JACKIE HARRIS '23

Environmental Science:
Hydrology

SOPHIA HUGHES '21

Business Administration:
Marketing

ELISABETH HUNTER '23

Undeclared

CONNOR JOYCE '21

Bioengineering

BRIANNA JUDKINS '21

Nursing

NICOLE JUTRAS '22

Dual Major: Analytical
Economics; International
Affairs

CARLEY KANTER '22

Nursing

ISABELLE KAPOIAN '21

Dual Major: Humanities;
Economics

NOAH LAPOINTE '22
Business Administration:
Marketing

JULIA LEARY '21
Chemistry

CONNOR LENNOX '21
Computer Science

RACHEL LEWIS '23
Marine, Estuarine and
Freshwater Biology

LOGAN LOPUS '23
Business Administration

KATE MACLEOD '22
History

JULIAN MADURO '21
Dual Major: English; Justice
Studies

YURI MAKAR '22
Biomedical Science: Medical
and Veterinary Science

JESS MANNING '21
Environmental Engineering

ANASTASIA MARCHUK '23
Dual Major: Physics; Russian

DANIEL MATTSON '22
Computer Science

LEXI MAYO '21
French

ELIZABETH MCGOWAN '22
Dual Major: Psychology;
Justice Studies

EILEEN MCKENNA '22
Equine Science

CAELIN MCMAHON '21
Dual Major: Anthropology;
Spanish

KELSEY MERCURIO '21
Dual Major: Biochemical,
Molecular and Cellular
Biology; Sustainable
Agriculture and Food Systems

KERSTEN MERCURIO '22
Occupational Therapy

ROBBIE MORIN '23
Biochemical, Molecular and
Cellular Biology

LIAM MORRISSEY '22
Analytical Economics

CHRIS MOTTOLA '21
Computer Science

NATHANIEL NICHOLS '22
Chemical Engineering



GREG NOVOTNY '21

Chemical Engineering

MATT NOYER '23

Chemical Engineering

BLAISE O'MARA '23

Electrical Engineering

AJAY PANESAR '21

Economics

ALEX PAPADAKIS '21

Dual Major: EcoGastronomy;
Nutrition: Dietetics

JULIA PAQUETTE '21

Biomedical Science: Medical
Microbiology

VAL PASCETTA '22

Biochemical, Molecular and
Cellular Biology

OLIVIA PATTERSON '23

Recreation Management
Policy: Program and Event
Management

MAEVE PERRIN '21

Equine Science: Industry and
Management

POLINA PIVAK '21

Community and
Environmental Planning

ANDREI POTAPENKO '22

Biochemical, Molecular and
Cellular Biology

SEAMUS QUINN '22

Civil Engineering

ADRIANA RADOSAVLJEVIC '21

Biochemistry

ALISSA REITTER '22

Civil Engineering

KATIE REMEIS '23

Undeclared

SELENA RICHARDS '22

Computer Science

MELISSA ROONEY '23

Engineering Physics

GRACE ROY '22

Health Management & Policy

CAROLINE RUSSELL '22

Mechanical Engineering

COLEMAN RUSSELL '21

Dual Major: Business
Administration: Accounting;
Business Administration:
Management

JOHN SCACCHI '22

Political Science

CONNOR SCHOTT '22
Civil Engineering

JAKOB SCOPELITES '21
Occupational Therapy

KAITLYN SEAMANS '21
Occupational Therapy

BROOKE SEIGARS '21
Dual Major: International
Affairs; Spanish

BRANDON SMITH '21
Biomedical Science: Medical
and Veterinary Science

MADDIE SMITH '21
Communication Sciences and
Disorders

BRITTNEY SPOONER '21
Biomedical Science: Medical
and Laboratory Science

HAYDEN STINSON '21
Dual Major: Spanish;
Linguistics

VIOLET SULLIVAN '23
Exercise Science

DAVID SUOTH '22
Dual Major: Philosophy;
Sociology

HANNAH SWABOWICZ '23
Social Work

ALEX TARCZON '22
Dual Major: Business
Administration;
Entrepreneurial Studies;
Business Administration:
Management

ALEXANDER THORPE '21
Biochemical, Molecular and
Cellular Biology

GORDON UNZEN '21
Dual Major: Psychology;
Philosophy

KRYSTEN WALKER '21
Occupational Therapy

ROSE WALKER '22
Ocean Engineering

CHRISTIAN WORKMAN '22
Mechanical Engineering





University of
New Hampshire

Hamel Scholars

