During the past 2017-2018 academic year, the University Honors Program met several important goals. To begin, our honors staff successfully “test-piloted” the new Interdisciplinary Honors Option. This new honors track is an option to the traditional Honors in Major. Students achieve Honors designations by completing multiple high-impact experiences, including programs run by the Hamel Center for Undergraduate Research, the Center for Social Innovation and Enterprise, the Washington Center, Semester in the City, or other preapproved high-impact educational experiences.

Also during the past year, the Honors Program welcomed a record number of new honors students to the Hamel Scholars and Scholarships Program. Their activities included lunch with New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu and UNH President Mark Huddleston, attendance at career panels with several New Hampshire business and professional leaders in Manchester, and a student retreat at UNH’s Browne Center, as well as numerous community service projects across the state.

For the first time in many years, several of our honors students and staff attended the National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, which took place in Atlanta, Georgia. Students presented on a professional panel, took part in discussions, attended a keynote address by attorney, author, and civil rights activist Bryan Stevenson, while visiting one of the great cities of the American South.

Looking ahead, primary goals of the University Honors Program for the 2018-2019 academic year are to successfully complete a transition to a new Faculty Honors Director as my appointment ends on June 30th of this year. I am pleased to know that Dr. Catherine Peebles from the UNH College of Liberal Arts has accepted the position and assumes her responsibilities in July.

The Honors Program also plans to develop and offer a variety of honors inquiry and symposium courses for the coming academic year and beyond. New honors symposia offered in the past year included “Engaging Addiction: Drugs and the Human Condition,” “Being Human,” and “Who Owns the Past.”

Finally, let me welcome the over 240 new students who have accepted our invitation to become a University Honors student next fall! The Honors Program took steps in 2017 to make our program more welcoming to students of varied backgrounds, and the entering group of high-achieving freshmen brings a diverse set of talents, experiences, and career interests to UNH. It is a privilege to work with such outstanding UNH students!

Sincerely,

Jerry D. Marx, Ph.D.
Please Welcome Our New Director, Catherine Peebles

The Honors Program is delighted to introduce Dr. Catherine Peebles as its sixth Director. Dr. Peebles has been a member of UNH’s Humanities program for 19 years, serving as its Coordinator for much of that time.

Her career at UNH has also included directing the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program, extensive interdisciplinary teaching and team-teaching with colleagues from across the university, and advising students on theses and other research projects.

Before joining UNH, Dr. Peebles completed her BA in Comparative Literature at the University of Virginia, served as a United States Peace Corps volunteer in Poland from 1990 to 1992, and earned her MA and PhD in Comparative Literature at Binghamton University. In addition to several articles and book chapters, she published a book on French literature and psychoanalysis called *The Psyche of Feminism: Sand, Colette, Sarrasani.*

Dr. Peebles is married to Professor Petar Ramadanovic, of the English department. They live in Portsmouth with their two children, a cat, and a dog.

In joining the Honors Program, Dr. Peebles hopes to encourage students to focus on developing and deepening skills that will allow them to improve our world and lead meaningful lives.

“My goal,” she says, “is to urge all of us will ask: What do I have to offer? What can I dare to achieve, and what difference can I make?”

Amy Seif Hattem ’93 Wins Annual Alumni Award

The Honors Program presented our fourth annual Honors Alumni Award to Amy Seif Hattan, Corporate Sustainability Officer for Thornton Thomassetti, a global engineering firm. Ms. Hattan spoke with graduating seniors and offered some wisdom gained in the course of her career: find a good mentor; don’t always worry about winning; and pursue the good life rather than fame and fortune.

As a member of the Honors Program, Ms. Hattan formed close connections with Robert Mennel and Chris Sohl, who were the program’s Director and Assistant Director at the time, as well as with several of her professors. After completing a master’s degree in environmental journalism at the University of Wisconsin, Ms. Hattan reached out to her Honors Program connections, who helped her get her first job in the field.

She has worked on sustainability issues at UNH, the Rocky Mountain Institute, Middlebury College, and Second Nature, and earned a second graduate degree in public administration at Harvard’s Kennedy School.

Ms. Hattan emphasized that the path between her experiences has taken unexpected turns, making room for diverse experiences. She also noted how often she has turned to her UNH connections for help along the way.

In her current position, Ms. Hattan “works to embed sustainability and corporate responsibility into our operations and projects around the world.” The firm has designed some of the tallest structures in the world, as well as famous places like Yankee Stadium. “There, said Hattan, “I feel that I have made a difference and have the continuing opportunity to have a large impact.”

“My rewarding career in sustainability had its roots in the Honors Program.” —Amy Seif Hattem
Honors Students Win National Recognition

The Honors Program partners with the Office of National Fellowships to guide students toward prestigious national fellowships. Awards range from short-term support for international travel to research and teaching fellowships that last a year or more. These programs are highly competitive, and our winners demonstrate that UNH students can compete with the best college students across the nation. In 2017-2018, 18 UHP members won national fellowships; another 10 were recognized as finalists, honorable mentions, or runners-up.Below is a sampling of this year's winners.

Mariah Arral ’18
Chemical Engineering
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
3 years of funding for doctoral study at Carnegie Mellon University

Tyler Chapman ’18
Engineering Physics
Fulbright Grant
To study seismic measurement and detection at the University of Oslo, Norway

Crystal Napoli ’18
History, Justice Studies
Humanity in Action Fellowship
To travel to Copenhagen, Denmark and explore histories of discrimination and resistance

Eden Suoth ’18
Philosophy, Mathematics
Fulbright Grant
To study apologies in Indonesian society

Madison Pierce ’18
English Teaching
Fulbright Grant
To teach English in the Palestinian Territories

Madison Wood ’19
Earth Science
Barry Goldwater Scholarship
To fund undergraduate study of STEM topics
The Hamel Scholars Program seeks to prepare a cohort of exceptional students to lead and serve their communities in the future. A highlight of 2017-2018 was a “Leadership Luncheon” with NH Governor Chris Sununu, pictured here with Amanda Lee ’19, Tristan Evarts ‘20, Dylan Wheeler ’20, and Devin McMahon ’19.

Endowed by philanthropist Dana Hamel and his family in 2008, the Hamel Scholars Program is intended to inspire “leaders for New Hampshire’s future.” The program recruits students with exceptional records of academics, service, and leadership, and funds scholarships as well as special programming.

The 2017-2018 school year was an exciting one for the Hamel Scholars Program. In celebration of Constitution Day, UNH Professor Elija Gould, a renowned scholar of the early republic, led a discussion of the U.S. Constitution and its history. The Hamel Scholars then reflected on the parts of the document they find most meaningful, and presented their writings to Mr. Hamel.

Other leadership events included a memorable lunch with NH Governor Chris Sununu, at which students were able to hear the Governor’s thoughts and raise their own questions about his ideas. Retiring UNH President Mark Huddleston also joined the Hamel Scholars for lunch and reflection on his 10 years leading the university.

Off campus, the Hamel Scholars joined New Hampshire business leaders at a networking event in Manchester, which included a panel Q&A as well as tours of the Comcast and Eversource facilities. They traveled to Portland, Maine twice to contribute volunteer hours to Partners for World Health, and organization that distributes unused medical supplies to countries that need them. Closer to home, Hamel Scholars planned and led afterschool enrichment programs at Woodman Park Elementary School in nearby Dover, NH.

Two Hamel Scholars, Ashley Leblanc ’19 and Megan Verfaille ’19, traveled to Atlanta, GA in November to present at the annual meeting of the National Collegiate Honors Conference. They shared their experience in the UNH Honors Program, and learned from students from across the country.

Through learning, service, and leadership, the Hamel Scholars are spending their time at UNH preparing to share their talents with the wider world.
Course Spotlight: Global Citizenship

Trips to the Boston Symphony, walks in College Woods, and listening to guest speakers are just a few of the exciting opportunities available to students who take Global Citizenship: In Pursuit of Liberty, an Honors History seminar. Professor Janet Polasky designed the course to stimulate students to synthesize, analyze, and draw on their own personal experiences.

What does it mean to be a global citizen? It may not be exactly what you expect. According to Professor Polasky, “It begins in the classroom and goes outside the classroom. The goal of this course is to teach students about global citizenship, but also to show students all the open doors around the university and all the people who are here for them.”

As Professor Polasky says, “It is up to students to knock on those doors so they can see that anything is possible.”

A visitor to the course can see clearly that students are unafraid to discuss and get excited about new ideas and challenges. The discussions and experiences lead up to a student-directed final project. “What’s really important is framing and re-framing the question,” Polasky says. “It’s not about the final product, it’s about the process.”

Professor Polasky stresses the importance of realizing that we are all global citizens. The concept of cosmopolitanism can be understood in many different ways. However, in Global Citizenship, it’s about bringing together students from different fields of study and helping them discover their common basis; it’s about bringing outside people into the classroom to share real-world perspectives; it’s about venturing outside the classroom to learn about how interconnected the world is.

These adventures can take the form of dinner at a Vietnamese restaurant or attending the Boston Symphony--or a meal in the dining hall where students show Professor Polasky what breakfast is like for them.

The final project of this course is purely student-directed, and Professor Polasky makes it clear that this is critical in allowing the students to be creative and be themselves.

Several Nursing students who were interested in nutrition decided to research fermentation used for preserving food in countries that don’t have refrigeration. One student used his final project to describe how the game “Pokemon Go” offers a new way to view the world as interconnected.

A Natural Resources student talked about the conservationist Aldo Leopold and his relationship to land, taking the entire class on a walk through College Woods, and getting the professor and class to rethink their views of trees, birds, and nature. This walk culminated in a dinner at Professor Polasky’s house, which was a complete Italian meal prepared by a student of Italian background who shared this food as her final project.

Students are inspired in several ways to apply the knowledge they gain in class more broadly. Professor Polasky says, “I’m excited about the number of students from the class that figured out ways to study abroad (even if it doesn’t fit in their major) because they see international connections as important.” Students learn that detours can be good in life and to take advantage of the opportunities available to them now.

The lessons of the course have also been brought home to UNH. Several students joined together to advocate for revised Discovery requirements. They have met with the faculty senate to discuss curricular reform in order to make course structures more similar to that of Global Citizenship.

Global Citizenship is about recognizing our roles and responsibilities as citizens of the interconnected world we live in. Whether it’s as big as studying abroad across the world, or as small as having critical discussions with faculty and staff here at UNH, the lessons of Global Citizenship reach far beyond classroom walls.