2019 Hamel Scholars & Hamel Scholarship Recipients
NEW HAMEL SCHOLARS WERE ASKED WHAT THEY LOVED ABOUT THEIR HOME STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. HERE ARE A FEW OF THEIR RESPONSES:

“I love the amount of things there are to do in the Granite State. You can go to the beach in the morning and go to the White Mountains in the afternoon. You can go to downtown Manchester or downtown Concord and have the city feel but you can also go hiking and find peace and quiet.”

— Katie Remeis, Pelham

“I love the amount of outdoor activities this state has to offer. Spending the day outside could include anything from back country skiing in the Whites to kayak fishing in the middle of Lake Sunapee. No matter the season, there is always something cool to do in New Hampshire.”

— Matthew Noyer, Newbury

“Personally, I love how New Hampshire has everything. It is close to Boston and other major cities, it has beautiful country and also has some rural parts to it too. In addition, there are plenty of mountains and lakes nearby for hiking and fishing, and the seasons here are nice. I could certainly tolerate a shorter winter, though.”

— Robert Morin, Hampstead

“Like most young people, I’ve always been really interested in going far from home and seeing something else, but I am always drawn back to New Hampshire. It’s nice that seeing something like a white pine or a squirrel can make me feel so at home, even when I’m not.”

— Olivia Patterson, Concord

“New Hampshire has a lot to offer its citizens, including excellent school systems, historical sites and landmarks, beautiful landscapes and wildlife and the ‘Live Free or Die’ mentality. It’s such a welcoming state, with such friendly neighbors. There’s always something to do here, whether it’s skiing in the winter, apple picking in the fall or hiking on the multitude of hiking trails in the spring and summer.”

— Madison Gould, Hebron
A Hamel scholarship will make it possible for Rachel Lewis to fulfill her dream of earning a college degree. It will allow Jacqueline Desrosiers to pursue her passion for community service. It will give Cole Fournier access to the distinctive classes, leadership programs and team-building experiences that all Hamel Scholars enjoy. These outstanding students exemplify the enthusiasm and talent of the newest Hamel Scholars to join the ranks of those benefitting from your generosity.

It is inspiring to see how the Hamel Scholars Program helps students achieve academic excellence, move on to great careers and ultimately transform their lives. There is no finer example of the tremendous impact that donors have on our students.

When they graduate, our Hamel Scholars succeed personally, professionally and as engaged members of their communities, where they become leaders who contribute to a greater good.

The Hamel Scholars Program continues to support and encourage the next generation of changemakers. Hamel graduates will become our doctors and nurses, lawmakers and educators, inventors and business leaders who will keep New Hampshire strong for generations to come.

Thank you for your commitment to our students, our great university and our beautiful state.

Warmest wishes,

James W. Dean Jr.
President
Jacqueline Desrosiers wants to make big and bold changes in ways society works and hopes to start to do so by combining her interest in chemistry and biology with engineering to major in chemical engineering at UNH.

The Nashua High School North graduate placed first in chemistry at N.H. Science and Engineering Expo in 2018 for her biotechnology research project. At first, she couldn’t think of a good research topic. Once she chose one, she was still skeptical about how the experiment would turn out. “Turned out it failed and contamination practically ruined half the samples. But as my biotech teacher always told me, my data is my data, and when I presented at NHSEE, I explained my intentions and how it didn’t go as I planned it to. Sometimes, experiments don’t work the way we want them to and that is the point of experimenting. I learned a valuable lesson that day and even got an award with it, too!”

She was a member of the lacrosse, field hockey and math teams, National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society and Math National Honor Society, as well as Titan Connections, a senior-to-freshman mentoring program.

Through her church, she was part of Fast for Social Action for six years. She has also been an altar server, lector and religious education teacher.

Since 2011, she has been active in the international service group International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. Through the organization, she has coordinated a cook-off that raised money for the Nashua Children’s Dyslexia Center, raised money for Girls at Work Inc. in Manchester through a statewide clothing drive and placed flags on the graves of veterans every Veterans and Memorial Day.

FUN FACT
She is passionate about reading and writing, especially science fiction or fantasy genres.
Holly Farrell hopes to have a career as a neuroscientist or a pharmacist, and to be living somewhere in the Northeast. “I hope I have seen more places and made a true impact on others’ lives, as well,” she says.

The Bishop Brady High School graduate will major in biomedical sciences, and looks forward to undertaking undergraduate research and studying abroad as part of her academic career at UNH.

She received awards at Bishop Brady for achievement in Latin and chemistry, but counts her proudest moment as receiving the Jostens National Yearbook Program of Excellence Award her senior year.

“Though our staff had won the award when I was a sophomore and a junior as well, this year I was the senior editor, which made the accomplishment much more meaningful to me,” she says. “I am proud of the team-building skills our staff developed and the friendships that we cultivated along the way.”

She was also involved in cross-country, karate, National Honor Society and the Briareus Society, a group of Bishop Brady juniors who help the school’s admissions team in positively promoting Bishop Brady High School and acting as role models for other students.

Holly volunteered at her local library for all four years of high school and has helped make holiday cards for American soldiers overseas through National Honor Society. She also worked at the annual Sheep and Wool Festival, parking cars with her family.

**FUN FACT**

Her favorite hobby is drawing because it gives her a creative outlet from life’s daily stresses.
On Hannah Flaherty’s “UNH bucket list” is a mix of goals: run for student government, be part of an Irish dance team, meet people from international backgrounds, study abroad in Africa, focus on research, ace her classes — and simply be happy.

Hannah wants to pursue medical school after UNH, studying pathology or oncology. Her dream job would be in a laboratory setting, conducting research working with stem cells, plasmodium eukaroytes (single-celled parasites that cause malaria in humans) or cancerous tumors. To that end, she’ll major in medical microbiology.

At Nashua High School North, she received the Brandeis University book award and was ranked seventh in her class. She was also class secretary, which she enjoyed for the organization skills it taught her and for the fact that it brought her closer to her classmates.

She is passionate about Irish dancing, a hobby she started 10 years ago, and was also involved with unified sports (basketball and track helper), varsity soccer, the math team, Math Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and track and field. She ran a group of senior mentors called Titan Connections, assigning them to freshmen to help with the transition to high school.
Jared Fortier was captain of the boys’ soccer team at Kearsarge his senior year and calls it a “truly humbling experience.

“As a leader, I felt incredibly grateful for the opportunity to influence our season and to spend time setting an example for my teammates,” he says.

At UNH, Jared will major in computer engineering, believing that his natural inclination for thinking creatively to solve problems will lead to success. In recent years, he’s developed a passion for working with electronics, programming and robotics. As for his plans for a career, “I believe a future where I can explore new technology would be incredible,” he says.

At Kearsarge, he was involved in Project CLIMB, an outdoor recreation group that helps Kearsarge students develop skills and conquer fears and develop friendships in an extracurricular setting.

**FUN FACT**
Jared is a proud “Game of Thrones” superfan and has read the book series and watched the HBO television series multiple times.
Cole Fournier knows exactly what he wants to accomplish at UNH. “I will complete an honors thesis. I will do an independent research project with a professor. I would love to become a leader of a club that I become passionate about. I want to develop a strong relationship with at least one of my instructors that will last my whole life. I want to enjoy as much of my college experience as possible, not taking for granted the great opportunities available to me.”

With those goals in mind, Cole will major in chemistry, a topic he fell in love with at Pinkerton Academy. He received several awards in high school, including the Brandeis Book Award, the Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award and the American Legion Scholarship. He was involved in Model UN, the Foreign Language Honor Society, World Affairs Council, Boys State and Boys Nation, and was a page in the N.H. State Senate his freshman and sophomore years.

His proudest accomplishment was being elected president of his school’s National Honor Society chapter. He feels it reflects his success in being kind to others and earning their trust in his leadership abilities, and because it “represents my work throughout high school to dedicate myself to learning not just for grades or success, but for simply the passion and desire to learn as much as possible.”

FUN FACT
He’s not giving his political leanings away when he shares that he’s met both Vice President Mike Pence and U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders.
When Madison Gould looks ahead to her future, she knows she wants to be happy, healthy and near family.

“I want to continue living in New Hampshire, preferably somewhere rural and semi-close to home, so I can easily be in contact with my family,” says the Newfound Regional High School grad.

She also hopes to be working as a speech pathologist or audiologist; she’s majoring in communication sciences and disorders at UNH to pursue a career that will help her change lives for the better.

Madison received a recognition award from Worcester Polytechnic Institute for biology, biotechnology and bioinformation in 2017, and Newfound’s Excellence in Music Award in 2018.

Her proudest accomplishment from high school is her commitment to the school’s unified program, which brings together students with and without intellectual disabilities to create a more inclusive environment. She has worked to increase awareness of unified programs, attending a Special Olympics conference at Waterville Valley on behalf of her school and helping to set up the Lakes Region Unified Prom, where students, partners and athletes on unified teams across the state came together for a prom where everyone could feel welcome and included.

“Being a part of these programs has been such a meaningful part of my high school career, allowing me to form lifelong bonds and giving me the opportunity to speak out on things I feel strongly about,” says Madison.

FUN FACT
She is passionate about music. She plays clarinet and saxophone and hopes to be part of the concert band and jazz band at UNH.
Jackie Harris is coming to UNH with an open mind, ready to learn and forge new friendships. “Besides all the traditional college experiences, such as sports events, being independent, making new friends and experiencing a new culture, at UNH I really hope to find a career path I am truly passionate about and excited to pursue,” she says.

She’ll major in mathematics, one of her best subjects at Londonderry Senior High School. While she’s not 100 percent sure of a career path yet, she says she sees herself “being creative and innovative, and changing lives in positive ways.”

At Londonderry, she received the English department award (twice), the mathematics department award, and she was named to the honor roll in 2017, 2018 and 2019. She was a member of the student council, debate club, Tri-M Music Honor Society, National Honor Society and marching band. As two-time vice president of the school community service club, she participated in projects such as Special Olympics, senior dinners at a local senior center, Toys for Tots and helping Londonderry residents with yard work.

FUN FACT
She and a friend went to a famous YouTube group’s concert, met the band, and were called on stage during a show.
One of Elisabeth Hunter’s volunteer experiences is something near and dear to her heart. As an ambassador for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, she speaks publicly at fundraising events to share her story. She became involved after receiving her own wish when she was in sixth grade: meeting the cast of the TV show “The Middle” with her whole family.

“I wanted to give back to the organization that had given me such a great experience,” says Elisabeth.

The Bow High School graduate says her proudest accomplishment from high school was completing the Advanced Studies Program at St. Paul’s School last summer. She took an intensive six-week course on Ancient Greece, learning the Greek alphabet, reading multiple books about Greece and reciting poems written in ancient Greek in front of a class of 250.

“Even though I was nervous, I kept up with the work, made a lot of friends and learned a lot more about a topic I have a great interest in,” she says. “I learned I could thrive in a new environment, even if it was an incredibly challenging one.”

Elisabeth isn’t quite sure what she’ll major in yet, but she knows the variety of classes offered at UNH will help her find her passion. She knows it will be something in the liberal arts, as she enjoys writing, languages and history.

At Bow, she was involved in chorus, chess club, garden club and environmental conservation club. She also plays power soccer through Northeast Passage.

**FUN FACT**
She is passionate about crocheting — from scarves to baby blankets to dog outfits.
Rachel Lewis’s proudest moment from high school involved a teacher at St. Paul’s prestigious Advanced Studies Program (ASP). He pulled her aside and told her she was close to becoming a superior student — she just needed to expand her thinking and be open to more possibilities in her answers. “Having someone that I respected say that to me changed how I learned profoundly. It made me more aware of myself as a student,” she says.

At UNH, Rachel will major in marine biology. “I have always enjoyed science and been fascinated by the ocean,” she says. “When choosing my major, I could think of nothing better than spending the rest of my life working with (and hopefully in) the ocean!”

A graduate of Concord High School she received the academic excellence in physics award, the academic excellence in Latin IV/V award, cum laude on the National Latin Exam and the Wells College 21st Century Leadership Award. She also was the drum major for the Concord High marching band from 2017 to 2019 and received an academic excellence award in geography and cultures her freshman year.

Rachel has volunteered for the past five years at David’s House, cooking meals for guests who are there while a loved one is being treated at Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth. She’s also held volunteer gigs as a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and National Honor Society, including singing at nursing homes, tutoring and helping with Concord’s Midnight Merriment event.
Logan Lopus ’23
Lisbon, New Hampshire

At Lisbon Regional School, Logan Lopus received the sophomore project award, the DAR Good Citizen Award, was a three-sport athlete and was valedictorian of her class.

She was also active in soccer, softball, yearbook and skiing, played in the band and served as president of her school student council. Her volunteer experience includes work with the Boys and Girls Club of the North Country as well as planning and leading leadership conferences through National Honor Society.

She is passionate about sports, and when she’s not studying or working, you can find her competing. “It can take my mind off something that is bothering me so I can focus better in everyday life,” Logan says, explaining that having something besides school to focus on actually helps her get better grades.

At UNH she plans to major in business administration, because she’s always had an interest in business and managing how things run. As for a future career, she isn’t sure quite yet, but knows she wants to find happiness in whatever she does. While at UNH, she hopes to travel internationally, make new connections and become her “best self.”

She says her proudest achievement from Lisbon is making the East Coast ski team for New Hampshire. “Growing up, I spent all of my winters racing and this is the highest level I could achieve in high school,” she explains. “It showed me that all my hard work and dedication had paid off.”

FUN FACT
Because the only winter sport offered at her school is basketball, Logan approached the school board to allow her to create a one-member Lisbon ski team. They said yes. “In the newspaper, I became known as the Lone Lisbon Skier Logan Lopus whenever they would write an article.”
Julian Maduro has learned a lot about people and problem-solving in her role mentoring and managing 27 freshmen as a resident assistant in Christensen Hall.

Being chosen to work in such busy building “allowed me to support my residents while getting to know them on a personal level,” explains Julian. “This accomplishment is something I’ll hold with me for years to come,” she says. She learned how to connect with people with diverse personalities and how to build meaningful relationships.

Julian serves as secretary and co-chair of NALA, the campus support group for women of color, and is a member of the Black Student Union and the UNH Queer and Trans People of Color student organization. She is also a panelist for SafeZones, which aims to create an inclusive community on campus for LGBTQIAP+ students, faculty and staff.

She is a McNair Scholar and received the Alice Marguerite Mitchell scholarship in addition to the Hamel scholarship. An English/justice studies dual major, she spends her free time working on short stories and a longer novel. “I’ve been writing since I was in second grade and love putting together stories,” she says.

Her favorite thing about New Hampshire is having the ocean right next door. “Being born and raised in Illinois meant I had never really seen the ocean until I moved to New Hampshire.”

FUN FACT
“I bake pretzels ... really good pretzels from scratch.”
Anastasia Marchuk is interested in pursuing a career in space sciences or a related field and hopes to work in research or the spaceflight industry. She'll major in physics here at UNH and will either double-major or minor in Russian.

“I’ve done some space science research through UNH already,” she explains. “I hope to work for NASA or a private spaceflight company.”

At Dover High School, she was involved in marching band, concert band and Latin club. She was a member of the World Language Honors Society for all four years and received gold and silver medals on the National Latin Vocabulary Exam. She was also a member of the school’s FIRST Robotics team and the certamen team (think “Jeopardy!” but in Latin).

But her proudest accomplishment and favorite hobby is figure skating. She passed the two highest-level tests in U.S. figure skating (only 1,300 skaters pass one of them each year). “Passing the Senior Moves in the Field and Senior Free Skate tests have been goals since I learned about them years ago, and this accomplishment means everything to me,” she says.

She volunteered as a skating coach on weekends for eight years, teaching both children and adults. She also held various volunteer roles as part of the National Honor Society at Dover High.

At UNH, she’d like to try a new sport like fencing.

**FUN FACT(S)**
She used to collect buttons when she was little, and her favorite books are spy memoirs.
Robert Morin received a scholar-athlete award each of his four years of high school at Pinkerton Academy, and says he appreciates the honor because “ultimately, it is a reinforcement for being a well-rounded individual, and I was honored to receive the award.”

He is passionate about martial arts (he began pursuing his black belt just before high school) and chess — the latter for both nostalgia and skill. “My father taught me how to play when I was younger,” he explains “It is a game of strategy, attitude and perseverance, so how well you do is entirely up to you.”

At Pinkerton, he was involved in wrestling, tennis, crew and the philosophy club, and was a member of the National Honor Society and the Foreign Language Honor Society.

One of his volunteer experiences includes making baked goods for the Emmaus homeless shelter in Haverhill, Mass. “My sister and I prepare things such as cakes and cookies and deliver them,” he says. Robert is also an Eagle Scout.

He thinks he’ll most likely study cell biology but hasn’t decided yet. For now, he’s excited to find his academic/professional passion through courses he takes at UNH and expects that he’ll then be able to turn that passion into his own business after he graduates. “The way I see it, if I’m working for another person forever, I’m helping them achieve their dreams, not my own.” He’s interested in traveling abroad as part of his UNH experience.
Matthew Noyer ’23
Newbury, New Hampshire

When Matthew Noyer took an AP chemistry class his junior year at Kearsarge Regional High School, he fell in love. “It was very interesting and made a lot of sense to me,” he explains. “I would love to be able to continue to study this field in college.”

Matthew plans to pursue a chemical engineering degree at UNH and counts his proudest achievement from Kearsarge as scoring a 4 on the AP chem exam. “The class was very difficult and so earning a good score on the exam was incredibly rewarding. It made me realize that any class is doable as long as I put in the effort; it challenged me to take harder classes the following year.”

During high school he received the MVP award for his ski team, the President’s Education Award, and the Kearsarge Academic Achievement Award. As a volunteer, he cooked and served food at the 4-H booth at the Hopkinton State Fair, stacked wood and built a new porch as part of a local building company’s community outreach program and shelved books at his local library.

This spring he launched his Eagle Scout project: building a kiosk and recreation area for the town of Henniker along the Contoocook River.

While here, he’d like to study abroad in Europe, learning about and experiencing a different culture. He hopes a future UNH internship will lead to a solid career path, possibly in pharmaceuticals or the food processing industry. “I want to pursue a career that improves the quality of life for people or makes some part of their everyday lives better,” he says.

FUN FACT
His favorite hobby is hiking or backpacking in the White Mountains, because of the peace and beauty of being outside in nature, and for the physical challenge.
Blaise O’Mara is proud that he helped introduce a new generation to two games he loves: chess and cribbage. As part of his community-based STEAM class at Sunapee Middle High School, he built a cribbage-chess board hybrid for his school’s chess club.

He counts history and political science among his favorite areas of study. He’s passionate about drawing and creating stories and hopes to continue his political/social satire comic strip at UNH. He also hopes to get involved in student government, join the nearest Catholic church, learn more about graphic design, study abroad in Ireland and “become friends with good people.”

He’s been involved in his local church for many years, first as an altar server and more recently as a liturgical minister. As a member of the National Honor Society at Sunapee, his volunteer work has included peer tutoring, visiting the elderly and organizing community events such as Sunapee’s Father-Daughter Dance.

He was class president at Sunapee and was a member of the boys’ varsity basketball and track and field teams. He won sportsmanship awards as a freshman and sophomore, a youth leadership award, the St. Michael’s College Book Award, a teammate award, a coach’s award — and was named talent show crowd-pleaser as a sophomore, and talent show best performance as a senior.

Blaise is planning to major in electrical engineering and wants to apply what he learns to developing renewable energy resources.

“When I look ahead to my future, I hope to be developing and integrating renewable energy resources into everyday appliances,” he says.
Olivia Patterson wants to study abroad before she graduates from UNH. It’s also important to her to give back positively to both the Hamel Scholars Program and the Honors Program. She’d also like to join a club that serves people in the UNH and Seacoast community, such as Best Buddies.

Since early childhood, adults in Olivia’s life have inspired an interest in deaf studies, which is one of the reasons why the Tilton School graduate will major in communication sciences and disorders at UNH.

At Tilton, she spent a spring break week in the Dominican Republic, helping to build a new classroom at a preschool. She’s also served as an elementary school monitor, coached sports after-school with at-risk kids at a youth center and volunteered at a veteran’s home playing games and doing arts and crafts with residents.

She was a member of the school’s World Community Program, which helps incoming international students make friends and adjust to a new school. She was involved in theater, student government and the outdoor club and played varsity tennis and lacrosse. She was captain of the JV basketball team.

Olivia received several awards in high school, including the Governor Carlton Skinner Award, awarded to the member of the graduating class who most consistently demonstrated a sense of personal integrity, loyalty and curiosity, and who has demonstrated a commitment to fight injustice in all its forms. She also received the Community Service All-Star Award, given to the student who made the most outstanding contributions to all aspects of the community service program.
Maeve Perrin is passionate about horses and would love to own a farm, teaching riders and helping them achieve success as equestrians. “I’ve been riding horses since I was 9, and by 11, I knew I wanted to work with horses for the rest of my life,” she explains.

She is majoring in equine studies: industry and management, but also feels she’s being called to a higher purpose: to work as a pastor. She says plans to attend a seminary after UNH and admits that this recent revelation has left her with “a lot of questions and a very blurry five-year plan.” She knows one thing for sure: she wants to be in a career where she is serving others.

Maeve is involved in Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Hunt Seat Riding Team and Hubbard Hall council. Her proudest achievement at UNH is placing first in her class and fourth in the overall equine category at the 2019 Little Royal Livestock Show.

She has volunteered on various mission trips with her church and has helped with events like Relay for Life and drives for food and used clothing.

In addition to the Hamel Scholarship, she is the recipient of the Lou and Lutza Smith Endowed Scholarship and the Hubbard Scholarship.

She’s making plans to study in Limerick, Ireland, this coming spring. “I’m excited to travel to the beautiful county of my ancestors, and to study what I’m passionate about.”

FUN FACT
Her favorite hobby is baking, and she finds she is constantly reading cookbooks for new ideas. “I’ve been experimenting in the kitchen while ‘helping’ my mother for as long as I can remember.”
Katie Remeis will double-major in accounting and finance, relying on her strong math skills and her desire to work in business as motivation.

At Pelham High School she was involved in a variety of clubs, including yearbook, Spanish Honor Society, psychology club, National Honor Society, English Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America and the Be The Change Club.

She is proud of her role as yearbook editor and advisor, titles awarded to her as a reflection of her dedication to not only her work on the annual publication, but also her willingness to pick up additional work to ensure it remained on schedule.

Katie is passionate about traveling and hopes to study abroad while at UNH. She would also like to be involved in clubs and complete meaningful community service projects.

Her volunteer experience includes her commitment to Girl Scouts, an organization with which she has been involved since she was in kindergarten. She and her fellow scouts have volunteered at food pantries and senior centers in the Pelham area. She also works as a volunteer for Operation Care for Troops, putting together care packages for those on active duty; End 68 Hours of Hunger of Nashua, sorting food for hungry families; and Ledge Street School, supervising dances.

Down the road, Katie hopes to work for a large accounting firm in Boston.

**FUN FACT**
Ask her about her summer adventure: Katie and her family spent time on the road recently, driving cross-country.
Melissa Rooney ’23
North Hampton, New Hampshire

Melissa Rooney has decided to choose a major within the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, but isn’t sure which one just yet. She’s leaning toward engineering, as math and science have always been her two best subjects.

The Winnacunnet High School graduate was on the high school soccer team for two years, the swim team for three years and the varsity lacrosse team for four years. She served on student council all four years and was elected vice president her senior year. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Interact Club, yearbook, television and Quill and Scroll.

Like many Hamel Scholars, her goals for the next four years are many, and include studying abroad. “I want to use my knowledge of math and science to help others in less fortunate countries. Whether that means helping them build homes, gain access to clean drinking water or find more sustainable ways of living, I want to help people across the world,” she says.

Her proudest accomplishment is her love of her AP calculus class. “It took a lot of determination leading up to my senior year to make it into this class, and I am proud of myself for finally making it,” she says. “This was my favorite class out of all of my high school experience, and I am most proud that I am able to say that about such a difficult course.”

Melissa’s volunteer experience includes helping out at a lacrosse clinic, Hampton Beach clean-ups, volunteering at Cross Roads House in Portsmouth and tutoring underclassmen in math.

FUN FACT
Once she graduates, she hopes to find a job as a mechanical engineer and settle back here at home on the Seacoast.
Coleman Russell is on the community service board of his fraternity, Theta Chi, a member of the Accounting Students Association and a member of the Rec Society and Outing Club.

When he’s not studying, he loves to get outside to be active — snowboarding, hiking, kayaking and running are among his favorite activities. Between his home state of Vermont and his adopted state of New Hampshire, there is plenty to explore, he says.

Coleman is majoring in business administration with an option in accounting — a field in which he sees limitless potential. “Accounting isn’t just crunching numbers. Even though I have a passion for numbers, I also have a passion for people,” he says, and consulting within accounting presents the opportunity to work with a diverse group of people.

In 2018, he placed first in the Paul College FIRE Grand Challenge competition. He also made the dean’s list for four semesters in a row.

He hopes to work in public accounting for one of the Big Four firms and to live near the coast, either here or abroad. His proudest achievement so far at UNH is earning an internship by networking at career events, speaking with recruiters and working hard in the classroom. He spent his summer at a globalized company, which was “an incredible opportunity to grow and progress toward my career goals,” he says.
Jakob Scopelites has a few things he wants to do before he graduates from UNH: visit the bell tower in Thompson Hall, earn highest honors during his entire four years, become an assistant hall director, get involved in research in his field and study abroad.

That last one he’ll be able to check off next year; he was just accepted into the Rome J-Term program for January 2020.

Jakob is majoring in occupational therapy, and says he chose this field because it allows him to help people resume activities that they used to love but can no longer do because of an injury, sickness or age. “I’m very excited to get more involved in fieldwork this year and start helping others!” he says.

His proudest achievement is completing his first year as a resident assistant in Williamson Hall — something he admits he got very anxious about just a few days before RA training. “Instead of backing down, I stepped outside of my comfort zone,” he says, and it ended up being one of the best experiences of his life. “I met so many amazing people and learned so many skills that will stay with me for a lifetime. I feel like I have changed as a person overall after this past year.”

Jakob has worked as an admissions tour guide and participates in the “Shadow a Wildcat” program for prospective students. He is a member of the Student Occupational Therapy Association and a work-study student at Union Court in the MUB.
Brooke Siegers, a double-major in Spanish and international affairs, is interested in pursuing a nonprofit career where she can work hands-on supporting immigrants, refugees and women.

The New Hampshire native is most proud of her independent research project on the exodus of Puerto Ricans after the devastation of Hurricane Maria. “I was very interested in the immigration spike caused by the event, and the effects it has had on both the United States and Puerto Rico,” she says. Part of the project had her working with UNH’s humanities research lab as part of her data gathering.

Brooke has volunteered as a tutor with the UNH education department’s Migrant Program, creating lesson plans and working with families to create at-home study plans for students. She’s also served as a peer mentor for disabled students at her high school.

She received Spanish awards in 2018 and 2019 and hopes to strengthen UNH’s Spanish Club — of which she is a member — so that it attracts more members and can host more activities. She spent a semester abroad in Granada, Spain. She’s also involved in UNH’s chapter of Amnesty International.

FUN FACT
She is passionate about living a low-waste, minimalist lifestyle, and loves to research how to reduce her own carbon footprint.
Violet Sullivan is no stranger to community service. She has held several volunteer positions since her freshman year of high school — from a gig at the Brentwood Public Library to Christmas caroling at Exeter’s RiverWoods retirement community to tutoring fellow students in math.

She’s also done extensive volunteer work to help residents of Haiti. During the summer of 2018, she spent eight days working there, and through the French Honor Society at Exeter High School has raised money for the Medika Mamba Program at Partners in Development Haiti.

She’s been involved with three different varsity teams at Exeter High and served in leadership positions for the French Honor Society, Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society and the Outing Club. She was named captain for seven seasons of varsity track and cross-country, and has worked for newhampshiretrackandfield.com, offering commentary on races and conducting interviews with winners.

Violet will major in exercise science and minor in nutrition at UNH. Her goal is to become a physician’s assistant. Her academic programs “combine my love of preventative medicine, science and pursuit of athletics while fulfilling all of my requirements for graduate school,” she says.

Her list of academic and athletic awards from Exeter High is long, but she says her proudest accomplishment is learning how to give back to a community — something she mastered as captain of cross-country, indoor track and outdoor track. “I enjoy nothing more than helping build up the younger girls around me, and I feel this is my proudest accomplishment,” she says. The connections she built through her athletic endeavors with coaches, other teams, fellow athletes and parents are what will stick with her.

FUN FACT
She’s an avid fan of snowshoe running and has been doing it for several years.
In the seventh grade, Hannah Swabowicz began volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club once a week, helping younger children with their homework. She found that many of the youngsters were struggling with math.

That experience planted a seed in Hannah, who will major in mathematics education at UNH, to help young learners as a career.

But she knows she might change her mind once she gets here. Following her experience as a counselor at Camp Mariposa, which hosts children whose families are affected by substance abuse, she’s also interested in studying social work and/or psychology.

She considers her time with disadvantaged children both her biggest passion and her proudest achievement from high school. “I have been able to work with many students who did not have the same privileges as me, and hopefully I have been able to make a difference in their lives,” she explains.

She was varsity swim team captain at Nashua High School South and served as president of both Educators Rising and Students Against Destructive Decisions. She was a member of the National Honor Society, and the English, math and Spanish honor societies. She participated in unified track and field and school senate.

“When I look ahead to my future, I hope I will be a great teacher helping students become great people,” says Hannah. “I want to work in a middle school teaching math, but also teaching life skills to students so that they will be able to change the world one day.”

FUN FACT
“My family was able to get our second dog because I won a bet with my father.”
“The Hamel Scholars program not only enriched my UNH experience by connecting me to other like-minded, passionate UNH students and opening doors of opportunity outside the classroom, but Mr. Hamel and the Hamel program introduced me to the value and importance of paying it forward in education and using the opportunities I’m given to serve others. Thanks in part to the Hamel Scholars program, I’m now pursuing a PhD in mechanical engineering and conducting research in Uganda with the goal of one day teaching as a professor at a Ugandan university.”
—Paige Balcom ’16

“The Hamel Scholars set me up for a Fulbright year and for continuing my education at the University of Chicago. Community involvement, a staple of my Hamel Scholars experience, has followed me through each element of my post-UNH life, whether that be volunteering with refugee students in Germany or grassroots climate activism in New Hampshire. By fostering civic engagement, Mr. Hamel has created a ripple effect of positive social change. For that, we all are grateful.”
— Ian MacKay ’16

Hamel Scholars Program Alumni
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:

“I knew that, wherever I went to college, I wanted to be a part of the community. Joining the Hamel Scholars Program — a program that rewards students for providing service to the community — was unbelievable. What would’ve limited my ability to participate in the community would have been my obligation to work during my years at college; but, the HSP has generously allowed me to enjoy giving service by eliminating my financial burden. Thank you so much.”

— Blaise O’Mara ’23

“The Hamel Scholars Program is exciting in terms of opportunities, but additionally because it has provided significant financial support that, due to my family’s financial situation, is needed.”

— Anastasia Marchuk ’23
“I committed to run for UNH in early November of last year, and have wanted to attend UNH for my whole life, having grown up attending alumni events with my parents and watching others thrive here. While I knew I was going to be a Wildcat prior to applying for the Hamel Scholars Program, I had been wondering how I could be involved in the community with service and leadership in the coming years at UNH. When I opened my email with the HSP application, I knew this would be my chance. Receiving this honor as an opportunity to be involved in the community, make connections, learn from older students and represent the best that New Hampshire has to offer has made my attending UNH all the more well-rounded and exciting. I can’t wait to be a part of this program!”

— Violet Sullivan ’23

“I was interested in UNH before the Hamel Scholars Program, but it was through the dinner hosted by UNH for the Hamel Scholars that I actually learned all that UNH has to offer. I did not know it had such an incredible research program, and I also did not know it was so strong in medical school acceptance and connections in that area.”

— Robert Morin ’23

“The Hamel Scholars Program made college a reality for me. I was unsure of exactly how I would afford to go anywhere while getting an excellent education. My family does not have much to give me to help me on my journey, so I was prepared to have to figure out how I could afford anything and I had accepted that I would graduate with mounds of college debt. But when I received news from the Hamel Scholars Program, I was blown away. Now, not only am I a member of a welcoming community of students and have the honor of being selected for a prestigious program, but I can attend college without a financial burden. The Hamel Scholars Program is what made up my mind about attending UNH without hesitation.”

— Logan Lopus ’23
“Before I was admitted into the Hamel Scholars Program, I was trying to decide between UNH and Clarkson University. The total cost of my first year at either of these schools was similar and I didn’t know anyone in either of these schools that I could talk to or connect with as I made the transition into college. After I was admitted into the Hamel Scholars Program, the decision was easy. The scholarship provided a huge relief from the financial burden of college, and knowing that I would be part of such a small and close-knit community of students with interests similar to mine was very comforting. This program was the deciding factor for me and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity that the Hamel Scholars Program gave me.”

— Matthew Noyer ’23

“I was ecstatic to discover my acceptance into the Hamel Scholars Program. At the time, my decision was between two schools, and the generous financial scholarship, along with the many opportunities of the program, helped influence my decision to choose UNH.”

— Jared Fortier ’23

“I applied to the Hamel Scholars Program not only because it sounded exciting, but also because none of the schools that I applied to gave me enough scholarship upon acceptance for me to commit right away, and this seemed like a good opportunity to help ease that financial burden. Being accepted not only made me feel welcomed into the UNH community, it made my higher education something that I could actually reach.”

— Rachel Lewis ’23
“The Hamel Scholars Program has lifted many burdens from my plate when considering my college experience. I do not have to take a work study, which was really important to me. At the Hamel Scholars dinner in the spring, I felt like the faculty really wanted to take the time to look out for me and care for my academic needs. I really want to be successful in college and in life, and this program seems to be a great factor in getting me there. Lastly, its prestige definitely boosts my confidence as a student. This program really seems to provide a great opportunity to find success.”
— Jackie Harris ’23

“This scholarship was a major factor in deciding to come to UNH. But also the opportunity to work with other motivated students on service projects, much like I already do outside of school, is also pretty cool, and I look forward to what we do this year and the years to come!”
— Jacqueline Desrosiers ’23

“The Hamel Scholars Program will provide me with the opportunity to do amazing things and also continue to do the things I love, like volunteering for the community and being a leader. Being selected for this program also makes UNH feel like a more welcoming home for me, where I can meet and befriend like-minded people who also want to help and make a difference in their community.”
— Madison Gould ’23
“I was very unsure about committing to UNH because of the stereotype it has in my city. When I attended the Hamel Scholar banquet, my opinion changed completely. UNH was one of two schools I was deciding between, with the biggest factor being cost. The school I really wanted to go to was nearly twice as much as UNH, but it was my dream school. After the banquet, I realized how similar UNH is to the other school, and I had not realized that before only because it is my state school. The Hamel Scholars Program was one of the main reasons I decided to enroll at UNH.”

— Hannah Swabowicz ’23

“Being a part of this program will make my transition to college go a lot smoother. It will push me into a group of students to become friends with and help me form relationships with faculty that are similar to the ones I have now at my small prep school. I like the opportunities for service activities and being in a highly supportive environment. … I am so lucky to be in a program that will help me financially while also pushing me to grow in ways that I cannot yet anticipate.”

— Olivia Patterson ’23

“UNH was one of my top school choices to begin with. The Hamel Scholars Program gave me confidence that my academic ability could be used for something great. The recognition of the program made me feel that at UNH I could be a part of something significant. The easing of the financial burden was also a very positive factor and played a huge role in my decision in the end.”

— Melissa Rooney ’23
“I liked the idea of being a part of a group of people that are passionate about academics, and wanted to make sure to take advantage of the opportunities that college had to offer. When I was accepted into the Hamel Scholars Program, I knew that it would provide me with the most opportunities, so I decided to enroll. The scholarship goes a long way toward easing the financial burden, which also influenced my decision. The Hamel Scholars Program made me more sure of my choice to enroll at UNH, and I am very excited to participate.”
— Elisabeth Hunter ’23

“I didn’t make my college decision until the last minute at the end of April. I was struggling to decide between UNH and another school that reminded me of UNH in many ways. Though the two schools appeared to have many differences, the feeling I got of community when I visited both campuses was eerily similar. However, because I was accepted into the Hamel Scholars Program, UNH became more desirable to me in many ways. First, the scholarship was a huge deal for me as I have been stressing about paying for college for years. I was also thrilled to be involved in a program that could further enrich the educational opportunities I would receive. Knowing that I already have a place in a small community at UNH really helped me decide that UNH is the right place for me.”
— Holly Farrell ’23
Returning Hamel Scholars

Ian Ayer ’22
Biomedical Science: Medical and Veterinary Science

Parker Ayotte ’22
Dual major: English; Justice Studies

Bridget Baker ’20
Genetics

Jacob Baker ’20
Computer Engineering

Isabel Beaulieu ’22
Statistics

Odin Bickford ’22
Nursing

Sandra Black ’22
Dual major: Social Work; Spanish

Emma Blair ’21
Nursing

Sarah Blampied ’22
Undeclared (Paul College of Business and Economics)

Holly Boivin ’22
Music Education

Molly Boodey ’20
Mathematics

Madison Rose
Bouchard-Lipporto ’22
Dual major: Justice Studies; Psychology

Hannah Brigham ’22
English

Kaylah Caires ’20
Biomedical Sciences: Medical and Veterinary Science

Kylee Casner ’22
Dual major: Genetics; Sustainability

Alexander Charest ’22
Mechanical Engineering

Emily Chen ’22
Dual major: International Affairs; Environmental Science: Ecosystems

Cierra Cowan ’20
Dual major: English; Neuroscience and Behavior

Megan Cramton ’22
Environmental Engineering

Samuel Cranford ’21
Mechanical Engineering

Elizabeth Dion ’22
Business Administration: Accounting
Katherine Dubois ’22
Neuroscience and Behavior

Nicholas Eagan ’21
Civil Engineering

Julianne Edwards ’21
Dual major: History; Educational Studies

Tristan Evarts ’20
Chemical Engineering

Faith Farnham ’21
Nursing

Alyssa Felder ’22
Dual major: International Affairs; Political Science

Trevor Fenoff ’22
Environmental Science: Hydrology

Oliver Fetter ’20
Mechanical Engineering

Mackenzie French ’22
Biomedical Science: Medical and Veterinary Science

Crystina Friese ’20
Dual major: Anthropology; Justice Studies; minor in Forensics

Charlie Gasperoni ’21
Bioengineering

Sydney Gendreau ’22
Environmental and Resource Economics

Sage Gould ’20
Studio Art

Alyssa Greig ’21
Biomedical Science: Medical Microbiology

Alana Gudinas ’20
Physics

Elizabeth Hilton ’20
Nursing

Sophia Hughes ’21
Business Administration: Marketing

Sophia Joyal ’22
Nursing

Connor Joyce ’21
Bioengineering

Brianna Judkins ’21
Nursing

Nicole Jutras ’22
Undeclared (College of Liberal Arts)

Carley Kanter ’22
Nursing
Isabelle Kapoian ’21
Dual major: English Literature; Humanities

Joshua LaPointe ’20
Athletic Training

Noah LaPointe ’22
Business Administration

Julia Leary ’21
Chemistry

Amanda Lee ’20
Economics

Connor Lennox ’21
Computer Science

Kathryn MacLeod ’22
Political Science

Alicia Maimone ’20
Education

Yuri Makar ’22
Biomedical Science: Medical and Veterinary Science

Amber Man ’20
Dual major: Business Administration: Marketing; Business Administration: Management

Jessica Manning ’21
Environmental Engineering

Brianna Mastro ’21
Earth Sciences

Daniel Mattson ’22
Computer Science

Alexa Mayo ’21
French

Elizabeth McGowan ’22
Psychology

Eileen McKenna ’22
Equine Science

Caelin McMahon ’21
Anthropology, Spanish

Kelsey Mercurio ’21
Dual major: Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology; Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

Kersten Mercurio ’22
Occupational Therapy

Lily Mitchell ’20
Biomedical Sciences: Medical and Veterinary Science
Liam Morrissey ’22
Analytical Economics

Tejas Moses ’20
Dual major: Fine Arts; Sustainability

Chris Mottola ’21
Computer Science

Michael Newell ’20
Nursing

Nathaniel Nichols ’22
Chemical Engineering

Greg Novotny ’21
Chemical Engineering

Darby O’Neil ’20
Dual major: International Affairs; Political Science

Ajaypal Panesar ’21
Economics

Alexandra Papadakis ’21
Dual major: Ecogastronomy; Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

Julia Paquette ’21
Biomedical Science: Medical Microbiology

Valerie Pascetta ’22
Animal Science

Siobhan Pelletier ’20
Nursing

Polina Pivak ’21
Community and Environmental Planning

Andrei Potapenko ’22
Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology

Seamus Quinn ’22
Civil Engineering

Adriana Radosavljevic ’21
Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology

Alissa Reitter ’22
Civil Engineering

Selena Richards ’22
Computer Science

Grace Roy ’22
Neuroscience and Behavior

Caroline Russell ’22
Mechanical Engineering
Mitchell Scacchi ’22
Political Science

Connor Schott ’22
Civil Engineering

Kaitlyn Seamans ’21
Occupational Therapy

Brandon Smith ’21
Biomedical Science: Medical and Veterinary Science

Madison Smith ’21
Communication Science and Disorders

Brittney Spooner ’21
Biomedical Science: Medical Laboratory Sciences

Hayden Stinson ’21
Dual major: Linguistics; Spanish

David Suoth ’22
Philosophy

Alex Tarczon ’22
Business Administration

Alexander Thorpe ’20
Biochemistry: Molecular and Cellular Biology

Gordon Unzen ’21
Dual major: Psychology; Philosophy

Krysten Walker ’21
Occupational Therapy

Rose Walker ’22
Ocean Engineering

Noah Waller ’20
Neuroscience and Behavior

Dylan Wheeler ’20
Dual major: Information Technology; Philosophy

Christian Workman ’22
Mechanical Engineering
For me to describe how much I love the state of New Hampshire would be a novel. To summarize, New Hampshire is perfectly located geographically with easy access to the ocean, the mountains and various nearby cities. We have fresh air and four beautiful seasons of the year. In New Hampshire we have the ability to receive an excellent education while attending public schools for your entire life. I think the primary reason why I love the Granite State is the people. I have visited almost every state in the U.S. and traveled all over the world meeting people of diverse cultures, backgrounds and ideas, and none of these places and people have compared. As a small state, we have the pride and sense of whole in a community. I think in general, New Hampshirites care about and respect one another. New Hampshire born and raised, I am proud to live in such a beautiful state and will be proud to wear ‘New Hampshire’ across my chest competing next year on the cross-country and track teams, and will continue to represent this state for the rest of my life.”

— Violet Sullivan, Brentwood

“I love that the town I grew up in had apple orchards, hills, trees, places to take nice walks and other great places to connect with nature.”

— Jackie Harris, Londonderry

“I love hiking in the White Mountains. Also, the four seasons! Welcome to New Hammy!”

— Blaise O’Mara, Sunapee

“I love the fact that the Granite State has very distinct seasons. I like spending time in the summer going outside and walking my dogs, but after a while I am ready for cooler weather. In fall, I enjoy leaf peeping, and in winter I enjoy reading books in front of our pellet stove. By the end of winter, I’m always ready for warmer weather, and I find it very encouraging to see leaves sprouting and all sorts of animals come back.”

— Elisabeth Hunter, Bow