

UNITY COLLEGE FLAGSHIP

END OF YEAR REVIEW
GOALS & ACHIEVEMENTS
2018-2019

 **UNITY**
COLLEGE
America's Environmental College

UNITY COLLEGE FLAGSHIP – SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION BUSINESS UNIT (SEBU)

Located on 225 acres in Unity, Maine, Unity College Flagship is a residential campus that hosts undergraduate students who are interested in becoming environmental leaders of the future. At Unity College, not only do students take part in rigorous academics, sports, art, and work-study programs, they also take part in -- or even lead -- immersive research projects where they can gain real-world experience relevant to their field of study.

TERRAIN, the latest curricular innovation at Unity College Flagship, uses Expeditionary Learning as our educational model for incoming students. TERRAIN was designed for students to develop career-focused skills beginning on day one.

Through integrated courses, students receive comprehensive, relevant, and outcome-based opportunities to help build or retool their knowledge and professional skills in sustainability fields. The TERRAIN testbed was launched in the fall of 2019, and in the fall of 2020, all incoming Unity College Flagship students will take part in TERRAIN.

Based on data collected from alumni and senior surveys over the past four years, 94 percent of Unity College graduates are employed, continuing their education, or serving in the military within six months of graduating.



21
Average Class Size

15:1
Student to Faculty

31
States Represented

UNITY COLLEGE FLAGSHIP - TIMELINE 2011 TO 2019



BUILT CLIFFORD HALL



BUILT UNITY TWO



SKY LODGE GIFTED TO THE COLLEGE



CREATED HONORS PROGRAM



RENOVATED WYMAN COMMONS



BUILT UNITY THREE & COLLABORATIVE LEARNING CENTER

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2011

\$10 MILLION ENDOWMENT GIFTED TO THE COLLEGE

FIRST TO DIVEST

Unity College becomes the first institution of higher education in the nation to divest from fossil fuel.

MCKAY FARM AND RESEARCH STATION GIFTED TO THE COLLEGE

BUILDING A BEACON

Implemented Building a Beacon Strategic Plan

AASHE GOLD RATING

RECORD NUMBER OF INCOMING FRESHMEN CLASS (274)

AASHE GOLD RATING

NEW DEGREE IN SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

2019

NEW DEGREE IN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

AASHE GOLD RATING

UNITY COLLEGE FLAGSHIP – CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

Unity College's mission is centered around graduating responsible citizens who are environmental stewards and visionary leaders. Sustainability and experiential learning have always been at the core of a Unity College education, and this fall, Unity College took that to a new level when it introduced TERRAIN at Unity College, which is designed for students to develop career-focused skills beginning on day one.

Faculty and staff spent two years developing the curriculum that has become TERRAIN at Unity College, gaining insight from students on how they want to learn, as well as employers on the skills they seek in ideal employees. TERRAIN brings an integrative approach to learning, allowing students to extend their learning experiences directly into their Living Learning Communities. Cohorts of students share academic experiences and projects in addition to social and recreational opportunities centered around a theme or real-world challenge.



In addition to TERRAIN's customizable curriculum, internships, practicums, and short courses offered year-round, its four-quarter academic calendar allows students to engage in a robust residential college experience while having the flexibility for work, family commitments, and career opportunities. TERRAIN gives students the flexibility to balance time between studies, work, and personal life, and since terms are modular and not sequential, students can take any combination of these terms at any time.

Unity College Flagship also helps students find internship opportunities all over the world. Interns receive ongoing support and feedback from both on-campus faculty sponsors as well as worksite supervisors.

Unity College students are making the most of their internships, working with organizations including the Whale Shark and Oceanic Research Center in Honduras, World

Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms in South Korea, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska, and Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico.

16

Undergraduate
Degrees



Adventure-Based Environmental Education
Adventure Therapy
Art and Environment
Conservation Biology
Captive Wildlife Care and Education
Conservation Law Enforcement
Earth and Environmental Science
Environmental Policy, Law, and Society

Environmental Writing and Media Studies
Marine Biology
Parks and Forest Resources
Sustainable Agriculture
Sustainable Business Enterprise
Sustainable Energy Management
Wildlife and Fisheries Management
Wildlife Biology

UNITY COLLEGE FLAGSHIP + SUSTAINABLE VENTURES

Unity College students have ample opportunities to learn in real-life manifestations of the curriculum. McKay Farm and Research Station in Thorndike and Sky Lodge in Maine's Moose River Valley allow students to work, learn, and research while contributing to the surrounding communities.

McKay Farm and Research Station

McKay Farm and Research Station is directly integrated with Unity College Flagship, providing students and the community with both educational and entrepreneurial opportunities. During the 2018-2019 school year, McKay hosted 19 classes with 228 students, employed 21 work-study students, and provided fresh food to Wyman Commons.

Sky Lodge

Sky Lodge, a historic sporting lodge gifted to Unity College by the Couri Foundation in 2018, is used as home base for excursions and research in the northern Maine woods for courses in nearly every major, as well as TERRAIN expeditions. It is also available for public vacation rentals, corporate retreats, destination weddings, and events like the annual Summer Solstice SwimRun. During the 2018-2019 school year, Sky Lodge was integrated into seven classes, with a total of 111 students journeying to the lodge for a variety of experiences.



339

Students in classes
at Sky Lodge & McKay

26

Classes integrated
into curriculum

UNITY COLLEGE FLAGSHIP – STUDENT LIFE

Unity College Flagship has nine residence halls, all fully programmed with co-curricular activities.

The Student Activities Building houses the Student Center with both indoor and outdoor seating, a café, and is the setting for Student Activity events. Tozier Gymnasium is the venue for athletic events and features a rock-climbing wall and a fitness center. Wyman Commons, the dining hall, offers award-winning food in a newly renovated space. The most recent addition to the Flagship campus is the Student Services Center, a one-stop-shop located in Founders Hall South.

Unity College student life provides tremendous opportunities for learning, collaboration, and discovery. There are several clubs and intramural sports opportunities. The Woodsmen Team, which has a long and proud tradition at Unity, travels to competitions throughout New England, New York, and parts of Canada. Unity College Flagship also offers varsity sports for men and women, including cross country, soccer, basketball, track and field, and women's volleyball.

Unity College participates in the federal work-study program, which is overseen by the financial aid office. Job opportunities and descriptions can be found on greenjobs.unity.edu.



UNITY COLLEGE FLAGSHIP – CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

As part of our ongoing mission to make the Flagship campus more sustainable and enhance the student experiences Unity College continues to invest in capital improvements. Over the past two years, those investments included renovating the Unity College Center for the Arts (UCCA) and Founders Hall South.

Unity College Center for the Arts

Originally built from a 100-year-old barn with an attached farmhouse, the recently renovated UCCA includes a new media lab, giving students a dedicated space for graphic art, photography, documentary film, and new media. There is also a dedicated space for sculpting and ceramics, faculty offices, a paint studio, and additional classrooms on both floors. The Leonard Craig Gallery in the UCCA's main lobby greets visitors with an eclectic mix of work from a variety of artists.



UNITY COLLEGE FLAGSHIP – CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

Founders Hall South Renovations

In the fall of 2019, students were welcomed back to the Flagship campus with a newly renovated Founders Hall South. The modernized space is home to the Student Services Center, Unity College Base Camp, a science lab, classrooms, and faculty offices. The Student Services Center is a one-stop-shop where students can register for classes, establish internships, pay bills, and receive financial aid assistance. Residence Life and the Dean of Students are also housed here.

The Student Services Center has a reception area and flexible work stations to allow for additional staffing during “bursts” such as registration, housing sign-up, and other large-scale activities. Base Camp in Founders Hall South serves as a lounge for students, staff, and faculty, where they can study, relax, and connect.



UNITY COLLEGE FLAGSHIP – ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

At Unity College, we live our mission, not only educating sustainability leaders of the future, but also setting an example for other organizations in our sustainability practices.

The Unity College Board of Trustees made history when it voted unanimously to divest the College's portfolio from investments in the top 200 fossil fuel companies in 2012. Unity College was the first institution of higher education in the United States to divest from fossil fuels, and since then, many other colleges have followed. Other important sustainability initiatives in Unity College's history include:

- In 2011, we introduced the community to TerraHaus, which was the first residential hall in the country built to the Passive House standards. We were also the first in the nation to construct a "net-zero" president's residence, Unity House, which earned LEED Platinum certification. In addition to that, the last four buildings Unity College constructed operate without fossil fuels.
- The Collaborative Learning Center, built in 2016, is heated and cooled by high efficiency air source heat pumps that can be powered by solar panels. The building is designed to LEED Silver standards of efficiency.
- In 1979, Jimmy Carter installed 32 solar panels on The White House. In 1986, they had been removed and quickly forgotten. Unity College acquired the panels, refurbished them, and used them until 2010, when they reached their useful lifespan.
- We have expanded our car charging stations threefold, and continually work to enhance the sustainability of our residence halls and office spaces. To encourage ride-sharing, we created the U-Go transportation system which connects students to classrooms at the UCCA, McKay Farm and Research Station, and Sky Lodge in the Moose River Valley. U-Go shuttles and bikes reduce our carbon footprint while allowing students access to activities across the state.
- In 2017, our Dining Services team received the National Association of College and University Food Services' overall grand prize for their efforts in diverting 33.75 tons of organic waste from landfills between August 2016 and May 2017.
- We have implemented a Sustainability Fund, a revolving funding source for projects that reduces dependence on energy resources and ultimately pay for themselves within five years. Senior staff recently allocated \$100,000 from the fund for a lighting replacement project that will convert more than half of the lights at the Flagship to LED.
- Unity College has achieved a Gold rating from STARS, recognizing Unity College as one of the schools leading the nation in energy and investment.
- We recently adopted a College-wide green cleaning policy, which ensures the health and safety of building occupants and the custodians who work in our buildings.



UNITY COLLEGE FLAGSHIP – GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH



At Unity College Flagship, students get involved in research on a wide variety of subjects. Together with their faculty mentors, students work on transdisciplinary projects and in doing so, form strong connections with faculty and other outside organizations. The Flagship offers many outlets for students to participate in undergraduate research, including credit-bearing research classes, work-study opportunities, thesis classes, and program-based research projects.

In order to highlight this work, Unity College hosts a bi-annual Student Conference, allowing students to present professional-level material to a panel of judges.

Our Flagship faculty regularly lead groundbreaking research engaging our students in discovering new species, creating protocols to restore the American chestnut tree, and studying algae blooms in Lake Winnecook using drones.

Working to Restore the American Chestnut

Over the past four years, Unity College has partnered with The American Chestnut Foundation in an effort to develop a restoration protocol for the American chestnut tree, which has been functionally extinct since the mid-1900s.

Every March, Dr. Matt Chatfield and his students assist in sowing chestnut seedlings at McKay Farm and Research Station, and in the summer, those seedlings are transported and planted at pre-selected locations throughout Maine. Since the project began, Unity College students have helped plant thousands of saplings across Maine.

UNITY COLLEGE FLAGSHIP – GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH



Discovering a New Species of Tardigrade

In 2018, Dr. Emma Perry and her students identified a new species of tardigrade, which marks the second such discovery for Dr. Perry. Tardigrades can be found all over the world and are known for surviving in some of the harshest environments on Earth. They have been found in the Antarctic, some of the highest mountaintops, and in the deep sea. Tardigrades have been a hit with Dr. Perry's students, and in the summer of 2018, Sarah Neitzel, a Marine Biology major at Unity College, presented her work at the International Tardigrade Symposium in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The species identified in 2018 was found in Washington state and is called *Echiniscoides rugostellatus* because of its rough back and star-like tips. In 2015, Dr. Perry and her students collected tardigrades on Allen Island in Maine, making national headlines by discovering a new species.

Studying Algae Bloom with Drones

When Dr. James Killarney, Assistant Professor of Environmental Chemistry, saw an opportunity to apply for a Maine Space Grant Consortium research grant, he began thinking of new ways to study the eutrophication of Lake Winnecook, also known as Unity Pond. Eutrophication, which is usually caused by runoff from the land, is when the body of water becomes overly enriched with minerals and nutrients due to an abundance of plant life and algae.

Dr. Killarney engaged Dr. Kevin Spigel, Professor of Geoscience, who recently began doing work with drones. The two developed a proposal to use aerial imagery on a local scale to perform water quality analysis. Drs. Killarney and Spigel then reached out to Dr. Janis Balda, Professor of Sustainable Enterprise, to take the lead on the business development portion of the grant, and Dr. Kathleen Dunckel, Associate Professor of Forest Resources and Geographical Information Systems, to overlay the images taken using GIS. The grant also included two full-time student positions throughout the summer of 2019.



ECONOMIC IMPACTS*:

JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

LOCAL AREA

STUDENT

MAINE ECONOMY

EMPLOYMENT

The Flagship provides the economic anchor for Unity College as it continues to grow and evolve.

\$20,506,446
Operating budget

We like to serve the people in our communities, and our customers are the community's customers.

207
Number of students who rent apartments

\$356,579
Amount invested in maintaining The Dorothy Webb Quimby Library, which is open to the public

\$16,380
Amount invested in maintaining the Field of Dreams, which is open to the public

Our students have the chance to immerse themselves in a hands-on learning experience and create positive memories of the region.

230
Work-study students

351
Students who volunteer

4,163
Hours volunteered by students in the state of Maine

Shopping locally is core to our values because it helps local vendors and reduces our environmental impact. We were also able to invest in capital improvements funded by grants and Unity College.

\$2.6 MILLION
Amount spent with Maine vendors

\$472,289
Investment in facilities and construction

5,000
Number of people we bring to town through college events

Our employees, many of whom live in Waldo County, participate in the community, both socially and economically.

201
Employees that work on Flagship campus

\$10,968,000
Annual payroll & benefits for employees that work on the Flagship

*Data is approximate

UNITY COLLEGE FLAGSHIP – VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES

Vision

Unity College: Engaging and Educating to Create a Sustainable World.

Mission

Through the framework of sustainability science, Unity College provides a liberal arts education that emphasizes the environment and natural resources. Through experiential and collaborative learning, our graduates emerge as responsible citizens, environmental stewards, and visionary leaders.

Core Values

In pursuing Unity College's vision and mission, we are committed to following these eight core values:

Respect establishes trust. We honor the intrinsic value of self, others, and the world we share.

Integrity aligns our actions and values. We act with purposeful reflection to uphold our vision and mission.

Social Responsibility calls us to act. We prepare leaders to address civic engagement in light of environmental concerns.

Community has no boundaries. We connect through inclusive engagement locally and globally.

Resiliency demonstrates flexibility. We develop the capacity of people, systems, and environments to anticipate and respond to change.

Cultural Competency recognizes differences as strength. We explore and value the strengths, talents, and perspectives of others in order to foster strong relationships.

Innovation keeps us relevant. We have the courage to question our assumptions, embrace creativity, and take calculated risks.

Accountability starts with us. Our actions demonstrate ownership of our work and responsibility for measurable outcomes.





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