In Memory of Dr. Edward M. Passerini
9/13/1937 – 7/4/2020
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear New College Alumni and Friends,

I hope that this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

The last several months have been challenging for everyone. New College included. In March, New College successfully transitioned to remote instruction to finish the Spring semester. Our dedicated faculty and adaptable students adjusted in ways that demonstrated the best qualities of an interdisciplinary, liberal arts-mindset: creativity, resilience, and mental agility. As the Fall semester approaches, we are utilizing these qualities once again as we prepare to welcome students, faculty, and staff back to campus. Our goal is to continue providing highly interactive and interdisciplinary seminar-based learning – the hallmark of the New College educational experience – as safely as possible.

As has become abundantly clear in recent weeks and months, COVID-19 has raised challenges far beyond the fields of science and public health. This virus has exposed fissures in our communities, our politics, and even our understandings of history and public space. These fissures challenge us to reconsider our understanding of the human condition. They also offer an opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to realizing a more just, equitable, and inclusive society. As impressed as we all are in this moment, it is important to note that many of us benefit from unearned privilege on the basis of our race, gender, social class, or religion. Because of this privilege, some of us will never truly understand the painful experiences of friends, peers, and colleagues of color or other underrepresented groups. In spite of this, or perhaps because of it, we want to assure members of the New College family that you are seen, that all of the New College faculty are listening, and that we will always seek to provide a safe, supportive community as we strive to embody the ideals of a more just, equitable, and inclusive society.

Sincerely, and on behalf of the New College faculty,
Julia Cherry, Ph.D.
Director, New College

New College was built on the premise that interdisciplinary education empowers us to see broadly, to communicate across difference, and to propose effective means to engage social problems. By bringing together diverse perspectives, we gain insights that are not available from any single point of view. With our emphasis on experiential learning and small, discussion-based seminars, New College students engage complex, real-world problems by combining multiple perspectives, listening to others, and discussing contemporary issues. It is our hope that New College prepares us all to interrogate and respond to the long history of injustice, discrimination, and inequity in our society.

As we approach our sixth decade, we reaffirm our support of efforts to foster and sustain a community built on respect for diversity in its many forms. And now, as we navigate these unprecedented times, I hope that the skill of critical inquiry and the insights born of interdisciplinary perspectives are helping you navigate these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,
Julia A. Cherry
Director

Greetings Alumni and Friends,

All of us at New College hope that you are able to remain healthy and encouraged during these uncertain times, and you are all in our thoughts.

We are especially proud to bring you this newsletter amid the many changes we’ve undergone since our last issue. We are committed to keeping you connected and informed regardless of the circumstances. At the time of this publication, we are still not able to meet and gather as we would like. But we still look forward to upcoming events and we welcome you to participate in whatever ways possible. We also invite you to join us in celebrating our Honors Recipients and Graduates featured in this issue.

Please continue to stay in communication with us, as we always enjoy hearing from you and learning about your endeavors and accomplishments. And as always, we thank you for all you contribute to the New College family and experience.

Be well!

Jamilah Cooper-Bowden
New College Office Associate

June 6, 2020

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Bookmark our updated website for even more New College News, Events, and Resources!
On Saturday, July 4, 2020, Dr. Edward M. Passerini, a founding member of the New College faculty, passed away peacefully at his home in Florida with family by his side. A true Renaissance man, Ed earned his B.A. in Physics, with a minor in Mathematics, from Harvard; his M.A. in American Studies from Northeastern University; and his Ph.D. in Literature from the University of Virginia. Dr. Neal Berte, the first Dean of New College, recruited Ed to join the program as a professor of Humanities and the Environment in 1971, where he served until his retirement in 2006.

During his recruitment, Dean Berte and Ed exchanged ideas about their vision for the nascent New College program, ideas that underscored Ed's passion for teaching and his commitment to students. As a teacher, Ed believed that he had as much to learn from students as they did from him. As such, he viewed the classroom as a community of teacher/learners. Ed posited:

"Why have a teacher? To coordinate, . . . to provoke, to stimulate, to encourage, to buck up, and, occasionally, to correct and polish . . ."

Over his 35-year career, Ed was a fierce advocate for the environment, his students, and New College, leaving an indelible mark on the program. While at the University, Ed worked with dozens of local, state and national environmental organizations, helped bring Earth Day celebrations to campus, and hosted “The Environment,” an educational course on Alabama Public Television. Notably, Ed designed and built, along with his students, the world’s first, fully solar-powered car in 1977 – a true example of experiential learning. For years, he toured the country with his solar cars, winning the 1989 Tour de Sol race and beating teams from Dartmouth and MIT, among others. In his seminars, he challenged students to think broadly, and differently, about the world and the role of people in it. His courses were known for their difficulty, but also for their long-lasting value. Consequently, he became a sort of “Pied Piper” for New College, with a tremendous following among his students.

Perhaps his greatest impact, however, was as a mentor and sounding-board to students in need of counsel. Former colleague, Dean Bernie Sloan, recounted how Ed would spend hours talking with students, especially those who were troubled or struggling. When asked why he spent so much time with these students, Ed would reply, “You never can tell how much influence you might have on a student whose life trajectory might be changed by showing a little care.” Through his commitment to students and the environment, the depth of Ed's humanity shone bright.

Although we mourn the loss of Ed Passerini, we also celebrate his legacy, which lives on in those of us who knew and loved him. We share our deepest condolences with Ed's family, who requested that donations be made in his honor to New College, an environmental organization of your choice, or your local hospice.
Our New College 2020 Honorees

This year we are proud to recognize the following New College and New College LifeTrack students for their many achievements and outstanding academic performance.

Christine Allen
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019

Saharrah Allen
Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019

Caroline Barnes
Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020

Allison Beatty
Berte Scholarship

Ezra Berry
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019

Avery Bigham
Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020

Mathew Ciotta
Senter Scholarship

Julie Clark
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020

Katherine Conaway
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019

Sophia Coriiza
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019, New College Review Editor 2020

Clare Fatvre
Distinguished Undergraduate Scholar - UA

Eva Curran
Walker County Internship

Bailey Delamer
Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020

Jacobs Durriss
Holloway Scholarship

Logan Emhouse
Brents Scholarship, Dean’s Merit Award

Chandler Grammer
Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020

Jessica Froom
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019

Courtney Geary
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019

Logan Goellhart
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Ramsey Award

Jamie Hall
Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019

Karrium Greggs
Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019

Charles Galle
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019

Breeza Ishpeiding
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019

Caitlin Johnson
Brents Scholarship, A&S Student Ambassadors

Jamila Jones
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Walker County Internship

Leigh H. Harriean
Weber Scholarship

Samantha Kapta
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019, Berte Scholarship, Dean’s Merit Award

Ariel Jones
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Walker County Internship

Katharyn Seeggs
Holloway Scholarship

Abigail Steele
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Franklin/Berko-Watson Scholarship

Kerri Vierze
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Senior Project

Sarah Warden
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019

McKinley Julian
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019, Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020

Kathleen Kelly
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019, Younger Scholarship

Kendall Kraszewki
Senior Project, Outstanding in Seminar Spring & Fall 2019, Berte Scholarship

Anna Manafudin
A&S Student Ambassadors

Charlotte Meier
Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019

Kyla Merks
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019

Chase Quinimby
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019

Skye Roll
Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019

Abigail Millen
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019 & Spring 2020, Bloisson Award

Brooke Ramball
Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020

Alyce Petit
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, A&S Peer Advisor

Melissa Sharpe
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019

Lyndie Snyder
Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019, Walker County Internship, Sloan Award

Veronica Senter
Levitetz Scholarship

John Pace
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019

Paul Rasmussen
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019, Bloomer Scholarship

Sydney Rogers
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Bloisson Scholarship

Alyce Petit
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019

Madeleine Verbrugge
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019

Karen Vierze
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Senior Project

Jennie Walberg
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019

Leona Yager
Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019

Jackson Kerckos
Senter Scholarship

Emily Kim
Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019, Bloisson Scholarship

Jackson Lloyd
Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020

Kevin Layne
Levitetz Scholarship

Watch the full video presentation including faculty commentary at https://vimeo.com/40631900
Congratulations to all of our Honorees.

Spring Commencement, originally scheduled for May 1, 2020, regrettably had to be canceled. But just as we did for Honors Day in April, we are pleased to recognize our grads virtually. As soon as possible, they will have the opportunity to walk in a much-deserved public ceremony. Until that time, congratulations to all our graduates. We wish you all the best in your next chapters!
As a result of her prior research and book on cheerleading, entitled, *Cheerleader! An American Icon*, Dr. Adams was interviewed for the Netflix documentary, *Cheer*, which began streaming in January.

Adams appears in three of the first season's five episodes to speak on the history and foundations of cheerleading as a competitive sport.

The docuseries has received great reviews from major media like *Rolling Stone* and *The New York Times*. You can read more about it in the *Washington Post* article which calls it "the documentary that hard-working cheerleaders have long deserved.”

The first season of *Cheer* is currently available to stream on Netflix for a limited time.

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**10 Year Commemoration of Founding the Scottsboro Boys Museum**

On February 1, 2020, Dr. Ellen G. Spears and Prof. John Miller were in Scottsboro, Alabama, to help celebrate the founding of the Scottsboro Boys Museum 10 years ago. The museum was founded in the memory of the nine black teenagers falsely accused of raping two white women aboard a train near Scottsboro in 1931.

Dr. Spears and Prof. Miller each gave a short speech on their roles with the Museum and their efforts to help earn posthumous pardons for the Scottsboro Boys.

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**Professor Hopson in UK’s Fringe Arts Bath Festival**

Professor Hopson has a featured piece in the virtual Fringe Arts Bath Festival 2020 in Bath, UK.

His piece, entitled *A WORK OF ART FOR EVERY ENTRY IN INDEX—SUBJECTS—LIBRARY OF CONGRESS*, is an algorithm that generates an endless stream of possible art objects and displays the description as a notecard on an LCD screen. They are generated in real-time with combined phrases from the United States Library of Congress Subjects Index databases, so they are always new, unpredictable and not likely to repeat.

It can be viewed for a limited time online at https://www.fringeartsbath.co.uk/automated#Holland-hopson

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**New College in URCA Conference**

Several New College students were sponsored and featured in the 2020 Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity (URCA) Conference. Along with many other students across campus, this virtual presentation includes research and artworks from Kassidy Stewart, Storm Steinke, Jackson Kerchis, and Noah Haynes.

The full conference can be viewed in a publicly viewable BOX.com file at: https://alabama.app.box.com/s/p9wkx8vu446posog0xprb3ypbv7vj8xv
Jennifer Lee: On the Front Lines of COVID-19

New College alumna Jennifer Lee, and her mother, Dr. Marni Bonnin, were featured in a BuzzFeed News article for volunteering to administer COVID-19 tests on the front lines of the pandemic.

An excerpt from the article reads: “As the number of people being hospitalized for COVID-19 increases across the country, volunteers and retired health care workers are suiting up, putting their lives and their loved ones at risk while they help their communities. For Lee, a former EMT who has been volunteering with the King County Public Health Reserve Corps, the decision to volunteer has become complicated by the fact that she no longer has income or insurance. She also lives with her mother, a retired emergency room physician who has also volunteered on the front lines.”

We are very proud of Jennifer, and grateful for her and her mother’s efforts to combat Coronavirus. We keep them in our thoughts and hope for their continued safety in this work.

“‘If I don’t, who else is going to?’”
- Jennifer Lee -

More New College Notable Achievements

- Congratulations to Margaret Purcell, who presented “Circle the Red Wagons: How the Five Promises Can Help to Build Resiliency in Youth” at the 2020 Doing What Matters for Alabama’s Children Conference in February.
- Holland Hopson was awarded an artist residency and fellowship at The Hambidge Center to work on a new project, and his application for ASPIRE was approved by the Dean for Fall 2021.
- Andrew Dewar has been promoted to Full Professor! He is also the recipient of a 2020 President’s Faculty Research Award, one of the top awards for faculty at the University. He will be honored at next year’s ceremony.
- Congratulations are in order for Vincent Willis, whose book was officially accepted for publication by UGA Press!
- Congratulations to Barbara Brickman on being named a Distinguished Teaching Fellow for the 2021-2024 term.
- Congratulations to Marysia Galbraith, whose Community Arts class was highlighted by the College of A&S.
- WATCH New College’s Amy Pirkle of Perkolator Press demonstrate “Flattening the Curve” with her new flip book which encourages everyone to stay healthy and safe! https://youtu.be/GndwabpG6ae