



Fieldnotes

An Admissions Newsletter for Prospective Students



Unity College Office of Admissions

Spring 2009

We are Snowflakes – Why We Chose Unity

By Ricky Skiba

We, the incoming class of 2008 are snowflakes. Yes, when I say snowflakes I mean it in the fluffy, overused sense that we all are. Now this statement, one could argue is universal. Every incoming class in any college could be called snowflakes. We all come in with our own ambitions, our own strategies, and our own ways of dealing with our newly found freedom. So, if this is true, why is this important? If we are the same class as everyone else, why are we so special? What makes this class different from those of say, **Brown, Stanford, or Harvard?** Why are we, one of America's smallest colleges so special? Why is our snow like no other snow?

It is our ambition that makes us different. We came to this school with one common goal in mind. We are here at Unity because we all care about the planet, and we all want to give it a better bill of health. Each individual snowflake made a choice to be involved in improving the planet and so it came to Unity knowing that every aspect of education here was based on the environment. Whether it be educating people about the planet or enforcing the laws which keep it safe, all these snowflakes that make up the incoming class of 2008 have made a commitment to the planet. Together we make a specialized snowflake that wants to make the world a better place.

Snowflakes in Action...

Keeping others Warm...

More than 40 volunteers, many of them Unity College students, fanned out into Greater Unity on Saturday to help their neighbors winterize their homes.

Dot Quimby, an octogenarian who lives alone, watched as one team put foam insulation on pipes in her cellar, someone installed the glass panels in her storm door, an unused chimney was sealed and insulated, and caulking was used to stop air leaks around her windows and doors.

Peter Abello, one of the winterization team members and a Unity College alumnus, said the program is invaluable. "Look at our lives here," he said. "In the winter in Maine, as we sit in our own houses, nice and warm, it is hard to think of others being cold."



Time to Reflect...

Images of snowshoe racers are reflected in the glasses of volunteer timer and Unity College student Alicia Matchie during the Special Olympics Maine 2009 Winter Games at Sugarloaf USA on Monday. Matchie said she "loves the event" and added, "I like helping people."

Upcoming Events

Spring Open House
Saturday, March 28, 2009

New Student Experience
Saturday, April 18, 2009

Fishing For Scholarships
July 25-26, 2009

Campus Visits
Unity College offers personalized campus visits. You can take a campus tour, interview with Admissions and meet with faculty, students, coaches, or staff. Campus visits are available throughout the year, so contact Admissions to schedule your appointment

Campus Visit Hours
Monday–Thursday • 9 AM to 3 PM
Friday • 9 AM to 1 PM

Phone (800) 624-1024
Email admissions@unity.edu



Two Unique Student Competitions

~ The Dean's Cup ~

Unity College was recognized as among the very best in Maine, winning both the Maine Association of Student Affairs Practitioners and NASPA Program of the Year Awards.



The Dean's Cup program is a comprehensive community-building approach created by the Office of Student Affairs, has been hailed as a "what's next" template for re-framing residential life at Maine institutions of higher education and beyond.

The brainchild of Dean for Student Affairs Gary Zane and Director of Residence Life / Assistant Director for Student Affairs Stephen Nason, the Dean's Cup program rallies the entire College community around a series of events that take place throughout the academic year.

Every Unity College student is a member of a Dean's Cup team. Therein lies the difference. The Dean's Cup fosters a focused, supportive, engaged and positive campus community throughout the year. The program ensures that no student falls through the cracks and be unconnected to our campus community, which is one of the biggest contributing factors to students leaving before they have earned their degree. Social factors of campus life can be just as important for overall academic success as what goes on inside the classroom.

The Dean's Cup program engages Unity College students in ways that allow them to be creative and competitive throughout the year. All Dean's Cup events focus on one or more of the values expressed on the compass logo, with points given out for each competition throughout the year. One team will ascend to win the Dean's Cup and have their name forever immortalized on the trophy.

~ Student Conference Awards ~

On December 10, Unity College presented the best of student research and creative projects for public review. The presentations were reviewed by faculty, staff and community partners with the best receiving awards.

Art works, multimedia presentations, student portfolios, and scientific presentations were offered for public review at the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts. A film about Unity student involvement with Camp Susan Curtis and MSAD # 3 was premiered and received the top award. Other awarded projects included a Semester's Work in Clay, The What's and Where of Badger Hair, Leave No Trace Masters Educators, and Are Red-backed Salamanders Territorial, to name a few.

"The purpose of the conference is to recognize quality in Unity College student work, and to celebrate excellence," noted John Zavodny, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Instruction and Advising Services.

Zavodny explained that the conference is a reshaping of the tradition week of final exams, with an interactive day that makes the evaluation of student work more celebratory, interactive and engaging. This inaugural conference represents Unity College's ongoing commitment to academic excellence in environmentally related fields."

Unity Programs

Bachelor of Arts

Environmental Humanities
Environmental Writing

Bachelor of General Studies

General Studies

Bachelor of Science

Adventure Education Leadership
Adventure Therapy
Aquaculture and Fisheries
Captive Wildlife Care & Education
Conservation Law Enforcement
Ecology
Environmental Analysis
Environmental Biology
Environmental Education
Environmental Policy
Environmental Science
Agriculture, Food and Sustainability
Forestry
Landscape Horticulture
Marine Biology
Parks, Recreation and Ecotourism
Sustainable Design and Technology
Wildlife
Wildlife Biology
Wildlife Conservation

Associate of Arts

Liberal Studies

Associate of Science

Environmental Science
Landscape Horticulture



Unity Awarded its Place in “Colleges of Distinction”

Unity College has received accolades as one of the nation’s “colleges of distinction” from the 2008-2009 guidebook of the same name.

About 40 colleges were selected from each of six regions in the U.S. These “hidden gems” colleges had to meet four key criteria to be included in the guidebook: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities, and successful outcomes. A review board of academicians, guidance counselors and parents made the selections.

In a statement, Unity College officials said they were honored to be recognized. “The four distinctions mirror our own values, which are critical factors in the college search process,” said Alisa Johnson, dean of enrollment management at Unity College.

Engaged Students...

- Students begin their Unity experience by participating in the Nova Program, a week-long wilderness experiences that includes community-building, small group discussions and service projects.
- All students are required to participate in either an internship, seminar or thesis as a graduation requirement. Internship opportunities exist in 50 states and 23 countries.
- Students can earn several professional certifications including Wilderness First Responder (WFR), Open Water SCUBA through the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, Forest Ranger I with the U.S. Forest Service, Interpretive Guide through the National Association for Interpretive Standards, and Teacher Certification for science, grades 7-12.



Vibrant Community...

- Unity’s campus includes 225 acres of fields and woodlands overlooking Lake Winnecook and the village of Unity. On campus you can find a hoop house and organic garden that supply food to dining services, a student-run recycling program and an Adirondack shelter used as an outdoor classroom. Students can play soccer, run the loop or just relax at the Field of Dreams or take in a show at the Performing Arts Centre, both located in the heart of town.
- More than 75% of the student body participates in more than 40 different athletics, clubs, and organizations. The two fastest growing clubs are ultimate frisbee and archery.
- Campus residents can participate in the Dean’s Cup, a program recently recognized by the Maine Association of Student Affairs Practitioners as their Program of the Year.

Great Teaching...

- At Unity, you’re taught by and collaborate with an environmentally focused faculty and staff at the leading edge of research and professional practice.
- At Unity, you will always be taught by a leading academic; never a separate instructor or teacher’s assistant.
- In the spring semester humanities and science faculty have collaborated to create a learning community, linking courses that participate in a travel component. Last year the Tropical Marine Ecology learning community traveled to the Institute for Tropical Marine Ecology (ITME) in Dominica.
- In the spring of 2008, 47% of seniors reported they had worked on a research project with a faculty member outside of a regular class.



Successful Outcomes...

- Unity has a Career Resource Center focused on assisting students with internship and job searches. The largest environmental career fair in New England is held at Unity each year.
- Positions held by Unity graduates include: Resource Protection Ranger for the National Park Service, Denali Park, Alaska; Environmental Project Manager for Jaworski Geotech Inc., New Hampshire; Aquaculture Technician for Atlantic Little Neck Clam Farm, South Carolina; Executive Director for the Somerset County Water and Conservation District, Maine.
- Some students choose to continue their education in graduate or law degree programs.
- Unity has a Career Resource Center focused on assisting students with internship and job searches.



America's Environmental College
(800)-624-1024 • www.unity.edu

Look for Unity on the Web



www.facebook.com/
pages/Unity-ME/Unity-
College/19722417033

www.myspace.com/
unitycollegenaine



Unity Home Earns LEED Platinum Status

Yet another large step in the quest to make green building efficient and more affordable: Green building leader Bensonwood Homes has constructed a prototype net zero-energy home that was recently awarded LEED Platinum status, the U.S. Green Building Council's highest rating for green building construction.

The Unity Home, currently occupied by the president of the college and his wife, uses widely available green building strategies including passive heating, tight thermal insulation and concrete slab foundation (which allows the home to stay warmer in winter and cooler in summer). These low-energy techniques work so well that even in the cold Maine winter, the homeowners rarely need to rely on the rooftop solar panels for energy to heat their home.

From an early blog about the Unity House by resident and President Mitch Thomashow...

"One month ago, my wife Cindy and I moved into The Unity House, a zero-carbon solar residence. In partnership with Bensonwood Homes and the MIT School of Architecture, this home is the second project of the Open Prototype Initiative.

This extraordinary effort seeks nothing less than to change the future of American housing by producing modestly priced, comfortable, ecologically sound homes that are durable, resilient, and beautiful.

We've been living in The Unity House for about six weeks. The really, really, good news, is that the house is performing brilliantly and it is an absolute pleasure to live in. We don't have to wait for the future of housing. It's here right now! We can't think of a better way to simultaneously solve the housing crisis and reduce our carbon footprint. Let's build (and retrofit) houses that are truly ecologically sustainable and very affordable!"

