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HELM Education Resource: What's All the Buzz About?

By Krista Jackman (Principal Lecturer in English, UNH) and Molly Campbell (Senior Lecturer in English, UNH)

HELM – HUGEmanities Education Learning Modules - is just the very latest HUGEmanities™ Project initiative! And, well, it's huge! HELM is a straightforward, nitty gritty, brass tacks, highly flexible online educational resource! Yup. All of that! It is a course that works to support UNH and CCSNH faculty as they navigate creating curriculum for their digital humanities work. Molly and I designed HELM to ease faculty transition from print to digital by providing accessible digital resources for faculty use. We think it is really timely! Ummm. COVID?

This summer, we teachers find ourselves in

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NHHC Grant Extended Through 2023 Plans to Restart Programs in Winter Move Forward

Since mid-March, the NHHC – along with CCSNH and UNH operations – has put activities on pause. A large part of our work involves recruitment, outreach, and public-facing events that involve extensive, face-to-face interaction. Because of the pandemic, we have been forced to cancel a variety of the events, including Summer Academy (June 2020), potentially the next Winter Academy (January 2021), and major curricular, student, and public-facing events planned for this fall under the theme of “Community.”

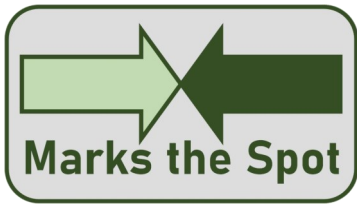
The good news is that The Mellon Foundation understands this necessary pause and has suggested a possible year-long extension of our grant activities. The current grant is set to expire at the end of 2022, and we hope to extend our programs to the end of 2023, granting us three full calendars years starting in January. The Mellon Foundation, meanwhile, is itself undergoing a pivot as it attempts to run its programs remotely (they are based in Manhattan) while strengthening programs that meet the pressing needs around public health and racial injustice.

We plan to restart many of our paused programs and outreach either at the second annual Winter Academy (January 2021) or at the next Summer Academy in June 2021. We are all responding to real-time events and will be following public health data and guidelines, as well as the operations of UNH and CCSNH, in plotting our way forward.

In the meantime, we would like everyone to know that we are still here! We are running the programs that can be done remotely, the Faculty Fellows regularly meet to plan for the short term and strategize for the life of the grant, and we continue to remain in contact with our partners across institutions and the state. This newsletter contains our recent, major efforts, and also highlights some ways we will be moving forward over the next academic year.



Fall Program Promotes Online Humanities Discourse



A Cross-College Conversation
of Contemporary Social Issues

Stephanie Roper (Faculty Fellow and Coordinator of History and Political Science, NCC) and Colleen Sasso (Faculty Fellow and Chair of English, MCC)

This fall, NHHC is introducing an online cross-campus discussion forum about today's major issues. We invite participants from UNH and the seven community colleges to interact in one forum, creating bonds and making connections. Instructors, students in classes, student groups, and individuals are welcome to participate. We encourage a robust discussion, respectful of all views and civil in tone.

Every two weeks, a new discussion prompt will post on the ["X Marks the Spot" Discussion Board](#). The discussion board is open to students in CCSNH/UNH courses, recognized student groups, and participating faculty and staff. The forum is facilitated (lightly) by the NHHC Faculty Fellows. New prompts will open on Mondays and stay active for two weeks.

If you would like to incorporate the forum into your course (or your work with students), we are providing a suggested assignment. Of course, assessment of student participation and modification of the suggested assignment is up to instructors. We are simply providing the "platform!"

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the unique and precarious position of preparing for a fall semester that will be like no other in recent history. We are tasked with balancing safety concerns and face-to-face interaction with our students. Always looming is a worry that we'll again pivot to remote learning. Student retention and engagement is a bigger challenge than usual, and educational technology choices are always overwhelming.

HELM to the rescue! During the month of July 2020, 62 brave UNH and CCSNH faculty signed up for the maiden voyage of HELM. What a pleasure it was to learn alongside each and every participant! There was a lot going on:

- **Conversation.** Molly and I love talking to faculty, so we particularly enjoyed the rich conversation that grew out of the HELM Discussion Boards. During July, HELM faculty engaged in 19 very lively discussion boards, with over 450-page views and 390 discussion board posts! I know, right?!
- **Engagement.** Some of the most popular pages in HELM focused on building community in online spaces, the dynamics of group interaction, Copyright, Fair Use, and attention to equity and diversity in materials and classroom engagement. On an average, HELM faculty viewed between 80 and 300 pages during their time in HELM! We did have several HELM superstars though, who – get ready for it – had between 670 – 1000 page views! Yes. Really! (I'll let slip a small secret. One of our big clickers was a Mellon Fellow whose name rhymes with Saul Bobertson. Hmmm. Head scratcher.)



- **Digital Credentials.** HELM itself was a pilot for a new Credly badging program at UNH. As part of that initiative, faculty submitted over 30 deliverables to earn their shiny digital micro credentials! These HELM badges can be posted on LinkedIn profiles, social media and work to verify the knowledge, skills and achievement of our newly minted HELM Navigators!

Some HELM folks were with us for a quick assignment grab, and others stayed longer for a deeper, high impact experience. In every scenario, Molly and I were humbled as we watched HELM faculty explore their own concerns related to foundational thinking about the digital humanities. We were honored to be a part of the exciting faculty work of applying technology, of crafting and revising curriculum to invite students into fresh new courses, rich with possibility.

So, as we face what promises to be a rather strange fall, Molly and I are eager to stay in touch and hear about how HELM has either trickled or tsunamied into your courses! You can find us on HUGEmanities.com. Pay us a visit to explore an exciting, new HELM faculty created resource bank (coming this fall) and to stay on top of the next big thing with the HUGEmanities™ Project.

Small Grants Update: Remote and Modified Due to COVID-19



After the 2020 Winter Academy, the NHHC funded a variety of small grants ranging from pilot ideas to extensions of previous programs. Many of these envisioned face-to-face outreach and activities during this spring and summer, and as a result were either canceled or postponed indefinitely. We hope and plan that many of these efforts will be able to take place next calendar year and/or restart as planned when the public health situation improves.

Meanwhile, some of the small grants were indeed able to be completed remotely or in a modified fashion. Here we highlight several that were completed or continue in some form:

- **Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS).** Following the recent ratification of the Women’s and Gender Studies major at UNH, faculty began outreach and research to establish the possibilities for course articulations, working groups, curricular collaborations, and research partnerships across CCSNH-UNH. This work was conducted and completed in the spring.
- **“Pandemics, Politics, and Global Health”.** This program is a collaborative by three faculty members (UNH, NCC, GBCC) who plan to bring together five

different classes this fall for a joint Zoom presentation and discussion. Each faculty member will bring different disciplinary perspectives to the intersection of pandemics, politics, and global health, with student projects and presentations tied to a culminating event on Oct. 27, 1:00-2:30pm.

- **NH Mellon Scholars.** A central component of the NHHC’s proposal to the Mellon Foundation is creating a pipeline from CCSNH directly to the UNH Honors Program. A task force of the Faculty Fellows is currently working on the CCSNH side to explore standards and needed updates to CCSNH curriculum to facilitate such transfers, while UNH Honors is likewise working toward the creation of an easy pathway for students as well as providing support for CCSNH Honors Students upon their arrival.
- **COLA Navigators.** A successful pilot from the grant’s first iteration (2016-2019), this program pairs current UNH students with CCSNH transfer students. These Navigators act as peer mentors, facilitate transfer student programming, and help transfers with problems common to landing at Durham. Navigator stipends remain funded by the NHHC,

while the running of the program has been taken up by the COLA Dean’s Office, a testament to the program’s efficacy in facilitating the transfer process and improving retention of transfer students.

- **At RVCC** Cara Chanoine will begin soliciting submissions from students, faculty, and staff this fall semester for an Arts Journal project to be published spring semester.
- **At GBCC** Annette Cohen has begun work on an Arts Speaker series that will feature four presentations in the spring during which artists will speak about their own experiences and possible career paths following a degree in the Humanities.

- **ESOL Onboarding for Pathways from NHTI to UNH.**

NHTI’s ESOL faculty member Yulia Garvanovic has been working one-on-one this summer with multilingual high school students interested and enrolling in NHTI—Concord’s Community College for Fall 2020. Originally, the small grant to fund a series of in-person events at two NH community colleges to introduce high school students to faculty, students, alumni and provide essential information to help them succeed in their higher education journey from the community colleges to the university system. However, due to COVID-19, the in-person events were replaced with one-on-one meetings online. Garvanovic holds an M.S. from SNHU in Teaching English as a Foreign Language and a B.S. from Linguistics University of Nizhny Novgorod. She has also worked as an ESL lecturer at UNH, making her an ideal faculty member to assist NHTI’s future transfer students.



Recruitment/Transfer Efforts from CCSNH to UNH-COLA

A central goal of the NHHC is the recruitment and transfer of CCSNH students to UNH-COLA, to achieve a four year degree in the humanities or liberal arts. Typically, a great deal of these efforts takes place in the spring and summer. However, with the changing circumstances we brought our efforts online.

To that end, the HUGEmanities page [highlighted the transfer process for CCSNH students](#), and the Fellows

populated a website with short videos (1-2 minutes) for prospective students:

- The Dean and Associate Dean of UNH-COLA both provided virtual addresses to prospective students.
- Faculty members from NCC and UNH interviewed a current CCSNH transfer (from LRCC) about the transfer and adjustment process, asking about the daily life questions that transfers most often face: registering, taking the bus, joining clubs, finding a job and housing, the food and meal plan situation on campus, and how to get an advisor.
- UNH Admissions provided another series of short videos asking questions about the nuts and bolts of advising relevant to transfer students: credit transfer, financial aid, picking a major, registration, and setting up online accounts.

Hype-the-Humanities and BIG Contest to Return in Spring 2021

Many readers likely received our summer communication from June 1 wrapping up a couple of our highly successful programs from the spring, Hype-the-Humanities and the BIG Contest. You can learn more about both of these programs on the [HUGEmanities website](#).

We learned from these programs – both of which focused on collecting humanities and digital work from students across CCSNH-UNH – that students and faculty were hungry for places to share their amazing humanities work. Especially with a great deal of instruction moving online, many were deprived of live venues to showcase capstones, performances, digital projects, and other culminating work that inspired passion across liberal arts disciplines. The buy-in from faculty was tremendous, with every single COLA department contributing to Hype-the-Humanities, and submissions to the BIG Contest coming from across the state, with CCSNH and UNH students both taking home cash prizes.



Regardless of how the coming year goes, we plan to run both H-t-H and the BIG Contest again in Spring 2021. After running them both as highly successful pilots last year, we plan for even bigger draws from UNH and are targeting participation by all seven of the CCSNH colleges. We need your help and your students' work!

Update: Articulations and Pathways



Universal articulation agreements have been completed supporting seamless transfer for CCSNH students to nine COLA B.A. programs: English, English Literature, English Journalism, History, Psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior (through a joint COLSA agreement), Studio Art, Art History and Art Education. Additional agreements for English Teaching, Communication and Political Science are in various stages of development and additional CCSNH courses

are being evaluated for equivalency. The big news is that our colleagues in the UNH Admissions department worked with us over the summer to develop and post user-friendly, color-coded “cheat sheets” showing exactly how each transfer pathway works: no need for students and academic advisers to guess what courses students need to take while enrolled at CCSNH to prepare for transfer to an articulated UNH program. Check the full set of [“cheat sheets.”](#)

Summary of Work: 'Envisioning Native New Hampshire'

Alexis Broderick, Assistant Professor of History

This summer I received a \$3,000 grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Collaborative to begin research and planning on an augmented reality app that will investigate UNH's ties to Native land dispossession and Indigenous history. The culmination of this project will be the launch of a free downloadable smartphone app that will utilize augmented reality technology to illuminate aspects of New Hampshire's Indigenous history, and history of slavery, that have been largely hidden for generations. Titled *Envisioning Native New Hampshire* will be a student-driven project which will include input from and collaboration with Indigenous and Black communities at every stage of its development.

In recent years, universities across the globe have undertaken research into their historical ties to the institution of slavery. Growing out of that movement, scholars have begun to investigate the ways in which the seizure of Native land led to the formation and prosperity of land-grant universities across the country. Based on recently published research, it is clear that UNH's land grant status is directly tied to the seizure of Native land. This history presents an opportunity for further archival research, and can serve as a jumping off point for broader investigations of histories of Indigenous life, colonization, and the University of New Hampshire.

Through my initial research, I realized that there was an opportunity for exploring not only Indigenous history, but also the history of slavery in colonial New Hampshire, as the two often overlapped. This line of research would trace colonial settlers in New Hampshire, families who owned enslaved people and were involved in the seizure of Indigenous land.

Over the course of the summer, I presented my project proposal to the New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs. I also presented my work to, and became a member of, the Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective. Both the NHCNAA and the INHCC were extremely enthusiastic about the project. I also had conversations with Paul and Denise Pouliot, of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People. As the Pouliots wrote in their letter of support:



“The dissemination and preservation of our heritage in this digital form is complementary to our goals to reverse the erasure of Indigenous Peoples from widespread but incorrect and woefully incomplete views of New Hampshire history. We are excited, too, that the project is not merely about Indigenous New Hampshire but represents a true partnership between University of New Hampshire faculty and students, on the one hand, and Indigenous people, including our Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People.”

Bolstered by this support, I will be collaborating with UNH's Center for the Humanities on a grant application for a project titled *Uncovering and Recovering New Hampshire's Diversity: The Granite Mosaic Initiative*. The *Envisioning Native New Hampshire* app will be a subproject launched in the first year of the grant. As part of the groundwork for the next phase of this project, I will be teaching a new research seminar in spring 2021. The seminar will consist of guided primary source research conducted by undergraduate and graduate students into the history of Native people and enslaved people in New Hampshire. The research that the students produce will provide the archives, stories, and analysis that will be the basis for the content of the augmented reality app.

Do More with NHHC – Learn How to Get Involved Today!

NHHC is a joint project of the UNH College of Liberal Arts and the NH Community College System, and is supported by a grant from the Andrew J. Mellon Foundation. If you are interested in becoming involved with our work please contact:

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