

**To whom it may concern:**

**My name is James Fabiano and I am program director of a remarkable program that has been on the seacoast for the past 30 years. The name of the program is Project SEARCH. It is a collaborative effort by many schools on the seacoast of New Hampshire and Maine. In fact, it is a one of a kind program that introduces college life to almost 225 students and has them confront issues they will have to deal with in their lives.**

**Attached is a report of the 2011-2012 SEARCH program. I have been with the program since its inception and have had conversations with many past participants of SEARCH who tell me how the program not only helped them cope with the changes they experienced during their first year away from their high school but also make them think about important issues that confront us all.**

**The 2011 – 2012 SEARCH program was developed to become one of the most insightful and motivating programs we have had to date. I also want to take the time to thank Ms. Dorothy M. Byrne, President of The Byrne Foundation. Her generous contribution to Project SEARCH has helped hundreds of young men and women of New Hampshire and Maine. We all understand these are difficult economic times but with the help of people like Ms. Dorothy M. Byrne this important program is destined to continue. I also want to thank all of the advisors and administrators from the Seacoast Schools who supported the program. If you have any questions or concerns about this report please feel free to contact me at any time.**

**Thanks for your time and consideration.**

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**Project SEARCH**  
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**Project SEARCH is designed to provide an on-campus, intellectually challenging experience for academically motivated high school students. The program has been in operation since 1983, recently completing its 29th year. The total program enrollment ranges from 200 - 225 students, with the population consisting of 86% seniors, 12% juniors, and 2% sophomores. School enrollment numbers range from 5-25 students, based on school size and individual school district budgets.**

**Participants travel to the University of New Hampshire-Durham campus for six afternoon seminars each semester. Each seminar consists of a one-hour presentation and a one-hour discussion group. During a typical presentation, participants hear informative, controversial, and often alternative perspectives on issues. During the discussion groups, students are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions with peers in their group. Students from the participating schools are deliberately assigned so that only one or two students from any one school will be present in each group. A graduate student from the UNH Teacher Education or Counseling programs facilitates the discussion group.**

**Additional SEARCH activities include a ropes course day at the beginning of the academic year and a spring semester field trip to Boston. The ropes course day is designed to develop cooperation, communication, and problem-solving skills, laying the foundation for the discussion group environment. During the field trip to Boston, students experience an afternoon at historic Faneuil Hall and a theatrical production. Participants are eligible to take courses at the UNH-Durham campus through the Challenging Academically Talented Students (CATS) program; upon successful completion of the course, the Program shall reimburse the cost of tuition.**

## **Participating School Information**

**Coe Brown Northwood Academy-Northwood, NH**

**Dover High School-Dover, NH**

**Epping High School-Epping, NH**

**Newmarket High School-Newmarket, NH**

**Noble High School-North Berwick, ME**

**Nute High School-Milton, NH**

**Prospect Mountain High School-Alton, NH**

**R.W. Traip Academy-Kittery, ME**

**Spaulding High School-Rochester, NH**

**Winnacunnet High School-Hampton, NH**

## **Program Mission**

**To provide a forum on a college campus where high school students from southeastern New Hampshire and southern Maine can experience a series of presentations covering challenging interdisciplinary topics and interact with each other in discussion groups.**

**To foster positive attitudes toward the exploration of new and stimulating ideas through the exposure to presentations and subsequent group meetings through which they can hone their discussion skills.**

**To provide UNH graduate students with the experiential opportunity of developing group leadership and critical thinking skills for teaching intellectually curious students.**

**To encourage a positive spirit regarding the joy of learning through the collaboration of the high schools, their students, future teachers and practicing educators.**

## **Important Changes from the 2011-2012 Program**

**The severity of the economy made it critical the program make financial changes in order to keep the program at its present state. We opted away from the Brown Center at the University of New Hampshire to the ropes course at Dover High School. This particular move allowed the program to freeze its tuition to the school.**

**The economic reality for academic programs is difficult. During the past year many schools were worried about the possibility of having their budgets cut. To date we have lost numbers from Dover High School and possibly Prospect Mountain High School. The program has been able to keep up with all its programs because of the charitable donation of Ms. Dorothy M. Byrne of the Byrne Foundation.**

**Project SEARCH now has its own web page. I want to take this time to thank Kathy Lombard who donated her time and expertise and works diligently to advertise the importance of programs like Project SEARCH. You can view past, present, and future SEARCH programs at: [www.projectsearchunh.com](http://www.projectsearchunh.com)**

**Project SEARCH is now an integral part of the Education Department at the University of New Hampshire. Our discussion group leaders will now have**

**the opportunity of making their experience a part of their master's program. As part of their 'Masters of Education' program 10 graduate students from the university will be participating in Project SEARCH.**

**Project SEARCH at the University of New Hampshire  
2010 – 2011 Report**

**Based on a 1-5 scale where 1 is weak and 5 is strong**

*September 14, 2011: Ropes Course at Dover*

Notes:

There is no questionnaire concerned with the ropes course at Dover. All students meet with their groups in order to build bonds of friendship and cooperation. The members of the discussion groups are mixtures of students from the cooperating schools. Many long term friendships are developed during the SEARCH ropes course.

*September 21, 2011: The Paranormal Experience*

<b>Seminar Topic:</b>	<b>Seminar Speakers:</b>	<b>Question Period:</b>	<b>Groups:</b>
<b>5: 88.5 %</b>	<b>5: 72.70 %</b>	<b>5: 56.3 %</b>	<b>5: 74.0 %</b>
<b>4: 11.5%</b>	<b>4: 19.20 %</b>	<b>4: 11.8 %</b>	<b>4: 26.0 %</b>
<b>3: 0 %</b>	<b>3: 3.33 %</b>	<b>3: 24.4 %</b>	<b>3: 0.00 %</b>
<b>4: 0 %</b>	<b>2: 4.8 %</b>	<b>2: 7.5 %</b>	<b>2: 0.0 %</b>
<b>5: 0 %</b>	<b>1: 0.00 %</b>	<b>1: 0.0 %</b>	<b>1: 0.0 %</b>

Notes:

**The students were both interested enthusiastic about this issue. Many went into the seminar thinking this was more entertainment than substance. I believe the most important concept the students understood from this seminar that there are many people with ideas that do not necessarily agree with their own. They also responded well with the idea of how passion intermixes with knowledge. I am happy to report they treated both speakers with respect even though they did not agree with both side of the discussion. The questions were exceptional and the group discussion leaders reported strong and clear communication in their groups.**

**I am also happy to report the MUB 2 lecture hall at Memorial Building was completely filled.**

*October 5, 2011:*

*Speak Out and Transgender Society*

<b>Seminar Topic:</b>	<b>Seminar Speaker:</b>	<b>Question Period:</b>	<b>Groups:</b>
<b>5: 75.2 %</b>	<b>5: 66.5 %</b>	<b>5: 75.2 %</b>	<b>5: 61.1 %</b>
<b>4: 1.2 %</b>	<b>4: 17.4 %</b>	<b>4: 5.4 %</b>	<b>4: 38.9 %</b>
<b>3: 15.6 %</b>	<b>3: 13.1 %</b>	<b>3: 6.7 %</b>	<b>3: 0.0 %</b>
<b>2: 6.6 %</b>	<b>2: 3.0 %</b>	<b>2: 2.9 %</b>	<b>2: 0.0 %</b>
<b>1: 1.4 %</b>	<b>1: 0.0 %</b>	<b>1: 9.8 %</b>	<b>1: 0.0 %</b>

**Notes:**

**Since, its inception in 1972, SpeakOUT Boston has provided volunteer presenters who draw upon their personal history to facilitate discussions of gender and sexuality. All speakers have completed a training program developed by SpeakOUT staff and currently used by LGBT activism groups throughout the United States.**

**The panel provided for Project SEARCH will focus on the issue of gender as it effects identity, development and socialization. Furthermore, the panel will include the parent of a transgender or gender variant individual. Seminar participant will be asked to follow SpeakOUT's motto and ASK US ANYTHING!**

*October 19, 2011:*

*The Art of the Comic*

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 81.9 %	5: 88.2 %	5: 54.5%	5: 40.9%
4: 18.1 %	4: 8.4 %	4: 24.4%	4: 38.6%
3: 0.0 %	3: 3.4 %	3: 5.0%	3: 20.5%
2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 16.1%	2: 0.0%
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0%	1: 0.0%

**Notes:** After a lecture and a panel discussion it was important to have the students be both entertained and enlightened about the ins and out of the comedy industry. A Boston based comic participated in a lecture that concerned his history and how difficult it is to be a professional comic. My students enjoyed this time and asked many revealing questions concerning this misunderstood profession.

*November 2, 2011:*

*Pain Care and the danger of prescription drugs*

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 68.3 %	5: 65.8 %	5: 69.2 %	5; 76.8 %
4: 3.9 %	4: 17.5 %	4: 12.2 %	4: 6.8 %
3: 17.2 %	3: 9.0 %	3: 7.2 %	3: 13.4 %
2: 5.6 %	2: 3.4 %	2: 1.4 %	2: 3.0 %
1: 5.0 %	1: 4.3 %	1: 10.0 %	1: 0.0 %

**Notes:** The panel discussion is presented with the help of the **People Care Foundation** of Somersworth, NH. People Care is a new non-profit organization which has as one of its goals the reduction of prescription drug abuse in New Hampshire.

The past few years has seen an alarming increase in the diversion and abuse of prescription drugs in our communities. The People Care Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established to reverse this trend by reducing the demand for illicit prescription drugs available on our streets.

It was obvious students were affected by this panel of young men and women; with their doctor, who discussed the dangers of abusing prescription drugs. The forum was extremely quiet and the panel informative.



*November 16, 2011: Volunteerism with The Peace Corp and City Year*

<b>Seminar Topic:</b>	<b>Seminar Speaker:</b>	<b>Question Period:</b>	<b>Groups:</b>
5: 73.7 %	5: 85.14 %	5: 73.4 %	5: 60.3 %
4: 19.1 %	4: 8.90 %	4: 21.2 %	4: 15.9 %
3: 7.2 %	3: 5.96 %	3: 5.4 %	3: 21.9 %
2: 0.0%	2: 0.00 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 1.9 %
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.00 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

**Notes:** Stacey Ann Ferguson is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who will share her experiences working in rural Morocco, focusing not only on some of the technical projects she completed, but of the experience (the challenges and successes) of living, growing, and experiencing a new culture, a new language, and a new way of life and how she was able to become a member of her community. Last, she will talk about the professional and personal “life lessons” that came from her service. Stacey has recently been promoted to leading the Peace Corp from Washington DC.

Emerald Anderson, originally from Atlanta, Georgia, has been serving with City Year New Hampshire for four years. Her service began as a corps member working on the Seacoast of New Hampshire one day a week in Portsmouth Middle School as a tutor, mentor, and role model on a seventh grade team. While the in-school work she was doing was a crucial part to her service year, the focus of her service was as part of a six-person team that planned and implemented a Saturday service-learning program that promoted social justice and equality, community service and involvement, as well as all around social awareness to middle school aged students.

The follow-up from our students was extraordinary after this session.

*December 7, 2011: Poetry Slam*

<b>Seminar Topic:</b>	<b>Seminar Speakers:</b>	<b>Question Period:</b>	<b>Groups:</b>
5: 87.7 %	5: 84.8 %	5: 47.6 %	5: 62.6 %
4: 13.3 %	4: 15.2 %	4: 20.5 %	4: 18.2 %
3: 0.0 %	3: 0.0 %	3: 20.6 %	3: 9.4 %
2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 11.3 %	2: 9.8 %
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

**Notes:** The poetry slam has become a staple for Project SEARCH. It is a favorite with the students because they are presented with award winning poetry and they are able to stand before their peers in order to recite their poetry. Simone is a national champion in her field.

Boston SlamMaster and world-class MC Simone Beaubien will return to SEARCH to host the annual poetry slam. The event always starts with an opportunity for students to read or perform their own poetry in a supportive, exciting environment.

Beaubien, a 2008 National Poetry Slam finalist, will draw four other national competitors from the New England scene to perform their own original work in the slam. Poetry Slam is a thirty-year movement conventionally defined as “the art of competitive performance poetry.” It’s a fast-paced competition where poets have a limited amount of time to impress judges randomly selected from the audience: storytelling, lyricism, and stand-up comedy all come together in what’s evolved to a modern oral tradition. Slam is not a passive performance; in addition to the judges, other audience members are strongly encouraged to participate by cheering, whistling, or mildly heckling the hosts or judges. Kids and adults alike learn the power of a single word, line, or figure of speech when spoken aloud.

Student comments:

Hearing them perform makes poetry a universal language like music.

This gave me the capacity to figure out which art is better than other art.

*January 11, 2012: Conspiracy Theories with Professor William Woodward*

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 77.4 %	5: 36.7 %	5: 46.3 %	5: 65.2 %
4: 15.0 %	4: 20.0 %	4: 35.8 %	4: 14.4 %
3: 15.1%	3: 43.3 %	3: 7.9 %	3: 20.4 %
4: 0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 3.5 %	2: 0.0 %
5: 0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 6.5 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: Following 9/11, the U.S. government adopted some controversial new tactics intended to prevent future terrorist attacks, including warrantless eavesdropping on Americans' phone calls, secret demands for records under the Patriot Act, and FBI sting operations against people thought to be potential terrorists. This film explores this urgent national debate by talking with leading critics and advocates of the new policies, and telling the stories of people whose lives have been directly affected.

If the war against terror is truly the long struggle our leaders say it will be, then so too will be the struggle to set the right balance between security and liberty."

*William R. Woodward* teaches psychology at UNH. He is active in local peace groups such as Seacoast Peace Response, NH Peace Action, and Seacoast 9/11 Questions. He also belongs to the Seacoast Antipollution League, which calls attention to the dangers of relicensing Seabrook. He hopes that the Seacoast will join Transition Towns, a worldwide grassroots environmental movement to prepare communities for the future.

The students were interested in the subject but uncomfortable with the professor. Most stated he was a bit too pushy with his arguments and did not address their questions.

*February 1, 2012*

*Project Rescue with Paul Conway*

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speaker:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 67.2 %	5: 76.5 %	5: 85.2 %	5: 74.2 %
4: 21.2 %	4: 18.0 %	4: 4.4 %	4: 12.1 %
3: 1.6 %	3: 5.5 %	3: 10.4 %	3: 6.8 %
2: 5.5 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 6.9 %
1: 4.5 %	1: 0.7 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: **Project Rescue** exists to rescue and restore victims of sexual slavery. Sexually exploited women and children find hope and healing through a place of physical safety, education, counseling, medical treatment, and vocational training. We provide global awareness and opportunities for concerned partners to help bring freedom and a transformed future to those imprisoned in sexual slavery.

David and Beth Grant, cofounders of Project Rescue, dream to see millions of girls who've been in sexual slavery find transformation, discover their God-given purpose, and become voices of hope in the dark world of sexual exploitation.

**Project Rescue** is a ministry to women and children in sexual slavery focused on providing physical, emotional and spiritual rescue and holistic restoration. Our multifaceted programs aim to provide a safe environment for transformation and growth.

Paul Conway is an Associate Professor, conference speaker and long term worker committed to training young adults in the intervention and care of children in crisis. He has served in the Inner cities of Providence Rhode Island, New York NY, and Philadelphia PA. Paul has also done short-term work in crisis countries like Angola, Africa, addressing leaders about the value of children following their 30-year civil war. The college he serves has hosted an annual summit for three years on the awareness of human trafficking. His goal is to ignite a fire and light in the hearts of others to help children in crisis around the world.

All SEARCH students were give books concerning this problem and were astounded with the fact this problem exists where they live.

**February 15, 2012:  
Design**

***A discussion on Evolution and Intelligent***

<b>Seminar Topic:</b>	<b>Seminar Speakers:</b>	<b>Question Period:</b>	<b>Groups:</b>
<b>5: 60.8 %</b>	<b>5: 65.9 %</b>	<b>5: 52.3 %</b>	<b>5: 55.3 %</b>
<b>4: 24.2 %</b>	<b>4: 19.1 %</b>	<b>4: 17.7 %</b>	<b>4: 30.8 %</b>
<b>3: 10.0 %</b>	<b>3: 15.0 %</b>	<b>3: 15.0 %</b>	<b>3: 13.9 %</b>
<b>2: 5.0 %</b>	<b>2: 0.0 %</b>	<b>2: 8.0 %</b>	<b>4: 0.0 %</b>
<b>1: 0.0 %</b>	<b>1: 0.0 %</b>	<b>1: 7.0 %</b>	<b>5: 0.0 %</b>

**Notes: How did life on earth attain such incredible complexity? From the amazing amount of data stored in each molecule of DNA to the intricacies of the immune system, life on earth displays a level of integration and detail that becomes more awe-inspiring with each new scientific discovery. Are the forces of random mutation and natural selection sufficient to explain the origin of what we see, or does the evidence compel us to search for a source of intelligence as the most logical explanation?**

**At February's Project SEARCH seminar, we will present both the Evolution and Intelligent Design sides of this debate on origins in what should be a very thought provoking seminar.**

**Thomas Davis is a professor of plant biology at UNH. His primary research is concerned with the genetic analysis and manipulation of economically important plants, with current emphasis on strawberry and mint. He uses a combination of conventional, molecular, and cytogenetic techniques to construct a strawberry genome map, to compare genome structures among strawberry (*Fragaria*) species, and to trace the evolutionary history of the strawberry.**

**Tim Hafner is a former F-16 and commercial airline pilot. He is currently teaching math and science at Veritas Academy High School in Wells, Maine. He has been a member of an Intelligent Design presentation team for the last 7 years, presenting throughout New Hampshire and Maine in both public and private institutions and schools. He earned his B.S. in Forestry from the University of New Hampshire and possesses a M.S. in Aviation Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.**

**The students followed the discussion with interest but were disappointed by the question and answer period because Mr. Hafner could not answer many of their questions.**

*March 21, 2012:*

*The Arab Spring*

<b>Seminar Topic:</b>	<b>Seminar Speakers:</b>	<b>Question Period:</b>	<b>Groups:</b>
5: 88.3 %	5: 85.8 %	5: 69.3 %	5; 73.3 %
4: 4.0 %	4: 2.5 %	4: 10.2 %	4: 16.8 %
3: 6.3 %	3: 6.7 %	3: 20.2 %	3: 5.6 %
2: 1.4 %	2: 5.0 %	2: .3 %	2: 4.3 %
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

**Notes:** The street protests sweeping across Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Syria, and other Arab countries have demonstrated once again the importance of "people power" in creating fundamental regime change. Focusing on Egypt, the most populous Arab state, this talk explains how activists from different sectors (students, workers, judges, human rights organizers, Islamic movements) organized against the regime of Hosni Mubarak.

The lecture will also discuss what we can expect to see in the future, as elections empower new political players while old political forces such as Egypt's military and security apparatus stubbornly cling to power.

Jeannie Sowers is an assistant professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire, where she teaches courses in Middle East politics, environmental politics, and international affairs. She is the author of the forthcoming book *Environmental Politics in Egypt: Activists, Experts and the State* (Routledge 2012); co-editor, with Chris Toensing, of *Journey to Tahrir: Politics, Protest, and Social Change in Egypt, 1999-2011* (Verso Books, forthcoming April 2012); and has published articles on environmental politics in Egypt and the Middle East in *Climatic Change, Development and Change*, and the *Journal of Environment and Development*. She serves on the editorial boards of *Middle East Report* and *Global Environmental Politics*. She earned her Ph.D. and M.A. from Princeton University and her B.A. from Harvard University.

Students were mesmerized by participating with an individual who was part of this dramatic part of the history of their world. Most students asked to have this dynamic professor return for future seminars at SEARCH.

*April 5, 2012:*

*"Shear Madness in Boston"*

The 2011-2012 end-of-year outing takes SEARCH participants again to the Charles Playhouse in Boston where they will see "Shear Madness," a play which has been running since 1980.

This unique comedy-whodunit takes place today in the "Shear Madness" hairstyling salon and is chock full of up-to-the-minute spontaneous humor. During the course of the action, a murder is committed and the audience gets to spot the

clues, question the suspects, and solve the funniest mystery in the annals of crime. The outcome is never the same, which is why many audience members return again and again to the scene of the mayhem.

Voted "Best Comedy of the Year" seven times by the Boston Globe and recipient of the title "Best Play of the Year" by both the Chicago Sun-Times and the Philadelphia Enquirer, "Shear Madness" has also received the Raven Award from the Mystery Writers of America and has been inducted into the Comedy Hall of Fame, the first play ever to receive that accolade. "Shear Madness" is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest running play in the history of the USA.

**The 2012 – 2013 SEARCH schedule includes:**

<b>September 12, 2012:</b>	<b>Ropes Course at Dover</b>
<b>September 19, 2012:</b>	<b>Motivational speaker Tim Churhard of UNH</b>
<b>October 3, 2012:</b>	<b>Republican / Democrat Election panel</b>
<b>October 17, 2012:</b>	<b>Virginia Prescott of NHPR "Word of Mouth"</b>
<b>November 7, 2012:</b>	<b>Science Fiction Author James Patrick Kelly</b>
<b>November 28, 2012:</b>	<b>The many aspects of Christianity</b>
<b>December 12, 2012:</b>	<b>Poetry Slam with Master Simone Beaubien</b>
<b>January 9, 2013:</b>	<b>Robert Rivest and the art of the mime</b>
<b>January 23, 2013</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>February 6, 2013:</b>	<b>NRA and gun control</b>
<b>March 6, 2013:</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>March 20, 2013:</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>April 2013 End of Year Trip:</b>	<b>TBA</b>

**Possible topics under consideration include:**

**Obesity and its consequences**

**The many faces of Autism**

**PETA**

Please view SEARCH's web site at: [www.projectsearchunh.com](http://www.projectsearchunh.com)

There are videos and power points from past sessions. This year the program has set up a system in which our students can communicate with the speakers through the web site. The students will also be able to communicate between themselves about the program. The site will become more interactive.

**If anyone has any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at your convenience.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

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