

## 40 under forty who are making a difference

By BOB CHAREST  
Special Editions Editor  
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**HERE ARE THE STORIES** of 40 people who are making a difference in New Hampshire.



For the sixth year in a row, the New Hampshire Union Leader honors 40 up and coming people, all under 40, who are making a difference in our state.

They join some very prestigious people, some of whom are now over the age of 40, who are among the honorees of 40 Under Forty. Those who have been honored in previous years include Attorney General (who made several nominations this year), Manchester Mayor Frank Guinta (who was among the first honoree in 2002, along with his wife, Morgan Smith), Portsmouth Mayor Steve Marchand (whose wife, Sandi Henne is among this year's class), St. Louis Cardinals ace Chris Carpenter, skier Bode Miller, Judge Tina Nadeau, author Jodi Piccoul and leaders in law, business, politics, medicine and education.

According to Joseph W. McQuaid, president and publisher of the New Hampshire Union Leader, "When we started this program, we hoped it would help us uncover stories about those who are contributing so much to New Hampshire in so many different ways. We also hoped that by recognizing their successes, it would inspire other young men and women to contribute further to their work, their community, and their state."

The program attracts a multitude of nominations each year when the newspaper runs a coupon starting in early December in the print and online editions. The 40 finalists are then chosen by judges at the Union Leader and named on the last Monday in January.

"This is our sixth year and all I can say is, so far, so very good!" said McQuaid. "It is a lot of work to go through all the nominations, and to pull all these pieces together. But it is worth it. I hear people tell me, 'I'm from the Class of 2002 or 2003,' and it's such a kick to see they are proud of that. So are we."

This year's 40 will be honored in mid-March when the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire hosts a recognition ceremony with support from Ocean National Bank. Further details on that ceremony will be announced later.

This year's 40 Under Forty are an impressive bunch.

Their educations include degrees from places such as Emory University, Harvard Law School, Southern Methodist University, Stetson University, Villanova, Syracuse, Dartmouth College, Boston College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and The University of New Hampshire was cited by seven of this year's finalists as their alma mater for undergraduate degrees. The University of New Hampshire was cited by seven of this year's finalists as their alma mater for undergraduate degrees. The University of New Hampshire was cited by seven of this year's finalists as their alma mater for undergraduate degrees. The University of New Hampshire was cited by seven of this year's finalists as their alma mater for undergraduate degrees. The University of New Hampshire was cited by seven of this year's finalists as their alma mater for undergraduate degrees.

Ask our honorees their favorite place in New Hampshire, and some don't feel any need to travel far from home. Keith Jordan Gilford and still calls it home. And it's still his favorite place. Tracey Tucker, director of New Heights Adventures for Teens, grew up in Florida, but she loves Portsmouth, where she lives now. Sheila Christie, chief fiduciary counsel for the Latona Trust, was born in Portsmouth and she, too, loves Portsmouth. Chrissy Smith, marketing director for Peabody & Smith Realty in Littleton, loves her hometown of Landaff, with its one-room schoolhouse and 300 residents. Where would Brad Simpkins, chief of the Forest Protection Bureau, be? That's easy. "Anywhere, as long as I'm in the middle of the forest," he says.

Others love the atmosphere in the White Mountains, Hampton Beach and the Lakes Region.

How would the director of the N.H. Division of Parks and Recreation answer that question? Allison McLean loves the Robert H. Smith State Park in Derry (which is run by her department.)

They all have important jobs and some major professional challenges ahead: Among them, Doug Kruse, the vice president for advancement at New England College, is gearing up for the college's first major capital campaign. Jeremy Katz, CEO of telecommunications company SegTEL, hopes to have 50 New Hampshire towns on net with his company by the end of the year.

**40 Under Forty Reception**  
Tuesday, March 13, from 5 to 7 p.m.  
The Radisson (Center of NH)

Tickets are available at  
[www.acteva.com/go/nhbia](http://www.acteva.com/go/nhbia)  
or by contacting Katherine Tomlinson  
224-5388, extension 116, or email  
[ktomlinson@nhbia.org](mailto:ktomlinson@nhbia.org)

You can also visit [nhbia.org](http://nhbia.org) and check out our  
'events' for more details.

Rochester second-grade teacher Sheila Colson hopes to have all of her students reading on grade level.

They're a well-read bunch. On their reading lists are fictional works by authors such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Hemingway, Vonnegut. There's also a heavy dose of self-improvement books being devoured: "14,000 Things To Be Happy About," Deep "Perfect Health," "Getting Things Done €" The Art of Stress-free Productivity," and "The Purpose Driven Life."

Being residents of the First in the Nation Primary state, many in our class are reading up on the potential presidential candid the books on lists: Barak Obama's "The Audacity of Hope" and Mitt Romney's "Turnaround."

They admire some world leaders as well as people who have had a direct influence on their own lives. Among some of the w people named as most admired are Ronald Reagan, Nancy Reagan, Leonard Bernstein, Theodore Roosevelt, Nelson Mandi Luther King Jr., Bobby Orr, the Dalai Lama, Lance Armstrong, Walt Disney, Oprah Winfrey, even Kermit the Frog. Several ne Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

Peter Spivack, the manager of information technology at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center in Nashua, named Micha the father of modern physics, "who shows us the power of curiosity and perseverance." Casey Bisson, the information archite Plymouth State University, is enamored of Shakespeare's Henry V, "not for winning against the odds (the archers helped), bu able to motivate people to join him."

Green Acres School assistant principal Rachelle Moore says Pulitzer Prize-winning author Frank McCourt, a 27-year veteran overcame a destitute childhood, inspired her.

Others cite close influences. Pharmacist David Rochefort of Littleton admires fellow pharmacist George Roentsch: "He's show it truly means to be a 'clinical pharmacist.'" Attorney Michael Craig cites his wife's uncle, Robert Hopkins, who was paralyzed crash: "His resiliency, optimism and sense of humor have allowed him to overcome this tragedy and have a rewarding life."

Their musical tastes run from popular contemporary (such as Ben Folds, James Taylor, Nickel Creek) to the legends (Led Ze Peter, Paul and Mary, and Bruce Springsteen €" Chrissy Smith has seen him in concert three times) to the not-so-well-knowr Newsom, The Saw Doctors, and Gillian Welch.)

Several Parrotheads are among the group, claiming their allegiance to Jimmy Buffett. (Wayne Lesperance Jr., associate prof political science at New England College, confessed: "I've seen Jimmy Buffett in concert well over two dozen times ...") Moze raves from the likes of Michael Brunelle, executive director of the Manchester City Democrats: "In my opinion, nothing compa way in which this musical genius was able to manifest his talent."

And what about this year's musical guru of the group, Ryan Turner, director of the Concord Chorale and a music instructor at Exeter Academy? Lyle Lovett and Kevin Fowler ( a country musician from Texas) top his list.

As to the issues that deserve their attention, Scott Stapleford, president of Nel-Tech Labs in Derry, says the "loss of skilled m jobs to areas outside the country" is one of New Hampshire's biggest problems, especially underutilized local resources that used have a ripple effect on the local economy.

James A. Santo, president and CEO of Santo Insurance and Financial Services in Salem, represented the views of many of t honorees when he cited the continuing educational funding debate as the state's top problem. "If not resolved soon, it could t a multi-generational issue," he said.

Luc Monzies, who calls himself a "green entrepreneur" from Peterborough, is just hoping to not "take on more than I can che recently turned a run-down factory in Peterborough into an oasis of life and culture with a group of friends and investors.

Some see the major problems facing the state from their own unique perspectives. For instance, Wendy Lee Parker, who hel governments select insurance coverage, wants to see a solution to the lack of affordable health care. Sara Johnson, the poll prevention program manager for the state DES, would like to see better urban growth planning. And Max Latona, a professor Anselm College, believes "Young males are falling out of our educational system ... We need to expose them to a different in it means to be a man."

They are passionate about causes that are close to their hearts. Julie Mento of Warner spends many volunteer hours assistir Concord-Merrimack County SPCA. Jessica Dutille, executive director of the Pemi Youth Center, has joined with a friend to fo Faith, Hope and Love Foundation, whose aim is to help children suffering from homelessness, poverty and hunger. Scott Coi CEO of Berlin's Steel Elements, assists his church, especially the AWANA club for children.

Planner Clay Mitchell of Newmarket wants to see governments go longer in their decision-making process. "Issues such as the natural environment, supporting the aging population, and affordable housing suffer when the decision timeline "appears one or two years, depending on when the next election is," he said.

Many believe in the value of volunteer work. People such as Elizabeth Beeson, who leads The Circle Program, a summer camp experience for disadvantaged girls, also gives of her time as a mentor. So has Catherine Iacuzzi, the clinical director at Head substance abuse program in Lebanon. And Attorney Peter Anthony Nieves as well, mentoring students at Franklin Pierce La

Others volunteer in areas that are close to their hearts: Attorney Jennifer L. Parent on the board for Opera New Hampshire a several Bar Association committees; James O'Brien, executive director of the Granite State Conservation Voters Alliance, as volunteer at his son's school in Hopkinton as well as on committees for groups including Leadership Greater Concord and the Coalition.

Many of this year's 40 Under Forty come highly recommended by previous 40 Under Forty recipients. This is the sixth class in as many years, and many this year were nominated by members of previous classes. They include UNH professor Andrew Macpherson, who was nominated by Attorney General Kelly Ayotte, a member of the class of 2002; Joshua P. Boynton, president of LifeShare Inc., which provides community support for people with developmental disabilities, who was nominated by Norris, class of 2004, Robert Stephen, class of 2004, and his brother, Health and Human Service Commissioner John A. Ste of 2002.

Nominators of this year's candidates also included Kate Benway, class of 2006, who nominated Katie McQuaid Cote (Publisher McQuaid's daughter), calling her "a bright spot in our community;" David Scannell, class of 2004, who nominated Brunelle; C Boothby, class of 2004, who picked Ty Gagne, manager of risk management services for Primex3, for the honor; Michael J. of class of 2005, who was behind the nomination of Keith Jordan of EndorfFun Sports; and Portsmouth Mayor Steve Marchand 2006, who had a prime candidate in Sandi Hennequin, his wife and the director of regulatory and legislative affairs for Constellation Energy Commodities Group. Several other previous 40 Under Forty winners also made nominations of this year's class mem

What can we say about the honorees' leisure time pursuits?

Most of them relax by spending time with their growing families. Some are athletic. Jordan recently finished an Ironman triathlon in 10 hours and 32 minutes. Others like to combine the two pursuits, with a twist. Michael Biundo of Meridian Communication work out, but he also likes to relax by watching his two children, ages 13 and 17, compete in their own team games. Tracey Tucker and kayaks, but she also likes to play the drums, a hobby since she was 8.

Favorite TV shows? Seth Wall, the executive director of the Manchester Campus of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy Sciences, finds all the action and entertainment he needs from the 6 o'clock news. Others are hooked on shows such as "24, Anatomy," "The Office," "Desperate Housewives," and "Lost." Nasir Abdi Arush, a native of Somalia, considers himself a chameleon but sometimes settles in on "Cold Case" and "American Justice."

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