TH University of New Hampshire

UNH TODAY

An Update from the Dean of Students

Thursday, September 21, 2017



Dear Fellow Wildcats,

Earlier this week I wrote to you about a video posted online that showed members of the Alpha Phi sorority singing a popular song that uses the n-word. Not surprisingly, this video evoked strong reactions.

I do not believe that it is appropriate for anyone to use the n-word. It is a derogatory term used historically to dehumanize and demean African Americans. It is true that this word is pervasive in certain genres of film, television and music, having been reclaimed by many in the African American community. This does not, in my view, legitimize its use by others. It is hurtful and hateful, even when that is not the intention, as in the singing of popular songs.

I would emphasize that this is a matter of common decency, not law. My earlier message incorrectly implied that students would be subject to investigation or sanction for speech, which was not my intent. The University of New Hampshire remains fully committed to the First Amendment.

At the same time, we encourage all members of our community to approach one another with generosity, decency and good will — and to think about how one's actions and words could affect other members of our community.

SERIES:

BUILD A BETTER UNH

SUBSCRIBE
TO THE UNH
TODAY
NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIBE
TO UNH TODAY
RSS

An Update from the Dean of Students | UNH Today

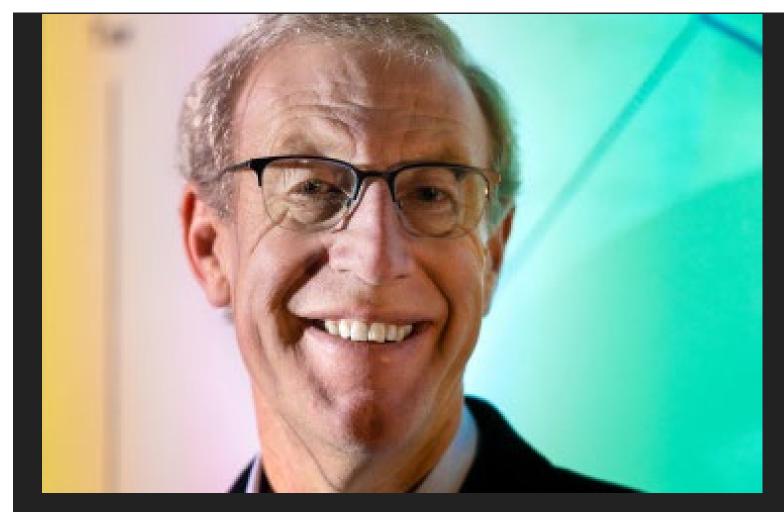
The sisters of Alpha Phi have written a sincere letter \Box of apology and will play an active role in working to improve our campus culture. I ask everyone to join our efforts to make all members of the university community feel welcome and respected as they pursue their education on campus.

Please accept my thanks for everything that you can do to help.

—John T. Kirkpatrick Dean of Students

BUILD A BETTER UNH

RELATED ARTICLES

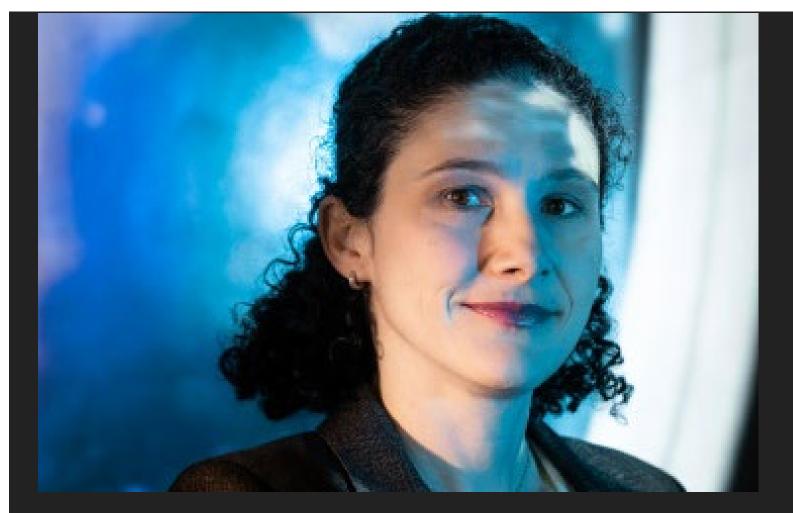


The Ethics of Tax Practice



August 28, 2020 | PETER T. PAUL COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

New Paul College Associate Dean For Undergraduate Education Named



September 3, 2020 | PAUL PERSPECTIVES Optimizing Capacity for Demand



University of New Hampshire

UNH Today is produced for the UNH community and for friends of UNH. The stories are written by the staff of UNH Communications and Public Affairs. Email us: unhtoday.editor@unh.edu.



UNH Today • UNH Main Directory: 603-862-1234 Copyright © 2022 • TTY Users: 7-1-1 or 800-735-2964 (Relay NH)

USNH Privacy Policies • USNH Terms of Use • ADA Acknowledgement