

Forward



Daffodils planted by Joe Tourtelotte bloom in front of the farmhouse at Schiller.

On Campus

Mildred’s Flowers

A field of daffodils at the Schiller Coastal Studies Center connects generations.

AMONG THE FIRST flowers to bloom every spring, daffodils often symbolize the end of winter. One bunch at the Schiller Coastal Studies Center also serves as an annual reminder for Joe Tourtelotte of his grandmother Mildred.

Shortly after Tourtelotte became the full-time caretaker of the 113-acre center in 2015, his grandfather died, and Mildred was moved into an assisted living facility. While tending her flower garden in Bowdoinham—where the family has lived for several generations—he found himself with an excess of bulbs and decided to plant a couple dozen of them beside the Thalheimer Farmhouse.

“She has sadly passed away since, and it means something to have this small piece of her out here and be reminded of her when I see them blooming,” Tourtelotte says. “She was a sweet, kind woman who taught me a lot of values growing up. The daffodils have more than doubled in the past seven years, and I hope they continue to multiply and are enjoyed for many years to come!”

Student Life

Crowning Achievement

Off the top of his head, Tej Dhingra ’25 can tell you all about the opportunities he sees to fill a functional need. Worn by Sikhs, followers of the fifth-largest religion in the world, turbans are generally made of 100 percent cotton, making them uncomfortable to wear when exercising, playing sports, or in warm climates. Dhingra says he “caught the entrepreneurship bug” while on a CXD-funded internship at a venture capital accelerator and was inspired to launch TAJ, which means “crown” in Punjabi, to create lightweight, breathable turbans designed for physical activity. “I view TAJ as a form of compassionate innovation,” he says. “It’s creating a product for a minority group that has been consistently overlooked in America.” Dhingra was accepted into the Sikh American Legal Defense Fund Innovation Fellows program, through which he was able to continue building his startup with the support of a large Sikh network, and his pitch was selected as the winner of the 2022 SikhLEAD Innovation Startup Competition.



Tej Dhingra '25



Campus Life

GATEWAY TO THE NORTH

President Clayton Rose presided over the recent dedication ceremonies of two new campus buildings—Barry Mills Hall on April 20 and the John and Life Gibbons Center for Arctic Studies on May 11.

The two contemporary structures—just feet apart and joined by a landscaped terrace—form a striking “gateway to the north,” described head architect of the project, design principal Nat Madson of HGA. The buildings are constructed of mass timber and cross-laminated timber panels, which are generating excitement for their potential to revitalize the Maine lumber industry and usher in a more ecological material for commercial buildings.

The two buildings will also propel the advancement of the academic disciplines they house. Barry Mills Hall is the new home of the Department of Anthropology and the Digital and Computational Studies Program. It includes a sixty-person cinema classroom, four classrooms, twelve offices, meeting spaces, and a large event and catering space.

The Gibbons Center for Arctic Studies contains exhibit spaces, archaeology research and teaching labs, a classroom, and offices for museum staff. “Today we have a proper home for our Arctic collection, both for storage and exhibition, as well as a state-of-the-art space to bring in exhibitions from other museums,” Rose said at its opening. “We now have an opportunity to be one of the handful of go-to destinations for exhibitions centered on Arctic issues.”