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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SYNCHRONIZED SKATING TEAM NAMES NEW
HEAD COACH

*Former U.S. Gold and World Free Skate Bronze Medalist Shawna Ludy to Lead UNH
Synchronized Skating Team in U.S. Figure Skating's Collegiate Division*

DURHAM, N.H. March 31, 2009 – The University of New Hampshire's Synchronized Skating team announced today that it has named Shawna Ludy as its new head coach. The UNH Synchronized Skating team is a club sport that competes in the Collegiate Division of U.S. Figure Skating, the governing body for all competitive figure skating in the United States.

Shawna Ludy is originally from Illinois, and she currently resides in Arlington, MA. Shawna is a former team member and two-time co-captain of the Haydenettes of Lexington, MA. The Haydenettes are the 17-time U.S. Synchronized Champions and World Competitors. They are the most successful U.S. synchronized skating team in the 50+ years of the sport. Shawna competed with the Haydenettes team for 4 years, winning 3 U.S. gold medals and 1 silver medal during her competitive career. Ludy, 23, has competed in 4 World Team Championships which included earning a bronze medal in the free skate program for the Haydenettes in Budapest, Hungary in 2008.

"We are excited to have such an accomplished former skater and coach join the UNH Synchronized Skating team," said Kaitlyn Healy, president of the UNH Synchronized Skating team. "U.S. Figure Skating has recognized synchronized team skating as a fast growing part of competitive figure skating and the growth of collegiate teams has been one of the most striking developments in recent years across the country."

"The UNH Synchronized Skating team is now in our 10th year of competing in USFS competitions. We're seeing more interest in UNH from beyond New Hampshire because we have a collegiate "synchro" team, in addition to all the other benefits the University offers. Synchro's growth is partly due to the fact that singles, pairs, and dance competitors have few competitive avenues after high school. With a great hockey tradition, we hope to make UNH the destination school in New England for figure skaters who want to continue their competitive careers. It's a natural fit and complements our already strong skating interests here at UNH," concluded Healy. For more information see www.unh.edu/figureskating