

Alumni Profiles Table of Contents

- **Andrew Albright, Class of 1991**
- **Geoff Cardner, Class of 1993**
- **Patrick Closson, Class of 1995**
- **Tim Diaz, Class of 1991**
- **Katherine Dietz, Class of 2007**
- **Ryan Haley, Class of 2008**
- **Amy Seif Hattan, Class of 1993**
- **Allyson Hicks, Class of 2000**
- **Scott MacDonald, Class of 1990**
- **Isobel Madigan, Class of 2005**
- **Sarah Wood, Class of 2007**

Andrew Albright



1. What year did you graduate from UNH?
 - 1991
2. What degree(s) did you earn?
 - B.A. in English
3. What was the title of your senior thesis?
 - My senior thesis was the completion of a screenplay named “The Difference After Dark”.
4. What role did the Honors Program play in your post undergraduate life?
 - I really enjoyed the Honors Program. I had an opportunity to complete many varied projects, and this has helped me be successful in the workplace.
5. What did you do following graduation?
 - Travelled cross-country with a friend from UNH and worked briefly in advertising in NY City.
6. What are you doing now?
 - I am married with two young daughters, and I work for a pharmaceutical company.
7. Were there specific opportunities you had as a result of the Honors Program?
 - I believe it was an important resume item when first looking for jobs.
8. Can you recount any Honors Program memories?
 - I remember my first Honors Program class was about science – specifically the ways in which science can be interpreted, misinterpreted, falsified and misused. I also remember meeting new potential students and talking to them about the benefits of the program, responding to questions, and highlighting how the program could improve their University experience.

Geoff Cardner



1. What year did you graduate from UNH?
 - 1993
2. What degree(s) did you earn?
 - Business Administration (Honors-in-Major) and Economics
3. What was the title of your senior thesis?
 - Under the direction of the late Dr. Allen Thompson, Geoff wrote his honors thesis on the impact of the real estate downturn on NH banks. The thesis was a great opportunity to learn about the banking industry and to network with real estate professionals, bankers and regulators.
4. What did you do following graduation?
 - After graduation, Geoff entered into the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's bank examiner training program, becoming a commissioned bank examiner in 1996. He assessed the safety and soundness of New England financial institutions for eight years.
5. What are you doing now?
 - Upon being awarded the Chartered Financial Analyst designation in 2001, Geoff joined Sun Life Financial's (SLF) Private Fixed Income team as a senior investment analyst. He currently serves as a senior director in SLF's Portfolio Management group. He is involved in developing, implementing, and maintaining investment strategies for the U.S. annuities business as well as coordinating investment activities for SLF's Hong Kong U.S. dollar-denominated investment portfolios.

Mr. Cardner recently graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree from Babson College's F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business. He resides in Norfolk, MA, with his wife, Diane Horban Cardner '94, and their two children, Ava and Dean. Geoff welcomes anyone who has been involved in or supports the UNH HP to join the LinkedIn.com networking group: University of New Hampshire Honors Program Network.

6. Can you recount any Honors Program memories?
 - Geoff fondly remembers his first honors course. It was world history under Dr. Hans Heilbrunner, whose harrowing escape from Nazi Germany left Geoff with a lasting impression. To have a titan in academia and in an intimate classroom setting was a true honor and thrill. Geoff also recalls trips to Dimond Library to photocopy economic data (pre-Internet days) to assist Dr. Ahmad Etebari's research. He also remembers the passion that Dr. Michael Ferber brought to his mini-course on T.S. Eliot.

Patrick Closson



1. What year did you graduate from UNH?
 - 1995
2. What degree(s) did you earn?
 - Bachelor of Arts, History; University Honors, History.
3. What undergraduate research project did you complete?
 - Hiding the Robes: The Popular Reaction to the English Reformation.
4. What role did the Honors Program play in your post undergraduate life?
 - The Honors Program challenged me and allowed me to explore many areas of study that interested me. This experience deepened my interest in learning and served as valuable groundwork for the challenges I faced in law school and as a lawyer.
5. What did you do following graduation?
 - Attended Boston College Law School
6. What are you doing now?
 - I am a partner with the law firm of McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton, Professional Association in New Hampshire. My practice focuses on business law.

7. Were there specific opportunities you had as a result of the Honors Program?
 - The Honors Program gave me an opportunity to do the research I never would have thought about doing if I had not needed to do a senior thesis. This experience allowed me to thoroughly explore a topic and get excited about it in a way that I had not been able to do before, or after.

8. Can you recount any Honors Program memories?
 - My greatest Honors Program memories can be drawn from the seminars that I participated in. It was a unique opportunity to participate in seminars with a limited number of students who were thoroughly engaged in the topics we were discussing. These seminars proved to be some of the most rewarding experiences I had as a student.

Tim Diaz



1. What year did you graduate from UNH?
 - 1991
2. What degree(s) did you earn?
 - BA, Honors-In-Major, History, Minor in French
3. What undergraduate research project did you complete?
 - An analysis of the letters written between Voltaire and Catherine the Great of Russia and how their relationship affected the political and philosophical atmosphere of the day.
4. What was the title of your senior thesis?
 - "Blind Faith and Naked Ambition: The Written Correspondence between Voltaire and Catherine the Great"
5. What role did the Honors Program play in your post undergraduate life?
 - I learned to think more rigorously, write more clearly, do my own research, and think more independently than I probably would have had I not been a part of the UHP. I can't overstate how much this has helped me in the business world.
6. What did you do following graduation?
 - After a few months backpacking abroad, I landed a job with the consulting firm Booz, Allen and Hamilton in Washington, D.C. In 1994, I came back to New Hampshire to join the Timberland Company.

7. What are you doing now?
 - I'm still with Timberland, currently as VP and General Manager of Timberland PRO, a line of industrial footwear.

8. Were there specific opportunities you had as a result of the Honors Program?
 - Not directly in terms of my eventual career – but the opportunity to work closely with both the best of the faculty and the top-notch students (both undergrads and grad students) was worth every bit of extra work.

9. Can you recount any Honors Program memories?
 - Being utterly lost in Jack Yeager's Honors French classes for a full year; getting a headache weekly in Bob Scharff's Honors Philosophy course and loving it; Janet Polasky's firm but gently guidance on my thesis; Hans Heilbronner's eventual admission during my thesis defense that I correctly transcribed 18th century French vs. not proofing my work; and the warm, helpful staff at the Honors Program office.

Katherine Dietz



1. What year did you graduate from UNH?
 - May 2007
2. What degree(s) did you earn?
 - I graduated with a dual option in Finance and Entrepreneurial Venture Creation (EVC) from the Whittemore School of Business.
3. What undergraduate research project did you complete?
 - I did not complete an undergraduate research project, but I completed an independent study in which a group of Business students partnered with Environmental Engineering students to compete in the Annual International Environmental Design Contest (EDC) at New Mexico State University. We created a business plan for a microbial fuel cell product that could be incorporated into agricultural environments such as farms to convert organic waste such as manure to usable energy. We won first place in the task and the overall 2007 Intel Innovation Award.
4. What was the title of your senior thesis?
 - My thesis was titled "Facilitator Organizations and their Impact on Entrepreneurship and Economic Development". It was a study of 150 facilitator organizations nationwide that help entrepreneurs become "investor ready" by providing a wide range of services ranging from business plan development to educational opportunities in an attempt to understand what types of facilitator organizations are in existence today. I also collected economic data by state to try and determine their level of success at promoting both economic developments as well as to provide recommendations for areas looking to improve upon various economic conditions. The purpose of the paper was to serve as an instrument for economic development centers and entrepreneurial facilitator organizations in the United States.

5. What role did the Honors Program play in your post undergraduate life?
 - Through participating in the Honors program I was given the opportunity to work closely with various professors on additional research. The program challenged me to look beyond the normal range of coursework and take on special projects that sparked my curiosity. I feel that after graduating from the program I still challenge myself in my work life to look for additional opportunities to become involved with areas that interest me that I might not normally be exposed to. I also was able to work with honors students in a wide range of majors which has proven helpful post graduation where you are working with colleagues in different departments and locations on a daily basis.
6. What did you do following graduation?
 - Following graduation I accepted a Fellowship in Finance and Accounting (FIFA) position with Liberty Mutual in Boston. It is a two year rotational development program in which you move through three finance and accounting departments and complete various training requirements before accepting a permanent role.
7. What are you doing now?
 - I completed my first rotation in the Corporate Tax department and am now finishing my second rotation in the Investment Accounting department at Liberty. I plan to take my GMAT's this year and start applying to go back for my MBA.
8. Were there specific opportunities you had as a result of the Honors Program?
 - My Honors classes were much smaller and discussion based which allowed me to become more actively involved in the subject matter. I was able to work on important research projects on subjects that I wouldn't have been exposed to through regular coursework. The Honors program helped to connect me with exceptional professors and opportunities to take on Independent study work both in and outside of my own major.
9. Can you recount any Honors Program memories?
 - I had transferred to the University of New Hampshire from the University of Rhode Island my freshman year, and was immediately welcomed by the program. The program's staff is incredibly dedicated to making sure each student that passes through has a unique experience and is able to take part in classes and projects that truly interest them. My sophomore year, I was offered a position as an Honors Student Representative for the Whittemore School which helped to connect me to various other students in and out of my major and help others the way the program had initially helped me with transitioning into a new environment. I also took part on the Student Advisory Board helping to connect the Honors program with the greater UNH community, and helped to instate a mentor program for new Honors Program Freshman.

Ryan Haley



1. What year did you graduate from UNH?
 - 2008
2. What degree(s) did you earn?
 - B.S. Biochemistry
3. What undergraduate research project did you complete?
 - May 2008: "Expression of Motility Genes in the Symbiont and Pathogen Phenotype of *Photobacterium luminescens* TT01 (795 & 799H credit)
 - September 2007: Survey of Malarial Resistance in Peru (SURF Abroad)
4. What was the title of your senior thesis?
 - "Expression of Motility Genes in the Symbiont and Pathogen Phenotype of *Photobacterium luminescens* T10"
5. What role did the Honors Program play in your post undergraduate life?
 - The honors program gave me the opportunity to explore my role as a community leader and to recognize the benefits of helping other students. The honors program also gave me access to a community of University educators that helped and occasionally pushed me to have experiences I would never have had without their help.
6. What did you do following graduation?
 - Following graduation I took time to travel and work in the biotechnology sector before applying to medical school.
7. What are you doing now?
 - Right now I am still enjoying my year off from school, traveling, and preparing to enter graduate school.

8. Were there specific opportunities you had as a result of the Honors Program?
 - As an Honors representative I spoke with countless students and parents, I served as a guest speaker at several events, was nominated and granted several awards, and was directed to a SURF abroad program that was fulfilling and life changing. All of these opportunities were available to me because of my activity in the Honors program.

9. Can you recount any Honors Program memories?
 - Some of my fondest UHP memories have to do with my work as an Honors representative. During the slow times, I'd banter with Chris Sohl, UHP advisor. On busy days, I enjoyed serving as a representative, talking to both students and parents. I specifically remember one visiting day in which my seminar lectured on the biochemistry of chocolate, a lecture that included many delicious samples. To close, my best memories draw on the times that I was strongly encouraged by members of the UHP staff to participate in program opportunities that sounded like too much work. I am glad people like Chris Sohl pushed me even when I pushed back!

Amy Seif Hattan



1. What year did you graduate from UNH?
 - 1993
2. What degree(s) did you earn?
 - B.S. Environmental Conservation, UNH
 - M.A. Journalism & Mass Communication, UW-Madison
 - M.P.A. Harvard University – Kennedy School of Government
3. What undergraduate research project did you complete?
 - Senior thesis (see below)
4. What was the title of your senior thesis?
 - The Formation of an Environmental Ethic in Childhood
5. What role did the Honors Program play in your post undergraduate life?
 - Chris Sohl connected me to my first job out of graduate school in 1995. As an alum, I have talked to honors students about the environmental field and have participated in UHP events from time to time.
6. What did you do following graduation?
 - I went directly into graduate school at UW-Madison to study environmental journalism. Following this, I worked in the field of sustainable development for 13 years in Colorado, Vermont and New Hampshire.
7. What are you doing now?
 - I am currently the Director of Strategic Initiatives at a non-profit environmental organization called Second Nature. We work to advance sustainability in higher education at colleges and universities across the country. Second Nature is one of the organizations that started the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, signed by more than 600 college and university presidents working to make their campuses climate-neutral. I work to build partnerships with

organizations and businesses at the national level that help to support this movement for climate neutrality and sustainability.

8. Were there specific opportunities you had as a result of the Honors Program?
 - The Honors Program offered me a chance to take small seminar-style classes, some of which were my favorite classes at UNH, and provided me with a supportive community of friends and advisors that continue to be important influences in my life.
9. Can you recount any Honors Program memories?
 - During my senior year, I advised incoming students for the Honors Program and during this period I spent many happy hours on the couch in the UHP office talking to Chris Sohl, Dr. Mennel and the UHP staff.

Allyson Hicks

1. What year did you graduate from UNH?
 - 2000 undergraduate

 - 2008 graduate

2. What degree(s) did you earn?
 - BA Business Admin with a concentration in accounting
 - MBA

3. What was the title of your senior thesis?
 - I think it was something like, the Pay Gap at Work, an Analysis of the Discrepancy of Wages between Women and Men in the US Economy....

4. What role did the Honors Program play in your post undergraduate life?
 - The honors program provided a foundation of knowledge and confidence that I took with me into my career.

5. What did you do following graduation?
 - Public accounting at Ernst & Young, then to Wentworth Douglass Hospital. Pursued my MBA in 2006 in the part time MBA program at UNH and graduated from the program in the summer of 2008. Started a family – 2 daughters, ages 3 and 5.

6. What are you doing now?
 - Director of Finance at Wentworth Douglass Hospital

7. Were there specific opportunities you had as a result of the Honors Program?
 - Personalized and challenging coursework and the opportunity to interact with top professors and peers in a small classroom setting which challenged me to think in new ways.

8. Can you recount any Honors Program memories?
 - The office staff is exceptional; I remain in touch with them and enjoy their guidance and friendship.

Scott MacDonald



1. What year did you graduate from UNH?
 - 1990
2. What degree(s) did you earn?
 - A degree in Economics
3. What undergraduate research project did you complete?
 - Senior Thesis (see below)
4. What was the subject of your senior thesis?
 - Developed a leading economic indicator for the Brazilian economy
5. What are you doing now?
 - I am President of NiSource Retail Services, Inc., a subsidiary of NiSource a Fortune 500 energy holding company. Prior to this current position, I served in various financial and strategy executive positions with NiSource in Indiana and was a manager in Arthur D. Little's energy consulting practice in Cambridge, MA. I received my MBA in 1994 from the MIT Sloan School of Management.
6. Can you recount any Honors Program memories?
 - I fondly recall the smaller classes and the chance to form closer relationships with my professors. The Honors Program provided me with the opportunity to stretch academically and tap into the enthusiasm that my professors had in helping an eager student develop.

Isobel Madigan



1. What year did you graduate from UNH?
 - 2005, and again in 2006
2. What degree(s) did you earn?
 - 2005: BA Anthropology & 2006: MBA
3. What undergraduate research project did you complete?
 - I did an IROP – “The socio-cultural effects of architectural change in Sri Lanka”
4. What was the title of your senior thesis?
 - “An Exploration of Home”
5. What did you do following graduation?
 - I enrolled in the Whittemore School’s 1 year MBA program.
6. What are you doing now?
 - I am currently enrolled at Harvard Divinity School, pursuing a degree in Buddhism. I am planning on a career in community development and micro lending in Sri Lanka and other parts of South Asia.

7. Were there specific opportunities you had as a result of the Honors Program?
 - Access to wonderful Honors Seminar classes
 - Access to incredible staff which helped me with course selection and academic decisions. The UHP staff was always there to help me get the most out of my time at UNH.
 - The opportunity to engage in my Honors classes at a higher academic level than would have otherwise been available
 - The opportunity to create a cap-stone for my time at UNH with my thesis project.

8. Can you recount any Honors Program memories?
 - All my fondest Honors Program memories involve Chris Sohl. During orientation, we all had to pick classes for the fall. Chris sat with me through the whole process and helped me pick interesting, challenging classes which launched my academic career at UNH. She has been an incredible source of inspiration, kindness, laughter and encouragement.

Sarah Wood



1. What year did you graduate from UNH?
 - I graduated from UNH in May 2007.
2. What degree(s) did you earn?
 - I earned a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology Sport Studies and Psychology with a minor in Environmental Conservation Studies.
3. What undergraduate research project did you complete?
 - The objective of my undergraduate research project was to identify the professional development profiles of Senior Woman Administrators (SWA's) working in intercollegiate athletics at the Division I, II and III levels in the United States. The profiles I identified served as a formal summary of data representing distinctive professional development features and characteristics of SWA's working in all three NCAA divisions.
I completed this particular project because I was, and still am, interested in pursuing a career in athletic administration. Information obtained during this study was of interest to me (and hopefully to other women pursuing a career in athletic administration) because I was able to use it as a tool to compare my professional development investments against those of today's college-level Senior Woman Administrators. These comparisons assisted me, and perhaps other women, in determining if I came close to 'measuring up' against current SWA's.
4. What was the title of your senior thesis?
 - Professional Development Profiles of Senior Woman Administrators in the National Collegiate Athletic Association at Division I, II, and III Institutions.

5. What did you do following graduation?
 - I started graduate school at Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts in September of 2007 and will graduate with a Masters of Education in Athletic Counseling this coming May, 2009.
6. What are you doing now?
 - I am currently completing an internship at the University of Maryland's Athletic Department as a learning specialist within the Intensive Learning Program. As a learning specialist, I provide structured instruction and remediation in areas of academic skill and strategy weakness to academically at-risk student-athletes.
7. Were there specific opportunities you had as a result of the Honors Program?
 - As a result of the Honors Program I was accepted into a very competitive graduate program (the Athletic Counseling at Springfield College) in my chosen field. During my first year of graduate school I was extended (and accepted) an offer to serve as a graduate assistant for the Career Center at Springfield College where I guided undergraduate students in their academic and career development just at the Honors Program had done for me as an undergraduate at UNH. Now, I am completing my second year of graduate school in the form of an esteemed internship at the University of Maryland that will provide me with the hands-on experience (which the Honors Program so much encouraged) needed to be successful in my career as a learning specialist for student-athletes at the collegiate level.
8. Can you recount any Honors Program memories?
 - As a student worker in the office, I have many fond memories about the "fun" I used to have collecting each graduating senior's Certification of Completion of Honors Program Requirements Form and putting all of the form's information into a workable list to send over to the Registrar's Office. Chris, you know exactly what I am talking about! There are many other memories too, of course...all great memories that emphasize continued moral support from everyone in the UHP office!