The University of New Hampshire Alumni Association requests the pleasure of your company at the ceremony honoring

J. Bonnie Newman recipient of the 2010 Charles Holmes Pettee Medal

Friday, November 19, 2010
Ceremony at 11 A.M.
Huddleston Hall

Lunch reception at 12:30 P.M.
Holloway Commons, Piscataqua Room

Please respond by Wednesday, November 10, at www.alumni.unh.edu/pettee or call (603) 862-3660.

Parking is available in C-Lot.

When J. Bonnie Newman became interim President of the University of New Hampshire, she returned to the institution where she began a career that has spanned the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors. After graduating from Saint Joseph’s College and earning a M.Ed. in higher education administration from The Pennsylvania State University, Ms. Newman joined the University of New Hampshire as Assistant Dean of Students in 1969. She rose to Dean of Students in 1972 and served in that capacity until 1978.

Ms. Newman took an extended detour from academia to work in government and the private sector, beginning as campaign manager and then the first Administrative Assistant to United States Congressman Judd Gregg, working as his Chief of Staff. Ms. Newman went on to serve two Presidents of the United States, first as associate director of Presidential Personnel at the White House and then as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development under President Ronald Reagan. She also was Assistant to the President for Management and Administration, overseeing all administrative operations of the White House and Executive Office of the President during the transition and administration of President George H.W. Bush.

In the private sector, Ms. Newman is active as a private investor in early stage entrepreneurial opportunities. She is founder and former owner of Coastal Broadcasting Corporation, licensee of WZEA-FM radio, and was President of the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire. She also served as President and CEO of The New England Council, the nation’s oldest regional business association.

Ms. Newman also has a distinguished record in the academy as interim Dean of the Whittemore School of Business and Economics and as the Executive Dean of Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Ms. Newman currently serves as a Director of the Lumina Foundation, Fairpoint Communications, and Exeter Trust Company. She is former Chairman of the United States Naval Academy Board of Visitors and former Vice Chair of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Other past appointments include the President’s Export Council and the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. She is a former Director of NYNEX Telecommunications, New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, Sallie Mae Corporation, New Hampshire Public Television, the New Hampshire Industrial Development Authority, and Public Service Company of New Hampshire.
The Charles Holmes Pettée Medal was established in 1940 by the University of New Hampshire Alumni Association and the University Board of Trustees. The medal is awarded annually to a resident or former resident of New Hampshire in recognition of outstanding accomplishment or distinguished service in any form to the state, the nation, or the world. The medal symbolizes rare devotion to service as expressed by the life of Dean Pettee, who served this institution unselfishly for 62 years.

Born in Manchester, New Hampshire, in 1853, Pettee graduated Dartmouth’s Thayer College of Engineering in 1876. While a second-year student in the Thayer School, he was recruited to teach meteorology by the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, which was located in Hanover. In 1877, he was promoted to full professor of mathematics and civil engineering at the state college.

At the heart of Pettee’s work was his belief in the mission of land-grant colleges. When he wasn’t teaching, he promoted the college to citizens of the state—posting notices and canvassing the countryside by horse and buggy.

In 1888, at age 35, he was named dean of the faculty. Five years later in 1893, Pettee oversaw the move of the college from Hanover to Durham. Always, he advocated for the faculty and especially for students. In 1923, by state decree, the college became a university.

During the course of his career, Pettee served the University as professor, dean, and three-time interim president. In 1937 at the age of 84, he retired. He died in 1938, having been known around the state as “The Dean” for 50 years.