

## **Telling Our Stories: A Women's Celebration**

On March 25, 2015 faculty, staff and students gathered to celebrate work toward program and policy changes in support of the full participation of women's education and employment at UNH.

The Women's Commission hosted keynote speaker Maggie Fogarty, co-director of the NH Chapter of the American Friends Service Committee. Fogarty reported that low-income families are paying \$1000 a month for living spaces with bad heating systems and with inoperable smoke detectors dangling from their living room ceilings." Her organization creates opportunities to speak to landlords and legislators about their basic needs. She said, "We're a wealthy state with a stingy safety net. We pay low wages and offer unsafe housing and working conditions to the people who clean and maintain our buildings and feed us. AFS is here to make our legislators aware that our legal structures are harming our people." She advocates for the dignity of fair wages and basic safety nets for all.

In addition, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women's Commission celebration honored two former commission leaders, Prof. Kate Hanson and Affiliate Assoc. Prof. Mary Moynihan. Student leaders Stephanie Kuhn and Emily Dickman interviewed them, asking them their hopes and wishes for UNH's future. Moynihan said, "I hope that UNH keeps working for equity and inclusion for women and that the state allocates more funding for the work that Maggie Fogarty is doing." Hanson said, "I hope that UNH doesn't simply reflect the world. It needs to help create the world, and to do that, it needs to take some risk. I hope that UNH takes the risk."

Co-chairs Prof. Mary Banach, Social Work and Administrative Director of the Discovery Program Amy Cunningham, closed the program encouraging people to continue telling their stories toward understanding and positive change for all women to become full participants in campus life.