Dear Friends,

It is my great honor to introduce you to IMPACT, a new publication that highlights and celebrates philanthropy at the University of New Hampshire. As chairman of the UNH Foundation board, I am excited to have the opportunity to share with you some of the many ways our fellow alumni, parents and friends have demonstrated their support for UNH—and in doing so, have truly made a difference for today’s students.

In this inaugural issue, you will read about the generosity of the Van Patten family, whose bequest will support the future of the adaptive sports and recreation program Northeast Passage, and about the way graduate alumna Gail Edwards’ love of UNH inspired a series of gifts. You’ll find out why recent graduate Cara Hayward thinks it’s so important for young alumni to support the annual fund, and how alumni from different decades came together to meet the Whittemore Center scoreboard fundraising challenge put forth by John Small ’76. I invite you to read each of these stories and see the many forms generosity takes and how gifts of all sizes really do make our university a better and stronger institution.

I hope you enjoy this publication and the ones that will follow.

Thank you for believing in UNH.

Sincerely,

J. Morgan Rutman ’84
Chairman, UNH Foundation Board
Thirty-five point eight million dollars in fiscal year 2013. $49.2 million in fiscal 2014. Fueled by generous leadership gifts and the support of many additional donors, the past two years have been fundraising record-breakers for UNH. One key factor has been the unwavering support of the university’s alumni and friends, who have invested in the success of current and future students and faculty. Another has been the leadership of vice president for advancement Debbie Dutton, who arrived at the beginning of the historic run in September 2012.

“When Debbie came on board, we knew she brought not just the vision and strategic sense that were essential to this type of work, but also the rare personal qualities we needed to galvanize and inspire our professional and volunteer fundraising partners,” says UNH president Mark Huddleston. “Two and a half years later, she has helped us achieve success well beyond what I had expected.”

Dutton began her nearly 25-year fundraising career at the Maine chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and came to UNH by way of Colby College, where she served as vice president for development and alumni relations. An alumnus of the University of Maine, the state is clearly near and dear to her heart—but so, too, is the idea of public higher education and the mission of land grant universities like UNH.

“State institutions make it possible for students from almost any background to get an excellent education, and I have been very impressed by the quality of the students and faculty UNH attracts,” Dutton says. “It’s incredibly inspiring to me, and it’s truly an honor to have the opportunity to represent the university in this way, and to partner with our alumni, parents and friends to make an incredible institution even stronger.”

When it comes to the university’s fundraising success, Dutton is quick to turn the praise back to President Huddleston and her advancement team. She has equal praise for the alumni and friends behind the two record-setting years—including Marcy Carsey ’66, whose $20 million gift in fiscal year 2014 established the new Carsey School of Public Policy; and Peter Paul ’67, who, in fiscal 2013 gave more than $5 million for student and academic programs at his namesake college, in addition to his previous gift of $25 million to create the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics. And while Dutton knows the upward trend can’t continue indefinitely, she’s confident the coming years will continue to bring good news—and more inspired donors like UNH parent Dana Hamel, who has set the pace for the current fiscal year with a $10 million gift for New Hampshire student scholarship support.

“Raising close to $50 million is a resounding vote of confidence in UNH and sends a loud and clear message that our institution is worthy of significant investment,” she says.

“...it’s truly an honor to have the opportunity I do to support the great work that comes out of our three campuses every day.”

—Debbie Dutton
Dave Van Patten has a strong belief in the work of Northeast Passage (NEP), a UNH-based program that serves individuals on campus and beyond through its adaptive sports and recreational therapy programs. It’s a well managed organization, he says, with a mission that aligns with his interests and values.

And he has a personal belief in the work of NEP as well.

His brother received a head injury playing a family football game on Thanksgiving several years ago.

“He never fully recovered, and remains disabled. He may have found hope and motivation through a program like NEP,” Van Patten says.

And that’s why he and his wife, Dana, chose to make a bequest gift of $4.5 million, to ensure the group’s good work will continue in perpetuity.

“I made the gift to help others like my brother put the pieces of their lives back together and to live a fulfilling life,” says Van Patten, whose daughter Chelsi graduated from UNH in 2007.

Donor support means Northeast Passage is able to keep client costs low—which is important, when you consider that nearly a third of people with disabilities are living below the poverty line. Clients typically are asked to pay just 8 percent of what services cost. Support also means the organization keeps a professional full-time staff, which adds to their success.

“At Northeast Passage, something really good happens for someone every day. That means that every donation can be attached to an amazing, often life-changing moment of its own,” says executive director and founder Jill Gravink ’84.

The group offers three competitive sports teams (campus sled hockey, power soccer and quad rugby) and athletes who are part of NEP are fully integrated alongside NCAA athletes at UNH facilities, taking advantage of both practice and competition opportunities. The organization serves people as young as five and as old as 92.

Along the way, says Keely Ames, operations manager for Northeast Passage, it’s been donor support that has helped build the program and garnered NEP a national reputation for therapeutic recreation. For clients like Robbie Dudzisz ’17, Northeast Passage has been a place of support.

“This program has had a very positive impact on my life. The first few months after suffering spinal cord injury were extremely difficult and foreign. The emotional side of dealing with a life changing injury is just as demanding as the physical,” says Dudzisz. “Once I was introduced to the quad rugby team I knew I had found what I needed. Through rugby I’ve met great people, gained confidence and built strength.”

The first question NEP asks clients, regardless of their age or ability, what do you want to do?

With gifts like the Van Pattens’, they’ll be able to do much more.

Interested in learning more about this gift or how you can support a similar program at UNH? Please call us at 603-862-4495.
a commitment to stay connected

Cara Hayward ’08 hasn’t yet celebrated her 30th birthday, but she’s already a leader when it comes to supporting UNH. The director of business development for a start-up company, Hayward gives generously of her time as a mentor for current students and faithfully supports the UNH annual fund, knowing what a difference she is helping to make.

The Acton, Mass., native chose UNH for college because she wanted a school with a great business program, and she took advantage of a wide range of opportunities over her four years in Durham, from courses in entrepreneurship to real-world internships with Lehman Brothers and Pax World Mutual Funds. After graduating summa cum laude with a business administration degree and a concentration in entrepreneurial venture capital, she earned a coveted investment banking position with Lehman Brothers in New York City. From there, she quickly moved into an executive-track career at Barclays Capital, where she climbed the ranks to vice president in five years.

“UNH prepared graduates for their careers tremendously well,” she says. “The opportunities I had as a student made moving into the intense world of business in Manhattan much easier.”

Now based in Austin, Texas, Hayward is thousands of miles away from UNH, but her connections to the university remain strong. “When I mentor UNH students today, I tell them, ‘keep your network strong, help those who help you, put in the work and take advantage of all the amazing resources at UNH. The classes end, but the community remains.’”

For Hayward, supporting the annual fund is an important part of that sense of community involvement. She started giving back just as soon as she graduated, knowing that even the smallest gift can make a difference. “Giving is less about the dollar amount and more about knowing that you are making a commitment to stay connected to the university, helping other students like yourself succeed and keeping UNH at the forefront of your mind,” she says. “Alumni must give back so today’s students can have the same opportunities we did. UNH had such an impact on my life, personally and professionally, that I’ll always do what I can to repay the favor.”

Her classes may have only lasted four years, but Hayward sees college as a lifelong experience. “I hope everyone who’s lucky enough to attend UNH sees it that way,” she says.

Interested in learning more about this story or how you can support the annual fund UNH? Please call us at 603-862-4495.
upping the score

From the fish thrown out on the ice signaling the first Wildcat goal to the boisterous chants from the student section at every home game, being part of the UNH hockey experience is a university tradition unlike any other.

The experience will be even greater for both players and spectators when the university installs a new state-of-the-art four-sided video scoreboard at center ice in the Whittemore Center in time for the 2015-2016 hockey season.

The new technology will allow for instant replays, a digital display area for fan-friendly stats, bios, photos and other player info, as well as pre-game video intros, player interviews, interactive trivia questions, raffle contests and promotions. And yes, there might even be the possibility of a “kiss-cam” making its way into the Whitt.

With a price tag of about $1 million for the video scoreboard, donations for this project were kicked off by John Small ’76, who made a leadership gift, encouraging others to support the project.

“I am so pleased that others have decided to join me in funding this project, and are stepping up to keep the Whitt a great venue,” says Small, who is also a university trustee.

He says he was delighted to make the initial gift, because hockey was not only an important part of his social life at UNH in the 1970s, but it continues to be great fun as an alum and trustee.

“Because hockey is a social event, I often found myself chatting with those sitting near me, of course at the very instant that we score a goal—and alas, I would miss it. But not any more; with the new scoreboard we can watch those goals and plays that we might miss the first time around,” says Small.

Men’s ice hockey head coach Dick Umile ’72 says the new scoreboard is essential for providing the best possible game-day experience for players and fans alike and will put UNH on par with its peer schools. Most other Hockey East conference schools already have video scoreboard technology; adding it to the Whitt is key in allowing UNH to recruit as a premier collegiate hockey program.

In addition, the scoreboard, as well as an accompanying ribbon-board display under the skyboxes will display paid advertising, providing a new revenue stream to the university and Athletic Department.

“This will give our fans a more interactive experience with our athletes,” Umile says, “and it will be a huge benefit to the university, the Department of Athletics and the community.”

“We have been hoping to add this to the Whittemore Center for a long time; it’s truly a necessity for our program and more importantly, our fans, whose support of our athletes is unparalleled.” —Dick Umile ’72

Interested in learning more about this gift or how you can support a similar program at UNH? Please call us at 603-862-4495.
Throughout Fran Edwards’ marriage to Gail Edwards ’73G, the two never spent much time apart. “We never left each other’s side; we did everything together,” Fran recalls of his happy marriage of 25 years to Gail, who he calls the light of his life.

So it’s a fitting tribute to Gail, who lost her 15-year battle with cancer in June 2014, that Fran would continue with the things that they loved together, the things Gail had always held in high regard. Education was one of those things—based in part on her experiences at UNH, where she earned a PhD in chemistry. When Gail decided to name UNH as a beneficiary to her IRA for a scholarship fund in her parents’ name in January 2013, Fran quickly followed suit, pledging his own retirement and making a gift in his will.

“This was something that was very important to Gail and that’s why I continue to do it,” says Fran, whose only connection to UNH was through his wife.

And he continued it even further—deciding in September 2014 to add an additional $100,000 to create a fellowship in Gail’s memory for students seeking their doctoral degree in chemistry.

Gail enjoyed two successful careers—first as a research chemist and patent liaison in the dye and pharmaceutical industries and later as a chemistry instructor at the College of the Holy Cross and Worcester State University—before her retirement in 2010. Throughout the years, her connections with her colleagues from the UNH chemistry program remained strong. A small alumni group formed, holding periodic get-togethers to catch up with each other.

“There was a camaraderie and loyalty among the students then,” Fran says, “even more so than you would find in high school.”

Those feelings of camaraderie and affection for Gail have clearly continued. Last fall when UNH’s Mike McCarthy was visiting with Tom Ciardelli ’75G, the subject of Gail’s fund came up. Recalling those years when he, Gail, and other students studied with professor Jim Morrison, Ciardelli knew what he wanted to do. He took out his checkbook right then and there and made a gift toward Gail’s fund.

“In our day it was a group of mostly males, and I could imagine for women it was a little difficult to deal with all those male personalities in the lab at one time,” recalls Ciardelli. But not so for Edwards, he says. “Gail was sort of the anchor of the lab.”

Both Fran Edwards and Ciardelli said they hope the future recipients will embody Gail’s best qualities—a commitment to hard work, but above all, a love of learning and education.

Interested in learning more about this gift or how you can support a similar program at UNH? Please call us at 603-862-4495.
The Steelman Fellowship enabled me to complete dissertation research in archives across the country. Without their support, I would not have access to materials that are crucial to the successful and timely completion of my dissertation.

—Amanda Demner ’19G
On May 27, we’re kicking off the (603) Challenge. The goal is to reach 1,234 new donors by June 3. As a supporter of UNH, you already know how important it is to increase participation among our alumni; even our rankings as a university are affected.

Why 603 and 1,234? We are basing the campaign on the main UNH phone number, (603) 862-1234.

A generous group of alumni have offered up to $50,000 in matching funds.

Follow the campaign at unh.edu/603. Help us spread the word to new donors via social media using #UNH603.