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UNH Honors Seven for Outstanding Contributions to the University

By [Maggie Paine](#)
UNH Alumni Affairs
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DURHAM, N.H. -- During Reunion Weekend, the University of New Hampshire Alumni Association honored seven people for their outstanding contributions to the university. The annual awards luncheon on June 9, highlighted a weekend of traditional reunion activities including a Friday evening social, class banquets, lectures, seminars, exhibits, the presentation of class gifts and the parade of classes.

The Alumni Meritorious Service Award was presented to four graduates for their devotion and loyalty in maintaining class or other UNH organizations, active participation in alumni or university affairs, or assistance in expanding the influence and prestige of the university. The awards were made to Pam Low of New London, Francis E. Googins of Sarasota, Fla., Paul H. Caswell of Rye Beach and Edwinna C. Vanderzanden of Rochester.

Low, a 1951 graduate of UNH, was recognized for her service on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and class reunion committees and her support of chapter activities in Boston and the Lakes Region over the past 50 years. Low is also a strong supporter of UNH athletics and serves on the School of Health and Human Services Dean's Council.

Googins, a 1955 graduate of UNH, was honored for his efforts on behalf of the Florida Southwest Coast Chapter, which have strengthened the organization and contributed to a significant rise in association membership. Currently chapter president, Googins is referred to as "a dynamo" by chapter members, and he

has held numerous positions with the chapter over the past 10 years.

Caswell, who graduated from UNH in 1960, was recognized for his long and outstanding service on the UNH Alumni Association Board, including terms as vice president and president, and on the UNH Foundation Board. In addition to leadership in strategic planning and financial areas, he spearheaded the first gift from the Alumni Association to the university during the current fund-raising campaign and chaired the Class of 1960's 40th Reunion fund-raising efforts.

Vanderzanden, a 1980 graduate of UNH, was honored for her work on the UNH Alumni Association Board of Directors, including two terms as president. She led the board during an interim executive director period and gave the new director invaluable support during his first year. Vanderzanden was also credited with the development of a major revision to the association's bylaws, creation of the single slate ballot for directors and the expansion of the board to represent UNH-Manchester, the Parents Association and the Graduate School. She was also instrumental in the establishment of the *University of New Hampshire Magazine*.

Created in 1965, the Profile of Service Award is presented to individuals, both alumni and non-alumni, for outstanding performance on behalf of the Alumni Association or UNH. Alumnus Herbert B. Stebbins of Bedford and former UNH athletic director Judith Ray of Durham were this year's recipients.

Stebbins, a 1949 graduate of UNH, founded several alumni chapters, served three terms as a member of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors, including a term as president, and chaired the Class of 1949's 50th Reunion Fund which raised a record-breaking \$2.35 million. He was cited for his "unflagging support and advocacy" on behalf of UNH.

Ray was honored for her contributions to UNH athletics, particularly women's athletics. She successfully integrated the separate men's and women's athletics departments into a single, collegial and effective unit, established the women's Hall of Honor and enhanced the image of and fund-raising for women's athletics. In addition, she encouraged a

commitment to academic excellence, as well as athletic achievement, among coaches and students.

The Young Alumni Achievement Award, which recognizes a young graduate who has provided service to UNH and who has demonstrated leadership and promise, was presented to Joseph Pace of Exeter. Pace graduated from UNH in 1997 with summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa honors, and while a student served as student body president, as a student representative to the University System Board of Trustees, and on numerous committees and task forces. Currently coordinator of operations and public affairs at UNH's Justiceworks, he serves as a selectman in Exeter and is a member of the Great Bay Rotary Club.

Also during the awards luncheon, the Class of 1951 presented its class gift of more than \$1.7 million. This is the third consecutive year that a 50th reunion class has raised more than \$1 million in honor of its 50th Reunion.

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