

# Pride and joy abound at UNH commencement

By Pamela McLoughlin  
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**WEST HAVEN** — Ginny Musumeci got teary-eyed as she entered the University of New Haven's commencement ceremony Saturday, where the last of her brood was about to graduate with a degree in sports management.

Yes, it was a mother's sentimental side coming through, but there were practical reasons for Musumeci's joy as well.

"It feels really good; it feels a lot cheaper," Musumeci, of Cromwell, said, flashing a huge smile.

Her husband, Armando, said he was proud of son Joe's accomplishment, and that finally, as the payer of tuition, he sees "the light at the end of the tunnel."

Saturday's graduation under sunny skies at UNH's Ralph F. DellaCamera Jr. Stadium starred 479 undergraduates and 371 graduate students who have worked hard toward making their dreams come true.

Richard A. Vermeil, former NFL coach to the Philadelphia Eagles, St. Louis Rams and Kansas City Chiefs, was the day's

main speaker. He now does color commentary on ESPN and the NFL Network.

Vermeil received an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree, along with Michael J. Hartnett, president, chief executive officer and chairman of RBC Bearings Inc.

Barbara L. Pearce, president and CEO of H. Pearce Company Realtors, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Hartnett is an innovator, researcher and entrepreneur in engineering and business who began working for his father as a tool and die maker at age 12. He attended Waterbury State Technical College, then graduated first in his class from the University of New Haven in 1969.

Pearce is a businesswoman, lawyer, marathon runner, woman's advocate, successful Realtor, wife and mother who joined her father's real estate company after leaving a prestigious law firm in New York. She also champions many humanitarian causes in the area.

One mom came all the way from Bombay, India, to see her son, Pourushaspa Mistry,

graduate, but it was bittersweet because her husband, Dinyar Mistry, had a medical emergency the day before the couple were to leave India and didn't make it to their son's graduation.

Dinyar has since undergone surgery to release pressure following a hemorrhage and is expected to arrive here Monday.

"I'm feeling very nice, great," said mom Hutoxi D. Mistry. "It's a happy occasion."

Her only child, 24, received a computer engineering degree and, because of the uncertain United States economy, plans to return to India and look for a job as the cost of living is less expensive.

Michael Szigeti of West Haven, with whom Pourushaspa has been staying, escorted Pourushaspa's proud mom to commencement. He said the family is part of a relative handful of those from India without dietary restrictions, so hosting the young man has been easy all around, Szigeti said.

Hutoxi appreciates (Szigeti) as well. "He's like a family friend. He took great care of our son," she said.



Brad Horigan/Register photos

LEFT: Former NFL head coach Dick Vermeil, center, speaks to University of New Haven President Steven Kaplan, right, before commencement ceremonies Saturday in West Haven. BELOW: Vandana Shrikanth of West Haven adjusts the mortarboard and tassel of fellow graduate Pushpa Rao, also of West Haven.

