

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Field Work

If a student wants a broad education but also wants a job waiting after college, which is better: book learning or experience?

The answer: both.

The University of New Haven is taking the classroom out of the building and the students into the field. Understanding full well what the New England philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson was thinking when he said, “Skill to do, comes of doing,” UNH students are availing themselves of internships, research opportunities, and community service that bring them into contact with scientists, businesspeople, professional engineers, authors and more. Experience combined with education — aka experiential education — is moving UNH students into the future equipped to succeed. Experiential education also figures prominently in the University’s Strategic Direction, a master plan for the future.

CRAIG SCHNEIDER '08

Hopes of teaching science led Craig C. Schneider '08, of Manchester, a graduate student in Environmental Science Ecology, to study erosion of coastal marshes on Long Island Sound.

Schneider is dividing his time between the coast, where he takes samples of living organisms, and the lab, where he studies just how coastal erosion has affected miniscule marine life. “I love the field of environmental

science,” says Schneider, whose research with Dr. Roman N. Zajac, a UNH professor of Biology and Environmental Science, and other graduate students was featured in a front-page story in the *Hartford Courant* July 22. “Starting my own project really gives me a sense of how research science works. It allows me to take a hands-on approach, so my head isn’t simply stuck in a book.”

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**Graduate students
at work on the
Connecticut shoreline**



Field Work



Classroom learning combined with internships, research opportunities and many of the other hands-on experiences that UNH offers its students create highly employable graduates.

President Steven H. Kaplan

MARQUIS BELL '08

A triple major in Business Administration, Marketing and Music Industry, Marquis Bell '08, of Plymouth, North Carolina, spent the summer working for the New Haven Symphony. Among many tasks, he helped rebuild the symphony's website, and planned a Family First program to attract the community to classical music. "Working at the symphony was a different marketing challenge," Bell says. "In pop music, you have to promote the artist. For the symphony, you don't have an image to sell, but rather the music."

He strongly supports the notion of internships for students, believing that they more adequately prepare students for life outside college. "It's sort of amazing how much an internship helps a student," says Bell, who hopes to attend the Yale School of Management after graduation from UNH. "Internships have helped me pinpoint precisely what I want to do."

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MELODY JOHNSON '09

Melody Johnson '09, of Northbridge, Massachusetts, spent the summer researching fire-protective fabrics at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland, part of the federal Department of Commerce. The essence of her work could help the world sleep better. Coatings on fabrics that create a barrier between the human body and flammable foams in mattresses and cushions degrade over time, rendering them useless. Johnson worked with solvents to produce a molecular fabric blend that would last. "Working in a research environment has taught me to be open-minded, experimental and creative," she says. "I have learned to love research not for its possible outcomes, but for its endless possibilities."

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MARK BONAVENTURA '08

The desire to hone his skill at working with mentally ill inmates inspired Mark Bonaventura '08, of Bridgeport, to work as an intern at the maximum-security Garner Correctional Institution in Newtown this summer. Each day his duties changed, but he spent the majority of his time listening to inmates' concerns, resolving conflicts, transporting inmates, helping counselors with paperwork, distributing mail to inmates and compiling daily roster sheets. "I received training that many of my peers are not receiving right now," says Bonaventura, who is majoring in Criminal Justice with a concentration in investigative services. "These internships, and our performance in them, are going to be the deciding factors in our getting jobs."

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