



## Distinguished Alumni

### A Sailor Remembers His Parents' Lessons

**R**obert M. Lee grew up in a sailing family in Guilford. His parents and five siblings raced sailboats every Saturday in the warmer weather, and even on less forgiving days. The Lees demonstrated to their children a love of life. They taught them, too, the meaning of giving.

Through The Lee Company, a Connecticut-based pioneer of miniature precision fluid-control components for aerospace, medical and scientific instruments and ink-jet printing, Marietta and Leighton Lee II set up tuition-reimbursement programs for Lee Company employees and scholarships for their spouses and children. Rob Lee took his cue from his parents. He has given both time and money to the University, after graduating from UNH with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1978.

Lee did not take a direct road to the University of New Haven. He started college at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, and left in his sophomore year. After several months of working in the family business, he enrolled at UNH.

Lee remembers his days at the University fondly. "As an environment it was much better for me," he says. "I connected well with the professors, and we had a good cohort of kids going through the program together. I went from the wrong dean's list to the right dean's list."



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In 2003, the University honored him with its Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award.

Like his parents, he is enjoying life to the fullest. He has left the small boats behind, and now has invested in a much bigger boat, named Pearl. He calls her his "dreamboat." But he keeps his success in perspective, continuing to give to organizations he deems deserving. That includes his alma mater.

Lee serves on the Board of Governors of

the University of New Haven, has given gifts for University projects, and this year, he and his wife, Linda '88 M.B.A. Marketing, endowed a six-figure scholarship in his parents' name for deserving University of New Haven students.

"To me, giving to the University is part of the concept of tithing," Lee says. "It's about putting back into society a portion of what I've received from it. This scholarship, in a way, is humbling. It kind of recalls the support that my folks gave to education when they were alive." ♦



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### For Honorees, Perseverance is the Winning Word

**T**he road to success is more like a tree, branching off in different directions. For Ralph F. DellaCamera, Jr. '75 B.S., a UNH marketing graduate, it meant going out on a limb to Wall Street. For Dr. Richard J. Deslauriers '90 B.S., a mechanical engineering graduate, it meant figuring out, then making, the tools that would help doctors save lives. For Jeffery P. Hazell '83, a hotel/restaurant graduate, Florida, seafood, and the restaurant business beckoned. For each of these three men, the 2007 recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award, entrepreneurship in their respective fields translated to success.

For DellaCamera, success meant winning on Wall Street. It didn't come easily, but he worked his way through the University, took jobs at a number of brokerage firms — losing and making money as he went — reading reams of books on the stock market, and eventually succeeded. Now the managing member and chief investment officer at DellaCamera Capital Management, LLC, he has also mastered the more intangible aspects of life, says his wife, Frances DellaCamera '99, E.M.B.A. “He's there when you need him,” she says. “He's got a heart of gold.”

For Dr. Deslauriers, the boy brimming with imagination

and inventiveness became the man who managed his creativity in useful ways. He learned how to create tools at the University, used medical school at the University of Toronto to target needs, and opened his business, Doctors Research Group, the day he completed his formal education. The inventor of an advanced stethoscope and a bone anchor that allows surgeons to reattach soft tissue, he has authored numerous innovations in tools for the medical field. Possibly the most significant: Kryptonite, a calcified triglyceride bone cement. “It will literally glue two pieces of bone back together,” he says.

For Jeffery P. Hazell, success meant owning restaurants.

Although he grew up in the seaside town of Marblehead, Massachusetts, after graduating from the University he migrated to Florida. But he brought his knowledge of seafood with him. He started Bar Harbor Lobster Co., now a major lobster wholesale business. He opened one Boston Lobster Feast Restaurant, then another, then several. His dream of owning a fine dining establishment was fulfilled in January of this year when he opened Jeffery's Restaurant and Piano Bar in Orlando, Florida. “If you think you can, you can,” he says. “Keep thinking you can.” ♦



Distinguished Alumni Award winners, left to right, Jeffery P. Hazell '83, Ralph F. DellaCamera, Jr. '75, and Dr. Richard J. Deslauriers '90, at the 24th Annual Alumni Scholarship Ball