

Five Lives, Five Paths

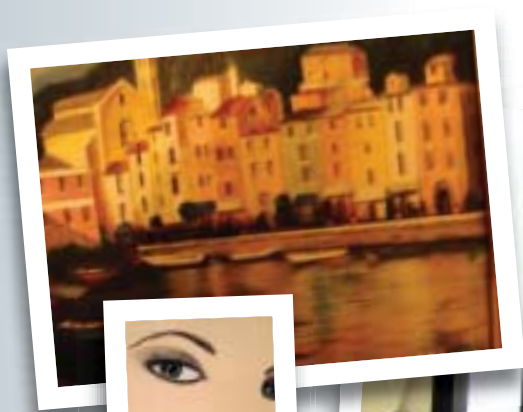
Intersect to Help Transform UNH

Success may be measured in dozens of ways: family life, job promotions, material worth, charitable endeavors. For the following five alumni, the path to success has taken any number of different directions, but they nevertheless have remembered the University of New Haven as they have moved forward. Those combined efforts have, in turn, helped the University grow and prosper. The Japanese writer Ryunosuke Satoro said it best: "Individually we are one drop. Together we are an ocean."

Marie Accrino '70 B.S., Director of Marketing and Sales
White Space Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut

Marie Accrino graduated from the University with a B.S. in Marketing, and within two months was working at Southern New England Telephone as a graphic designer. Over the years, she moved up in the commercial art world, and discovered the fine artist in her as well. She began with Italian seascapes and European cityscapes and progressed to abstract Realism. "My college years — and they were wonderful years — shaped who I became," she says. She is now actively involved in the Alumni Association, has donated fine art through the White Space Gallery to the Annual Alumni Scholarship Ball auction, and has included the University in her will. "I'm grateful to the University of New Haven," she says. "My education gave me wonderful opportunities, particularly as the first person in my family to attend college."

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Marie Accrino '70, at
New Haven's White Space
Gallery. Above are three
of her paintings.





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Chris Anziano '98 B.S., Senior Project Engineer
Olin Chlor Alkali Products, Charleston, Tennessee

In the way other fathers might bring their child to the local firehouse, Chris Anziano’s dad often brought his young son to the chemical engineering plant where he worked. The boy came to respect the work his father did, and eventually majored in engineering at UNH. He lived off-campus most of his college career, working in a co-op program for 30 hours a week during semesters and full time during the summer. “That’s what I loved about UNH — the flexibility,” he says.

In the 10 years he has been gone from UNH, Chris has worked in progressively more challenging engineering jobs — at Ashta Chemicals in Ohio, Chemtura in Connecticut, and now Olin. But for him, it’s a matter of coming full circle. “Ironically, my father worked for Olin in a number of different locations,” he says. “It’s always been a company I wanted to work for.” Despite his moves, he has remained loyal to the University. “It benefited me quite a bit to attend,” he says. “I think it’s important to give, to help the school grow.”

“Everything I have I owe to the University of New Haven.”

Carl Fappiano '73 B.S., Owner and CEO
East Haven Landscape Products, East Haven, Connecticut

As an accountant for East Haven Landscape Products for much of his career, Carl Fappiano came to know the inner workings of the company so well that when an opportunity arose in 2004 to buy it, he did. His accounting degree from the University of New Haven certainly came in handy. “People sometimes ask me, ‘why did you go into accounting?’ and I tell them that something grabbed my interest in my first accounting class at the University,” he says. “The instructors instilled good work ethics and habits.”

That gratitude has moved him to support the University consistently over the years. “You should give back to those organizations that have been good to you and your family,” he says. “Everything I have I owe to the University of New Haven.”



“I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for UNH.”



Erin Schultz '06 B.S., Special Agent
Air Force Office of Special Investigations,
Montgomery, Alabama

As a child, Erin Schultz spent hours reading suspense novels, and decided early on that she would become a prosecuting attorney, the person with the power and will to put the bad guys away. But she soon realized she liked the investigating more than the prosecuting. That realization brought her to the University of New Haven, where she majored in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Investigative Services and a

minor in Sociology. She took advantage of all UNH had to offer, participating in the Criminal Justice Club throughout her undergraduate years, interning in the Behavioral Science Division of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia, living on campus “so I could roll out of bed and walk to class really quickly,” she says, and working as a student phonathon caller for the University’s annual fund. She is grateful for the opportunities UNH provided her. That gratitude is evidenced by her consistency in giving. “I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for UNH,” she says, “and I think it’s important to give back to help the school develop in the best way possible.”

Sonya D. Van Norden '97 E.M.B.A., Executive Director
Boys & Girls Club of Stamford, Connecticut

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Sonya D. Van Norden knows what love feels like, as one of five children who were adopted and raised with care and devotion. Her parents immersed themselves in their children’s lives, signing them up for dance lessons, transporting them to dozens of athletic events, and taking them to parades and other celebrations of American life.

Her parents also valued education. After she graduated from SUNY Potsdam then worked for a series of banks including Chase and Citicorp, she realized at the end of the day that her love of children and her determination to give back to the community were most important to her. She left banking for a non-profit organization, progressing to the Boys & Girls Club. “The opportunity to have an impact on young children early on, and the ability to make a difference in their lives, well, it was just a perfect fit,” she says.

She earned her E.M.B.A. at UNH in 1997 while continuing to work full time. Along with giving back to the community through her work, she also remembers UNH every year. “I’m proud of my degree from UNH,” she says. “Giving to the University allows me to give the youth of America the advantage of higher education.”



Why Giving Back Matters

Gifts to the University make a difference in a number of ways.

- They have the visible impact of creating new programs, buildings and initiatives.
- They help UNH to raise funds from other entities — corporations, foundations and other sources of income who weigh alumni interest when giving grants and other monetary awards.



- They raise the University’s profile nationally. Publications such as U.S. News & World Report’s popular Guide to Colleges rank colleges in part by alumni participation. Although those rankings have stirred controversy, they remain one of the most trusted sources nationally for information on institutions of higher learning.



The alumni featured here have supported the University financially for five or more years.

This year, to thank them for their loyalty, the University has established the [LEAD Society, for Loyal Engaged Alumni Donors](#), to highlight and reward individuals who have consistently given gifts to support the University’s goals.

The University also began a [Senior Giving program](#) this year that encourages seniors to give, and educates them on the benefits of giving back.

In its first year, the program raised almost \$1,000 among graduating seniors during Senior Week.

