



Notable Alumni



*“We make a living
by what we get,
but we make a life
by what we give.”*

The three University of New Haven alumni who were honored at the 25th Annual Alumni Scholarship Ball

this past April have met with success in three distinctly different ways. **Anthony J. Sparano III** (center), better known as Tony, graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice and every intention of becoming a police officer, but coaching football drew him to a different future, most recently as the head coach for the Miami Dolphins. **J. David Scheiner** (left) used his degree from the College of Business to move into the arena of retailing, most recently as president of Macy's Florida. **Martin J. O'Connor** (right) graduated with a minor in Fire Science and literally moved up the ladder at the New Haven Fire Department to the job of chief. Once he'd reached the top, he reached for an even higher calling, returning to college for a master of divinity degree, then a doctor of ministry degree. An associate professor of Fire Science, the University's campus minister, and the coordinator of internships for the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science, he is as beloved on the University campus as J. David Scheiner is to his colleagues at Macy's, and Tony Sparano to all the football players in whose lives he has made a difference. They have embraced the concept that the eminent statesman Winston Churchill put into words, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”



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Drive, Tenacity and a UNH Education Fuel Success on Wall Street

Ralph F. DellaCamera, Jr., had his future planned early on: Attend Southern Connecticut State University for a degree in physical education. Then he detached his retina playing football at age 16, and his doctor told him if he ever was hit in the head again, he'd lose more than a retina. Ralph looked around for a Plan B.

"I have a philanthropic side of me, a side that likes to help people. Because when you leave this earth, it's about reputation."

He knew numbers and began dropping by brokerage offices in New Haven, offering to work for free to learn the business. "You need a college degree," the brokers told him.

He heeded their advice, and graduated from the University of New Haven in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in marketing. Although he tripped over numerous obstacles on his way to becoming a success on

Wall Street, he hopped back up each time. He married his wife Frances, had two children, Christina and Nicolas, and worked his way up to becoming a senior convertible arbitrage trader for Paul Singer at Elliott Associates, a man rumored to be tough. But it was just another challenge, and it didn't faze DellaCamera. He did so well he was able to start his own firm, DellaCamera Capital Management, in 2006.

Now a valued member of the University's Board of Governors with the University's refurbished football stadium bearing his name, DellaCamera believes in giving back to the University that gave him his first shot at success.

"I have a philanthropic side, a side that likes to help people," he says. "Because when you leave this earth, it's about reputation."





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Ethics, Energy and Education: A Recipe for Success

As a child, Frank P. Carrubba regularly listened to the Metropolitan Opera on the radio, made wine with his grandfather and learned to cook from his grandmother. “My mother and my grandparents taught me honesty, ethics, manners and social skills,” says Carrubba, whose father died when he was 12 and whose mother went to work full time to support the family.

Those life lessons played out well for him during the years he spent working in the Navy as an electronics technician, as an award-winning researcher and inventor at IBM Corp. and Hewlett Packard, and as the executive vice president and chief technical officer at Phillips Electronics. While working full time at IBM in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., he attended night school at UNH for a master’s degree.

“I made a lot of good friendships here,” he says. “People worked hard for what they had. There was never any sense of entitlement.”

Now he lives with his wife, Pat, in a hilltop house with a vineyard in idyllic Healdsburg, Calif. They grow grapes for their wines, collect artwork and have become major supporters of California arts and culture.

It is a good life, more elaborate but similar in many ways to the one he lived as a child. His recognition of his good fortune has propelled him to return the favor, as a member of UNH’s Board of Governors and a major contributor to its continuing progress. “I always wanted to support this school, which helped me launch my career in upper management,” he says. “I wanted to give back.”

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