

The College of Arts and Sciences

Vlock Center's Futuristic Tools Prepare Next Generation Of Communicators

WTNH-Channel 8 News Director Kirk Varner stood in front of an audience in the University of New Haven's gleaming new communication center recently, waved his arm across the room and said, "Welcome to the Future."

The Laurel Vlock Center for Convergent Media at the University, made possible by a gift from the Vlock family, features a mind-boggling array of futuristic tools, including 25 Power Mac Dual Xeon machines with 23-inch flat-panel monitors. Varner was speaking as part of a ceremony that formally dedicated the Center, which combines media technologies serving radio, TV, newspapers and the Internet, and explores their use in a variety of settings.

"With a shift in the way traditional media is shaped and delivered, it is essential that we offer students the latest professional software," says Steve Raucher, chair of the University of New Haven's Department of Communication, Film and Theatre.

One of those students, Katie Morris, a Communication major, said the Center has been extremely helpful. "The computers have been



At top, students learn the cutting-edge software program Final Cut Pro. Above, Jim Vlock, president and CEO of the Fox Steel Company, and his wife, Gail L. Brekke, a member of the University Board of Governors, who funded the Vlock Center.

amazing to work on," Morris said. "In Film Production, we have been able to access our projects in the classroom to edit, review, and watch our classmates' work on the big screen. The entire space has been a great addition to UNH."

The center is named for Laurel Vlock, a TV anchorwoman, talk show host and producer who produced a public affairs TV show, "Dialogue with Laurel Vlock," on campus with UNH students for many years.