



## Notable Alumni

# A Lifetime of Pivotal Moments

**D**ennis Martin '81 B.S., arrived at UNH in the late 1970s with a full-time job, a wife and three children, and a burning desire to earn his bachelor's degree. He already had two years of college behind him from the Newark College of Engineering, now the New Jersey Institute of Technology. But he had foreseen his future, and in it was a bachelor's degree. It was his prescription for success.

He met with Dr. Ira Kleinfeld, now associate provost for graduate studies, research and faculty development and interim dean, University College. After talking with Dr. Kleinfeld for a while, Martin chose to pursue a degree in Science and Industrial Engineering.

"The University of New Haven had a very practical, hands-on approach," Martin said. "It also had a lot of students like me who were working all day long and going to school at night, and UNH understood the reality of that."

Martin graduated from UNH in 1981 and went on to have a successful career, first with Ingersoll-Rand, then with Illinois Toolworks, otherwise known as ITW, where he rose to become president of one of their \$1 billion divisions. He was then recruited for a turnaround of a near-bankrupt

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company, GBC. "It was a risky move," he said, "but it was also an opportunity to use everything I've ever learned."

He rescued the company from bankruptcy, stayed for four years, then left to establish an independent consultancy. Yet with all that he has had to remember in his life, he has never let go of the memory of the day he met with Dr. Kleinfeld to discuss that coveted bachelor's degree.

"It was very pivotal for me," Martin said. "I am still grateful that he was so accommodating."



Dr. Kleinfeld remains humble about the experience. "What I did for him I did for other people as well," he said. "Dennis is a gifted person, and he did very well."



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# Dedicated Teacher, Loyal Alumnus Offers Students a Taste of Real World Challenges

For the past five years, Dr. Dennis McGough '81 M.A., has boarded a plane on five Saturdays each trimester and flown from St. Louis, Mo., to New York to teach a class at UNH. Such dedication — and accumulation of flight miles — might seem unusual to some, particularly because McGough worked full-time as the vice president for a major corporation headquartered in St. Louis while he was teaching the class.

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But his dedication to the students in the popular Industrial/Organizational Psychology Program, and his belief that the challenges he was encountering Mondays through Fridays would benefit his students in those Saturday classes, kept him flying.

McGough is retired now, and moving with his wife Donna from St. Louis to his home state of Pennsylvania. Before St. Louis, he had lived in Connecticut for many years, working his way up in the same company and getting his master's degree in the I/O Psychology Program, then his Ph.D. at Ohio's Union Institute.

He believes in education, hard work and the value of a good thank-you note, as evidenced by a story he tells about his first job out of college. He had worked at the Brown Shoe Co. while attending the University of Pittsburgh, and upon graduation, wrote the company president a note thanking him for his college employment. “He sent a nice letter back saying, ‘Would you consider working for us?’” McGough said. McGough took the job.

The University owes him a big thank you as well. McGough has given generous gifts and grants for student scholarships at the University for many years.

“I’m an alum, and UNH is my alma mater,” he said. “I think the University does terrific work in the educational arena, and I believe that people have a responsibility to support those things that they think are important.”

