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A Message from the President

If there is a message that comes across unambiguously in this issue of the *University of New Haven Alumni Magazine*, it is that experiential learning is an institutional hallmark at UNH. As the president of this fine University, I am particularly proud of the fact that a number of our academic programs that emphasize hands-on learning are attracting external recognition and support.

Thanks to a very generous donation from Robert Lee '78 B.S., a member of our Board of Governors, and his wife Linda Lee '88 M.B.A., we will be opening a new center for the study of aquaculture and marine sciences. Reflecting the Lees' interest in preserving Long Island Sound, the new facility will be situated on the water in the New Haven area. The new Robert M. and Linda W. Lee Center for Marine Sciences will dramatically raise the profile of our highly regarded Marine Biology program. The Lees' gift will significantly aid our world class faculty in this program in their efforts to ensure that Marine Biology students graduate with tangible, marketable experience on their résumés.

A large federal grant has enabled the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences to expand the Institute for the Study of Violent Groups (ISVG), the nation's largest database of open source information on terrorist groups and criminal organizations. This grant will provide Lee College students who are working on the ISVG project with ample opportunities to use the same types of sophisticated analytical tools used by federal law enforcement agencies.

Experiential learning is clearly evident at the Tagliatela College of Engineering, which is developing a solar product testing and training laboratory, in collaboration with Poulsen Hybrid, Inc., thanks to another federal grant. Only the third such facility in North America, the lab will help bring new solar products – many produced here in Connecticut – to market more quickly. The lab will provide our engineering students practical experience working with, and in some cases creating, state-of-the-art solar powered products.

Our students also benefit by learning from and interacting with leaders from a wide array of disciplines who we bring to campus. As an example, this spring the University's College of Business hosted Brian Cashman, the general manager of the New York Yankees, and Chris Berman, the popular ESPN sportscaster, as part of the Management of Sports Industries program's 25th anniversary celebration.

The support for experiential education outlined above does more than enhance the education our students receive. It also provides opportunities for our faculty to expand their research and reinforces the University's reputation as an institution where a world class education is defined as an education with “real world” learning opportunities.



Steven H. Kaplan
President