

# Moving Forward

with Determination and Purpose

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President Steven H. Kaplan discusses UNH's record-breaking enrollment and impressive progress in programs and construction with Fox 61 Reporter Nicole Jacobs at the University's Residence Hall Topping-Off Ceremony in September.

**I was reading** a newspaper a few months ago when I came across the story of a young man who, in an effort to obtain the designation of Eagle Scout, reconstructed a footbridge over a pond in Milford. His efforts were commendable, but what particularly caught my attention that day was his motivation for completing the project. Just a few months earlier, three of his friends had died after a fiery car wreck in Milford. Such a loss can break a person's spirit, and for a moment, it bent the will of this young man. But he bounced back. He dedicated his work to his lost friends, and he rebuilt the bridge. In the process, he illustrated the meaning of character.

The young man, Brian Cimbak, is now a freshman at the University of New Haven. He joins thousands of other students who are working to make a difference, both inside and outside the perimeter of this campus. They are students in the Tagliatela College of Engineering who this past spring built devices that may some day enable disabled workers to more easily complete their tasks. They are student-athletes who spent time this summer running a day camp for West Haven children. They are the members of our soccer team, who dedicated a game to their goalie, James Hilaire, seriously injured in an earlier game and struggling to recover in a Boston hospital. They went one step further when they won the game for James, then bowed their heads in a moment of silent tribute to their bent, but not broken, goalie.

Character abounds here, and we at the University are duty-bound to help our students discover it within themselves. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. summed up our mission well, I think, when he said: "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." Your help, through the Annual Fund, through designated gifts, through scholarships, enables us to continue to move forward with determination and purpose. The donor report in this magazine is testament to your generosity. I want to thank you, most sincerely, for your willingness to make a difference.



Steven H. Kaplan