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March 24, 2009

DURHAM, N.H. - Mark Winne, author of "Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty," will discuss hunger and food insecurity at the University of New Hampshire Wednesday, April 1, 2009.

Winne's lecture begins at 4 p.m. in the Memorial Union Building Theater II. It is free and open to the public. The program is co-sponsored by the UNH Office of Sustainability, the Discovery Program and the Dual Major in EcoGastronomy.

According to Winne, though the United States is a land of opportunity and great fortune for some, it has never been a nation able to fully confront, let alone resolve, its social and economic inequalities and disparities. Food, like air and water, is a basic necessity, but stands as a glaring example of how the gap between this country's "haves" and "have-nots" remains deep and wide.

From 1979 to 2003, Winne was the executive director of the Hartford Food System, a private nonprofit agency that works on food and hunger issues in the Hartford area. During his tenure, Winne organized community self-help food projects that assisted the city's lower income and elderly residents. His work included the development of commercial food businesses, Connecticut's Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, farmers' markets, a 25-acre community supported agriculture farm, a food bank, food and nutrition education programs, and a neighborhood supermarket.

Winne is co-founder of a number of food and agriculture policy groups, including the City of Hartford Food Policy Commission, the Connecticut Food Policy Council, End Hunger Connecticut!, and the national Community Food Security Coalition. He is a 2001 recipient of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary's Plow Honor Award.

UNH is a leader in advancing sustainable food systems and integrating sustainability throughout its curricula, operations, research, and engagement efforts. Committed to developing and demonstrating innovative solutions to food system challenges from farm to fork to health and nutrition outcomes, UNH has earned several awards for its sustainability initiatives, which range from an undergraduate dual major in EcoGastronomy to organic dairy research. Discover the sustainable learning community at UNH at www.sustainableunh.unh.edu and discoversustainability.org.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

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