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May 7, 2009

DURHAM, N.H. - They have changed the name, hosted a presidential candidate and added a Ferris wheel since O. Bruton Smith, founder of Speedway Motorsports, Inc., purchased the New Hampshire International Speedway in January 2008. Come hear what else is planned for the future of the speedway at the University of New Hampshire CEO Forum Thursday, May 14, 2009.

"What's Next for the New Hampshire Motor Speedway" begins at 8 a.m. with coffee and networking, with breakfast to follow at 8:30 a.m. The program at the New England Center begins at 9 a.m.

The program features Jerry Gappens, executive vice president and general manager of New Hampshire Motor Speedway, who has worked in the motorsports industry for 25 years. Previously, Gappens served as senior vice president of events and marketing for Lowe's Motor Speedway near Charlotte, N.C.

Purchased from Bob and Gary Bahre for $340 million in cash, the New Hampshire Motor Speedway is the largest sports facility in New England, featuring a 1.058-mile oval speedway, with a total capacity for 105,491 spectators, and a 1.6-mile road course. It hosts the only NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, NASCAR Nationwide Series, and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series events held in the New England region.

To register for the forum or become a member of the UNH CEO Forum, call Barbara Draper at 603-862-1107, or e-mail her at barbara.draper@unh.edu. The event is free to members and $49 for nonmembers.

Initiated in 1997, the UNH CEO Forum is an outreach program of the UNH Whittemore School of Business and Economics and the UNH Graduate School serving CEOs, presidents, and senior managers of companies in northern New England. The forum provides its members with opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with their peers in business and industry in an informal setting. The UNH CEO Forum is sponsored by the law firm of Pierce Atwood, Ocean Bank and Snowden Associates. For more information about the CEO Forum, visit http://www.unh-ceoforum.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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