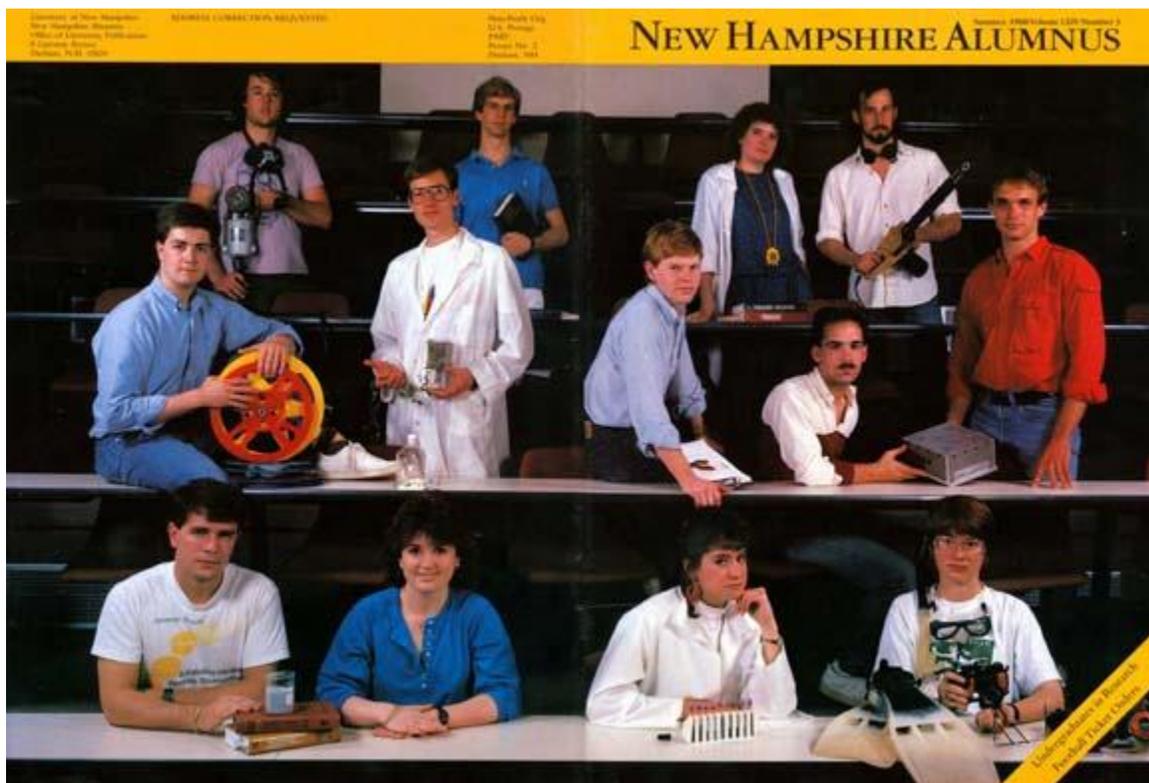


The First UROP Grant Recipients

Thursday, August 2, 2012

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TOP ROW, FROM LEFT: ERIK FROBURG '88, '02G, JESSE DALLERY '90, DEBRA RICHARDS THIBODEAU '88 AND GEORGE "STEVE" WALL '88. MIDDLE ROW: DAVID GRAY '89, NICHOLAS MANTIS '88, COLIN C. FROST '88, '90G, DANIEL THERRIEN '88 AND SCOTT WUDYKA '88. BOTTOM ROW: DEAN T. LA PIERRE '88, AMY BEASLEY CRONIN '89, DONNA GERETY EAGER '89 AND KAREN VERNY HENNY '88.

Where are they now?



Erik Froburg '88, '02G

Major: the arts, environmental education

Job title: Educational Coordinator, Leitzel Center, UNH

Hometown: Lee, N.H.

"My particular focus has been in promoting authentic research by students, and in providing schools with more direct access to scientists and contemporary research in the geo-sciences." [READ MORE >>](#)



Jesse Dallery '90

Major: psychology

Job title: Associate professor, psychology, University of Florida

Hometown: Gainesville, Fla.

"When they took the photo for the cover, I remember that I didn't have any props—I had prop envy. I just had a book and some notebooks, and others had diving gear, movie reels, drills." [READ MORE >>](#)



Debra Richards Thibodeau '88

Major: psychology

Job title: Elementary school guidance counselor, Georgetown Elementary School

Hometown: Georgetown, Maine

"I remember that I bought pigeons with my grant money. I had to drive all the way to Logan Airport to meet them at the gate! Needless to say, getting through the gate was quite interesting." [READ MORE >>](#)



George "Steve" Wall '88

Major: English

Job title: Lead Summit Optics Technician, W.M. Keck Observatory, Mauna Kea, Hawaii

Hometown: Hilo, Hawaii

"My work was a mixed media large-scale sculpture installation and I had no props for the photo shoot, so I showed up with a chainsaw, which I thought would seem pretty butch and might end up impressing girls. But in the end I felt like kind of a dork because I had never actually used a chainsaw before." [READ MORE >>](#)



David L. Gray '89

Major: communication

Job title: Regional vice president, marketing and sales, Time-Warner Cable

Hometown: Darien, Conn.

"For me [the UROP project] was a very real lesson of getting out of an experience what I had put into it."

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Nicholas Mantis '88

Major: microbiology

Job title: Research scientist, Division of Infectious Diseases, Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health

Hometown: Williamstown, Mass.

"I was going to major in microbiology and minor in business administration, with the goal of becoming a big shot executive in biotechnology. I entered the lab as an undergraduate and I haven't left

since." [READ MORE >>](#)



Colin Frost '88, '90G

Major: mechanical engineering

Job title: Senior Research Engineer, Space Science Center, UNH

Hometown: Dover, N.H.

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Daniel J. Therrien '88

Major: mechanical engineering

Job title: Project manager, Office of Construction and Facilities Management, Veterans Affairs

Hometown: Kenosha, Wis.

"I still remember the 'eureka' moment on this project like it was yesterday. We didn't have a milling machine at our disposal, but we needed some way to figure out if the load cell could measure force being applied to it. So after finally building the thing and wiring it up to the oscilloscope, late one evening in the lab, exhausted and frustrated, I jumped up on the table, stood on the load cell, and shook my whole body back and forth. Lo and behold, a sign wave showed up on the screen! I screamed at the top of my lungs for Woody to load paper

into the machine and start recording the output. It worked! It actually worked!" [READ MORE >>](#)



Scott Wudyka '88

Major: mechanical engineering

Job title: Systems R&D Manager, Covidien

Hometown: Marlborough, Mass.

"Being on the cover initially didn't have a big impact—I was busy with a new job, moving and beginning a new life. But every time I saw the cover, which to this day is still on my mom's refrigerator, it brings back the memories and how proud I am of my time at UNH." [READ MORE](#)

[>>](#)



Dean T. La Pierre '88

Major: chemical engineering

Job title: Chief Underwriting Officer, Technical Risk Underwriters

Hometown: Andover, Mass.

"Like anything in life, you're never quite sure how what you do at any one time might direct your future. Because of my research, the insurance industry recognized me as someone who might know a little bit about how things burn. That knowledge took me in the direction of fire protection and has led me to a wonderful career in the financial industry. There's no way I could have ever predicted that at the time, but I can look back now and say my life would have been very different had I not chosen to work on this particular project during my upperclass years at UNH." [READ MORE >>](#)



Amy Beasley Cronin '89

Major: chemical engineering

Job title: Division manager, National Fire Protection Agency

Hometown: Plympton, Mass.

"My UROP project was my first opportunity to present my research publicly. Although I was horrible in the beginning at public speaking, I kept practicing and I'm now comfortable presenting regularly in front of large—and sometimes hostile—audiences."

[READ MORE >>](#)



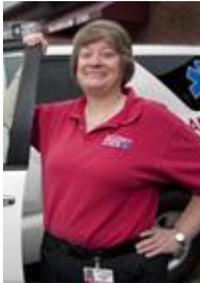
Donna Gererty Eager '89

Major: medical technology

Job title: School librarian, Heatly School; itinerant librarian, Capital Region BOCES; school librarian, Rotterdam Academy I, a K-5 BOCES school

Hometown: Green Island, N.Y.

"My focus was on finding out the percentage of women that were anemic at college. I remember trying really hard to get volunteers to actually have their finger stuck to determine if they were anemic. I felt strongly about making women aware of the possibility that the reason they were so tired may be because they were anemic. I enjoyed the research project and it definitely gave me more confidence in my ability to successfully work in the medical field. I was fascinated with learning about red blood cells and always loved later as a medical technologist understanding the possible medical implications of the test results of the various patients." [READ MORE >>](#)



Karen Verny Henny '88

Major: biology

Job title: Kinesiology instructor, paramedic, McGregor Memorial EMS, UNH

Hometown: Barrington, N.H.

"I firmly believe everyone should be given an opportunity to investigate things that interest them—it helps to develop maturity to strive for a goal." [READ MORE >>](#)

Remarkable faculty mentoring of students is the hallmark of the [Hamel Center for Undergraduate Research](#). See the results first hand, and come to the International Undergraduate Research (IROP and SURF Abroad) Symposium during Homecoming on Friday, October 12 from 2-5 in the MUB theaters. You'll be amazed at what UNH's best and brightest can accomplish!

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