10-8-2009

UNH Honors Committed Leaders With Hubbard Family Award For Service To Philanthropy

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Recommended Citation
Mantz, Erika, "UNH Honors Committed Leaders With Hubbard Family Award For Service To Philanthropy" (2009). UNH Today. 220.
https://scholars.unh.edu/news/220

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UNH Honors Committed Leaders With Hubbard Family Award For Service To Philanthropy

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Oct. 8, 2009

DURHAM, N.H. – David Steelman and Virginia Theo-Steelman, of Manchester, recently were awarded the University of New Hampshire Foundation's 2009 Hubbard Family Award for Service to Philanthropy. The Steelmans both graduated from UNH – David with a bachelor’s and master’s degree in history in 1967 and 1970, Virginia with a bachelor’s degree in social work in 1962 and a masters in counseling in 1969 – and have remained committed to supporting students through two scholarships, the Theo-Steelman Public Service Fellowship, established in 2000, and the Steelman History Fellowship, established in 2008.

“It is my very great privilege to recognize the Steelmans for their contributions to the UNH community,” said UNH Interim Vice President for University Advancement Mark Rubinstein. “Ginny and David take an exceptionally active interest in the recipients of their two UNH student funds and have stayed in touch with many of these students long after they’ve left UNH. Beyond what is possible to measure in dollars and cents, the investment the Steelmans have made in the University of New Hampshire is immense. They have invested their time, their talent, and their deep commitment in the university as a whole, and in the students whose lives will be shaped by the time they spend here.

Theo-Steelman has served as an alumni trustee and was chair of the search committee that brought Gene Mills to the UNH presidency in 1974. Steelman has worked at the National Center for State Courts since the 1970s, helping courts to provide prompt and affordable justice in more than 40 U.S. states and in countries including Canada, Italy, Abu Dhabi, Nepal, Ireland, Egypt, Serbia, and Saudi Arabia. For the National Center, Steelman is currently working with UNH’s Crimes against Children Research Center on a court study in Phoenix, Arizona; and he is also working with the UNH Justice Studies Program to provide undergraduate or graduate student internships with the National Center or New England state court systems.

In addition to establishing two scholarships, the Steelmans are members of the UNH Foundation’s Elliott Society, which recognizes donors who have given cumulative gifts of $100,000-$499,999. Steelman also provides two college scholarships each year through the Greater Worcester Community Foundation to graduating seniors from his high school in Leicester, Mass. Moreover, the Steelmans are both actively involved with the Anna Theodosopoulos Scholarship Fund (in memory of her mother), which provides college
scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors whose families belong to the Greek Orthodox community in Manchester. The Steelmans also support the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum, New Hampshire Public Radio, the New Hampshire Women’s Fund, New Hampshire Legal Assistance, and the Manchester City Library, among others.

The Hubbard Family Award for Service to Philanthropy is the highest honor bestowed by the UNH Foundation, and it is named for the university's greatest benefactors, Oliver, Austin, and Leslie Hubbard. It recognizes outstanding individuals whose philanthropic leadership has significantly strengthened the state of New Hampshire, its communities, and the university. The UNH Foundation, Inc. is an independent charitable organization dedicated to increasing private support for UNH.

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Image available to download: http://unh.edu/news/cj_nr/2009/oct/08hubbard.jpg
Caption: David Steelman and Virginia Theo-Steelman, of Manchester, recently were awarded the University of New Hampshire Foundation's 2009 Hubbard Family Award for Service to Philanthropy.
Credit: Perry Smith, UNH Photographic Services