



UNH To Honor Community Service Leader At May Commencement

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DURHAM, N.H. - A New Hampshire resident will be honored for her outstanding community service by the University of New Hampshire at the 138th commencement on Saturday, May 24, 2008. In addition, commencement speaker Michael Brown, the U.S poet laureate, and the vice president of B'nai B'rith International will receive honorary degrees during the ceremony.

This year's recipient of the Granite State Award is Joanne Lamprey, president of Lamprey Brothers, a fuel company servicing the state for more than 80 years.

Lamprey is a board member of First Tee, an organization that teaches children values through the game of golf. She has also been instrumental in transitioning the New Hampshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NHSPCA) from a small non-profit operation to a mature organization by leveraging resources critical to the organization's ultimate success.

Additionally, Lamprey supports a wide variety of local concerns, such as providing access to affordable health care, providing shelter for the homeless, encouraging better citizenship among youth, finding homes for abused and neglected animals, and advancing energy conservation, among many others.

Brown, co-founder of the youth service group City Year, will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters. City Year enlists hundreds of young adults from all backgrounds in a demanding year of full-time community service and leadership development. Corps members meet critical needs in their communities, serving as teachers' aides, running after-school programs and vacation camps, teaching violence and AIDS prevention, rehabilitating public-housing units, and building parks and playgrounds. From a 50-person pilot program launched in 1988, City Year has grown to involve more than 1,000 corps members serving in 11 cities across the United States.

Charles Simic, U. S. poet laureate and UNH professor emeritus, will receive an honorary Doctor of Letters. As a poet, essayist, and translator, he has published nearly 30 books of poetry, eight volumes of non-fiction prose, and 13 volumes of poetry in English translation. He has also edited or co-edited three anthologies: "European and South American Poetry," "Best American Poetry of 1992," and "New British Poetry." To date, 38 volumes of his work have been published in other languages.

Daniel Mariaschin, UNH class of 1971 and executive vice president of B'nai B'rith International, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at this year's commencement.

B'nai B'rith is a world-wide service organization that unites people of Jewish faith and

enhances Jewish identity through strengthening family life, the education and training of youth, broad-based services for the benefit of senior citizens, and advocacy and action on behalf of Jews throughout the world. Mariaschin has played an instrumental role at the European conferences on anti-Semitism in Vienna (2003), Berlin (2004), and Cordoba, Spain (2005), and works unceasingly with the United Nations to protect the rights of Jewish communities.

The University of New Hampshire gives Granite State Awards to New Hampshire citizens, agencies, corporations, and foundations whose achievements and/or extraordinary service in their own particular spheres have made significant beneficial contributions to the state.

For more information on award recipients visit

<http://www.unh.edu/commencement/awards.html>. For information on UNH's 2008 commencement, go to <http://www.unh.edu/commencement/>

