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Editors: A photo of S. Melvin and Mary Jo Rines is available for download at: http://unh.edu/news/img/Rinesartgallery.jpg

DURHAM, N.H.—S. Melvin ("Mel") ‘47 and Mary Jo Rines have received the University of New Hampshire Foundation's 2007 Hubbard Family Award for Service to Philanthropy. A long-time supporter of UNH, Mel Rines was elected chairman of the UNH Foundation Board in 1999 and served as chair during the Next Horizon Campaign, the largest and most ambitious endowment campaign conducted to date at UNH. He continues to serve on the executive board of the foundation.

“One of their great contributions to the university is the example set by their leadership,” said UNH President Mark Huddleston. “To the Rines's, philanthropy is a civic duty, a responsibility, and it is not only what you give, but what you can lead others to give.”

At UNH, the couple has supported a new “smart” classroom in the Whittemore School of Business and Economics that provides a state-of-the-art teaching and learning environment for faculty and students preparing to enter today's fast-paced, high-tech business world. They also established the S. Melvin and Mary Jo Rines Art Exhibition Fund, which assists the university's Art Gallery in bringing high quality art and artists to campus.

A UNH graduate and Navy fighter pilot in World War II and the Korean War, Mel Rines had a distinguished career as a managing director and senior international investment banker at Kidder Peabody, advising and financing supranational institutions and sovereign governments.

Mary Jo Rines is a professional artist, exhibiting her work nationally. A director and past president of the New England Watercolor Society, she is also a member of the Copley Society in Boston and runs a small gallery at the First Parish Church in Weston, Mass.

The Hubbard Family Award for Service to Philanthropy is the highest honor bestowed by the UNH Foundation, and 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.