

University of New Hampshire Will Honor Philanthropic Excellence on University Day, September 11

By [Sarah Aldag](#)
UNH Foundation
603-862-3235

July 26, 2001

DURHAM, N.H. -- Three brothers who parlayed a New Hampshire family farm into a worldwide genetics research powerhouse are the inspiration for the University of New Hampshire Foundation's new Hubbard Family Award for Service to Philanthropy. According to Foundation President Young P. Dawkins III, the award will be presented periodically to recognize outstanding donors who have advanced the cause of public higher education at the University of New Hampshire.

The award is named in tribute to the University's greatest benefactors, Oliver '21, Leslie '27, and Austin '25 Hubbard, whose philanthropy, which spans decades, continues to have a major impact on the University. President Joan Leitzel will recognize the first recipient in her University Day address on September 11.

"The Hubbards have always understood that the University of New Hampshire plays a pivotal role in the region's continued growth and prosperity," says Dawkins. "Their philanthropy is distinguished by singular generosity, great vision, and enduring hope for our collective future. They have set the standard for giving at the University of New Hampshire, and it is fitting that we name our highest honor after this exemplary family."

Through a series of important and often anonymous gifts to benefit the University, the Hubbard family has allowed UNH to significantly expand its academic programs and build important student scholarship funds.

"We've always felt there was no reason for anyone from New Hampshire to go outside the state for the best education," says Leslie Hubbard, " and we have always wanted to make sure the same will be true for generations to come."

In 1987, the Hubbards established the University's first fully endowed chair, the Hubbard Chair in Biological Sciences. A Hubbard gift created the Climate Change Research Center located atop Mount Washington, where scientists work to understand and predict changes in New England's climate, weather, and air quality.

The family's generosity has provided research opportunities at the Ocean Process Analysis Laboratory and helped to build the 50-foot research vessel "Gulf Challenger." Hubbard gifts have funded the construction of the Jere A. Chase Ocean Engineering Building, a state-of-the-art facility that houses UNH's new Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping and allowed for the completion of the new Environmental Technology Building. In addition to providing generous need-based scholarships, Hubbard grants support sustainable living education programs and numerous on-campus activities and organizations.

For foundation and UNH officials, the award acknowledges the importance of private support. "We are grateful for this opportunity to recognize the contributions of our alumni and friends. Their generous gifts enable UNH to offer truly distinguished programs of instruction, research, and public service, and to be sure UNH continues to be accessible to all qualified students," says Leitzel.

As a young UNH graduate, Oliver Hubbard was one of the first to breed what was to become the famous "New Hampshire Red" chicken. His younger brothers, Leslie and Austin (who died in 1996), soon joined the growing enterprise, and together they turned a one henhouse farm in Walpole into far more than the international poultry and feed supply company for which it was known.

For three generations, the family-owned operation, concentrating on research and development, applied advanced poultry genetics and modern management

techniques to develop superior breeding stock that provides more meat and egg protein, efficiently and at a lower cost. Known throughout the world, Hubbard Farms was a well-diversified company operating in 50 countries until 1974, when it was acquired by Merck & Co.

The UNH Foundation, Inc. is an independent charitable organization dedicated to increasing private support for UNH. The foundation is in the midst of its \$100 million Next Horizon campaign, the largest in the history of the university.

[Back to UNH News Bureau](#)