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March 13, 2008

DURHAM, N.H. - The co-founder of the Massachusetts company that developed the Roomba vacuum cleaner will discuss the company’s success with developing robots that do everything from clean floors to disarm explosives at the next meeting of the University of New Hampshire CEO Forum Thursday, March 27, 2008.

The program begins at 9 a.m. at the C.R. Sparks Event Center in Bedford. Coffee and networking begins at 8 a.m. and a full buffet breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m.

Helen Greiner, co-founder and chairman of iRobot Corp. will discuss how she and her MIT colleagues founded iRobot in 1990. To date, the company has sold more than 2 million Roombas, making it the best-selling consumer robot in history. The company also manufactures tactical robots that have been used by the military in Iraq and Afghanistan to disarm explosives and dispose of bombs.

Greiner has more than 16 years of experience in robotic technology, including work at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and MIT's Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. She is a trustee of the Museum of Science, a member of the computer science advisory board of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and a director of National Defense Industrial Association.

She was named by the Kennedy School at Harvard in conjunction with U.S. News and World Report as one of American’s Best Leaders, and was recently honored by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International with the prestigious Pioneer Award.

The deadline to register is March 20. To register or become a member of the UNH CEO Forum, call Barbara Draper at 603-862-1107, or e-mail her at barbara.draper@unh.edu. The event is free to members and $49 for nonmembers.

Initiated in 1997, the UNH CEO Forum is an outreach program of the UNH Whittemore School of Business and Economics and the UNH Graduate School serving CEOs, presidents, and senior managers of companies in northern New England. The forum provides its members with opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with their peers in business and industry in an informal setting. The UNH CEO Forum is sponsored by the law firm of Pierce Atwood, Ocean Bank and Snowden Associates. For more information about the CEO Forum, visit http://www.unh-ceoforum.org/.

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