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Lori Wright
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Contact:  Lori Wright
603-862-0574
UNH Media Relations

January 23, 2007

DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire welcomes Tom Chappell, founder of Tom’s of Maine, to discuss how he and his family took an idea for environmentally friendly products and grew it into the nation’s leading brand of natural care products.

“The Story of Tom’s of Maine” will be held Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007, at the New England Center. Breakfast begins at 8:30, with the hour-long program starting at 9 a.m. The event is jointly sponsored by the UNH CEO Forum and UNH Center for Family Business.

With a $5,000 loan from a friend in 1970, the Chappell family started its company in Kennebunk, Maine. Today, Tom’s of Maine is a $50 million company with nearly 200 employees and 90 products found at more than 40,000 retail outlets worldwide. The Chappell family credits their beliefs and values for the growth and success of the company.

In 2006, Tom and Kate Chappell sold majority interest in the company to Colgate-Palmolive. They serve as CEO and vice president, thus ensuring long-term stability of the company and preserving its character, spirit and values.

To RSVP for this event, contact Barbara Draper at 603-862-1107, or barbara.draper@unh.edu. The registration deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007. The event is free to members of the UNH CEO Forum and UNH Center for Family Business. Please contact Draper for fees for nonmembers.

The UNH CEO Forum and UNH Center for Family Business are outreach programs of the UNH Whittemore School of Business and Economics and the UNH Graduate School. The CEO Forum serves CEOs, presidents, and senior managers of companies in northern New England, providing members with opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with their peers in business and industry in an informal setting. The Center for Family Business is a membership program that provides owners and managers of entrepreneurial businesses with an opportunity to exchange ideas and information and to discuss business challenges, concerns, and solutions.