It’s odd, but the word “husband,” so commonly a part of our daily conversation, is rarely used in its original, etymological sense, which is, “to till, cultivate, or manage in a thrifty, careful manner.” As I read the items in this newsletter and reflect on the events playing out with respect to the economy, I think more of the importance of “husbanding” resources.

For Linda Bisson, for example, it is the thrifty, careful management of one of our most basic human needs, clothing, and the effort to gather it up from those with abundance and redistribute it to those who are without. Time, too, may be “husbanded,” insofar as we can choose how to share ours with others through volunteering. Each year, as USNH collects data for its Strategic Indicators, we catch a glimpse of the thousands of hours freely given in the service of others.

And, yes, health is a resource for us to “husband.” The Wellness Program described in this issue reminds us that our psycho-physical condition cannot be left unattended to, especially in stressful times. Unless we take wise steps to ensure our health, everything else is at risk.

And at the level of what we do in our work here, namely providing higher education, the redesigned www.NHTransfer.org is an effort to “husband” the resources of public postsecondary education by helping students start their college careers at community colleges, closer to home, and at lower cost, but then know a pathway to USNH is open to them.

And lastly, as we again present to the Governor and Legislature our FY10/11 Operating and Capital Budget proposals, we feel particular urgency to “husband” the modest state dollars, student tuition and fees, and gifts, grants, and contracts by looking for new ways to do our core business, reduce expenses, and find new revenue sources. The global economy, state economy, USNH economy, and our family economy – these are much on our mind these days. For me, and for those I meet when I’m “out and about,” “husbanding” is very much the watchword. It makes good sense.

OUT & ABOUT WITH STEVE

Chancellor Stephen Reno

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CATCHING UP WITH COLLEAGUES

Linda Bisson

Garages are mainly used for storage, parking cars, or maybe even a place to maintain years of memories, but Linda Bisson, who works in Financial Services at USNH, uses hers for an entirely different purpose. For the last ten years Linda’s garage has been a drop-off location for unwanted clothes that are eventually donated to the less fortunate residents in her hometown of Rochester, NH.

Thousands of clothing items are brought to Linda’s home every week. Each Saturday, Linda’s husband lends a hand in washing, sorting, and delivering the clothes to different community organizations. Although it can be quite time consuming, Linda believes that it’s important to help others who are less fortunate.

“My husband and I have been so fortunate in our 30 years together,” Linda explains. “It feels good to give back and do something together as well. And with his 36 years at G.E. and good health for both of us, it’s definitely time to give back.” Linda has contributed enormously to the Rochester community through her participation in volunteer work. Not only has she turned her garage into a clothing collection center, but she has also been involved with The Tilton Home for Veterans, magazine collection and distribution to local nursing homes, Rochester Business and Professional Women, her local church, and the Rochester Emblem Club.

“I’ve been doing community work forever it seems,” Linda says. “I was in my twenties doing brownies, scouts, and blood drives sponsored by the Elks in Rochester. I believe that’s been over 20 years also, and I still do that.”

On top of Linda’s affiliations with different community organizations, she also volunteers at various food pantry soup kitchens, and the community store, which is a place that the less fortunate can pick up clothing items for free.

Linda’s extensive community service work in Rochester is due to the nostalgia she feels for the city, as she was born, raised,
NEWS & BOARD NOTES

- **Transferring credits to USNH institutions recently became a whole lot easier.**
  The USNH Office of Research and Planning launched the NH Transfer Credit Database. This important tool allows students to compare their credits from the NH Community College System to baccalaureate programs at USNH institutions. Visit www.nhtransfer.org.

- **USNH Recognized for Economic Development Contributions in New Hampshire**
  The USNH Chancellor's Office received the “Commissioner's Partnership Award” from the NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development for efforts to attract and retain a skilled workforce and to encourage entrepreneurship in and out of the classroom. The recognition focused on two collaborative initiatives: The 55% Initiative and Entrepreneurship Day.

- **Major NH Organizations Partner to Advance the 55% Initiative**
  Five major NH organizations have signed up with the USNH as “Charter Partners” to further advance the 55% Initiative. A total of $60,000 in financial and in-kind support is helping move forward the effort to encourage more college graduates to stay, work, and play in New Hampshire.

WELLNESS

The University System of New Hampshire’s Health and Wellness program was established in 1982, one of the first health promotion programs in higher education. In March this program will be 27 years old. USNH has retained and enhanced its strong commitment to wellness over the years, taking a number of steps to institutionalize wellness not just from an individual perspective, but from an organizational one as well. One of the first steps was the formation of the USNH WELLPAC (Wellness Promotion, Activity, and Commitment) group last spring. Representatives from each campus meet monthly to discuss, design and support wellness activities on each campus. Additionally, campus committees have been created to further support healthy efforts offered through campus-based initiatives and our System OS/PAT Council has agreed to champion wellness initiatives for our employees.

**Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) Reminder:**

What is an HRA? A Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) is an employer-funded account (for 2009 there will be a one-time employer paid contribution of $500) that reimburses eligible employees for qualified medical expenses. All active full-time status employees who are enrolled in USNH medical coverage and not covered by a collective bargaining agreement are eligible and have been automatically enrolled in an HRA. The HRA is only available to eligible employees who newly elect medical coverage as of January 1, 2009, or continued medical coverage in a qualifying USNH medical insurance plan. The HRA can be used to pay for eligible health care expenses not covered by the health plan. Any remaining funds in an HRA at the end of a year roll over to the next year.

For a list of eligible expenses visit the Wage4Works website at: www.wageworks.com/employee/eligible-expenses/

WELLNESS

**Catching Up With Colleagues, continued from page 1...**

and currently resides there. She attended Spaulding High School, then earned an Associate’s degree in accounting at McIntosh College in Dover. She now lives with her husband Rod of over 25 years, who she has known since childhood and was in her high school graduating class.

When Linda graduated from McIntosh in the early 1970s, she had no idea that she would be working an accounting services job in financial services for such a long period of time.

“Thirty-five years is a long time to work somewhere,” Linda explains. “It’s a long time to work period, but I truly like working. All it took was having lunch with a friend attending UNH. I went for a job that was open in accounts payable and I’ve been there ever since.”

Linda thoroughly enjoys working for USNH right on the UNH campus, and working with her colleagues. She plans on continuing her community service for as long as she’s standing. She has seen three different accounting systems here at UNH, has done extensive training, and tries to instill as much as she can to people she’s with everyday.

“I really strive for good customer service,” Linda explains. “It’s important to have a positive spin on the job that we do here sitting on the UNH campus and servicing the departments.”

By Terri Ogen

Over the holidays’ USNH staff donated over $550 and 400lbs. of food and supplies to our neighbors through the Seacoast Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity and goodwill.