System Office Colleagues,

In this time of many changes when the brilliant autumn colors fade and we turn to raking leaves and preparing for the winter season, it seems appropriate to look back on the last several months and forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. First, I want to thank all of you again for your support, cooperation and professionalism in addressing the very difficult staff reductions. We will continue to provide transition assistance to those individuals directly impacted, and support all of you with a renewed commitment to the professional development activities and information technology tools required to enable us to maintain our standards of excellence in delivery of services.

The response to our actions was overwhelmingly positive. Many of you saw the editorial in Fosters praising our leadership, and three former governors have personally told me that we, and the USNH as a whole, are now much better positioned to confront potential efforts to reduce our funding. As near-term events have demonstrated, none of us can be certain of the fiscal climate that will emerge over the next few months, or years. What we do know is that we will continue to work together to find solutions consistent with our values, and in a manner that respects and appreciates our efforts to realize the USNH mission.

One of the key aspects of achieving this success is good communication. Accordingly, you will soon be asked to complete a survey that seeks feedback on how to improve distribution of information meaningful to you and in your work. Your input through a similar survey last year led to the creation of this newsletter, and we know you will provide additional good comments. While this is an important, formal attempt to learn your perspectives, concerns and suggestions, please contact me directly at any time – my door is always open.

Finally, Phyllis and I want to invite all of you to our home on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 8th for the System Office Holiday Open House. More information will be forthcoming, but please mark the date on your calendar. No institutional dollars will be expended as the Chancellor’s senior staff will again do the “catering.” And in a continuation of our recent tradition, everyone will be requested to bring goods to donate to a local food pantry.

As we approach this season of Thanksgiving, I count among my blessings the opportunity to work with each of you, and look forward to embracing the future together. Thank you! Ed

CHANCES UP WITH COLLEAGUES

Susan Booth

Many people have a passion for horses, a passion that may go back to childhood and may be fulfilled in adulthood by occasionally riding or caring for a horse. Susan Booth is a horse owner of a different breed – literally. Her breed is the Mustang, or wild horse, and for more than 20 years she has been working to help rescue, protect, place, raise and train wild horses that would have likely not fared as well if it were not for her efforts.

Susan Booth is a travel coordinator in the USNH Office of Financial Services and has served in this capacity for nearly three years. Long ago, she recognized the need to have the educational skills that would allow her to be successful professionally and provide her with the means to follow her equine passion.

She’s always had a love for horses. “I could ride before I could walk…literally,” she said.

She followed this passion after high school by attending the Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute and studying animal science and horse management. At the same time, she also realized that making a living taking care of horses would be difficult. As a result, she ended up studying business and accounting to help run “the business of taking care of the horses,” as she puts it.

She and her husband, John, transitioned to wild horses many years ago after learning about some of the programs in place to help manage wild horses and the fact that the lives of these horses were difficult and dangerous. As a result, she became involved in efforts to help rescue and find homes for them.

“Wild horses quickly became a passion for me. They are much more difficult to train than a bred horse, require a much greater time commitment, and they didn’t come with a video,” Booth said. She said the training can take years in some cases. But the training process is special because of the relationship formed between trainer and animal.

“There’s a bond created between a wild horse and a person that you don’t get from a domestic horse,” she said, adding that the training process is one in which you don’t work to change the horse and instead work to connect with it.

She adopted her first rescued wild horse 20 years ago. Cinnabar, named after her reddish ore color, is now 27 and still... continued on page 2
NEWS & BOARD NOTES

Dr. Karol LaCroix announces her retirement from Granite State College – After four years and helping transform GSC, Dr. LaCroix will step down in June 2010.

USNH 2009 Annual Report – USNH contributes $2b annually to NH economy. Read the online version of the full report, including operational and financial highlights and summaries.

NH first in the nation in college participation from low income families – NH is tops in the nation in terms of lower income students attending college, a ranking supported by USNH efforts to provide grants and other aid to these students.

COMINGS & GOINGS

A big welcome to Erik Gross, our new Associate Treasurer, working for Ken Cody! Erik comes to us from the NH Institute of Art in Manchester where he held the position of Vice President of Finance and Administration. Erik has 23 years of financial experience. Before that, Erik spent 10 years at UNH in positions at CIS and NHPTV. He has a BA from Harvard and an MBA from UNH. He will have primary responsibility for all USNH bonds and leases; endowment investments; cash forecasting and management; and risk management.

We say goodbye to Cathy Upham after eight years with USNH as a Senior Business Services Assistant in Carol Mitchell’s area. She will be heading to warmer weather soon as she is moving to South Carolina.

We say goodbye to Debbie Wood who has been the Senior Administrative Assistant in the Human Resources Office for the past two years. Prior to working for the System Office, she was a Business Services Assistant at UNH. We wish Debbie the best of luck.

Donna Daniel has retired after nearly 19 years of service with the University System. She started her career at UNH, first working for the Cooperative Extension Office, and then in the President’s Office. In 2006 she joined the Chancellor’s Office as an Administrative Assistant II. We will miss her warm and friendly presence and wish her much happiness in the future!

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

going strong. The adoption and rescue processes are long and complicated, but since Cinnabar, they have adopted two more wild horses and helped rescue seven more. The Booths, who live in Barrington, currently own eight horses, all of which are Mustangs (John’s personal horse is called Shelby).

The wild horses live out west, mainly in Nevada. Many are descendants of Calvary and wagon train horses released into the wild nearly 150 years ago. Bringing these horses east presents additional challenges. After going through the process, she and her husband wanted to share their expertise and have assisted and mentored many adopters since then – some as far away as California. She also serves on the boards of two nonprofit organizations focused on wild horse rescue and adoption efforts.

Susan also promotes wild horses locally by taking them to parades and outdoor event, and by having the boy scouts visit and learn about the horses. John is active as well, participating in dressage shows at the University of New Hampshire. Their overarching goal is to help promote the breed. “They are so smart,” she says.

Apparently, she could not be dragged away from her wild horses.

- by Matt Cookson

Photo above right: Sue Booth with two of her horses, Shelby and Shadow.

USNH FRAUD HOTLINE INFO

The USNH Administrative Policy on Fraud establishes a high standard of ethical and professional conduct for its faculty, staff, student employees, and volunteers. It encourages everyone to report potential, perceived, or suspected instances of fraud and strictly prohibits retaliation against anyone doing so. http://usnholpm.unh.edu/BOT/III.Admin/K.htm

The Internal Audit Office sponsors a Web-based reporting hotline (http://www.usnh.edu/audit/hotline.html) for individuals to relay concerns about potential fraud, waste, or abuse of USNH resources or non-compliance with laws, regulations, and policies. Messages can be posted on the hotline anonymously and are directed immediately to the USNH Director of Internal Audit, Vicki Escalera, for investigation and follow-through. Individuals may also reach Ms. Escalera directly at 603-862-3500. (Please note this phone has Caller ID.)

We say goodbye to Debbie Wood who has been the Senior Administrative Assistant in the Human Resources Office for the past two years. Prior to working for the System Office, she was a Business Services Assistant at UNH. We wish Debbie the best of luck.

Donna Daniel has retired after nearly 19 years of service with the University System. She started her career at UNH, first working for the Cooperative Extension Office, and then in the President’s Office. In 2006 she joined the Chancellor’s Office as an Administrative Assistant II. We will miss her warm and friendly presence and wish her much happiness in the future!

DATES TO REMEMBER

November
26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday

December
8 USNH Holiday Party
24 Christmas Holiday (Myers/Dunlap)
25 Christmas Holiday
28-29 Post Christmas Holiday (UNH)
31 Pre-New Year’s Holiday (Myers/Dunlap)

January
1 New Year’s Holiday
18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day