**Randy Pierce ‘88**
During his time at UNH, Randy Pierce excelled both in the classroom as an electrical engineering major, and outside the classroom, as a MUB manager, resident assistant, and active fraternity member.

Upon graduation, Pierce launched his career at Digital Equipment Corporation, but shortly thereafter, developed a neurological condition that robbed him of his sight, and for several years, left him unable to walk.

When he recovered his ability to walk again, Pierce rediscovered the “go-big-or-go-home” spirit he was known for at UNH. He embarked on an effort to climb all 48 of New Hampshire’s peaks over 4000 feet by the year 2020, and from this lofty goal emerged 2020 VisionQuest, a charity that has raised $80,000 for the N.H. Association for the Blind and Guiding Eyes for the Blind. With his guide dog Quinn, Pierce became the first blind person to hike all the 4000 foot peaks in a single winter. This past summer, to mark the 100th anniversary of the N.H. Association for the Blind, Pierce walked 100 miles from Concord to Portsmouth and back.

When he’s not climbing, Pierce works full time as a public speaker dedicated to educating people on “ability awareness” and how to “achieve a vision beyond your sight,” his personal philosophy. Pierce speaks at schools for free and has presented to 22,140 students since 2010.

Pierce is inherently generous, and UNH students are also the beneficiaries. One example is Yojin Higashebaba, ‘14, who worked with Pierce to learn how to guide a blind hiker up Mount Moosilauke. Pierce has also joined students on four, week-long backpacking trips as part of the kinesiology class Backcountry Adventure Travel.