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# CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 15, Number 2

October, 1996

## USM Receives Columbus Letter

### First Depictions of America

In March, 1493 Christopher Columbus recorded his observations of his initial trip to the Western Hemisphere and sent it to the Spanish court. "I did not see any monsters," Columbus wrote, and he described the natives he met as "men of great dignity and kindness."

A printed and illustrated version of the letter from 1494, which includes the first printed depiction of any part of America, has been donated by Dr. Harold L. Osher and his wife Peggy L. Osher of Portland to USM to be part of USM's Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education. Besides Columbus' written description of the New World, the letter contains four woodcuts, including stylized depictions of his initial encounter with New World natives and his ship among the islands of the West Indies, the first cartographic illustration of Columbus' discoveries.

In conjunction with the unveiling of the Columbus letter on October 11, President Pattenaude announced



One of four woodblock prints which illustrate the printed Columbus letter given to USM by the Oshers. *Barret photo*

planning for a \$4 million campaign to improve all library facilities pending Trustees' approval. "This Map Library is a reflection of how the enthusiasm of committed individuals and the support of the community can provide the resources to steward a remarkable treasure for the benefit of the public," Pattenaude said. "We now are planning a campaign that will allow us to improve other library facilities so that they, too, can better serve our students, faculty and the people of Maine."

A major goal will be to complete the top three floors of the Portland Campus Library, which would provide an additional 40,000 square feet of space for academic resources and special collections.

Another special collection to be housed at the library is the African-American Archive of Maine, donated by community leader Gerald E. Talbot of Portland. The collection features numerous artifacts that chronicle the Black experience in Maine.

Funds also will be used to expand library resources on the Gorham campus, Lewiston-Auburn College, and the Law Library.

The Columbus letter, described by one scholar as, "For Europe...the birth certificate of America," is the latest in a succession of gifts to USM's antique map collection. The library, with some 20,000 globes and maps, has a rare mission: to give the public a firsthand look at the maps, atlases and globes that chart developing concepts of the world and particularly of America.

"We always intended that our collection should be shared, not hidden," the Oshers said. The Oshers' collection, donated to USM in 1989, is housed with another map collection donated by Lawrence M.C. and Eleanor Houston Smith. "Today," the Oshers said in an article in the magazine "Mercator's World," "most of the great maps have found their way into the hands of collectors and museums, where they just disappear." In USM's Map Library, the Oshers said, "the collections will be accessible to scholars, school children and the

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## Faculty Graded

USM is very proud of its faculty, and now we have a report that confirms our belief that USM faculty work hard in the classroom to support the educational goals of our students. For the past 12 years, students have handed in course evaluations for classes in most departments across the university. Judith Johnson, director of the Testing and Assessment Center, has analyzed and summarized the nearly 250,000 evaluations that were submitted over the years and reports that they contain an overall positive view of teaching at USM.

"The most basic conclusion (of the report) is that the faculty at USM are good teachers and getting better," President Pattenaude reported to Chancellor MacTaggart in forwarding the summary to him and the Board of Trustees. "The study also reflects our concern for accountability and performance. These thoughtful measures probe deeply into the most fundamental role USM plays -- providing educational opportunities for a wide-range of Maine citizens. I think few universities in the country are capable of offering such clear and compelling evidence of both a concern for teaching as well as a demonstrated effectiveness at the task."

Provost Mark Lapping said of the study, "It's the closest thing we have to what our customers are telling us."

The standardized evaluation form, first introduced in 1984, has not been used for all courses by all departments and was not used by Lewiston-Auburn College or the Law School, but it was used for a majority of courses offered during the last 12 years. The results were grouped into three time periods, 1984-87, which included 8 semesters of courses, 1988-1992, which had 10 semesters, and 1993-95, with six semesters. In all five colleges and schools, ratings of teaching improved over the years spanned. Students said that they found faculty well prepared for classes and enthusiastic about the

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Corthell Concert Hall renovations, 1985.

## 40 Years of Music

This year the Department of Music is celebrating its 40th year and also observing the tenth anniversary of the renovation of Corthell Concert Hall into the fine performance space it now is. The department has grown over these years in both number of students, musical performances and in community support. The department sponsors more than 100 music events each year, the core of these being the annual Faculty Concert Series, which has been offered for more than 15 years. This series now sells out—in fact, the September 27 concert by USM pianist Laura Kargul had to be repeated for a second audience the following week—and the concert series is known for its high standards of performance.

The department will celebrate the two anniversaries in a free, special program at 8 p.m., Friday, November 1. The 10/40 Anniversary Concert will include a brass ensemble playing the premiere of faculty member Scott Harris' fanfare, Laura Kargul playing Debussy, Lawrence Golan performing his composition "Fantasia for Solo Violin" and the theme from "Schindler's List," and music faculty Ron Cole, Neil Boyer, Tom Parchman, John Boden and Ardith Keef reprising their performance of the Mozart piano quintet (K452) that they performed in the first concert in the newly renovated Corthell Concert Hall 10 years ago. Students will also perform classical and jazz pieces. A party follows with door prizes from area businesses.

In recent years, in addition to the faculty and student concerts, the

department has added an imaginative annual holiday fundraiser, a costumed gala, which has transported participants to a medieval hall, a 1940s U.S.O. party with swing music, a Victorian Christmas celebration, and this year looks forward to a December eve in the Russia of Czar Nicholas. These galas raise scholarship money along with the three-year Play On! fundraising campaign, which has garnered over \$215,000 of its \$250,000 goal and will end in December.

In addition to the donations from individuals and foundations that have made the campaign a success, the Music Department has received generous corporate support for the concert series and other events.

### USM MUSIC

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## Faculty Advisors

In a traditional academic advising relationship, faculty and students focus on fulfilling course requirements and finding conveniently scheduled classes. Susan H. Frost, Emory's vice-provost for institutional planning and research, advocates a "developmental" advising model that "helps students become more thoughtful planners of their own futures."

Frost was the keynote speaker at "Advising for Student Success and Retention," USM's first conference on advising, attended by some 115 faculty and staff, Friday, September 20. The conference was sponsored by USM's Center for Teaching.

The developmental model of advising that Frost advocates encourages students to explore open-ended questions about their talents, career goals, and how a course of study intersects with their skills and inter-

ests. Advising should start with these questions, Frost suggests, so that students focus on long-term goals, learn to use campus resources to find answers, and plan courses and schedules around the outcomes of their explorations. Frost said that a number of studies, as well as her own professional experience, have shown that an advising process designed to help students formulate and refine their goals is a major factor in creating a supportive campus environment that leads to successful retention.

And it's a model, Frost said, that can enrich the teaching experience for faculty. "It can be a doorway through which people move to a different type of teaching." Advising that follows this model also helps students feel in control of their education, she said.

The conference included sessions on rewarding and valuing advising, mentoring as a dimension of advising, advising students in the liberal arts and special programs, advising students in the professional schools, advising and mentoring graduate students, and what students want and expect from advisors. It concluded with a plenary session, again led by Frost, on setting the agenda for advising on campus.

During the afternoon sessions Frost observed that studies show that involvement with peers is more critical to retaining undergraduate students on campus than contact with faculty, and that the kind of faculty contact undergraduate students want is focused on academic, not personal, issues. But a panel discussing the role of mentoring and advising graduate students thought that graduate students expect more mentoring from faculty members and are more likely to leave a program if they don't receive it. The panel agreed that the line between professional and personal issues is more blurred for graduate students who may need to discuss managing their academic load in view of their other responsibilities, such as jobs and families. For them, personal considerations might have direct bearing on academic decisions, such as the relative wisdom of taking additional courses instead of undertaking the writing of a major thesis. So graduate students may need advice from faculty that takes their life situations into consideration.

In the final session of the day, participants exchanged ideas on steps USM needs to take to improve advising. Frost led the session by recommending that USM clarify objectives in improving advising so

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# USM's Northern-Most Campus

by Betty Robinson, Dean, Lewiston-Auburn College

**Editor's Note:** This is part of an ongoing series by deans of USM's Schools/Colleges.

Time and again when I was interviewing to become dean of this, USM's campus to the north, I heard people say that

Lewiston-Auburn College was USM's best secret. Since assuming the position of

dean, I've made it one of my priorities to bring LAC out of hiding. Lewiston-Auburn College has, from its inception, been intimately connected to its community. The impetus to start this campus came from the community, and we have always received community support.

A measure of that support was demonstrated in June when friends from the community, Mayor John Jenkins, students and faculty, President Pattenaude, and even Board Chair Sally Vamvakias gathered one Saturday to improve our facility. We painted the entire front of our long building, dramatically reducing the amount of time our maintenance crew will have to spend in completing the job. Not only did Paint LAC Day spruce up the appearance of our building, but this one event also contributed to the sense of community at LAC, advertised the college and got a big job done cheaply. And we all got to know one another better. Watching Trustee Vamvakias and Mayor Jenkins paint the highest areas, a job both had volunteered for, it occurred to me that the day was a true reflection of the collaborative philosophy of the college.

It also was a way to start our new marketing campaign, aimed at giving LAC a higher profile. Recent stories in the Lewiston Sun-Journal have announced our latest initiatives --the start-up of non-credit programming, the addition of Saturday library and computer lab hours, the extension of USM's Early Studies program to LAC, and our jointly sponsored events with L-A Arts. We've supplemented these



with a series of ads in our local papers.

I'm also working with our faculty to develop joint efforts with Lewiston and Edward Little (Auburn) High Schools to support educational needs of area businesses, expand the Early Studies program, and collaborate on faculty development opportunities.

Our marketing campaign is boosting an uptrend in our enrollments which reflects the strength of our curriculum and the mentoring efforts of our faculty. The college faculty place a great deal of emphasis on a pedagogy which includes writing-across-the-curriculum, active student learning, service learning, interdisciplinarity, and collaboration between students and faculty and between the college and the community. LAC offers five of its own interdisciplinary, baccalaureate degree programs: Arts and Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Management and Organizational Studies (soon to become Leadership and Organizational Development), and Natural and Applied Sciences, and a Master's in Occupational Therapy. Additionally, we offer the Industrial Technology and RN Studies degrees extended from Gorham and Portland. The MOT program admitted a full class of 24 this fall and will be reviewed for accreditation in October. Our total enrollment has increased by 188 percent in the past five years. This year alone, our head count increased by 68 or 9.9 percent. We are now larger than the Universities of Maine at Fort Kent, Machias, and Presque Isle, and administratively we are a much flatter organization.

Another sign of progress is our computer literacy requirement, developed by the LAC Educational Technology Committee and ratified by the faculty, which went into effect this fall. The result already is a marked increase in demand for computer classes and lab time. Many courses are using e-mail, list serves and Internet research, driving demand up still further --a forewarning of what Portland and Gorham can expect to see soon. Also, faculty are now exploring using learning portfolios to evaluate students' readiness for graduation and teaching portfolios to support faculty development.

The Faculty Senate will meet for the first time on the LAC campus on October 18. Colleagues and guests are welcome --there's always a good art exhibit in our atrium, LA Cafe boasts excellent food, and the college atmosphere, we're told by visitors and students, is welcoming. Come explore USM's northern-most campus!

## Advising

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that progress, when it is achieved, can be recognized. She asked if there were some way to reallocate funds to support advising. When you are asking faculty to take on more roles, she said, "you can only get so far on good will."

Among other points that emerged from the session was the observation that anyone advising students should acknowledge the transformational nature of the liberal arts so that students and their advisors don't become so focused on careers that they miss the chance to explore their interests and find new ones. As a corollary to this, it was suggested that students might need to be reminded that it's all right not to have a major right away.

Frost reminded participants also that advising worked best when there was a team approach, so that students worked not just with advisors but were brought together with other resource people, too, such as library staff and counseling staff. Other necessary steps to take would include engaging more academic departments in discussion of advising, working across department lines, and rewarding faculty for advising.

Nancy Artz, associate professor of business administration, proposed that a one-credit seminar on career exploration be added to the first year curriculum. Peter Lehman, associate professor of sociology, suggested that faculty and staff be brought together in training/development workshops on advising. Other problems discussed were how to get students to take advantage of what is available in advising and how to create good matches between students and faculty. Kathie Blinick, director of prior learning assessment, asked if there were some way to identify students at risk who might not access campus resources. Frost said studies showed that students at risk of failing got on course when they were asked to take defined steps, such as meeting with advisors a set number of times per semester.

Participants agreed that the day had spawned new ideas and a commitment to collaboration.



Joel Eastman in front of Long Island barracks.  
*Hendry photo*

## Portland in W W II

by Dawn Goddard

Joel Eastman, professor of history, spent part of the summer on location working on his latest video, to be aired this fall on Channel 4, Community Television Network. "The Home Front on Casco Bay: Greater Portland During World War II" features twelve locations including the battery on Peak's Island, barracks on Long Island, Fort McKinley on Great Diamond Island and other area forts, the former Milk Street Armory (now the Regency Hotel), the South Portland Shipyard, and Congress Square, where victory celebrations were held after Japan surrendered.

Eastman has had a long-standing interest in the history of Maine and is co-editor of "Maine: The Pine Tree State from Prehistory to the Present" and author of biographies on Henry Ford, Maine's first governor William King, James Phinney Baxter III, and Donald Trump. Eastman worked with USM's television production crew: director for the "Home Front" was Caroline Hendry, with William Blood on camera, and Nat Ives handling sound and editing.

"The Home Front" was Eastman's most sophisticated video to date since it includes sound effects and music from the era. Current images are interspersed with historic slides, many of which were donated from private collections. Eastman says that even Maine residents who lived through the war and remember it are unaware of

the depth of the Portland area's involvement. Beyond serving to preserve an important part of Maine and Casco Bay history, "The Home Front on Casco Bay" will help people fill in some of the blanks in their local World War II experience.

The video will be shown first in a special in-house premiere and reception in USM's TV studio on the third floor of 68 High Street, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Friday, October 18. The USM community is invited. It will be broadcast on Channel 4 at 8 p.m. every night during the week of October 28.

Program ideas should be forwarded to the USM-TV Programming Committee, 68 High St.

## Readers Say

Last spring the editors of *Currents* distributed a questionnaire to solicit opinions on the focus and content of *Currents*. We want to thank the more than 200 readers of *Currents* who took the time to respond and share with you some of the results of our survey.

Of the 217 respondents, all or most looked at and read each issue; 148 people said they read all or most of every issue, and 211 found it valuable.

In terms of the content areas, 175 people indicated strongest interest in articles on changes in university programs, processes, personnel and directions, with another 28 people having some interest in these kinds of articles; the other area of interest was administrative decisions, with 153 people marking it as a top priority and 48 more indicating some interest; 199 gave the columns on accomplishments (What We're Doing and Research Update) first or second ratings; 184 were at least somewhat interested in faculty profiles; and 163 in in-depth articles on research.

Exactly half of the questionnaires received back in our office included comments and/or suggestions. We read all comments and thank you for taking the time to forward us your thoughts. In response to the most common suggestion, consolidation of campus memos and listings would be nearly impossible since we don't control communications distributed by other departments. Since *Currents*, Update and our calendar Events are on different schedules, it would be difficult to combine them and be timely.

Most respondents liked the present mix of articles, but there were a number of calls to include more

information about staff, especially classified staff. Please send us story leads about staff, as well as other topics of interest to the university community. We try to avoid duplicating information that appears in other wide-distribution newsletters while still bringing important information to the campus as a whole, within the limits imposed by space in *Currents* and staff time to collect and edit news.

We would also like to point out to those who believe the What We're Doing section is just for faculty, that anyone can submit professional accomplishments for possible publication in the What We're Doing column. However, we don't have room for personal achievements, human interest stories, employment opportunities, and union activities. The columns on accomplishments can only be as complete as the information we receive. We believe with most of our respondents that these are important in promoting a sense of collegiality and pride. We hope you will all assist our efforts to publicize the quality of this institution by keeping us up to date on your professional activities.

Finally, we'd like to let you know that back copies of *Currents* are available in the library archives on the Portland campus.

## Box Score

A record fifty-two USM students earned the William B. Wise Scholar-Athlete Award for the 1995-96 academic year, presented annually to those student-athletes, cheerleaders and student athletic trainers that achieve a 3.0 or better grade point average for the academic year and are members of at least one varsity team.

The 52 winners were honored at a reception September 22 at the Kenneth Brooks Student Center on the Gorham campus. The winners represent more than 25 percent of the students that comprised the 15 athletic teams in 1995-96. The previous record for Wise Award winners was 40, during the 1991-92 academic year.

Six student athletes, Matt Roper (soccer and hockey), Lesya Stasiv (tennis and track), Natasha Meikle (cross country and track), Mandy King (soccer and basketball), Katy Stebbins (field hockey and softball) and Lori Towle (soccer, basketball and softball) were honored as multi-sport athletes.

## Columbus

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public. This is important to us, as it was to Eleanor Smith."

Columbus' "Barcelona letter" was the first official news of the successful 1492-93 voyage and a document that launched the European involvement with the New World. In his report to his sovereigns, Columbus wrote that he found islands "...most beautiful and distinguished by various forms...they are full of trees of the greatest variety, which brush at the stars; and I believe they never lose their foliage." He observed that "the nightingale was singing and there were countless other birds...."

The letter also contains numerous references to the native people, of whom he wrote, "they are of the highest and keenest wit; and the men who navigate the sea give an admirable account of each detail; but they have never seen men wearing clothes, or ships of this sort."

This letter by Columbus is "the most desirable" item in the field of exploration and discovery, according to scholar Joel Silver. "The earliest editions of the Columbus letter... are the cornerstones of any major collection of Americana."

Seventeen editions of the letter were published between 1493 and 1500, and some 80 copies from those editions survived into the mid-20th century, according to Osher. The letter on display at the Osher Map Library was published in Basel (Switzerland) in 1494 and is one of a handful that contains illustrations.

Very few copies are on public display. Ronald E. Grim of the Library of Congress estimates that there are not more than one dozen historical cartographic collections in the country that are open to the public. Grim and other map authorities from the U.S. and Canada serve on a committee to advise USM on the use and preservation of the collections.

Among other rarities in the USM map library are a 1475 hand-colored map of the Holy Land, a 1614 map of New England featuring the only known portrait of Captain John Smith, and a land survey by George Washington.

## Graded

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subjects they taught. Ideas were presented clearly, and students' questions and opinions were treated with respect. Overall, Johnson reports, "faculty across the institution were rated very highly by their students."

Further, students felt that class meetings were worth attending, and they found the course material interesting. Laboratory courses also received high ratings. Students believed that examinations were fair and feedback on tests was prompt. Students were less happy with the primary texts used in classes, on the whole giving text books used only slightly above the median score.

The Center for Teaching has focused even more attention on the art of teaching, and faculty enrollment in the center's workshops and the recently held conference on retention and advising demonstrates that USM faculty are not content to rest on their laurels.

## Series Showcases USM Faculty

### Reporters learn social science

Many news stories today, on economics, health care, social services and similar topics, require that reporters analyze volumes of background data, but such analysis calls for skills reporters may not have learned or used since college days. When it was brought to the attention of Lou Ureneck, vice president/editor of The Portland Newspapers, that some of his reporters were interested in learning more about data analysis, he turned to USM for help.

As a result, six classes on methodology in social science research are being custom-tailored and delivered on site to reporters at the Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram. Richard Maiman, Director of Graduate Studies and Research, has designed the seminar for the Press Herald and will be overseeing delivery of the program. The classes began Tuesday, October 1 and cover research in education, crime and justice, political science, medical science, economics and community development and land use. Besides Maiman, participating faculty are Libby Cohen, professor of special education, Kimberly Cook, assistant professor of criminology, Oliver Woshinsky, professor of political science, W. Douglas Thompson,

professor of epidemiology, Charles Colgan, associate professor of public policy and management, and Provost Mark Lapping.

The idea for the seminar series had its roots in two workshops provided by USM's Office of Media and Community Relations for Press Herald and other reporters during 1994. Bob Caswell, director of media and community relations, realized that health care reform issues were becoming so complex that local reporters might benefit from an intensive workshop on how to cover the health beat. With The Portland Newspapers' support, a forum on covering health care issues was held on the Portland campus in May, 1994, featuring the health care reporter from U.S. News and World Report as keynote speaker. USM faculty, Muskie Institute researchers and some other local experts from the health industry served on a panel to supplement the speaker's comments. A similar forum was held in November, 1994 on education reporting. These successful forums set the stage for Ureneck to approach USM with an idea for a series of classes on research methodology.

Tuition for reporters is provided by The Portland Newspapers, and enrollment has been limited to 12 participants.



Students Danielle Estes and Eric Chase appear in the Theatre Department opening production, a modern adaptation of the Japanese classic novel "The Tale of Genji." This updated Noh drama, described as a ghostly tale of passion, runs through Saturday, October 12. Call the box office for times and tickets at 780-5483.

*Snell photo*

## What We're Doing

**E. MICHAEL BRADY**, professor of human resource development, has had an article published in the spring 1996 edition of *Platte Valley Review* titled "Teaching in the Mystical Spirit."

**SCOTT W. BROWN**, associate professor of psychology, presented a paper at the Sixth International Workshop on Rhythm Perception and Production, Ohlstadt, Germany, in September. The workshop was hosted by the Max-Planck-Institut Fur Psychologische Forschung (Munich). The paper, co-authored by former research assistant and USM graduate Nathaniel W. Hunt, was titled "Comparison of Single-Task and Dual-Task Practice on Interference Effects in Concurrent Temporal/nontemporal Processing."

**MUHAMMAD EL-TAHA**, associate professor of mathematics, presented a paper on "Sample-Path Insensitivity of Symmetric Queries in Discrete-Time" at the second World Congress of Nonlinear Analysts (WCNA-96) held last July in Athens. The co-authored paper will appear in the conference proceedings. El-Taha has also served as a member of the global organizing committee for the WCNA-96 meeting and organized and chaired a session at the same meeting.

**ROY GALLANT**, director of the Southworth Planetarium, became the first Westerner to visit the remote Chinge meteorite site in the mountains separating Mongolia and the Republic of Tuva, Siberia last July. Gallant's expedition recovered three meteorites. Gallant returned home via Bologna, Italy where he took part in an international conference on the 1908 Tunguska Event, a meteorite site Gallant visited in 1992.

**CAROL K. JOHANSEN**, assistant professor of Management and Organizational Studies, Lewiston-Auburn College, recently attended a conference, *The New Public Management in International Perspective*, on public policy and management at St. Gallen, Switzerland. Her presentation at the conference addressed the subject of the results of innovation in the public sector, i.e. downsizing and how the reorganization efforts have affected employee behavior, by citing information from officials in Augusta and local city managers. A summary of the conference's presentations will be published in a book to be released in March 1997.

**WILL KILROY**, assistant professor of theatre, was recently appointed a co-vice chair of the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival, New England Region. In May, Kilroy presented his production of

"Purple Breasts" in Washington D.C. for the conference of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, supported by a grant from Maine Medical Center. This summer he performed as Bruce in "Beyond Therapy" with Vintage Repertory Company, appearing at Oak Street Theatre, Portland, and Deertrees Theatre, Harrison. He co-directed "Psycho Beach Party" for Shenanigans Productions, and presented at the national conference of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education in New York.

**JAYNE D.B. MARSH**, research associate, Muskie Institute, Child and Family Policy Center, presented the AIMS: Developmental Indicators of Emotional Health and the Parents in Partnership materials at the 8th Biennial Nursing Child Assessment Satellite Training Institute, "Promoting Protective Factors: Individual, Family and Community" in Bellevue, Wa. last July. She will present the AIMS: Preventive Intervention Assessment Methodology at the Boston Institute for the Development of Infants and Parents, Fall 1996 continuing education program at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology.

**HAIG H. NAJARIAN**, professor of biology, gave a talk on "Geographic Preventive Medicine" at the 4th 91C (Licensed Practical Nurses) Professional Conference of the 804th Medical Brigade of the U.S. Army Reserve in September.

**JEANNE NAJEMY**, coordinating manager, Child Care Services, was nominated along with USM Child Care Services for recognition as the Outstanding Business Partner of the Year to the Portland Arts & Technology High School

**ALFRED PADULA**, associate professor of history, and Lois Smith, a USM graduate and current National Science Foundation Fellow at the University of Texas, have completed their book on Cuban women, "Sex and Revolution: Women in Socialist Cuba." Padula's book review essay, "Gender, Sexuality and Revolution in Cuba," appeared in the spring edition of the *Latin American Research Review*. In April, he presented a paper, "Cuba: Downsizing the Mega-State," at the annual meeting of the South East Conference on Latin American in Miami.

**DAN PHILBRICK**, library assistant II, Lewiston-Auburn College library, created the Lewiston-Auburn College's homepage located at <http://www.usm.maine.edu/~lac>

**EVE RAIMON**, assistant professor of arts and humanities, Lewiston-Auburn College, attended a conference at Harvard's Center for Literary and Cultural Studies in April and presented a paper titled "Righting

Words." Also in April Raimon attended a conference of the New England Chapter of the American Studies Association and presented a paper titled "Looking 'like folks': Interraciality and Assimilation in Lydia Maria Child's 'Willie Wharton.'"

**STEPHEN J. ROMANOFF**, associate professor of interdisciplinary studies and coordinator of the Russell Scholars Program, presented a workshop titled "Teaching the Song as Literature Across the Curriculum" at the annual conference of the Maine Music Educators Association at Hampden Academy. Romanoff also represented Maine with Schooner Fare in a performance at the 25th anniversary celebration of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C.

**LEONARD J. SHEDLETSKY**, professor of communication, was appointed to the editorial board of *The Speech Communication Teacher*. He has been facilitator for *Conserve's* electronic discussion group, *CommEd*, an Internet listserv dedicated to discussion of teaching and learning about communication in the educational setting. Shedletsky has co-edited a new book, "Intrapersonal Communication Processes," co-published by the Speech Communication Association and *Midnight Oil Multimedia*, in which he has a foundation chapter on the nature of intrapersonal communication, "Where Do We Locate 'Intrapersonal Communication' Within the Cognitive Domain?" In addition, he critiques each chapter of the book. His article, "Teaching as Experiential Learning," appeared in *NEA's Thought & Action* (Vol. XII, No. 1, Spring, 1996). His paper, "Teaching with Computer-Mediated Communication," appeared in the *Speech Communication Teacher*.

**DAVID WAGNER**, associate professor of social work and sociology, delivered several lectures in Sweden this spring at Lunds University and Halmstad University on American homelessness and poverty, qualitative research, and his forthcoming book on American temperance movements. His article, "Dangerous Classes," appeared in the first issue of the new alternative literary journal, *Flying Horse*, of which he is associate editor.

Please note: Entries for the What We're Doing Column can be sent directly to us now via email, saving staff time. Please send them to:  
[OMALLEY@USM.MAINE.EDU](mailto:OMALLEY@USM.MAINE.EDU)  
Thank you.

## University of Southern Maine

### Currents

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