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Currents (October 06, 2014)

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Meeting with Mayors & Speaking at Eggs & Issues On Friday, September 26, I welcomed the mayors of several southern Maine municipalities, along with USM Board of Visitor members Tony Payne and Jane Eberle, to USM. During the meeting, we discussed what a Metropolitan University USM would mean to their communities and I asked their opinions about USM, past and present. It is important to learn what the university means to southern Maine communities and how we can better interact with the towns that send us many of our students. This meeting was an informative, productive first step in communicating better with the leadership in those municipalities.

I appreciated the time Mayors Jonathan LaBonte of Auburn, Alan Casavant of Biddeford, Michael Brennan of Portland, Donald Pilon of Saco, Colleen Hilton of Westbrook, and Gorham Town Council Chairman Michael Phinney took out of their schedules to come to USM and meet with me.

Chancellor James Page and I spoke before the Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce's Eggs & Issues breakfast on October 1. This gave us both the opportunity to speak to more than 350 community leaders about our plans to address the challenges facing the University of Maine System and USM, to better meet the needs of our students and Maine citizens. My remarks are available on the [Office of the President](#) webpage. *President David T. Flanagan*

Faculty Commons Session on USM's Title III Grant & StrengthsFinder Join Professors Judy Spross, Dan Jenkins, and Heidi Parker from [12:15-1:45 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7](#), to learn more about USM's Title III Grant and how they use StrengthsFinder 2.0 assessments—[StrengthsQuest \[SQ\] is the campus version](#)—in their courses. Polycom locations will be in 101E Bailey Hall, Gorham; 144 Luther Bonney, Portland; and 106 LAC.

The presenters will describe what they have learned from integrating SQ into their teaching and how SQ activities can support students' engagement and learning.

Individuals who attend and are interested in implementing SQ in their teaching will have an opportunity to access the StrengthsQuest assessment and related resources. This introduction is foundational to Strengths I and Strengths II.

Bring your lunch and enjoy the light refreshments provided.

In the [September/October 2014 Notes from the Faculty Coordinator of USM Faculty Commons](#), Professor Spross offers an overview of the past year's accomplishments and the focus for activities and direction of the Faculty Commons for this academic year.

Get Your Flu Shot at USM this Month Our annual University Health and Counseling Services [Flu Vaccine Clinics](#) will be held on each campus this month, in conjunction with the School of Nursing. Your insurance will be billed if you bring a photocopy of both sides of your insurance card. You will be charged \$10 if you do not have health insurance or forget your card. Please complete a [Flu](#)

[Vaccine Record](#) and bring it with you and read the [Flu Vaccine Information Sheet](#) before coming.

Gorham: Wednesday, October 15, 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 125 Upton Hall at UHCS.

Portland: Thursday, October 23, 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Woodbury Campus Center.

Lewiston-Auburn College: Monday, October 27, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Room 170.

You can read more about the flu at [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and [Maine Center for Disease Control](#).

Special Retirement Incentive The University of Maine System reminds all eligible faculty and UMPSA unit members who have 10 years of full-time equivalent years of service and are at least 62 years old that they are eligible for a Special Retirement Incentive and/or Health Premium Incentive. Visit [MyUSM Campus Portal](#) and log in using your MaineStreet ID to learn more. Incentives are highlighted front and center on the home page of the portal.

The System also created a new “retirement@maine.edu” email address to direct inquiries on this subject to our Employee Benefits Center.

“What We’re Doing” Don’t miss reading any of the 11 posts highlighting our colleagues’ latest scholarly and public service activities in “[What We’re Doing](#).”

To be included in “What We’re Doing,” please submit your activities to us using the [What We’re Doing Submit Form](#). All faculty and staff are encouraged to participate, and we look forward to hearing from you.

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