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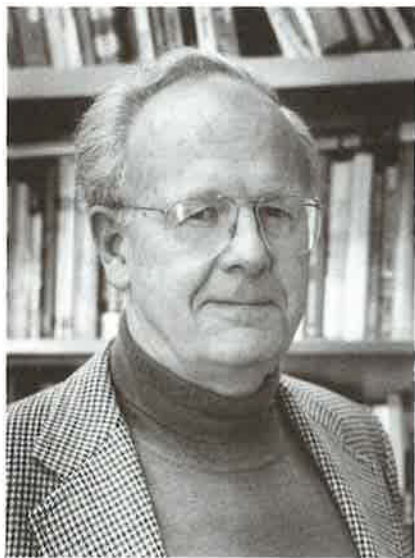


# CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 17, Number 6

March 1999



Distinguished historian Walter LaFeber will speak on "American Expansionism in the Age of Empire" as the keynote address for the USM conference on the Spanish American War.

## Remember the Maine: April 10

As we near the end of a century that has been increasingly dominated by the U.S., USM will host a major conference on the Spanish American War and the Birth of the American Century. Many historians argue that the American Century began in 1898 with the sinking of the battleship *The Maine*. The war that ensued, historians say, precipitated America into the world arena.

The conference on the Spanish-American War, to be held 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, April 10th, will examine issues of American foreign policy raised by that war that still resonate today. Of special relevance now is how American power intersects with our concepts of freedom, and how both play out in emerging countries in the third world and eastern Europe.

Distinguished author and historian

Walter LaFeber will give the keynote address of the conference at 9:30 a.m., presenting an overview of American foreign policy at the turn of the last century. In his lecture on "American Expansionism in the Age of Empire," he will focus on the paradoxes of a policy which was aimed at saving lives in Cuba but at the same time intended to annex Cuba to America's economic sphere.

Jaime Ojeda, the former Spanish Ambassador to the U.S., will discuss the war's impact on Spain, the loss of Cuba, the end of their empire, and the subsequent rise of the dictator, Francisco Franco in the 1930s. Cuban presenter Rafael Tarrago of the University of Minnesota will review the Spanish American War from the perspective of Cubans struggling for independence from both Spanish colonialism and Yankee imperialism.

Other presentations by speakers from Harvard, Bowdoin, the University of New England and more will look at gender issues in American support for the war, racial issues, economic considerations in 1898, anti-imperialism in the U.S., tropical diseases and U.S. nurses in the tropics, and Maine's role in the birth of the American empire.

One highlight of the conference is a slide presentation of late 19th century political cartoons from both Spain and America that reveal American attitudes towards Europe. There will also be a short theater production based on the works of Mark Twain, who was highly critical of America's new foreign policy. Musical events, short films made in 1898, a map display and an exhibit of photography of Maine's Spanish American War monuments are all part of the conference.

The conference will conclude with a panel on U.S. efforts to rebuild the world in America's image, with Eileen Eagan of USM and David Meyers of Boston University.

For more information, call 207-780-5963 or visit the conference web site at [www.USM.Maine.edu](http://www.USM.Maine.edu)

## Affirmative Action Defense

The Women's History Month celebration at USM, which this year has explored the impact of political assumptions on women's lives, will end March with a free lecture on affirmative action and comparable worth issues by a leading feminist economist, Barbara Bergman, professor emerita of economics at American University. Bergman, the author of a recent book on children in poverty and another on affirmative action, will give a lecture, "In Defense of Affirmative Action," at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 31, in Luther Bonney Auditorium on the Portland Campus.

Bergman holds a Ph.D. from Harvard and served as a senior staff member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers during the Kennedy Administration. She also was an advisor for the Agency for International Development and an economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. She was the author of a monthly column on economics for the Sunday New York Times, as well as four books. She is currently president of the International Association for Feminist Economics and is writing a book on child care policy.

Also on March 31, Carolyn Eyler, USM's director of exhibitions and programs, will give a talk on women artists in Maine at the new Hinges Art Gallery, at 376A Congress Street, Portland. Call 761-9552 for details on this presentation.

Women's History events continue into April with a lecture by Kristin Hoganson of Harvard, who studies the history of American imperialism, on "Gender and Imperialism in 1898," part of the April 10 conference on the Centennial of the Spanish American War (see story in this issue). Also in April, a theater performance which includes work by early women writers will be directed by Assunta Kent of USM's Theater Department at 7:30

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Susan McPhail, left, a USM student in the Russell Scholars program, works with a student from Gorham Village School on an art piece for the upcoming exhibit at the Portland Museum of Art.

*Romanoff photo*

## Art Collaboration Goes to PMA

A collaborative exhibition of art by students in USM's Russell Scholars Program created in collaboration with fifth and sixth graders at the Gorham Village School will be on display at the Portland Museum of Art from Friday, April 2 through Friday, April 15. Titled "Celebrations: Windows to Culture," the exhibit will feature 18 12-foot-high fabric sculptures designed by teams of USM and Gorham school students.

At the close of the exhibition, the sculptures will be sent to the Bishop Museum in Hawaii where students from the University of Hawaii Rainbow Advantage Program have worked with students from the Le Jardin Academy (8th grade) and the Iolani School in Honolulu (3rd grade) in creating artwork for a similar exhibition. The students from Hawaii will be focusing on celebrations unique to their island, including aloha festivals, Kamehameha Day and Makahiki. In the fall, the exhibition from Hawaii will travel to Maine where their collection of 40 pieces will be shown at the Portland Museum of Art.

Celebrations: Windows to Culture was conceived by Steve Romanoff, director of the USM Russell Scholars Program, and Margit Watts of the University of Hawaii Rainbow Advantage Program.

## Campus Creativity

The 1999 edition of "Words and Images," USM's literary and visual journal, will be released during a special two day event. "Words & Images 1999: A Celebration of Maine's Literary and Visual Creativity," will be held on Wednesday, April 7 and Thursday, April 8 in the Steego building on the Portland campus.

The program will feature an exhibit of work by artists published in "Words & Images." In addition, there will be readings, panel discussions, and presentations by artists and authors of the 1999 and 1998 editions of the journal.

Maine poet Wesley McNair and artist Dozier Bell will present their collaborative work, "The Dissonant Heart" on Wednesday, April 7. Also on Wednesday, there will be a panel titled, "Selling Out: Creativity in the Marketplace."

Nationally-known authors Tess Gerritsen and Stephen Dunn, Gregg Lloyd, a Maine-based artist, and Joyce Tenneson, an internationally-famous photographer, all will be part of the program on Thursday, April 8. Thursday events include a panel on "Conflicting Agendas: Art and Politics."

The 1999 Edition of "Words & Images" features the work of 32 artists and 26 authors connected to Maine.

For more information on the publication or the two day program, call Narayan Nayar at 874-6547.

## Women's History

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p.m., Wednesday, April 21.

The Women's Studies Student Organization film series continues into April, with screenings at 4 p.m. on Thursdays in Luther Bonney Auditorium. For more information on the films, call 874-6593.

The Women's History keynote address was given by Cynthia Enloe, professor of government at Clark University. Her lecture on March 18, "Military Action, Human Aid and Women's Lives: A Feminist Perspective on the World Today," questioned America's continuing commitment to military solutions.

For more information on these events, please call USM at 780-4289.

## Gift Will Fund Poetry Library

A Deering High School teacher left money in her will to the University of Maine System which will fund a new poetry collection at USM. A total of \$400,000 was earmarked in Katharine E. O'Brien's estate as a donation to the UMSys, of which, USM will receive a little over \$90,000.

USM will honor O'Brien's memory and her love of poetry by establishing a distinguished poetry collection in her name at the USM Glickman Family Library in Portland.

In addition, a portion of the gift will be used to support poetry readings each year in her honor by poets of national or international renown. These readings will bring visibility to USM and the collection and help ensure that the collection becomes a living testimony to the donor, according to USM Director of Libraries, Stephen Bloom.

O'Brien, a gifted poet, pianist, teacher and scholar, was the valedictorian of her class at Deering High School. She later received a bachelor's degree from Bates College, a master's from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in mathematics from Brown University. Returning to her high school alma mater, she taught for over 30 years and headed the math department. She was a member of the New York Academy of Sciences and the International Academy of Poetry and received honorary degrees from Bowdoin College and the University of Maine. Her will specified donations to Bowdoin and Brown, also.

Bloom's plans for use of USM's \$93,000 portion of the bequest include using about \$20,000 for the initial purchase of approximately 1,000 volumes of poetry. Another \$20,000 will be used to create an endowment which will enable updating of the collection annually by spending \$1,000 on about 50 additional volumes each year. An additional \$3,000 would be spent on furnishings for the poetry area, where a plaque will commemorate her generosity. The remaining \$50,000 will fund a continuing annual Katharine E. O'Brien poetry reading, with a suggested \$2,500 to be set aside each year to be used to bring guest poets to campus.

"Through Dr. O'Brien's generosity," Bloom said, "USM will become a major focal point for poetry in the southern part of the state, and the lives of students and others in the community will be immeasurably enriched."

## Documentary on Passamaquoddy Heritage

A documentary video by Robert Atkinson, professor of education, on traditional basketmaking by a Passamaquoddy family will receive its premiere broadcast on Maine Public Television on April 10, but the USM community had a sneak preview of the documentary on Wednesday, March 10.

The university community has another opportunity for a preview on Monday, April 5, when the video will be shown on campus again.

Atkinson, director of the Center for the Study of Lives in USM's College of Education and Human Development, had previously recorded an oral history with Mary Gabriel for the center and decided to return to capture on video a visual story.

The 28-minute documentary tells the story of Mary Gabriel, born in 1908 on the Passamaquoddy Reservation in Indian Township in northern Maine, and her efforts to preserve the traditional craft of basketmaking.

Gabriel, now 91, is interviewed and shown gathering the grasses she uses in her baskets and basketmaking with her daughters Sylvia and Clare. Gabriel has taught her daughters the skill of making baskets and hopes that they will carry on this heritage and other traditional tribal values that are becoming increasingly endangered.

Atkinson intends the documentary, which will later be made available to schools and libraries, to increase awareness and appreciation of the tradition of basketmaking and the change in this craft from production of a necessity for everyday use to an art form sought by collectors.

Mary Gabriel was named a National Heritage Fellow in recognition of her skill and her link through her centuries-old craft with America's past. The art of basketmaking has been passed through Mary Gabriel's family for generations.

### Honors Presentations

Twelve Honors students will be giving presentations from April 19 - 30, on their independent research projects. These year-long thesis projects allow students to define their own scholarly interests and methodologies. Projects cover a wide range of disciplines. The campus community is invited to attend. Call Honors Program for times and dates, 780-4330.



Renovation of a room in Masterton Hall has transformed class space into an inviting multicultural room, where members of the community can meet with students and faculty of the College of Nursing. A focal point of the room, setting a tone of celebration of diversity, is the magnificent art quilt, pictured above with fiber artist Audrey Nichols, who made the quilt especially for the room, and Jan Thompson, professor of nursing, who was the driving force behind creating the room. The quilt and room complement a program developed through a grant to the College of Nursing to develop community-based models of care that provide outreach to multicultural populations disadvantaged in the dominant culture. The room doubles as a seminar room for advanced nursing curriculum. Quilt maker Nichols says the quilt represents the history of nursing, the university and the community and the interconnections among them. Scenes from Portland's past and the history of nursing can be seen on fabrics used in the quilt. Many people from Portland's diverse cultures gave fabrics from their native countries to be used in the quilt, including pieces from Uganda, Ethiopia, Ukraine, Korea, Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, and many others.

*Barrett photo*

## Campus News

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The College of Education and Human Development has announced that the college's Software Evaluation Center has been renamed the Maine Educational Center for Assistive Technology and Software. MECATS is a grant-funded program that provides assistive technology services for persons with disabilities, their teachers, families and support network. MECATS includes several science and technology projects: Biotechnology Works, an institute in immunology and genetics offered to high school science teachers and high school students with disabilities; MentorNet, a mentoring program conducted by school counselors for students from diverse backgrounds and/or with disabilities; and The Academy, a project for school counselors and school administrators aimed at developing the interests of K-12 students in mathematics and science. As a result of last summer's Biotechnology Works program, two students from Biddeford High School and their science teacher, who participated in the program, developed an invention that will help make science experiments accessible to students with physical disabili-

ties. A company in Maryland that distributes educational science equipment is interested in this invention.

The Political Science Department has reported that USM alumni were accepted to 37 law schools for entry last September. Of the 34 graduates seeking entry to law schools, 26 were accepted. Bill Coogan in the Political Science Department is USM's pre-law advisor. Currently, 16 political science students are serving internships in state legislative offices, in the Portland and Washington, D.C. offices of Maine's congressional delegation, and in municipal and agency offices that provide experience that enhances classroom learning.

USM's Computing Services Department has created a HELP!Desk to assist USM students, faculty and staff with computer-related questions and problems. The Help!Desk, located in the Software Services area adjacent to the computer lab in Luther Bonney, can be accessed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by calling 4029 or through email, [helpdesk@usm.maine.edu](mailto:helpdesk@usm.maine.edu). The call will be logged through a Call Management System, and a technician will be assigned to solve the problem and answer questions concerning hardware, software, or networking. In many cases, problems can be solved immediately.



## What We're Doing

MICHAEL S. HAMILTON, associate professor of political science, had his invited article on "Reclamation and Environmental Issues" accepted for the Encyclopedia of Environmental Issues (Salem Press).

TARA C. HEALY, assistant professor of social work, presented a paper titled "An Analysis of the Influence of Diagnosis, Safety, and Caregiver Burden on Social Workers' Support for Autonomy," at the third annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research last January.

MICHAEL HILLARD, associate professor of economics, had an analysis and assessment of Maine's adult job training system titled, "Keeping Maine's Workforce Skilled in a Changing Economy," published as a chapter in "Maine Choices 1999: A Preview of State Budget Issues" (Maine Center for Economic Policy, December 1999).

WIL KILROY, associate professor of theatre, appeared as Dr. Coppelius in the Rhode Island State Ballet's production of "Coppelia," last December. During the summer and fall of 1998, Kilroy co-created, directed and performed in "Tammy and Billy-Bob's Wedding," as part of Renegade Productions in Windham.

ROBERT LOUDEN, professor of philosophy, served as commentator for the session on "Ethical Theory, Anti-Theory, and the Scientific Method," at the American Philosophical Association meeting in Washington, D.C., last December. In March, he served as a session chair for the "Kant and Moral Psychology" session at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies meeting, in Milwaukee. His essay, "On Some Vices of Virtue Ethics" was reprinted recently in "Conduct and Character: Readings in Moral Theory" (Wadsworth, 1998), and (in German) in "Tugendethik" (Reclam, 1998); his essay, "Kant's Virtue Ethics" is reprinted in "Immanuel Kant" (Ashgate, 1999). Louden's new book, "Kant's Impure Ethics: From Rational Beings to Human Beings" is in press with Oxford University Press.

LINDA MEYER, associate professor of therapeutic recreation, gave a presentation on "Recreational Assistive Technology: Devices and Selection," at the 50th annual Northern New England Recreation and Parks Conference in North Conway, last January.

JULIEN MURPHY, professor of philosophy and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, published her article, "Should Les-

bians Count as Infertile Couples? Antilebian Discrimination in Assisted Reproduction," as Chapter 6 in "Embodying Bioethics: Recent Feminist Advances," an anthology of research by feminist philosophers, (Rowman & Littlefield, 1999).

JOHN ROSENE, assistant professor of sports medicine, recently published two articles: "Decongestant Effects on Hemodynamics at Rest, Exercise, and Recovery from Exercise During -6° of Head Down Tilt" in Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine; and "Anterior Tibial Translation in Collegiate Athletes with Normal 'Anterior Cruciate Ligament Integrity' in the Journal of Athletic Training. In collaboration with DARRYN WILLOUGHBY, assistant professor of sports medicine, investigating the effects of creatine monohydrate supplementation in weight lifters and endurance runners. The creatine monohydrate was donated from the Nutrasense Corporation of Shawnee Mission, Kansas.

BRIAN J. TOY, director, Department of Sports Medicine and associate professor of sports medicine, authored an article, "Anatomy of the ACL: Influence on the Anterior Drawer and Lachman Tests" in the March, 1999 issue of Athletic Therapy Today.

MARGO WOOD, professor of education, gave a presentation on USM's America Reads program, "Project Story Boost," at the January conference of the New Hampshire Campus Compact at St. Anselm's College.

## Campus News

The department of American and New England Studies coordinated a conference last November 6, titled "American Studies in the High School: The Practice and Politics of Interdisciplinary Studies." The goal of the conference, held at USM's Stone House Conference Center, was to initiate discussion between Maine high school faculty and the department of American and New England Studies on the exciting possibilities and practical problems of integrating American Studies into the high school curriculum. The conference was co-sponsored by the

Maine Collaborative, a division of the Maine Humanities Council.

The USM Art Department in conjunction with the Maine Humanities Council will host a conference titled, "Confronting the Contemporary: Understanding and Teaching Late 20th-Century Art" on Saturday, May 1, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on the Gorham campus. The conference will focus on the subject of contemporary art, discussing such key questions as the history and context, forms and content of this art period. Donna Cassidy, chair of the Art Department, will lead the day's activities, which include, slide lectures, discussions, studio projects, and viewing original art in a gallery setting.

William Wells, associate provost for technology, information systems, and libraries, announced that 143 classrooms, studios, laboratories and auditoriums have been connected to the university data and phone system, allowing faculty to make greater use of computer, data and other applications in teaching. The project was carried out collaboratively by Telecommunications, Media Services and University Computing Technologies.

The results of the 1998 Combined Charitable Appeal at USM have been announced, and the amount of money raised and the number of participants who contributed showed an increase over 1997. The Combined Charitable Appeal, chaired by Larry Waxler, raises money for local charities. In 1998, 144 campus members made pledges totaling \$48,124. Overall campus participation grew from 25 percent in 1997 to 30 percent in 1998, a 20 percent increase.

After winning third prize in a 1998 Random House contest for their "Dog Days of Summer" window display, USM's Bookstore has entered another display contest, this time celebrating the release of Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest Generation." First prize in this contest is a visit from Tom Brokaw.

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