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From the President's Desk Letter - October 10, 2013

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Tara Artinyan - {Disarmed} [USM] From the President's Desk

From: "USM President" <president@usm.maine.edu>
To: "swengland@usm.maine.edu" <swengland@usm.maine.edu>
Date: 10/10/2013 4:08 PM
Subject: {Disarmed} [USM] From the President's Desk

 University of Southern Maine

Dear USM Volunteers and Friends,

With our campuses bustling and the 2013 fall semester well underway, I want to take a few minutes of your time to offer some USM updates.

At our annual "Opening Breakfast," I told faculty and staff that the world of higher education faces challenges, here and across the country, but that USM has valuable assets, including a supportive community of friends and volunteers. You can read the text of my presentation [here](#).

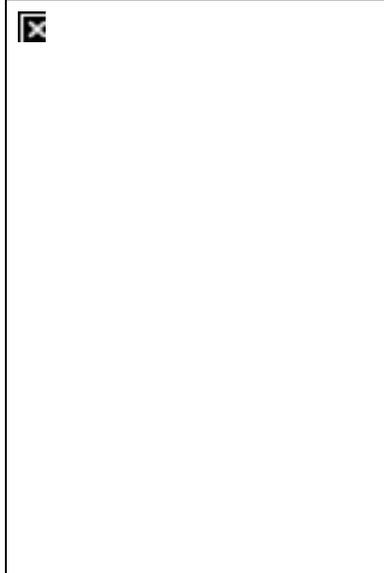
I'm sure you will enjoy Professor Libby Bischof's recent Portland Press Herald column ("[So much to celebrate at USM...](#)"). It is one of many reasons why our work to nurture this university is so important.

As part of [USM's planning work](#), I will be reaching out shortly to key constituent groups to ask for their help in establishing a committee to oversee the process. Once formed, I will charge the committee with taking a careful look at all the material compiled and reviewed over the summer, e.g., previous planning documents; information on perceived needs of current and prospective students; workplace needs throughout Maine and the region; and what we can do as well, if not better, than other institutions.

All that material needs to be reviewed in the context of our budget projections, as well as the enrollment and demographic challenges facing this and many other institutions of higher learning. During this process, we will keep the community - both on and off campus - informed of progress.

I continue to be fascinated by the accomplishments of our students, alumni and faculty. There's student [Christy Gardner](#), a decorated veteran and recreational therapy major who has been named USA Hockey's Disabled Athlete of the Year.

The Press Herald ran a wonderful column on USM Husky Hall of Fame inductee [Sarah McLean](#).



The University is on the November 5 ballot. If passed, [Question 2](#) would improve educational and employment opportunities for Maine people by funding updates to existing lab and classroom facilities throughout the University of Maine System. USM would receive \$4 million for improvements to undergraduate, instructional science labs on all three campuses.

And, Professor David Pierson has been interviewed extensively, here and across the country, about his new book, "Breaking Bad: Critical Essays on the Context, Politics, Style and Reception of the Television Series." Here's a Portland Press Herald [story](#).

Thanks, as always, for your support of USM. Please feel free to [contact me](#), with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,



Theodora J. Kalikow

President, University of Southern Maine



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