

# USM | Connects

FALL/WINTER 2017

Glenn Cummings on  
**Building a Bright  
Future at USM**

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- Engineering Standouts
- Helping Veterans Succeed
- USM Works for ME
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## USM's exciting present & bright future

Welcome to *USM Connects*, the magazine of the University of Southern Maine. On behalf of the USM Foundation, I am excited to share with you stories about the amazing work being done at USM and to showcase the University's engagement with the southern Maine community.

With this inaugural issue of *USM Connects*, we highlight the impact that USM students, alumni, faculty and staff are making in our region and beyond. Their energy, vision, creativity and leadership bring extraordinary value to our economy, our communities and our lives. This is what inspires us at the USM Foundation.

The Foundation is here to support and celebrate the success of the University of Southern Maine. We do this every day through philanthropy, engagement, innovation and service. With students at the center of our mission, we are building a solid foundation for their futures and the future of USM.

Now entering our third decade of service, the Foundation is pursuing new and innovative ways to enhance USM's scholarship programs, raise capital and achieve ambitious goals – initiatives such as the new Promise Scholarship program, which you'll read about in this issue of *USM Connects*.

As you delve into the magazine, don't miss President Glenn Cummings' Q&A about what's next for the University. There are impressive things happening at USM today – and even more exciting developments on the horizon.

George N. Campbell, Jr.  
President, USM Foundation



## USM CONNECTS

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President Glenn Cummings  
photo by Rene Roy



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“With the support of our communities, we can impact 100 USM students or more every year. That represents a life-changing investment in our youth and our region.”

Richard McGoldrick, co-chair of the campaign

## Promise Scholarship: Tackling barriers

>> This new program creates a path forward for talented and motivated students by helping them overcome financial and academic barriers.

The University of Southern Maine has launched a unique scholarship program in partnership with youth development organizations in the region.

The Promise Scholarship program is designed to create a path forward for talented and motivated young people by helping students overcome financial and academic barriers, remain in school, graduate with less debt and prepare to make their own contributions to Maine’s social and economic well-being.

“As an educator, I’ve always believed in the power of education to change the world, one person at a time,” said Carolyn McGoldrick, Promise Scholarship Campaign co-chair. “Helping to establish this scholarship allows our family to provide a lasting educational legacy for thousands of Maine youth over time.”

By partnering with successful youth development organizations in Maine, the Promise Scholarship program offers the unique opportunity to identify eligible high school students with demonstrated potential but limited means, support their academic goals with financial assistance and provide the guidance they need to successfully transition into USM and earn a degree in the field of their choice.

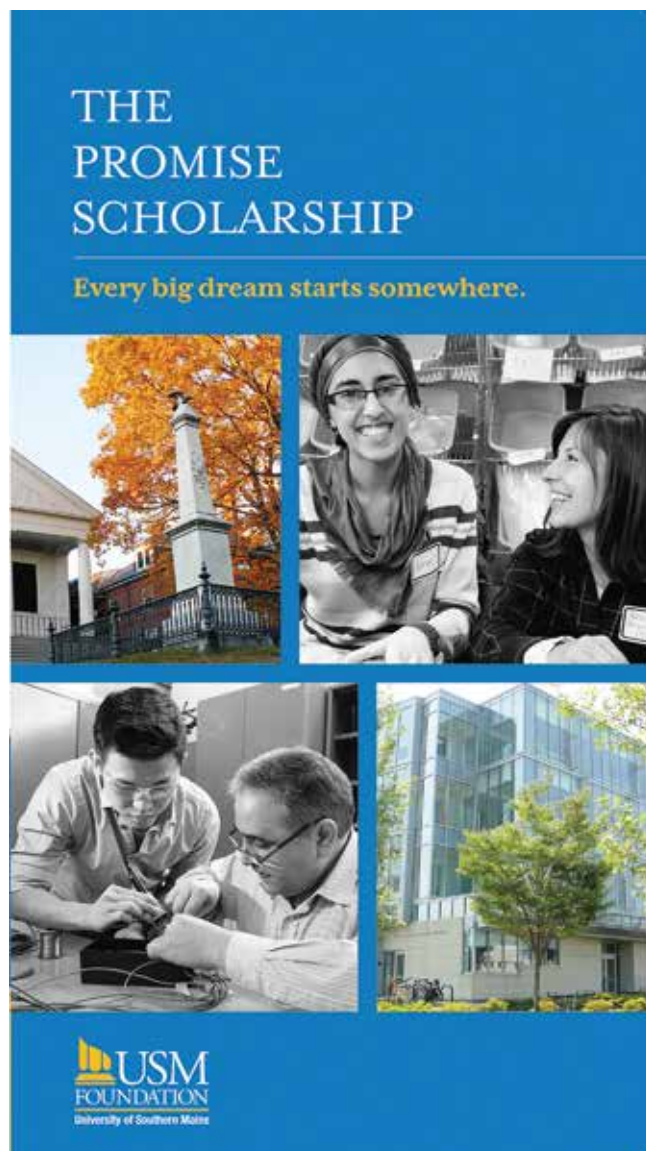
The USM Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the university through philanthropy, is leading a campaign and has already raised almost \$2 million to get the program rolling.

“Our goal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Promise Scholarship program with a \$15 million endowment. A fund of this size will support approximately \$500,000 in scholarships each year, with an average award of \$5,000 per eligible student,” said Richard McGoldrick, co-chair of the campaign.

“With the support of our communities, we can impact 100 USM students or more every year,” he said. “That represents a life-changing investment in our youth and our region.”

Promise Scholar candidates can be incoming freshmen, continuing students or transfers who demonstrate financial need and commit to full-time enrollment with a minimum of 15 credits. Ideally, they would have a strong recommendation from a youth development partner, such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine, or the other youth programs stepping up to partner with the USM Promise Scholarship.


USM is committed to providing Promise Scholars with:



- Scholarships for up to half of USM tuition
- Awards to cover fees, books, room and board or other costs to bridge gaps in financial aid
- Ongoing academic support to ensure success during the first year
- Renewable awards for up to four years, if students maintain academic standards

Individuals or families who would like to make a gift or learn more about the Promise Scholarship Campaign should email [promisescholar@maine.edu](mailto:promisescholar@maine.edu).



A photograph of three men in academic regalia standing on a stage. The man in the center is wearing a blue gown with a light blue stole and a black mortarboard cap, smiling and looking upwards. To his right is a man in a black gown with a pink stole and a black mortarboard cap, also smiling and looking upwards. To the left is a younger man in a black gown and mortarboard cap, looking forward. In the background, there is a large American flag and a blue banner with a circular seal that partially reads 'UNIVERSITY'.

“People are realizing that we are the sleeping giant of the UMaine system. We are ideally located, we have great faculty, we have vision, we have capacity, we’ve got support from the community and we are at a place where we are just beginning to understand that.”

USM President Glenn Cummings



# Building a Bright Future

>> President Glenn Cummings discusses USM's ambitious vision for cultivating long-term success.

*We recently spoke with USM President Glenn Cummings about where the school is and its bright future, with a focus on ambitious capital improvement plans.*

**Q : A master plan for USM was recently approved by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, including approval for USM to engage with Harriman (architectural engineers) to refine capital improvement plans. Where are you in that process, and what comes next?**

**A :** We're all very excited about the master plan. It calls for significant capital improvements to all three campuses. We have created a steering committee chaired by Provost Jeannine Diddle Uzzi, and Cyrus Hage, a USM graduate ('83, '85) and long-time civic leader. The committee has 17 members and is inclusive of students, faculty, community members, administration, staff, architects and others.

We are very blessed to have a really thoughtful, visionary group.

Each of the campuses will have their own group of stakeholders, and they will all give advice to the steering committee. Ultimately the committee, with the help of Harriman, will make specific decisions about what should happen. Those decisions are expected to be made this year. At the same time, we are continuing to speak with donors and to secure commitments toward some of the larger projects we want to start as soon as possible.

"It's not just the number of students that is growing, but also the quality of the students. Last year, we awarded 227 Presidential Merit Scholarships to high achieving incoming students, as opposed to 27 the year before."

**Q : There are big changes planned for the Portland campus. Let's talk about them first in the aggregate. You've said you want to create a sense of place that matches the expectations and ambitions of your students. What is the big picture for making that happen in Portland?**





“We are strongly looking at a performing arts center as a major piece. When you have one of the best music programs in the country, you should put it in a city where you are interacting with professional musicians, theaters and the rest of the arts community.”

**A** : There is a lot of focus on Portland because it is a huge part of our enrollment and retention vision. I have lived my entire adult life right in this neighborhood. I represented this area for a decade in the State House, and I’ve always felt that there is such huge potential in this place. When I moved into my new office, I kept looking out at this parking lot (between Masterton Hall and the Woodbury Campus Center) and I thought, we can do better. We can build a garage in a less visible place and turn this back to green space. We can close the street that cuts our campus in half. Right in the middle of one of the best small cities in America, we can create a unified campus and make it a place that people really want to come to, and one that is worth investing in.

sis programs in the country, you should put it in a city where you are interacting with professional musicians, theaters and the rest of the arts community. There is no question that Portland is the cultural center of the state of Maine, yet we have pushed our music program 11 miles out of town. Bringing our student and faculty musicians to audiences here and having partnerships with local companies is going to add some real life to the program, for the real benefit of our students.

We’re also talking about a brand new student center, residence halls that will be geared toward upperclass and graduate students, and, obviously, some increased parking. We want to completely revitalize and restructure the campus to make it a truly attractive place.

**Q** : What are some of the components of your vision for campus improvements in Portland?

**A** : We are strongly looking at a performing arts center as a major piece. When you have one of the best mu-

**Q** : Can you give us an overview of preliminary plans for the Gorham campus and for the Lewiston-Auburn campus?



**A**: Our future is very dependent on all three campuses being at their most vibrant selves. Gorham needs facilities upgrades, particularly in athletics and in the residence halls. The Gorham campus is where it all started, and it's a fundamental part of our history and our future. It is very attractive to students who come from outside the Portland area who feel more comfortable in a more rural or suburban setting. It is home to our residence halls for first- and second-year students, our athletics program and academic programs such as engineering, education, theater and music.

One change we are making is that we have signed a contract with the Greater Portland Metro bus system, where every student will get a bus pass. The buses will be running pretty much all the time, well into the night, so students can travel with even more convenience between the campuses, to the Maine Mall, Westbrook, downtown Portland, and to jobs and internships throughout the area.

For the Lewiston-Auburn campus, we are looking at whether we are in the right location, or whether we should move downtown into one of the mills. That is

definitely something that is of great interest to us. We would be closer to the population density, the hospital for example, which would benefit our nursing and Master of Occupational Therapy programs.

**Q**: What is your ideal timeline for building and fundraising for the campus improvements?

**A**: Parallel to the work of the steering committee is a capital campaign process that the USM Foundation is leading, and we are already working with major funders who can help make this restructuring come true. Executing the master plan will require funding from different sources, whether it be creative financing, private-public partnerships, philanthropy or government bonds. Right now we envision a capital campaign of about \$190 million.

Ideally, we would like to break ground in the next year and see significant building in the next three to five years. The sooner we can break ground, the better we can penetrate new markets and hold more students here at USM.

"We think one of our great strengths is that in any given classroom, you will have 18-year-olds from Fort Fairfield and from Kittery, and beside them are 25-year-old veterans of the war in Afghanistan who are using their GI benefits, and beside them are new Americans who have come from the Congo, from Syria, from Somalia, and a 58-year-old woman who is going back to school to send the message to her grandchildren that education is important and she wants to earn her degree."





“With our greater Portland campus (I include Gorham in that) and Lewiston-Auburn, we’ve got the largest metropolitan area in northern New England. That means we have more businesses of all sizes, government agencies, urban schools – we have nonprofits galore. One way to maintain and grow enrollment is to use those resources to stand out in the market. For example, all 50 undergraduate programs now have internships and co-ops.”

**Q : Three years ago, USM was still in a financial crisis and going through painful structural changes. Now you are entering a period of aggressive investment. What are some of the key factors that have made this turnaround possible?**

**A :** I have to give a lot of credit to former president David Flanagan for making the tough choices that needed to be made. I respect him for his commitment to the institution. Secondly, we had to heal from that. Part of the last couple years has been focused on honoring the good work that goes on here, respecting and celebrating the faculty and letting them know how important they are to this university.

We have an outstanding leadership team. They are extremely hard working, and they work with each other to find common solutions. Finance, enrollment, provost, HR. These are top notch professionals and they have made the difference in our success.

People are realizing that we are the sleeping giant of the UMaine system. We are ideally located, we have great faculty, we have vision, we have capacity, we’ve got support from the community and we are at a place where we are just beginning to understand that.

**Q : You’ve used the phrase “The most important university in the country” to describe USM. What do you mean by that?**

**A :** Since the mid-1980s, we have been stuck at about 40 percent of Americans with college degrees, and what we’re seeing today with our economy are the implications of that. Many countries are well above 50 percent. So although we have these great, private colleges that are highly selective, and they play very important roles, they aren’t going to help us get that next 15 percent. That growth is going to happen at places like USM.

Fifty-two percent of the students who graduated from USM in May were first-generation college students. That’s incredible. I don’t mean that we are the only most important university in the country, but that institutions such as ours are the most important for access to the American dream, which comes through education.

**Q : Tell us about a tagline USM has been using recently – The University of Everyone**

**A :** We think one of our great strengths is that in any given classroom, you will have 18-year-olds from Fort Fairfield and from Kittery, and beside them are 25-year-old veterans of the war in Afghanistan who are using their GI benefits, and beside them are New Americans who have come from the Congo, from Syria, from Somalia, and a 58-year-old woman who is going back to school to send the message to her grandchildren that education is important and she wants to earn her degree.



We see that diversity as an enormous asset. If you are just getting the opinions of other 18-year-olds when you are sitting in a class, no matter how smart they are in standardized tests, you aren't going to get a truly experienced or worldwide perspective.

**Q : Where does enrollment stand today? Are there any trends you are seeing, and what are your key tools for recruitment?**

**A :** We're seeing strong positive trends for enrollment. Last year we enjoyed a 4-percent increase in new undergraduate students and a 16-percent increase in new graduate students. We have built on that growth, and this year we have received the highest number of applications in 15 years. At the moment, we are up 14 percent in new student deposits.

Moreover, it's not just the number of students that is growing, but also the quality of the students. Last year, we awarded 227 Presidential Merit Scholarships to high-achieving incoming students, as opposed to 27 the year before.

These are all important gains. We've done a lot to create a very fluid pipeline between the community colleges and us. We're also seeing increased interest in the 3+3 law program, a collaboration with the University of Maine School of Law that allows students to earn a bachelor's degree and a Juris Doctor in just six years.

For recruitment, we are moving in a really positive direction around financial aid packaging. Our advancement team of the USM Foundation is working on raising \$50 million in scholarships that will strongly help our ability to support students who are struggling financially. Another major factor is our location. With our greater Portland campus (I include Gorham in that) and Lewiston-Auburn, we've got the largest metropolitan area in northern New England. That means we have more businesses of all sizes, government agencies, urban schools – we have nonprofits galore. One way to maintain and grow enrollment is to use those resources to stand out in the market. For example, all 50 undergraduate programs now have internships and co-ops.

**Q : You've said this is your dream job. What are some of the reasons why?**

**A :** USM is a place that is near and dear to my heart. My grandmother's diploma from 1927 from the Gorham Normal School, which is now USM, is right here on my wall. I believe in public education, and I believe in our mission. I love the people I work with; I love the place I work. It's a place that is only five blocks from my house, and I don't want to move. I want to be here and see this through the capital campaign and beyond. I just feel exceptionally blessed.

"I believe in public education and I believe in our mission. I love the people I work with; I love the place I work. It's a place that is only five blocks from my house, and I don't want to move. I want to be here and see this through the capital campaign and beyond. I just feel exceptionally blessed."



# Engineering grads thrive in Maine workplaces

## >> Demand increasing for engineers

**D**emand for engineers in Maine continues to rise as high-tech industries, construction, manufacturing and other employers expand. In fact, there is a projected shortfall of engineers over the next decade. The engineering program at USM is responding to the need and proving that its graduates are ready for the challenge.

USM currently enrolls about 200 engineering students. That's about twice the size the program was a decade ago. In the spring of 2017, USM and Southern Maine Community College signed

agreements designed to boost the numbers of qualified engineers entering the Maine workforce. The "2+2" agreements allow associate degree graduates of SMCC's engineering program to seamlessly enter USM's programs for mechanical and electrical engineering, getting two full years of credit toward a USM bachelor's degree.

*USM Connects* caught up with three recent graduates and asked them about their jobs and their experience in USM's engineering program.

### Julie Doxsey '13

#### Software engineer Tyler Technologies

As a software engineer at Tyler Technologies, I work with a range of technologies to support and develop software that meets the needs of a dynamic client base. The best part of my job is that I am constantly solving puzzles and working with a great group of people to figure out the best way to answer a request or fix a problem. I love to learn, and I find software engineering to be an exciting (and sometimes daunting) field to try to master. The more I learn, the more I realize there is always more to know.

My time at USM prepared me very well for my current position, even though I majored in mechanical engineering and am now writing software! I've found that engineering methodologies are useful no matter what task you are trying to tackle. The most valuable skill I learned at USM was the ability to teach myself new things. My time at USM also gave me the confidence I need to take on assignments or positions that I am not totally prepared for – which I also think is the best way to grow.





## Emily Donovan '16

### Automation Engineer, IDEXX

I work as an automation engineer in the operations engineering department at IDEXX Laboratories. One of the aspects I enjoy most about my job is the variety of tasks I get to perform. Some of these include designing/working with parts and assemblies in solid works, performing experiments to develop new products, analyzing processes, procedures and steps necessary to manufacture products, and working with vendors to build new equipment. Every day is different – but equally exciting! Above all, I enjoy being a part of a great group that relies on collaboration and hard work to get things done.

I had a very positive experience in the USM Engineering Department. The professors were approachable and allowed students to benefit from using them as a resource for knowledge and advice. The lab portion of most courses and the junior/senior design courses provide a great opportunity for students for hands-on/real-life experience. Students are encouraged to apply for local internships. I was fortunate enough to get one at a great company as a junior. Getting this experience and exposure to real-life engineering is a great advantage when graduating and looking to enter the workforce.



## Matthew Araujo '15

### Engineer, Texas Instruments


I work as an engineer for one of the world's top semiconductor companies – right here in Maine. At Texas Instruments we design and manufacture chips for everything from automobiles to cell phones. Working in an international company, I get to collaborate with experts, scientists and engineers from all over the world on projects that demand innovation. I'm encouraged to be curious and to develop creative solutions to technical and complex issues. For me, the best thing about my career is that every day brings new and interesting challenges.

USM's location in Maine's largest city made it easy for me to reach out and make connections with local high-tech industries while seeking internships. When my summer internship was successful, it was easy to extend the internship into my senior year. I went into my senior year with a job offer already accepted. I apply the mathematics, science, engineering and communication skills I acquired as a student at USM. Success in my career requires that I continue to learn and seek knowledge independently; my education laid a foundation of knowledge that I continue to build upon as I develop professionally.





# Brewing Quality Results



>> Conversations between a USM chemistry professor and Maine brewers led to the creation of an innovative “collaboratory” that benefits students and industry.

By Trevor Maxwell

It's a bright morning in May, and some of Maine's most talented brewers are staring into microscopes on the third floor of USM's Science Building in Portland.

You've never seen a group more content to be counting yeast cells.

“Do you count the cells on the lines?” asks one of the brewers from across the room.

“Cells that are touching the right side and top side of the square, you don't count. Cells that are touching the left side and the bottom side, you do count. Or you could do it vice versa,” says USM senior Heath Garson, a biology major who is helping to lead this workshop session, along with Luci Benedict, USM chemistry professor.

In beer production, yeast affects everything from taste to alcohol content. That's why brewers are always looking for the most advanced ways to measure yeast, and why the group on this particular morning seems so giddy to be spending time with USM's hemocytometers — high-powered microscopes equipped with counting chambers.

“As craft brewers in Maine, we're all part of the same brand, and that brand depends on quality,” says Tyler Sildve from Oxbow Brewing Co. “To collaborate with USM and to have this lab as a resource is amazing. It's already making a difference for us.”

Welcome to USM's Quality Control Collaboratory, better known simply as the QC2. The lab was created in 2016 as a unique partnership between the university and the Maine Brewers Guild. It's a state-of-the-art training ground for students, and a much-welcomed research and development hub for one of Maine's fastest growing industries.

While some other universities offer courses related to the science of beer, USM leaders believe the QC2 is the only public-private collaboration of its kind in the nation.

Staffed by USM undergraduates, the lab has advanced equipment and tools that can analyze beer samples for contamination, acidity, calories, color, alcohol content and much more. In less than two years since it opened, more than 40 breweries and two hop yards have taken advantage of the QC2 testing services and educational workshops. Students are often able to test beer samples and provide same-day reports to the breweries.





Professor Luci Benedict offers advice during a workshop on yeast at USM's Quality Control Collaboratory.

"There are a lot of advantages for the students who work in the lab. First off, they get the experience of doing undergraduate research, which is not an opportunity that many undergraduates (typically) receive. They get a lot more hands-on work with instrumentation than they otherwise would," says Benedict, the creator and director of the QC2.

"Because of the relationship with the brewers, the students also learn about aspects of business, economic development and marketing. That helps them to be more well-rounded."

## Chemistry professor sparks innovation

Benedict's vision for the QC2 started to take shape after a 2012 tour of Allagash Brewing Co. in Portland. The brewery's director of quality control, microbiologist Zach Bodah, was talking with Benedict about the types of advanced analysis he

"Because of the relationship with the brewers, the students also learn about aspects of business, economic development and marketing. That helps them to be more well-rounded"

Luci Benedict, USM chemistry professor & QC2 director

wished Allagash could do in-house.

At the time, Allagash was spending a lot of money sending samples of beer to commercial laboratories on the West Coast.

"That is how it all started," said Benedict. "I realized where the connections could be between the courses I was teaching that were lab based, and the needs at Allagash."

A few years later, Benedict had a simi-

lar conversation with Heather Sanborn, co-owner of Rising Tide Brewing Co. in Portland. Start-ups and smaller breweries, Benedict realized, need even more support with chemical analysis, because they can't afford the equipment or staff required to develop their own quality control programs.

Benedict, who earned her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, already had the capability to do some testing at the USM Science Building. With some investments toward new equipment and the help of students, Benedict figured the university could provide local testing and related support to Maine brewers.

"It's not always easy to get students engaged in chemistry, so it was just a perfect match," she said.

Benedict set her sights on a \$40,000 grant to get things moving. She ended up securing a three-year seed grant from the Maine Economic Improvement Fund to



Professor Luci Benedict works with Ryan Michaud '16 on quality control in the Quality Control Collaboratory.

the tune of \$488,000.

The concept generated a lot of buzz. By the time it opened in the spring of 2016, the QC2 was a media darling. It was featured in dozens of news reports nationwide, including USA Today, the Boston Globe, and just about every media outlet in Maine.

## Shot in the arm for the economy, job growth

Bodah, the Allagash microbiologist, was one of the earliest promoters of the collaboration with the Maine Brewers Guild. He regularly consults with the QC2 team, which consists of Benedict, laboratory manager Marcia Ackerman and five or six USM student researchers.

"They have equipment that brewers drool over, that we just don't have access to," Bodah said. "And if you're not running it all the time, then it doesn't make a lot of sense for most breweries our size. They have time that we don't have, they have students who are ready to do research, and we have a million ideas and we'll be able to keep each other busy for a long time."

At USM, where leaders push for ever-stronger relationships between the universi-

"They have time that we don't have, they have students who are ready to do research, and we have a million ideas and we'll be able to keep each other busy for a long time."

Zach Bodah  
Allagash Brewing Co. microbiologist

ty and diverse industries in Maine, the QC2 continues to emerge as a success story.

"It's another great example of the type of work our metropolitan university undertakes to benefit our economy while at the same time providing our students with skills and experience that will enhance their career opportunities," said USM President Glenn Cummings.

Garson, the USM biology student who was helping with the brewer workshop in May, graduated later that month and is now working for Rising Tide. During the spring semester, Garson and three other QC2 lab students presented their research at USM's Thinking Matters event.

Garson said it has been exciting to watch

Maine's craft beer industry evolve to the point where it is a viable career option for USM graduates.

"The hands-on experience is incredibly valuable. Plus, I'm pursuing a career in the industry, so the experience in the lab was great for connecting me with so many amazing people," said Garson, 24, a native of Portland.

"One thing that continues to impress me about Maine's brewers is how supportive they are of one another," he said. "There's a real sense that we're all in this together."

## Economic impact of craft beer in Maine

In the three decades since David Geary opened D.L. Geary Brewing Co. in 1986, the state has been on the forefront of the nation's craft brewing boom. At that time, Geary's was the first new brewery to open east of the Mississippi River since the end of national Prohibition in 1933.

The industry in Maine grew slowly but steadily through the 1990s and 2000s. But the most explosive growth has happened just recently.

The number of Maine breweries has nearly tripled since 2011, from 34 to more





USM's Quality Control Collaboratory lab offers state-of-the-art facilities for studying the craft of brewing.

than 90. Most of them are small operations, employing an average of six people. Others, like Shipyard and Allagash, employ dozens and are among the largest 50 craft breweries in the U.S.

According to a survey commissioned last year by the Maine Brewers Guild, the industry now directly employs more than 1,600 people and generates nearly half a

billion dollars in annual sales.

Despite the crowded field of newcomers, the guild – a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the craft beer industry in Maine – is confident there is plenty of room for growth. One reason for optimism is that Maine-brewed beers still only make up about 12 percent of all beer sold in the state.

Sildve, the brewer from Oxbow Brewing Co., said the company aims for slow, smart growth in the coming years. He sees the QC2 as a vital part of the equation.

“The lab has helped us gain insights into our own processes, and really takes a fine tooth comb to what we do,” he said. “Most of us don’t come from microbiology backgrounds, so to be able to work with professionals in the field is great.

“It is a huge confidence boost knowing that I can come in with a sample and have Marcia take a look at and identify problems and we can talk about solutions,” Sildve said.

At the lab, Benedict, Ackerman and the USM students intend to keep up with industry growth by communicating as effectively as possible with the brewers.

When the MEIF grant money is expended after next year, Benedict hopes the lab will be self-sufficient through a combina-

“It’s another great example of the type of work our metropolitan university undertakes to benefit our economy while at the same time providing our students with skills and experience that will enhance their career opportunities.”

USM President Glenn Cummings.

tion of testing fees, workshop fees and donations from the beer companies. She continues to make new connections through the Brewers Guild, to recruit workshop participants and to let the brewers know about the services the lab offers.

“In the short-term, we will be working on a strategic plan, including marketing and growing the research offerings,” Benedict said. “We will be looking to publish some of our research, and to get students up to the level where they can present at the national conference for the American Chemical Society.”



## An international leader in concussion research

Michael “Micky” Collins, Ph.D., is an internationally renowned expert in sports-related concussion. A leading clinician and researcher, he serves as director and a founding member of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s Sports Medicine Concussion Program. Established in 2000, it was the first program of its kind; it remains the largest research and clinical program focused on the assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, research and education of sports-related mild traumatic brain injury in athletes of all levels. Collins’ expertise attracts elite and professional athletes from around the world seeking the comprehensive care he provides and the multidisciplinary approach he helped to introduce.

He has been an instrumental source across the nation in developing concussion-management policy in youth sports, state legislation on youth safety, the Centers for Disease Control’s concussion toolkit, and pioneering targeted treatment pathways for his patients. He is a co-founder of ImPACT (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing), the most widely used computerized sports-concussion evaluation system that has become a standard of care in nearly all organized sports at all levels. A graduate of the University of Southern Maine with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and biology in 1991, he earned a master’s degree in psychology in 1995 and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology in 1998 at Michigan State University.



## >> A pioneer of concussion treatment

# Catching up with: **Micky Collins '91**

*We recently spoke with Micky Collins about his USM experience and his groundbreaking work on treating concussions.*

### Choosing USM

“I grew up in Hermon, Maine. I played baseball and wanted to play in college. I had some looks from UMaine Baseball Coach John Winkin, and we had some conversations, but it didn’t materialize. I knew that USM Coach Ed Flaherty was an up-and-coming big name, and it turns out I made the right decision in choosing USM because he ended up being a legend. USM was a good fit for

me. When I started at USM I had no idea what I wanted to do. My parents both taught at Hermon High School, where I went to school, so I was thinking – teacher or coach.”

### Discovering a career path

“I was still undecided when I came to USM, and I remember Coach Flaherty coming up to me my junior year and saying to me: ‘You know, Micky, you really need to declare a major.’

“At the time, I had a biopsychology class with Professor John Broida – and he pushed some buttons at a time when they needed



to be pushed. I was really fascinated by biopsychology, so I declared my major in psychology and biology. I just wanted to study the brain. Little did I know I'd be having this conversation about my career 30 years later.

"Quite frankly, my first year at USM I didn't do great academically, probably around a 2.6, but then I started the Broida class. It lit my fire, and I ended up graduating summa cum laude in 1991.

"For graduate school, I applied all over the country knowing that I wanted to go into brain behavior. I was accepted at and then chose Michigan State.

"So I left the comforts of Maine, my family, my friends and my girlfriend/future wife, whom I met at USM. It was a big step for me. I went to Michigan State and loved it. I knew that I wanted to pursue studying the brain, and I tried to figure out how I could combine that study with sports – because I really missed sports. It was a big void for me.

"So I asked myself: how can I combine the brain and sports? At the time, nobody was really paying attention to concussions. It was right around the time that quarterbacks Troy Aikman and Steve Young went down with concussions and retired. There was a moment then when I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to study concussions, and it just took off from there.

"It became my passion and a really good profession for me."

## Building the clinic

"I went on to earn my Ph.D. from Michigan State in 1998. I was the lead author of a research study where I'd been doing baseline testing and neurocognitive testing with college football players. I collected data by doing pre-season testing on the players, and if they had a concussion we'd repeat the testing. I wrote the data into two manuscripts that were published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"I ended up getting recruited to the University of Pittsburgh by Dr. Freddie Fu, one of the world's top orthopedic surgeons. He was opening up a huge sports medicine clinic in Pittsburgh, and he recruited me and one of my colleagues to start a concussion program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UMPC)."

## Treating concussions

"We were studying concussions before anyone cared about it, and we did the research to define the injury and to figure out what was really going on. We figured out that this is a real problem, and we started learning a lot about the injury.

"We realized – myself and Dr. Mark Lovell, a colleague and mentor – that we needed to create an efficient, easy-to-implement tool to measure concussions, because if you can't measure a concussion, how can you study it? There had never been a way to measure the injury.

"Mark and Joseph Maroon, the Steelers team doctor, and I developed a test called ImpACT, a computerized neurocognitive tool that has become the standard of care for the injury and is



Micky Collins played in the College World Series for the USM Huskies.

used around the world as a tool to evaluate concussions. It's the first FDA-approved test for concussions. That was really the foundation for how we became successful in Pittsburgh. ImpACT has become a pretty large company, and I'm still involved.

"I see patients five days a week, and my passion now is really treating the injury. In the last five to eight years we've started to define treatment for the injury and rehabilitation. Right now I'm in the trenches treating this injury – treating athletes and many others who go through this injury. I direct a program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and we have 20,000 patient visits per year at our UMPC clinic. It's quite a full-time job.

"We have treated a lot of high profile athletes from auto racing, football, baseball and hockey. To treat them and to see them play again is pretty special. Seeing a player we've treated win a World Series is a great experience.

"I'd like to think that our group in Pittsburgh really helped – along with many others around the country – to enlighten people about the injury. I will absolutely attest that this is a treatable injury. We have made so much progress in how we treat and rehabilitate this injury."

## The USM experience

"USM was a very important piece of my foundation. The school prepared me in many ways, particularly academically. Remo Riciputi, a biology professor, got me interested in biology and John Broida got me interested in the biopsych and neuropsych side of things. When I went to class, I was just riveted by what I was hearing.

"USM is just a very friendly, dynamic place that really prepared me. I remember my first day at Michigan State, when the eight people in my program introduced themselves around a table, and there were a number of Ivy grads, and then they got to me. Well, for the first day I was a little intimidated, but by the end of my training I competed very well. I was ready academically and socially. I was prepared in so many ways that I truly didn't understand until I got through it.

"And my baseball experience helped. (Micky played in the 1989 College World Series for USM.) Understanding the sports world has been a great help in my work. When I see Red Sox players who come to see me, they know that I know sports. Being able to interact on that level has been a very important part of my career.

"I've met President Glenn Cummings, and I think the university is in a really good position under his leadership. I have a sense of the good things going on at the school, and I have a lot of respect for the university and for what it did for me and for my family.

"I do miss Maine and the ocean. It is my home state. We own a house in Cape Elizabeth where my family spends as much time as possible. (Micky has four daughters, including Gabby, 14, Brooke, 13, and 11-year-old twins Payton and Riley.) Maine has never left me. It's a part of who I am."



The USM Works for ME program includes workplace gatherings such as this one at Martin's Point Health Care.

# USM Works for ME

## >> Changing the way USM engages with employers in Maine

By Trevor Maxwell

University of Southern Maine graduates have played essential roles in Maine's economy for more than a century.

USM's more than 50,000 alumni helped businesses recover from the Great Recession. They drive growth in the creative industries, professional services, advanced manufacturing and more. They are entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders and essential contributors at Maine companies of all sizes.

But for several years, USM heard from employers, many of whom are loyal alumni and financial supporters, that the University needed to do more to engage with its business partners. It needed to adapt curriculum more rapidly to reflect changes within industries. It needed to be more nimble and responsive to the needs of employers.

USM President Glenn Cummings heard the feedback and vowed to take action. Just in the past year, several changes have been made to improve the University's engagement with businesses, as part of a coordinated initiative called USM Works for ME.

"Basically, I made a promise that USM

"By saying 'USM Works for ME,' we are both stating a fact and making a promise."

Ainsley Wallace,  
VP for Corporate Engagement.

would find ways to better support employers, not only by producing high-quality graduates with the skills they are looking for, but by engaging businesses in other ways," Cummings said.

"That could mean having a USM faculty member collaborate with them on a project, helping their employees earn degrees or certifications, developing an entirely new program, or simply listening to their concerns about the local economy."

One of the first significant changes Cummings made was last fall's hiring of Ainsley Wallace as VP for Corporate Engagement. Wallace, who serves a dual role as VP for the USM Foundation, has the freedom to work with external partners, as well as faculty, staff, and others across departments and programs, improving communications between alumni, career services and the

president's office.

"President Cummings is positioning us to take advantage of our biggest strategic asset, which is our place. Between Greater Portland and Lewiston-Auburn, we're in the center of the largest metropolitan area north of Boston, home to hundreds of small and mid-sized businesses," Wallace said.

"By saying 'USM Works for ME,' we are both stating a fact and making a promise," she said. "USM has fueled southern Maine's economy and workforce for many years. With the president's support, we're preparing to deliver for students and alumni in a way that hasn't been done before. This is a promise with teeth behind it."

Part of this capacity-building is the recent hiring of two employer engagement managers. These managers report directly to Wallace, and are assigned to a portfolio of Maine employers. For USM students, they will identify opportunities for internships, job-shadow programs and employment.

For the employers, the managers will look for ways that USM can provide support such as research and development collaboration, faculty-led workshops, execu-



tive training, and professional development opportunities. The managers will work partially off-site, at the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce and other locations in the business community.

Cummings and Wallace are also leading a push to make USM faculty, leadership, and alumni more visible in the business community. USM plans to hold 15 USM Works for ME workplace gatherings this academic year at Maine employers. The informal gatherings allow employers and alumni to learn about the latest developments at USM and to discuss their needs in workforce development, Wallace said.

The changes are already being applauded by Maine employers, said Ed McKersie, president of the Portland-based staffing and recruiting firm Pro Search. In 2015, McKersie also launched Live + Work in Maine, an online listing service that connects college students with employers. The Massachusetts native has been involved with USM in a variety of ways over the past decade, and serves as chair of the USM Foundation Board.

“In the past, you would hear from employers that they couldn’t find enough good candidates in Maine and from USM. Then from the USM perspective, you would hear that students couldn’t find good internship and job opportunities,” McKersie said.

“Really it was just a lack of communication and intention,” he said. “Now what we’re seeing is an intentional, strategic effort on behalf of USM, which was very much needed.”

McKersie noted that more than 70



Dead River Company President Deanna Sherman, MBA '96 is participating in the USM Works for ME program.

percent of USM students choose to stay in Maine after graduation, providing a dependable pipeline of talented employees.

From the fundraising lens of the USM Foundation, McKersie said, the university cannot simply expect Maine businesses to give money toward student scholarships and programs without meaningful engagement. That means finding out what individual employers need, and seeking solutions for those needs. The hiring of Wallace and

the employer engagement managers are major steps toward that goal, McKersie said. “The first step is to meet with an employer and figure out what resonates. One company might need interns, while another company might need professional development courses,” he said.

“When the university learns about the employer, and vice versa, that can jumpstart a great relationship that ultimately benefits individual USM students, as well as the regional economy.”

## USM Works for ME in the community

### Fall Events

- Saturday, Sept. 23: Pop-Up Homecoming Events in Portland at USM alumni-owned businesses
- Monday, Oct. 2: “A Chance in the World” with Steve Pemberton, Vice-President and Chief Diversity Officer, Walgreens
- Wednesday, Oct. 4: USM Women in Leadership Happy Hour in Lewiston-Auburn
- Thursday, Oct. 26: Internship Matching Fair with Project Login and USM Corporate Partners

For more information, contact Lydia Swann, Events and Communications Manager at [lydia.swann@maine.edu](mailto:lydia.swann@maine.edu)

### 2017-18 Program Highlights

- Holistic Employer Relationship Management
- Employer-Targeted Communications
- Transformation of USM Corporate Partners Program
- Informational Interview Network for Students with Community Members
- Workplace Gatherings for Employers and Alumni
- Pre-Internship Training and Professional Development Retreat for Students
- “Adulting” Curriculum for Seniors
- 1:1 Career Advising for Undeclared Majors

For more information or to get involved, contact Ainsley Wallace, vice president of Corporate Engagement at [ainsley.wallace@maine.edu](mailto:ainsley.wallace@maine.edu)



Camden Ege at the Veterans Services office in Luther Bonney Hall. USM has the highest number of veterans of any school in Maine.

# Veteran Friendly

## A national spotlight is trained on USM programs

“More and more, our veterans feel connected to the resources on campus and in the community. The university has made a big effort to listen to them and respond to their needs. It’s great to see that being recognized at a national level.”

Camden Ege ’16 (at right)



**By Trevor Maxwell**

In the fall of 2013, Camden Ege arrived at USM as an undergrad after spending six years in the U.S. Air Force.

The Sanford native went from guarding missile silos in Cheyenne, Wyo., to writing papers, studying for exams and trying to fit in with classmates just out of high school.

The adjustment was tough. Though he connected with veterans at USM who had made the same transition, Ege felt mostly on his own when it came to navigating the complex rules of VA benefits and academic credits, not to mention the new social world he faced.



With a full-time coordinator and dedicated student veterans, USM has emerged as one of the nation's most veteran-friendly schools.

Recognition medals gathered for a graduation event for USM veterans in spring 2017.

“It was a rude awakening,” Ege recalled. “I went from a job where I felt successful and confident, to a setting where it was hard for me to make connections. That really motivated me to see if I could make a difference for other student veterans.”

That same year, USM created a position to help student veterans, recognizing that their unique needs were not being met. Lorrie Spaulding was hired in December of 2013 as the school's first Veterans Services coordinator. She hit the ground running, spending countless hours speaking with veterans about ways the university could improve.

Four years later, with Spaulding and Ege leading the way, USM has emerged as one of the nation's most supportive schools for veterans.

Recent advancements for veterans include:

- A consolidated and revitalized student veterans organization – Husky Vets;
- An orientation program geared specifically for veterans;
- Several USM programs that offer academic credit for military experience; and
- “Green Zone” presentations that are offered at least once a month, where student veterans talk to faculty, staff and students about military culture, transition difficulties and the strengths veterans bring to classrooms.

Reflecting this momentum, Victory Media has recognized USM as one of the top 25 veteran-friendly public universities in the U.S.

“More and more, our veterans feel connected to the resources on campus and in the community. The university has made a big effort to listen to them and to respond



Lorraine Spaulding, coordinator of Veterans Services at USM.



At 2017's graduating veterans ceremony, Rear Admiral Mike Dumont '84, USM President Glenn Cummings, and VP for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Nancy Davis Griffin '82 recognize graduate Ater Ater '17.

More than 300 veterans, active military personnel and reservists were enrolled at USM during 2016-17. That's the highest number of any college or university in Maine.

to their needs," said Ege, 28, now a graduate student who also works in the Veterans Services office. "It's great to see that being recognized at a national level."

Ege earned his bachelor's degree from USM in criminology and leadership and organizational studies in 2016. He is now working on a master's degree in leadership studies and expects to graduate in spring 2018.

### The most veterans at any Maine school

More than 300 veterans, active military personnel and reservists were enrolled at USM during 2016-17. That's the highest number of any college or university in Maine. More than half of them are using the Post 9/11 GI Bill to help pay for their education.

Spaulding heard a lot of frustration from student veterans when she arrived on campus, particularly about the difficulty of lining up a degree path with the stringent requirements and paperwork required by the Department of Veterans Affairs. She had to convince some tough skeptics that she could help.

"When I got here I could clear a room in five minutes. I wasn't a veteran and I had to prove my worth," Spaulding recalled. "I got lucky because I had an amazing supervisor in Beth Higgins, executive director of advising, and I had unlikely allies in two older student veterans. They were my strongest critics and biggest supporters. Their input, guidance and advocacy for their fellow veterans was crucial to the programming that has been implemented and the way that I do business with my students," she said.





A graduation celebration was held in spring of 2017 for veterans graduating from USM.

## Husky Veterans take national stage

Spaulding serves as advisor to Husky Veterans, the growing student organization that was created in 2016 through the merger of two previous groups. Husky Vets is one of 1,400 chapters of the national organization, Student Veterans of America (SVA). This past fall, the SVA awarded a \$1,500 grant to Husky Vets to help recruit new members and boost visibility in general. It was the first time the SVA awarded a grant to a chapter in Maine.

In January of 2017, Spaulding, Ege and several other representatives of Husky Vets attended the SVA national conference in Anaheim, Calif. The group was nominated for best business plan, and Spaulding was one of three finalists for the honor of SVA Advisor of the Year.

"It's humbling," Spaulding said. "The work we do is always evolving and changing to meet the needs of our students, and no two students are the same. We have to be agile and ready to adapt to the student in front of us. I think that's something we do really well here."

## New courses, assistant coordinator

Another positive development, Spaulding said, is that USM faculty members are creating courses that relate directly to the



military experience. One course offered this spring was specifically for veterans making the transition from the military to civilian life. Another course, in the field of social work, focused on how to provide support to veterans.

This summer, USM was in the process of hiring an assistant coordinator for Veterans Services. This position will oversee the Veterans Resource Centers and work-study students, among other responsibilities.

"Veterans Services relies heavily on work-study students, and the really cool thing about our student veterans is that they have a strong desire to serve and to leave things better than when they got here," Spaulding said.

"How can you fail when that is the mindset that drives you?"

"The work we do is always evolving and changing to meet the needs of our students, and no two students are the same. We have to be agile and ready to adapt to the student in front of us. I think that's something we do really well here."

Lorraine Spaulding  
coordinator of Veterans Services



"The Summer King," by USM Professor Dan Sonenberg, premiered at the Pittsburgh Opera Company in April, 2017. (David Bachman Photography)

## At opera's world premiere Sonenberg delivers a home run

>> USM professor Dan Sonenberg's "The Summer King" earns praise at its world premiere at the Pittsburgh Opera.

By Danielle Vayenas

As the music swells, at center stage the spotlight illuminates a young street ball player in uniform striding forward, her upraised fist triumphantly clutching a baseball. The stage fills with the chorus – the youthful street ball team plus a large crowd of baseball fans singing as the opera comes to an exultant finish, paying tribute to baseball player Josh Gibson's magical hit that sent the ball soaring "clean out of Yankee Stadium."

The audience at the Benedum Center in Pittsburgh leaps to its collective feet as the cast takes its well-earned bows. Composer Dan Sonenberg is brought to center stage, and basks in the emotion of an extended standing ovation and outpouring of shouted "bravos" from the appreciative crowd.

Sonenberg, a composer and professor at University of Southern Maine's School of Music, never could have dreamed of such a perfect ending for his opera – a project 14 years in the making. The opera received a tremendous amount of press with critics praising the world premiere performance with statements such as "a vibrant and enchanting score," "musically sound and emotionally moving," and "a compelling theatrical experience and a serious, thought-provoking addition to the repertory."

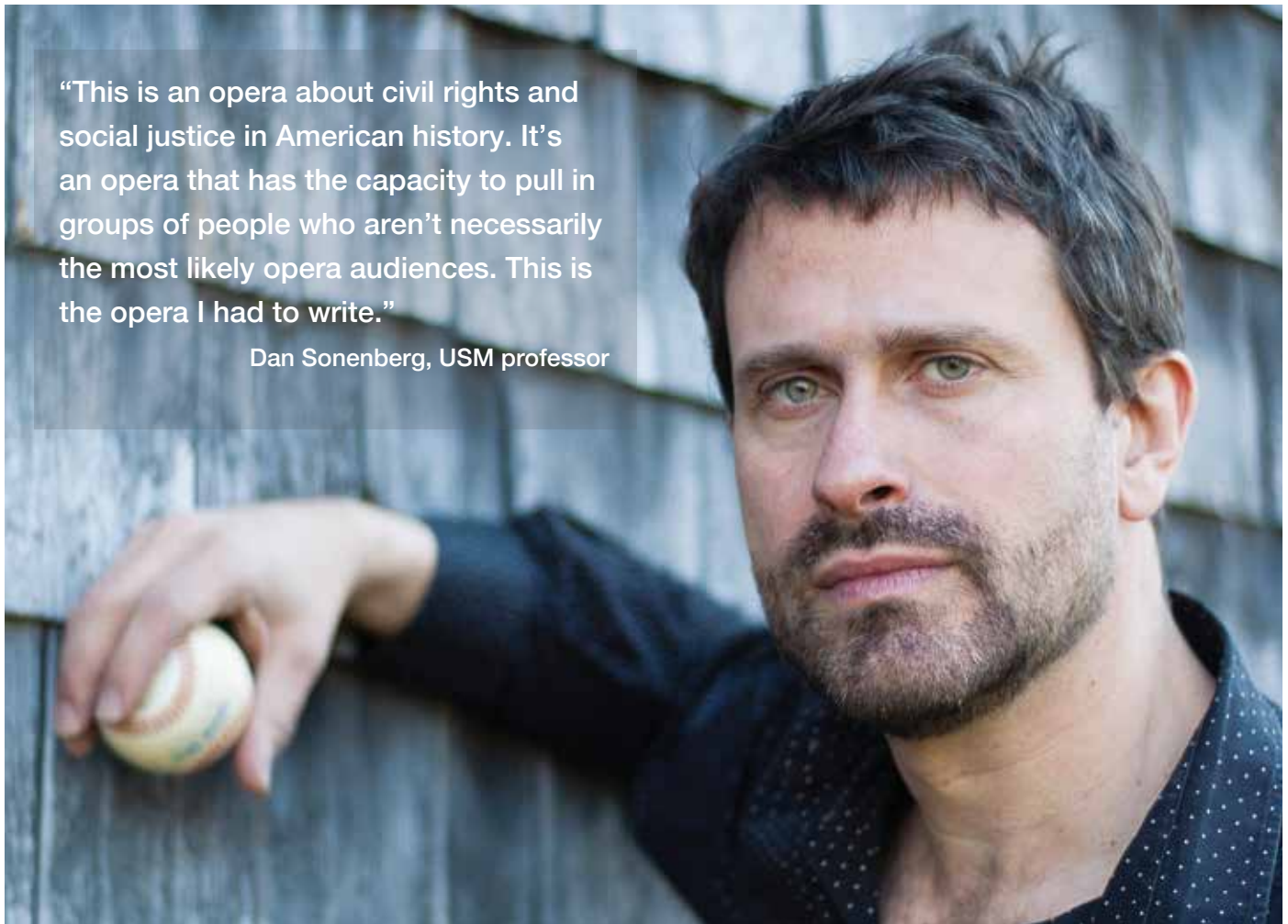
While America's pastime is perhaps an unlikely topic for an opera, "The Summer King" has all the elements of an operatic tragedy. As a lifelong baseball fan, Sonenberg found himself intrigued by the history of the Negro Leagues of the 30s and early 1940s, particularly the story of unsung baseball hero Josh Gibson.

Under other circumstances, Gibson would have rivaled Babe Ruth. His feats



"This is an opera about civil rights and social justice in American history. It's an opera that has the capacity to pull in groups of people who aren't necessarily the most likely opera audiences. This is the opera I had to write."

Dan Sonenberg, USM professor

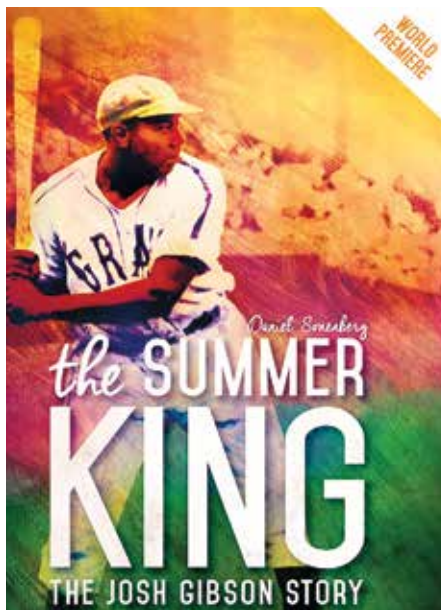


"The Summer King" by Dan Sonenberg (above) follows the life of baseball great Josh Gibson. (Photo by Will Wohler '07)

include the story of him hitting a home run out of Yankee Stadium as an 18 year old. Apocryphal story aside, historians consider Gibson to be among the best to ever play the game.

Tragically, Gibson died at age 35 from a brain tumor, just three months prior to Jackie Robinson's breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball. His short life was full of joy for the game, but also fraught with pain with the tragic loss of his young wife in childbirth, and as noted by Sonenberg, the indignities and disrespect offered to him by the white baseball establishment, and his own struggle with the historical responsibility placed by circumstance upon his shoulders.

In a 2014 interview with Opera America, Sonenberg said, "I didn't want this to be a cerebral exercise ... I think it's going to move people. It's an opera about baseball. This is an opera about civil rights and social justice in American history. It's an opera that has the capacity to pull in groups of people who aren't necessarily the most



likely opera audiences. This is the opera I had to write."

Coming to music originally as a rock drummer, Sonenberg didn't experience

opera until college, and that split identity came together in creating the music for "The Summer King." Sung in English, the score features elements of jazz, ragtime, swing and even mariachi music.

When asked in an interview with DownEast Magazine about working on such a project in Portland and at USM, he said, "Being surrounded by so many talented musicians and composers and performers provides fuel ... My move to Maine has definitely helped foster my development as a composer."

"The Summer King" was commissioned by Portland Ovations, led by executive director Aimée Petrin. In collaboration with the University, they first presented the opera to the public as a concert performance in 2014 at Merrill Auditorium in Portland. That performance attracted the interest of Christopher Hahn, Pittsburgh Opera's general director, who decided to produce the show, working with Sonenberg to refine certain aspects of the opera to take it to the national level.

As a lifelong baseball fan, Dan Sonenberg found himself intrigued by the history of the Negro Leagues of the 30s and early 1940s, particularly the story of unsung baseball hero Josh Gibson.



Dan Sonenberg makes a curtain call at the premiere of his opera "The Summer King" at the Pittsburgh Opera Company.

Sonenberg collaborated on the libretto with Daniel Nester, and Mark Campbell provided additional lyrics for the revised final version. In both 2014 and in the past year, University of Southern Maine School of Music composition major Aaron Clarke worked on the score with Sonenberg, his faculty advisor and professor.

Clarke said when they received word that Pittsburgh Opera Company was picking up "The Summer King" for its staged world premiere, "We began work on revisions, which I assisted with essentially in real-time. As he (Sonenberg) would revise a scene, he would pass it on to me for proofreading and formatting ... the experience was life-changing."

The opera has received major support from American Opera Projects, the National Endowment for the Arts, Bob Crewe Foundation, Maine Arts Commission and the University of Southern Maine; and support for the Pittsburgh Opera world premiere from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The cast was led by internationally known artists such as baritone Alfred Walker as Josh Gibson and mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves as Grace, Gibson's girlfriend. With original sets, costumes, a 60-piece orchestra and a large chorus, all of which executive director Christopher Hahn said

brought this colorful, vibrant world to life, the world premiere cost about \$1.8 million.

Having seen the opera through from its beginnings, Portland Ovation's organized a trip to Pittsburgh from the Portland area to enjoy its fully staged world premiere. Among several dozen attending were Portland Ovation's staff and board members, who'd been proponents of the project throughout most of its development; enthusiastic supporter Dan Crewe; and several staff from USM, including President Glenn Cummings and School of Music Director Alan Kaschub.

As reported in the Portland Press Herald by arts reporter Bob Keyes, a trio of former USM students even planned a 13-hour round trip drive, coming just to see the opera. "I've been excited about this since the get-go," said Sam Chandler, one of the students. "I needed to be here to support Dan."

Seated in the audience, at his faculty member's world premiere, Kaschub eagerly drank in the performance. At the intermission, he expressed his enthusiasm, including how impressed he was at the orchestra's precise handling of the difficult score, having played some of the music himself early in the opera's development.

In looking back at the whole experience,

Kaschub said, "My feelings about the opera are a mixture of happiness for Dan, pride for USM and of course all the feelings that come from seeing this important story told in such a beautiful way. I have heard parts of this opera develop, I have seen scenes in various contexts and I even played some of the trumpet parts in the early demos and performances."

"The story of how this opera came to be is a success story of an engaged university supporting a professor and a visionary arts organization (Portland Ovation's) championing a local artist," he said.

Sonenberg is by no means finished composing and collaborating on musical ventures. In March of next year The Michigan Opera Theatre in Detroit will be presenting "The Summer King." He also has an upcoming project collaborating with USM School of Music's Opera Workshop and Portland's The Telling Room to compose a short opera for Opera Maine (formerly PORTopera). This project will involve young people (between the ages of 12 and 18) co-writing the libretto with guidance from a workshop hosted by The Telling Room. The resulting opera will have its premiere in April 2018 at USM and other venues yet to be announced.



# USM adds endowed insurance chair

>> The MEMIC John Leonard Endowed Chair in Risk Management and Insurance will help USM grow its insurance offerings, benefiting students and professionals.

By Trevor Maxwell

The University of Southern Maine and MEMIC – a Portland-based insurance company that offers workers' compensation coverage to employers – have created an endowed faculty chair that will allow USM to strengthen its offerings for students training for insurance careers, while also expanding professional development for the 14,000 or so people already employed within Maine's booming insurance industry.

The MEMIC John Leonard Endowed Chair in Risk Management and Insurance was formally announced on Aug. 3 at a retirement celebration for Leonard, the long-time CEO of MEMIC who has been instrumental in the industry's growth in Maine, and a strong advocate for USM's risk management and insurance (RMI) program.

The MEMIC Group pledged to contribute \$1.5 million toward the endowment over the next five years, and the company expects to leverage its donation with \$1.5 million in matching gifts. The MEMIC Leonard Chair is only the second endowed faculty chair in USM history. The first, the L.L. Bean/Lee Surace Endowed Chair in Accounting, was created in 2003.

Leaders at USM and MEMIC say the collaboration provides a model for how universities can work with industry for the benefit of students, the workforce, and the economy, and is emblematic of USM's commitment to community and corporate engagement.

"This is a huge step forward for our students who are interested in getting into this dynamic field," said professor Dana Kerr, director of USM's RMI program, who has built the program to its current strength. "It is going to be a great way to serve students, and at the same time support the insurance industry, which has become so important here."

Annual income from the endowment will help expand the RMI program in a number of ways, including:

- Bringing insurance experts to USM as adjunct faculty, visiting faculty, and/or guest lecturers. For example, USM



From left, David Labbe (chair, MEMIC Board of Directors), John Leonard (president and CEO, MEMIC), Michael Bourque (senior vice president, External Affairs, MEMIC), Dana Kerr (USM professor), Ainsley Wallace (vice president of the USM Foundation) and Glenn Cummings (USM president).

Leaders at USM and MEMIC say the collaboration provides a model for how universities can work with industry for the benefit of students, the workforce, and the economy, and is emblematic of USM's commitment to community and corporate engagement.

- could hire an insurance executive to teach an upper-level MBA course.
- Using technology to expand RMI courses and training offerings to other University of Maine System campuses, to serve students and insurance industry professionals.
- Expanding credentialing and continuing education offerings geared toward insurance professionals seeking a wide range of licenses and designations.

The creation of the MEMIC John Leonard Endowed Chair is a continuation of a long-standing relationship between USM and the insurance industry. MEMIC and several other companies in Maine and New Hampshire collaborated with USM to hire Kerr and launch the RMI program in the

fall of 2008. The companies funded 80 percent of the program for its first four years.

With companies such as MEMIC, Unum, and Sun Life Financial, Maine recently ranked second in the nation for its concentration of insurance claims workers and seventh for underwriters. USM offers the only postsecondary undergraduate insurance program north of Hartford, Conn.

"MEMIC and many other insurance companies in the region have been beneficiaries of USM's talent development," said Michael Bourque, a 22-year veteran of MEMIC who will replace Leonard as president and CEO in September.

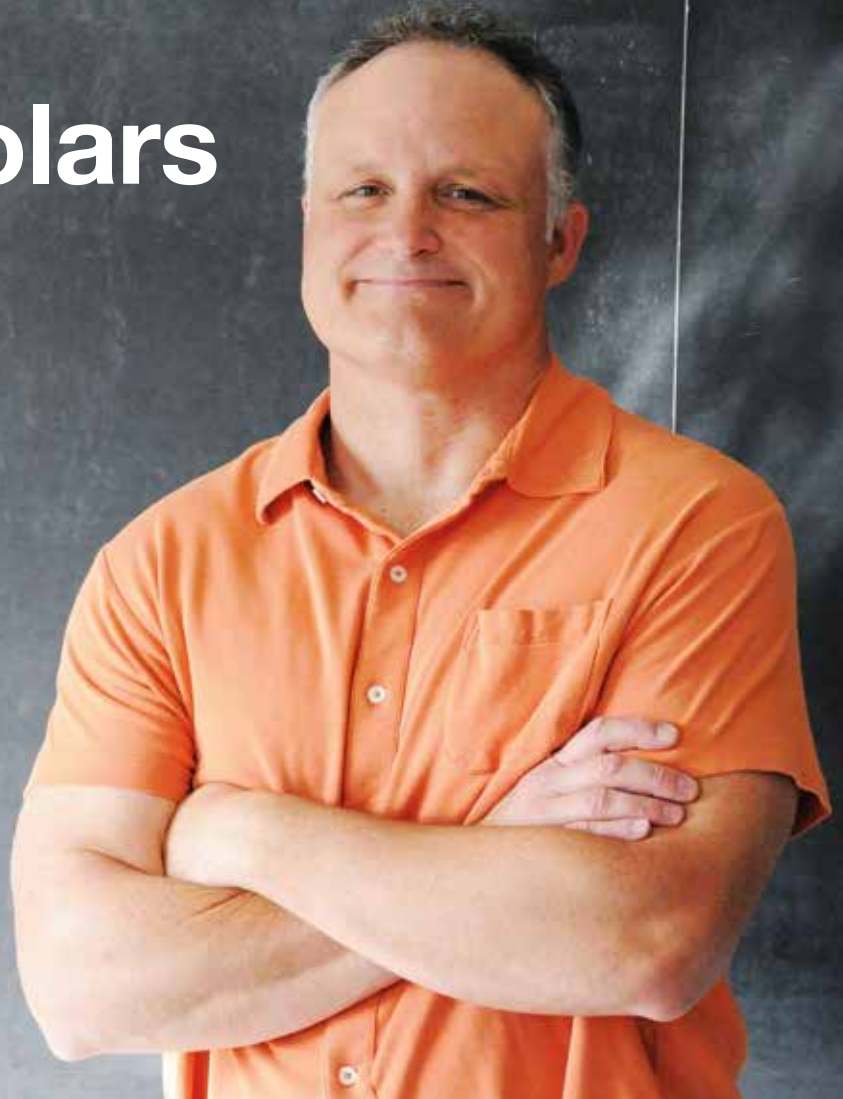
"We really see this endowment as key to our future development in Portland, and the development of the industry in general in northern New England," he said.

MEMIC has hired 10 USM graduates, and more than 100 of their employees have taken USM's 10-week course and exam for the Workers Compensation Professional Designation. The endowment, Bourque said, essentially doubles the capacity of the RMI program.

"With the aging workforce, we need to replace people. The insurance industry, on average, is quite a bit older than other industries in Maine," Bourque said. "We're proud to support the next generation, while also being able to honor John Leonard and the many contributions he has made to Maine in his career."

# Unum Scholars Program:

## A win-win for students and a major employer



Dana Kerr, head of USM's risk management and insurance program, says many students in the Unum Scholars program end up with permanent jobs.

By Trevor Maxwell

Back in 2008, when USM partnered with the business community to develop a risk management and insurance (RMI) track within the School of Business, a top goal was to create a pipeline of talent for Maine's booming insurance industry.

A decade later, that symbiotic relationship is thriving.

There are now about 70 USM students involved in some capacity with the RMI track each year, and job placement for those students exceeds 90 percent.

"We actually have more jobs available in this area than we do students coming out of the program," says Professor Dana Kerr, who heads up the RMI program.

One major component of the jobs pipeline is the Unum Scholars program. Launched in Maine in 2014, the program gives USM students the opportunity to work for two years as part-time Unum employees. The students

"Our students are not only able to make money toward school, but they gain valuable work experience at a Fortune 500 company, and a head start toward employment."

Professor Dana Kerr

receive training, mentorship and the ability to job shadow in various departments at a company that employs nearly 3,000 people in Maine. Most Unum scholars are offered full-time jobs when they graduate from USM.

"Our students are not only able to make money toward school, but they gain valuable work experience at a Fortune 500 company, and a head start toward employment," Kerr said.

"We have had a lot of good students who have gone into the Scholars program and

ended up with permanent jobs there, and they have really enjoyed their experiences."

Unum generally employs eight to 12 scholars from USM at any given time. In the spring of 2016, eight of the scholars graduated from USM. Seven of them were hired as full-time employees at Unum, and the eighth took a job at another insurance company.

Students from a wide range of USM departments, not only the School of Business, are encouraged to apply for the program. For example, Unum has selected students majoring in English, health sciences and liberal studies. Students must have completed 60 credit hours and have a minimum 3.0 GPA to apply. The scholars work anywhere from 15-19 hours per week and are able to work flexible hours so they can maintain their class schedule.

"All of the USM students come with a great skill set and are excited for the opportunity. We find they do extremely well here," said Hanako Cashin, human resources program manager at Unum. "They bring a fresh



perspective to the company. They're very curious, and they ask great questions and have the courage to provide feedback and ask us questions about why we do things a certain way."

Part of Cashin's role is to make sure the scholars have a positive experience. She also serves as a talent broker of sorts. As Cashin gets to know each scholar and understand his or her strengths, she is better able to match them with different departments.

"Our goal, whenever we can, is to provide them with an advanced job offer, so they can really enjoy their senior year and make that transition as seamless as possible," Cashin said. "If Unum is not a good fit for them, we still want them to be able to come out of the program feeling good about it, and to say it helped them achieve whatever they wanted to do post-graduation."

Local prospects for employment in the insurance field are excellent, Kerr said. In greater Portland alone, there are about 20 companies focused on disability insurance, employing roughly 5,000 people. Sun Life Financial recently opened a large satellite of-

"When I interviewed, I thought it would be more of a typical business internship, photocopying and that sort of thing. It is definitely not that. You have a lot of responsibilities and you are considered an important part of the team."

Bryanna Phillips,  
Unum scholar

fice in Scarborough, after considering several metro areas. The president of Sun Life's U.S. operations told the news media that the cluster of other insurance companies was a key factor in the location decision.

"When you look at per capita jobs, the concentration of insurance jobs here in southern Maine, including claims, underwriting and actuarial science, ranks in the top five nationwide," Kerr said.

Bryanna Phillips, a USM junior from Westbrook, heard about the Unum Scholars program through a friend who works for the company. Phillips, an accounting major, did not expect to be selected because she was only a sophomore at the time.

"I've always wanted to work in the business environment, and I thought this would be a great way to get a foot in the door," Phillips said.

Unum hired Phillips as a scholar in the fall of 2016. She worked full time for the company this summer, and is now continuing as a scholar, working 16 hours a week. In the core market underwriting unit, Phillips helps assess mid-size businesses for different insurance products. She has also job shadowed other employees in different units. Phillips is interested in working as a sales representative or in Unum's finance department after graduation in 2019.

"When I interviewed, I thought it would be more of a typical business internship, photocopying and that sort of thing," she said. "It is definitely not that. You have a lot of responsibilities and you are considered an important part of the team."



USM student Bryanna Phillips helps assess mid-size businesses for different insurance products.



# USM forges bonds with counterparts in Iceland

>> Cultural and economic ties are driving new educational partnerships that span the North Atlantic.

By Trevor Maxwell

Picture a remote land known for its rugged coastline, cold climate, tourism and a proud fishing industry that remains vital to the economy.

Sounds a lot like Maine, right?

The same description also applies to Iceland, the strikingly beautiful island country that lies roughly 2,000 miles from us across the North Atlantic Ocean.

The similarities between Maine and Iceland – bolstered by a thriving trade relationship that ships goods through Portland's International Marine Terminal – are driving new educational partnerships, stu-

dent exchanges and research collaborations between the University of Southern Maine and the University of Iceland, Reykjavik University, and the University of Akureyri.

"The people of Iceland have faced, and in many cases very successfully, some of the same challenges that Maine is facing, whether it be in the field of sustainable energy, public health, tourism or environmental protection," says USM President Glenn Cummings.

"We have a lot to learn from one another," Cummings says. "Getting some of our students to Iceland, for hands-on learning and to establish connections, is an exciting development."





Among the highlights of the USM/Iceland connection:

- All incoming Honors program students now have the opportunity to enroll in a course that includes two weeks of study in Iceland.
- 16 students from USM's Tourism and Hospitality program and 15 students in the Honors program traveled to Iceland this summer on experiential learning trips.
- Four students in the Master of Public Health program in USM's Muskie School of Public Service studied in Iceland for their field experience placements.

The relationships between USM and universities and businesses in Iceland were spurred in part by a major corporate decision. Eimskip, an Iceland-based shipping company, chose Portland in 2013 for its North American headquarters. Since then, the volume and value of goods moving between Portland and Iceland have increased dramatically.

In the fall of 2015, Cummings led a

delegation of representatives from USM, along with more than 30 people from the City of Portland and the State of Maine, in attending the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik.

"The USM delegation demonstrated excellent entrepreneurial spirit by arranging numerous separate meetings with non-profits, universities, governmental agencies and businesses to explore new opportunities for our students," Cummings said after returning from that trip. "Our hope is to see which of these many USM-Icelandic conversations might take hold."

Some of the conversations to take hold were initiated by Tracy Michaud Stutzman, chair of USM's Tourism and Hospitality program.

"I was struck by the authenticity of the culture. The communities are still very real and the people care deeply about the environment, much like the people of Maine," Michaud Stutzman said.

"It's a place where tourism has exploded just in the past decade. All of a sudden they're dealing with 10 times the amount

of people coming to the island compared to their local population," she said. "They are wrestling with issues of sustainability. How do we manage this influx? How do we protect the places that are so important to us, without having to necessarily rope everything off, put up tons of signs, and ruin that natural feel?"

Since the 2015 visit, Michaud Stutzman has built relationships with the universities in Iceland and organizations including Promote Iceland, a public-private partnership whose mission is to boost tourism and make Icelandic companies more competitive.

Michaud Stutzman led a trip to Iceland this summer for 16 Tourism and Hospitality students, in collaboration with AAA Travel. Five non-USM travelers joined the group for the trip. The group toured the country, focusing on the ways in which natural and human activities impact the landscape, and how those impacts relate to the tourism economy.

"For our program, it's important that students get out and travel and explore the world," Michaud Stutzman said. "Especially





“For our program, it’s important that students get out and travel and explore the world. Especially for people who have never been out of the U.S., it really is life-changing.”

Tracy Michaud Stutzman,  
chair of USM’s Tourism and  
Hospitality program

for people who have never been out of the U.S., it really is life-changing.”

Michaud Stutzman is working on a formal agreement in which USM would provide a tourism concentration within Reykjavik University’s MBA program. She hopes the partnership will be implemented by spring or summer 2018.

Other USM expert staff members and faculty, in both undergraduate and graduate programs, have similarly engaged teachers and businesspeople in Iceland.

The addition of an Iceland abroad course to the Honors program was made possible through a \$450,000 endowed gift from the estate of USM alumna A. Carolla Haglund ’51, and a \$481,990 grant from the Maine Economic Improvement Fund (MEIF).

Judy Tupper, director of population health and health policy in the Muskie School’s Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy, has also succeeded in using the 2015 USM Arctic trip as a springboard to building relationships.

With help from an MEIF grant, Tupper launched the Samstarf project, using the Icelandic word for collaboration.

“What I really was shooting for was to create a few student exchange opportunities right away, build those connections,



USM President Glenn Cummings, right, and Ari Kristinn Jónsson, president of Iceland’s Reykjavik University, sign an agreement that expands the relationship between the two schools.

and then think about growing research collaborations down the road,” Tupper said. “I see this as a tremendous opportunity for our students.”

In the summer of 2016, students Mary-Elizabeth Simms and Catherine Peranzi of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program worked with the University of Iceland and the Directorate of Health, and Fridgeir Sverrisson of the University of Iceland, spending two months working at the Muskie School. Peranzi and Simms examined the effects of second-hand smoke

from electronic cigarettes and factors that might change the rates of pre-term births. Together, they authored a drug take-back policy brief that was shared with Iceland’s surgeon general.

This May, a second pair of MPH students, Piper Cassidy and Barbara Price, went to Iceland to work on public health projects. Their trip included meetings with the chief medical and nursing officers at Landspítali Hospital in Reykjavik, Tupper said. Reykjavik University clinical psychology graduate student Maria Gudnadottir lived in Portland over the summer and worked with researchers at the Muskie School on aging and behavioral health projects.

As of this summer, Tupper was expecting at least two students from the University of Akureyri to take her fall online course, Health Literacy. Also, a nursing professor from Akureyri was scheduled to come to USM this year for a winter sabbatical. The Samstarf collaborators are now discussing common interests in e-health technology.

“It has been an incredible journey and it’s hard to believe it has been under two years,” Tupper said. “I have friends there now. They think of me, I think of them. It was all about building the relationships.”



USM students in Iceland.





The Bayside Community Nursing Partnership provides real-world training for USM nursing students, while addressing the health needs of high poverty/highly diverse neighborhoods.

## In Portland's Bayside

# Nursing students play vital health role

>> The innovative community nursing partnership, one of 11 within USM's School of Nursing, trains nurses while helping vulnerable residents.

By Trevor Maxwell

In a room near the entrance of the Preble Street Resource Center in Portland, USM nursing student Leah Roy pushes her folding chair closer to the man sitting across from her. They talk for a few minutes about his health.

"I think my blood pressure is high," he says quietly.

The man is in his 60s. He's homeless and has been struggling with a cough and other symptoms from decades of smoking.

Every Thursday morning, this small room is transformed into a makeshift health clinic. Roy checks the man's blood pressure and lets him know it's actually pretty good. From a nearby table, she grabs a pulse oximeter and checks the man's blood oxygen level. It's good, too.

"Just to make you feel better, are you able to come back in about 15 or 20 minutes so I can check your blood pressure again?" Roy offers.

The man smiles and nods, as two others enter the room to meet with Roy or one of the other student nurses on duty.

It's one interaction, one snapshot among hundreds that take place every year within the Bayside Community Nursing Partnership, an innovative program that provides real-world training for USM nursing students, while addressing the health needs of high poverty/highly diverse neighborhoods.

Each semester, about a dozen nursing students are assigned to Bayside. Under the guidance of USM professors Su Seples and Susan Clement, the students run weekly nursing clinics at Preble Street and at Franklin Towers, an apartment building that houses more than 200 people, many of whom are elderly.

Launched in 2001, the Bayside Partnership is all about making a positive impact on the vulnerable, homeless and the working poor. Beyond the two core clinics, the students also take part in projects with sev-

eral other entities in Bayside, including the Oxford Street Shelter, a nearby family shelter and the Milestone Foundation.

## Community partnerships serve a dual mission

Bayside is one of 11 community health partnerships overseen by the USM School of Nursing, including programs in Portland, South Portland, Lewiston the islands of Casco Bay and elsewhere. The partnerships are fundamental to the nursing track at USM. Every student in the nursing program participates in at least one community partnership for two consecutive semesters during his or her junior or senior years.

The mission of the partnerships is two-fold:

- Disadvantaged communities receive much-needed health services; and
- Nursing students receive experiences in the field that cannot be replicated in a classroom.

"I'll carry this with me for the rest of my career," said Micaela Manganello, a senior from Connecticut. She was one of the Bayside students in the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017.

Her time in Bayside was a crash course in leadership, communication, decision-making and relationship building. Manganello also came away with an understanding of how intimidating the health care system can be for poor and homeless clients, the elderly and people who speak little or no English.

"Many people are afraid of nurses, doctors, health practitioners in general," she said. "Our goal is to provide a positive interaction where we can look for any red flags, and to refer them to the appropriate providers if they need follow-up."

"For people who come into the clinic, sometimes you're the only person all day who has taken the time to really hear them and listen to their concerns."

## As population ages, nurses are in high demand

This valuable community health training will help Manganello and her classmates contribute as professionals in a wide range of settings.

The USM nursing students will enter a job market where employers desperately need their skills. Driven primarily by an aging population, Maine is one of many states facing a nursing shortage.



Community health training helps nursing students contribute as professionals in a wide range of settings.

## USM Community Nursing Partnerships

- Amistad Partnership with Marcia Goldenberg
- Bayside Community Partnership with Susan Sepples and Susan R. Clement
- Buxton Rural Health Community Partnership with Patricia Thompson-Leavitt
- Casco Bay Community Partnership with Kimberly Moody
- Cuba Community Partnership with Margaret Clews
- Dominican Republic Partnership with Margaret Clews and Whitney Lutz
- Greater Portland Older Adult Partnership with Linda Samia
- Healthy Aging/Elder Life Program with Noreen Vincent
- Lewiston Community Health: Kennedy Park Partnership with Karen Chan Zuckerman
- L/A Community CARE Partnership with Cynthia Randall
- Sagamore Health Clinic with Abbey Darus



Recent estimates from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, along with the University of Maine System, project a shortage of more than 3,000 nurses by 2025. The number of people in Maine over the age of 65 is expected to grow more than 30 percent by then, and many of them will face chronic health problems.

Sepples, the nurse and professor who has been the one constant at the Bayside Partnership since it began, said future nurses will need to be as resilient and creative as their predecessors, if not more so. Community partnerships are perfect environments to spark creativity, she said.

“Students get out and meet with the community, they hear what the needs are, and they have the freedom to find creative ways to respond to those needs,” Sepples said.

Students must develop “interventions,” which are individual projects that respond to specific needs they identify in the community. For example, students have developed interventions for stress management, a lice clinic to help families keep their children lice-free and attending school, and educational workshops on heart health.

Students are placed in a variety of leadership roles, and second-semester students are responsible for mentoring first-semester students. A seminar led by students is held every Thursday from 8 to 9:30 a.m., then the students head to either Franklin Towers or Preble Street, where they run the health clinics from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Although students don’t participate in the Bayside Partnership during summer break, Sepples and Clement routinely check in at the clinic sites throughout the summer, maintaining the relationships that represent the backbone of the program.



USM Associate Professor Su Sepples



Students are placed in a variety of leadership roles, and second-semester students are responsible for mentoring first-semester students.

## Peace of mind and a positive interaction’

On a Thursday morning in the spring semester, nursing students set up their weekly clinic in a community room at Franklin Towers. They made popcorn and iced tea, and welcomed residents for health checks.

In the past, Franklin Towers primarily housed poor, elderly residents. More recently, the apartment building has seen an influx of immigrants and younger tenants who are making the transition out of homelessness. The Bayside nursing students provide assistance with medication, education, general support and referrals.

“Our relationships start with something simple, like a blood pressure check. But it often turns into so much more,” said Mari-ah Sanders, a Scarborough High School graduate in her final year of nursing school. “They come to trust you and that can lead to deep conversations about their health and their lives.”

“Even though this is a big place, some of the residents don’t have a lot of day-to-day interaction with other people,” Sanders said.

“It can be very isolating here, so it feels good to provide that connection for them week to week. It can give them some peace of mind and a positive interaction.”

“People in the community get a sense of nurses as caring people who understand them. Plus, every positive experience they have with one of our students sets them up to seek healthcare when they need it in the future.”

Associate Professor Su Sepples

While most people are familiar with the type of acute nursing that happens in hospitals, fewer are aware of community nursing, which depends on trusting bonds between community members and nurses, Sepples said. The impact of community nursing can be just as profound as acute care, she said. That’s why the Bayside student nurses can often be found reading to children, listening to the life stories of the elderly or celebrating birthdays.

“People in the community get a sense of nurses as caring people who understand them,” Sepples said. “Plus, every positive experience they have with one of our students sets them up to seek healthcare when they need it in the future.”



# USM students raise the bar with medical research

>> Interns' work on biomed advancements at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute prepares them for med school and more.

By Trevor Maxwell

As one of the nation's top collegiate pole vaulters, USM senior Ron Helder­man can sprint down a 40-meter runway and launch himself over a bar suspended more than 16 feet off the ground.

An amazing skill, no doubt. But Helder­man has another talent that just might top it.

It's called histomorphometry.

This laboratory research technique involves taking a bone sample from mice and embedding it in a hard plastic, then analyzing how the bone responds to various methods of treatment for conditions such as osteoporosis.

Histomorphometry is one of the most advanced tools scientists and medical doctors are using as they learn about – and try to prevent – bone disease. Helder­man, thanks to an exclusive internship program between USM and the Maine Medical Center Research Institute (MMCRI), is on the front lines of this cutting-edge research.

For the past year, Helder­man has worked as an intern at MMCRI, located in Scarborough, with Dr. Cliff Rosen, one of the world's leading bone health researchers.

"It has been an amazing experience," said Helder­man, a pre-med student from Madison, Maine, pursuing a double major in biochemistry and biology. "My responsi-



bility this past year was to take an advanced technique that very few labs can do, learn how to do it, get the supplies, and prove that we can do it here.”

Helderman represents one of many success stories from the internship program that matches USM students with MMCRI researchers for an academic year. Launched in 2012 with one position, there are now 12 USM interns each year at the research institute. A grant from the Maine Economic Improvement Fund provides students with stipends for their work. Students participate in groundbreaking research on a variety of fronts, including kidney health, lung health and cancer.

### Giving USM students an edge

“The students are working on state-of-the-art biomedical research, using mice as a molecular genetic model to understand

“The feedback from the scientists at the center is always positive. They are really struck by the intelligence of the students and their ability to contribute right away to some very important work.”

David Champlin,  
USM biology professor

human health and disease,” said David Champlin, the USM biology professor who helped start the internship program with MMCRI, and continues to oversee the USM side of the program.

Champlin recruits USM students from a wide range of disciplines (including biology, chemistry, computer science and phys-

ics) to apply for the prestigious internships. Some of them are traditional undergraduate students, while others are older students who might already have college degrees, and have decided to change careers.

“The feedback from the scientists at the center is always positive. They are really struck by the intelligence of the students and their ability to contribute right away to some very important work,” Champlin said.

“This particular internship is such a springboard, especially for folks like Ron who are going to apply for medical school,” Champlin said. “They all have the advanced coursework and high GPAs. But students who get into medical school usually have exceptional experiences, whether it’s working in a hospital or a research lab. This is one of those experiences that can really give students an edge.”

Former MMCRI interns have had their research published in scientific publications, gained acceptance into graduate,



Ron Helderman, who worked on bone disease research as a USM student, plans to attend medical school.

nursing and medical degree programs, and have received funding to continue their research studies outside the classroom.

They have been hired by employers such as Alere, IDEXX, Capricorn, Maine Biotechnology Services, and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Several students have been accepted into Ph.D. programs that include the University of North Carolina, the University of Michigan, the University of Maine and the University of Florida.

## Finding a new calling in medicine

Spencer Scott has experienced the MMCRI "springboard" first-hand.

A Cape Elizabeth native, Scott took an unconventional route to science and medicine. His first career was in journalism. Scott earned a degree at New York University and spent the majority of the past decade working as a news producer for NPR, CNN and ABC.

After spending four months in 2014 shooting a medical documentary series in three of Boston's level one trauma centers, he felt a calling into a second career in medicine.

Scott enrolled at USM as a pre-med, post-baccalaureate student. He began his internship at the Liaw lab at MMCRI in January 2016. Under the guidance of principal investigator Dr. Lucy Liaw, the lab focuses on the health and development of blood vessels. Scott continued to work at the lab all the way through this summer, when he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry from USM. Scott is now a first-year student at Tufts University School of Medicine.

During his year and a half with MMCRI, Scott worked mainly on two projects. The first involved developing a way to image the blood vessels of the lungs using micro-CT technology. And the second investigated the ways in which a particular type of fat, PVAT, affects the formation of new blood vessels.

"Being in the midst of a career change, I owe so much to USM for the education I received there and being able to intern at MMCRI. (It) has been easily the most gratifying and fulfilling academic experience of my life," Scott said. "I credit the research experience enormously for setting me up for where I'm headed next. I count my blessings that I was able to move home, attend my state school, and work at a world-renowned laboratory that is literally just a few miles down the road from my house."



A bone sample that is being studied by USM student Ron Helderman.

"The biggest benefit of the MMCRI experience was how much it opened my eyes to what science looks like outside the classroom. All of my fellow lab members have made such big impacts on my internship. They've put a lot of work and energy into me. The connections you make through this program are incredible."

Ron Helderman, USM student

## Contributions valued by MMCRI scientists

Helderman, the USM senior, hopes to follow in Scott's footsteps to medical school.

Helderman has been interested in science and biology from an early age. He took courses to become an emergency medical technician when he was 16, even

though he couldn't start working for the local ambulance service until he turned 18.

This summer, Helderman took the Medical College Admission Test and applied to several med schools. He expects to get answers around the end of this year.

"The biggest benefit of the MMCRI experience was how much it opened my eyes to what science looks like outside the classroom," Helderman said. "All of my fellow lab members have made such big impacts on my internship. They've put a lot of work and energy into me. The connections you make through this program are incredible."

Rosen, the research scientist who took Helderman under his wing, said he was impressed with his dedication to the job and his contributions to his lab over the past year.

"After the academic year, we were thrilled to have Ron back for the summer. We could use him all the time," Rosen said. "Ron is multifaceted, he is very mature and well-rounded. His pole vaulting experience is something that all of us in the lab talk about quite a bit. He's a remarkable athlete as well as a remarkable student."

Helderman and the other USM interns at MMCRI, Rosen said, prove that USM students can thrive as research interns in a world-class laboratory setting.





A USM student explores a virtual-reality project in the school's Ci2 Lab.

# Ci2 Lab

## Hands-on learning with the latest digital tools

>> Entrepreneurial students partner to incorporate cutting-edge digital technology in the real world.

By Daniel Hartill

From its fifth-floor perch atop the glass and steel research wing of the science complex, Portland's Ci2 Lab seduces visitors with sprawling views of the cityscape.

But it's the innerscape – where students collaboratively transform the real world into digital form and coax digital forms into reality – that offers the best views.

Strap on goggles and teleport across mountain tops or control virtual robots in a fictional factory. Imagine a game where your survival depends on blasting a coop full of chickens, and hatch it. Imagine a solid, hand-held object, almost any object, and print it.

Students have done them all.

"The lab works at the bleeding edge of technology with infinite possibilities only limited by what the students can dream," said Raphael Diluzio, Ci2's director.

The lab's name is a combination of creative intelligence, innovation and collaboration, and it works as a tech-friendly incubator. Under the guidance of Diluzio and others, students work either individually or in teams to plan projects and then make them happen.

They have the use of state-of-the-art computers as well as a variety of gaming systems, video and audio production gear, drones and 3D printers. Virtual reality systems Oculus Rift and the HTC Vive are part of the tool chest. And when Microsoft



From left to right, Sam Capotosto, Benjamin Plummer, Elizabeth Darragh, Jonah Sarville and Pavel Gorelov have access to the cutting-edge tools of the Ci2 Lab.

released its first trial wave of the HoloLens, an augmented reality system, the Ci2 managed the first two in Maine's schools.

"We feel privileged to have been picked to be among the first in the world to receive Microsoft's cutting-edge technology," Diluzio said.

The cutting-edge work continues.

Plans call for new firsts in the technology and broader reach that could include new medical uses of the tools.

"We have the opportunity to explore and be open minded to new things," Diluzio said. "Technology companies will leak out that they are seeking developers, and I am always eagerly applying to as many as I can to give us the advantage of Beta testing the brand new technology as it comes to market!"

Already some students are creating their own companies in the lab.

For instance, when Maine-based rapper Ryan "Spouse" Peters prepared to launch his newest CD, titled "Good Luck with Your Life," he came up with the idea of launching a companion video game and talked with students at Ci2.



Engineering students Arnold Kristian Smith, left, and Cooper Towns work with a digital printer.



"They're proving that USM and Maine can produce video games that can compare to anything coming out of the Boston area or beyond."

Raphael Diluzio, Ci2's director

The result was the student creation, "Spore: King of Maine," a whimsical game in which the player tries to dodge all-terrain vehicles and hipsters in pursuit of a throne made of moose antlers. The game was released in Apple's App store and is available for both the iPhone and iPad.

It wasn't the first creation from USM's students to go public, though. Several Ci2-born games were released under the Timeshock name.

"They're proving that USM and Maine can produce video games that can compare to anything coming out of the Boston area or beyond," Diluzio said.

Timeshock's team worked to dismantle stereotypes that seem to accompany such development. The founding duo of Sam Capotosto and Jonah Sanville, both computer coders, brought onto their team students with varied backgrounds – an artist, a pair of writers and a marketer, a physics major and a music composer.

It's a needed mix of skills, Diluzio said. The stereotype of such a team consisting entirely of guys hunched over computers is simply inaccurate, he said.

"True development is much, much broader," said Diluzio, whose own career serves as an example. Diluzio has a prestigious background both as a technologist, having taught Apple personnel in Cupertino, Calif, and as a painter. He currently serves USM as an associate professor of design science/fine art.

Game creation is receiving a boost in fall 2017 with the start of a game design program at USM. Though it begins as a minor, it is expected to evolve into a sought-after major.

The lab is far more than games, though.

Students have made movies, developed software for augmented reality gear, researched hydroponics and examined battery technology for bicycles.

They also work to share their technology with area educators.

Ci2's Deputy Director Susannah Gordon-Messer hopes to encourage more projects such as this partnership with the public schools. She comes from MIT and has her



USM's virtual reality systems are one of the Ci2 Lab's tools.

doctoral degree in biophysics and structural biology from Brandeis University, and a bachelor's in biological and environmental engineering from Cornell.

Her work at MIT's Education Arcade allowed her to use her varied background as a scientist, teacher, researcher, designer and gamer to design educational materials that address teaching math and science in new and innovative ways.

She has begun bringing that breadth of experience to the students at USM. In June, teachers from area high schools were brought into the lab to learn about the use of 3D printers.

Engineering students Arnold Kristian (AK) Smith and Cooper Towns worked with teachers in the Side x Side Summer

Arts Institute to learn the breadth of what the machines can do.

The teachers picked digital designs from an online database as Smith and Towns loaded spools of filament onto the sides of the printers.

What the teachers had chosen, the students began printing. The objects – chess pieces, sculptures and abstract designs – took shape behind the printers' glass doors.

"Technology as an art is a whole new mindset," said Patty Shaw Sprague of Ocean Avenue Elementary School in Portland.

Towns liked passing on what he learned as he tinkered in the Ci2 Lab and tried to imagine what to print next.

"The more time I spend here, the more I want to continue being here," he said.









# At home in Fenway

**>> Kyle Raynor '12 is putting his sport management skills to work for the Boston Red Sox.**

A lifelong skier, Kyle Raynor went to college in Vermont and envisioned a career in the ski industry. But it wasn't long before Raynor's heart was telling him to change directions and come back home to Maine.

"I realized that my passion was for sports, and I wanted to pursue a career in management, so I started at USM in January 2010," said Raynor, a York County native.

"That was at the time USM was just starting its Sport Management program. It was one of the best decisions I've made."

Seven years later, Raynor works for the Boston Red Sox, one of the most iconic franchises in American sports. He's an account representative for premium sales, and has been working for the organization since 2013.

"Working at Fenway Park is a dream come true," Raynor said. "There's nothing else like walking up that ramp out there, getting the green monster right in your face, and it's that close and that tall and that famous color green. That's a special feeling for anyone – I don't care if you are 6 years old or 46 years old."

Raynor credits USM with providing him with the education and practical skills that have allowed him to achieve his goals. Raynor had the opportunity to intern with the Portland

Sea Dogs, Portland's minor league baseball team, and the Portland Pirates, its erstwhile minor league hockey team, while he was a student.

Heidi Parker, associate professor in the Sport Management program, said the relationships between USM and the Sea Dogs, the Maine Red Claws, local sports marketing agencies and sports management organizations are key to the program's success. USM students like Raynor, who intern with the Sea Dogs, are exposed to a wide range of tasks and responsibilities, from client relations to marketing and ushering on game days.

"It really is a great opportunity for our students to go develop their skills, get practical training, build their resume, and grow their connections in the sport industry," Parker said.

Chris Cameron, assistant general manager and director of media relations for the Sea Dogs, said the organization sees itself as an extension of the classroom for USM students.

"Every year when we go to hire interns, USM is one of the first places we look," Cameron said. "They have well-educated students, their availability works great with our schedule, and they have really performed well for us over the years. It is a great relationship."



# Students Making a Difference

## Why is it important to give back?

When I came to Portland with my family at the end of 2005, many people stood by our side and assisted us in so many ways. Portland became our new home, and the people of Portland became family members, so I wanted to help make my new home better, and the people in the community feel connected.

I believe there are many reasons we should all be involved in our community. I am involved in so many efforts because I believe a community becomes your place in the world that allows you and your family members to have a sense of belonging. You have the opportunity to make great friends and shape the direction your community is headed.

Involvement does make a difference by strengthening the community. When a community is doing well as a whole, the community members are better off, too.

## What is the greatest satisfaction in your community work?

It's knowing how my work and my voice have affected so many people in such a positive way. Being involved feels good. The satisfaction and pride that come from helping others is a good reason to be involved. When I commit my time and effort to my community, I am helping to make it a better place for me and for my family.

In my AmeriCorps position as an English language learner educator I have learned that with a thirst for knowledge, energy spent on meaningful work and focused passion, you really can accomplish anything. This experience is launching me into a place of confidence, productivity, creativity and leadership that I never would have known I was capable of. I feel like I gained many years of experience in only a few months.

## What do you hope to be doing in five years?

I see myself doing the same work that I do now, but on a larger scale. I want to finish graduate school, so I can provide more support to students, especially multicultural and multilingual students in the Portland Public School District. I want to travel into many different countries and spread the importance of education for women and girls.

I also hope I can find an organization



to sponsor my idea of building a school in my home country of Sudan as this has been a dream of mine since I was really young. I want to provide a platform for many individuals to have access to the gift of education.

## How has USM helped you prepare for the future?

The school has provided me with so much support and guidance that has prepared me for a bright future. Through my time at USM, I have been involved in so many different activities that helped me learn about and connect with my classmates who came from all over the globe. My professors expected me to succeed, and they also pushed me to succeed. They taught me and also gave me the space to learn.

## What is the one thing you would like people to know about USM?

That there is always someone to support, encourage and motivate you as a student and as an individual to accomplish whatever you have aspired to be.

## Ekhlas Ahmed '15

I am a refugee and a civil rights activist from Darfur, Sudan. I fled with my family to Egypt and lived there for two years before being resettled in Portland in 2005. Since graduating from high school with honors, I earned a degree in sociology at USM with hopes of helping resettle other refugees. I am the vice president and co-founder of Darfur Youth of Tomorrow, an organization raising awareness about the violence and needs in Darfur. I'm entering USM's Extended Teacher Preparation program this fall.



## USM students are making their mark on their cities and towns. We recently spoke with two students about their community engagement.

### How did you make your way to USM?

In 2010, I was wrapping up my junior year of high school and looking for a way to graduate early. USM worked with me and allowed me to matriculate as a full-time student and complete the last course I needed to graduate high school at the college level. I decided to stay and complete my degree at USM for a number of reasons including its incredible location and the fact that I was able to build lasting connections with individuals at numerous organizations in the Greater Portland community.

My decision to continue on for the master's in public health and master's in business administration was driven by the fact that I love living and working here. I've seen Portland change a lot over the past 20 years, but it's an amazing place to be right now, especially as a young professional.

### How have you been involved in your community?

I got involved in working on food-related projects at an internship I had in the Planning and Urban Development Office of the City of Portland. Much of my research focused on analyzing and cataloging existing codes, policies and practices that support a sustainable food system. I found this work fascinating from both a public health and economic development perspective. And when I decided to pursue the master's degrees at USM, I jumped onto a project focused on developing a new food studies program, which just launched last January.

### What is the greatest satisfaction in your community work?

I think it all comes down to the connections piece. Portland is a highly connected town – everyone knows everyone else, and it seems like we all operate within two degrees of separation as opposed to the standard six. This level of connectivity certainly helped me feel hyper-involved in supporting Portland's community, but it also helped me orient myself and expand as both a student and as a professional.

### How has USM helped you prepare for the future?



At USM, I learned how to put myself out there, and pursue opportunities that I thought were interesting even though they didn't necessarily relate to my degree. As an undergrad student, I interned at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, with a local jewelry designer, at Unum, and later at Maine Medical Center. I loved that I was encouraged to explore areas that didn't fit into the traditional "business studies" box.

### What do you hope to be doing in five years?

I'd love to be working in health care management. There are so many amazing things happening in health care right here in Maine, and I want to be a part of it.

### What is the one thing you would like people to know about USM?

The school is quickly rising to the top in terms of being able to provide students with opportunities for growth and development, and connecting them with local resources and industries.

### Mary-Elizabeth Simms '17

I grew up in Cape Elizabeth. My parents moved to Maine from Washington, D.C. in the early 90s when I was 3. I think they chose Maine because of the quality of life, and the fact that it's an incredible place to grow up. I just completed my master's in public health this May, and I'll be wrapping up a Master of Business Administration this December. I live in Portland and work at a local health care organization.

# Occupational therapy: Changing lives



Tammy Bickmore, director of USM's Master of Occupational Therapy program, says the program is growing every year.

>> USM's Master of Occupational Therapy program is growing to meet the demands of the marketplace.

By Trevor Maxwell

The demand for occupational therapists continues to rise in Maine, with more than 1,500 OTs employed and projections for strong growth.

With its Master of Occupational Therapy program, the University of Southern Maine has been at the forefront of the profession's development in Maine for the past 22 years. Supported by enthusiastic alumni and community partners, program leaders aim to stay at the forefront.

The program, housed at USM's Lewiston-Auburn campus, started with about a dozen students in 1995 and now has more than 70 students enrolled. Director Tammy Bickmore is steadily growing the program to respond to the positive employment trends, but without sacrificing the high quality of the education and training.

Bickmore received the green light this year to expand enrollment to 40 students for the first-year cohort. Because of the competitive nature and popularity of the program, USM still must turn away nearly half of the applicants.

"It's a hot profession right now. Our graduates are working in every setting you can imagine, from pediatric hospitals to home health hospice agencies. And they are hired all over the country by some tremendous employers."

Tammy Bickmore,  
director of USM's Master of  
Occupational Therapy program

"The program is growing every year, and even with increased capacity, we still can't keep up with the demand," Bickmore said. "And that's the demand from qualified applicants who want to pursue occupational therapy."

"It's a hot profession right now. Our graduates are working in every setting you can imagine, from pediatric hospitals to

home health hospice agencies. And they are hired all over the country by some tremendous employers."

Full-time students can earn their master's degree in occupational therapy at USM in two and a half years, while part-time students can earn the degree in three and a half years. The program is one of only three in Maine (Husson and University of New England being the others) to be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

Bickmore is constantly striving to make sure the curriculum is challenging, current and collaborative with the community. USM students have a nearly 100 percent pass rate on the exams administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

"One thing I love about my job is that I can see the difference I can make professionally. I have the honor of seeing hundreds of students go into practice, and really make an impact on the entire profession," Bickmore said. "They are out there on the front lines, doing such important work and pushing for improvements in the profession, as well."



In its program overview, USM describes occupational therapy as a health and human services profession that recognizes humans as occupational beings.

“People define who they are by what they do, or by the occupations in which they engage. Occupational therapists use meaningful occupation or activities as intervention to help people of all ages maximize wellness and perform the skills they need to participate as fully in society as possible,” the description continues.

“OTs intervene with people who are experiencing varying degrees of activity impairment as a result of developmental, physical, psychological, cognitive or environmental dysfunction. As an OT, you will assist people in developing, compensating for, or regaining the skills necessary for participation in meaningful life roles and skills of self-care, work and leisure.”

Not including major metropolitan areas, southern Maine has one of the highest concentrations of occupational therapists in the nation, according to Bureau of Labor statistics. Statewide, the annual mean wage for OTs in 2016 was \$65,000.

“Our graduates are working in school systems, pediatric clinics, hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care centers. They are also working in more non-traditional roles – looking at care management for older adults or working in organizations focusing on health and wellness – so our students leave USM with diverse learning experiences,” Bickmore said.

Kristina Sabasteanski, a U.S. Army veteran and two-time Olympian in biathlon, graduated from the program in 2012.

“When I was a student in the program, I was always wondering where I was going to fit in the profession. I couldn’t picture myself in a 40-hour week in the same environment. That just didn’t seem to fit my personality,” Sabasteanski said.

So instead of going to work for someone else, she created the VAST (Veterans Adaptive Sports & Training) Program at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester. VAST offers free adaptive sports programming for veterans with physical disabilities, traumatic brain injury, and post-traumatic stress, or to veterans willing to volunteer.

The program gets veterans involved in activities such as archery, cross-country skiing, wheelchair basketball and cycling. Last year alone, VAST served more than 160 veterans with disabilities.

“Our goal is to improve the life-long health and well-being of veterans with disabilities, or really any veteran who wants to



Students in USM's Master of Occupational Therapy program have the benefit of real-world experience.

volunteer,” Sabasteanski said.

“We’ve had veterans that have come to us after attending one of our camps, or after some weekly sessions and say, ‘It’s like my entire life is shifting for the better — from one weekend. It’s crazy.’”

The principles of the VAST program adhere to the principles of the OT framework by encompassing the roles, rituals and sense of camaraderie of fellow veterans. This results in unstructured therapy and lifelong results, Sabasteanski said. USM students play an integral role at VAST. They serve as volunteers and are willing learners who adapt to the environment, she said.

Brooke Lancaster, a 2016 graduate of the USM Master of Occupational Therapy program, said field experiences, including time spent at VAST, had a profound effect on her. Lancaster now works as an OT at Maine General Medical Center in Augusta.

“One of the days I was at the VAST program, a group of individuals from a lo-

cal veterans home came to participate, and we were working with them to do archery,” Lancaster said.

“At the end of the activity, this older man turns and looks at me and my peer and he says, that was just great, thank you so much. I could have cried. It really resonated with everything they said to us in the program. It’s about engaging in the occupation and he was so grateful that we were able to help him do that.”

Fieldwork for students is essential for the development and success of future OTs, Bickmore said.

“We have level-one fieldwork which is happening simultaneously with coursework, it is very integrative, students are out in the community doing observation and hands-on experience,” she said. “And then toward the end of the program we have level-two fieldwork, which is the 12-week intensive with a supervisor who is an occupational therapist, and students really get to put all of that classroom knowledge into practice.”

# Seeking Justice for Juveniles

>> USM's Muskie School releases "Unsealed Fate," the first in-depth report on Maine's Juvenile Records System.

This spring USM's Muskie School of Public Service released findings of the first in-depth analysis of Maine's juvenile records system.

The new report, "Unsealed Fate: The Unintended Consequences of Inadequate Safeguarding of Juvenile Records in Maine," details a records system that is inconsistent, misunderstood and often unintentionally punishes individuals long after their time in the system has ended.

The report is the first study of Maine's juvenile records system and highlights problems, said Erica King, report co-author and a policy associate II at the USM Muskie School's Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy.

"Confidentiality of records and the invisible punishment that can result from those records have been prominent topics in juvenile justice reform nationally. However, this has never been studied in Maine before," said King. "The significance of this report is that it shines a light on an area of policy and practice that is unclear and leading to a host of potential negative outcomes for young people who have been involved with the justice system, far beyond the intent of the immediate response to the behavior of concern.

"The report highlights the perspectives of policymakers and stakeholders regarding how the current system could be reformed to eliminate unintended barriers for young people as they pursue their futures."

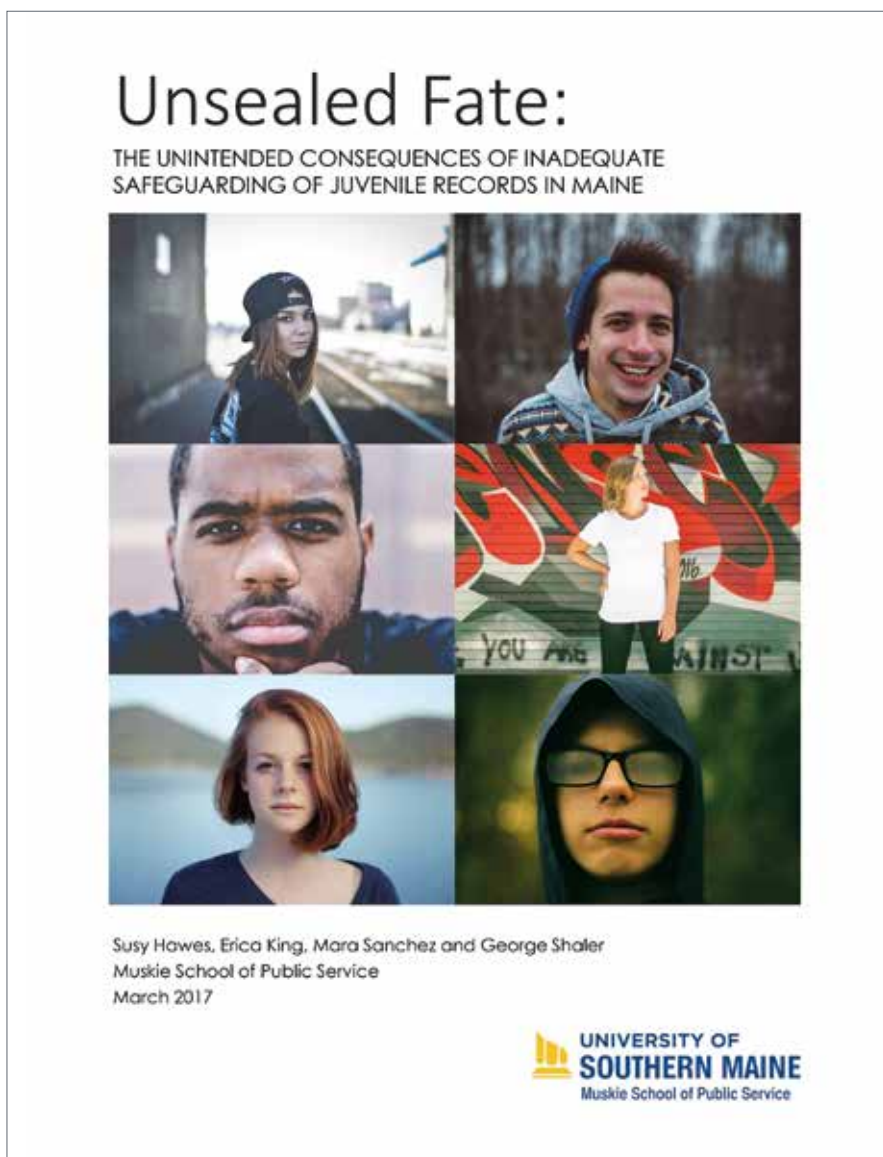
The report's authors conducted focus groups, interviews and surveys of youth and adults with juvenile records, family members, juvenile justice practitioners and key stakeholders. They found that individuals with juvenile records face barriers in applying for jobs and professional licenses, enrolling in the military, accessing housing and securing other financial supports. In addition, the report finds that juvenile

records often lead to harsher adult sentencing and that individuals with records experience marginalization and stigmatization.

"Across the country, research into the impact of juvenile records on individuals' attempts to move beyond their involvement with the justice system has demonstrated a range of long-term consequences, from difficulty in securing housing or employment to enlisting in the military. Maine is no different," said Susy Hawes, lead author of the report who is a research associate I at the Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy. "As this report documents, individuals in Maine who have juvenile

justice system involvement face similar collateral consequences, or invisible punishments, due solely to the existence of a juvenile record."

In addition, interviews demonstrated widespread confusion and misinformation about the law and policy around the handling of juvenile records among juvenile justice system professionals, youth and their families. And, this misunderstanding and lack of clarity across the system often exacerbates the risk that a young person's record will continue to cause harm well after they have moved on from the justice system. Specifically, the interviews and re-





“The significance of this report is that it shines a light on an area of policy and practice that is unclear and leading to a host of potential negative outcomes for young people who have been involved with the justice system, far beyond the intent of the immediate response to the behavior of concern.”

Erica King,

Policy Associate II at the USM Muskie School's Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy

search for this report found:

- Widespread lack of understanding of the procedures intended to safeguard juvenile records and the sealing process, including confusion around the meaning of the term “sealed.”
- Inconsistencies around juvenile record creation and sharing.
- A record sealing process that many believe does not sufficiently meet the rehabilitative goals of Maine's Juvenile Code or reflect research on adolescent development.
- Many young people accept pleas without understanding the implications of having a record and its subsequent consequences.
- The quality of representation contributes to how well records are safeguarded.

“Maine's juvenile justice system is focused on helping youth learn from their mistakes and get their lives back on track,” said Barry Stoodley, chair of the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, one of the supporters of the report. “They can't effectively do that if their record continues to be a barrier. This study will help guide the juvenile justice system to mitigate these unintended and persistent impediments so they are able to succeed and thrive. Youth often cannot understand nor effectively manage what they may be facing, and we have an obligation to help improve this situation in ways identified in this important report.”

In response to concerns raised, the report also found strong support for reforming juvenile records law and policy around



From left, Erica King, report co-author and a policy associate II at the USM Muskie School's Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy, and Susy Hawes, lead report author and research associate I at the Cutler Institute.

how juvenile records are handled, accessed and protected. Clearer processes and practices are needed to better safeguard juvenile records and reduce the collateral consequences associated with juvenile justice system involvement.

The following suggestions were most consistently cited for consideration in efforts to improve and reform systems, procedures, and practice around juvenile records:

- Increase stakeholder training and education
- Revise, or develop, and formalize system and personnel guidance
- Raise public awareness around juvenile records and collateral consequences
- Make changes in law and administrative practice
- Ensure youth and family access to information

The report is already having an impact.

“Since its release in March, ‘Unsealed Fate’ has received tremendous local and

national attention,” says Hawes.

The report recently received national recognition from the Justice Research and Statistics Association, which awarded the study the 2017 Douglas Yearwood Publication Award for the category of Excellence in Research and Policy Analysis.

“We are grateful the impact has gone beyond news articles,” Hawes adds. “We have heard from individuals with juvenile records who, because of the report, are now aware of the potential collateral consequences of these records and the option to seal records in Maine. We continue to share the findings and discuss possible next steps in presentations and forums across Maine. We hope the findings from this report will be used to positively influence Maine's juvenile justice system.”

The report was made possible through the generous support of the John T. Gorman Foundation, the Abrons Foundation, and the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.

# The ICE minor:

Where business skills,  
brain science and  
creativity collide

>> USM is tapping into the same trend that is fueling innovation at places like Google, Amazon and NASA.



Professor Richard Bilodeau is teaching students about the science behind creativity and the fundamentals of entrepreneurship.

By Trevor Maxwell

At any given moment in professor Richard Bilodeau's class, Creative Strategies for Entrepreneurs, students might be meeting with the founders of Maine-based businesses.

The next moment, they might be meditating, coloring or building with Legos.

As a class, it's like a type of alchemy. Bilodeau takes the practical aspects of entrepreneurship, adds in some business modeling, the latest science around the importance of play, and then watches the creative sparks fly.

"We've known for years that when we control stress and optimize the chemical messengers in our brains, particularly dopamine and serotonin, our performance improves, whether we are playing a sport, an instrument or working," says Bilodeau, who oversees the innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship (ICE) minor at the

## The program

The ICE minor (15 credits) is designed primarily for students in majors outside the School of Business who are interested in starting a business or otherwise using creative strategies and the tools of innovation in their field of interest. The minor complements any field of study, including the sciences, arts, humanities, engineering and education. The minor is also available to School of Business majors as long as no more than three credits applied to major and minor requirements are double counted.

University of Southern Maine.

"But I think we are really just starting, as researchers and businesspeople, to connect the dots," he said. "The science is advancing at an incredible pace."

This is the trend that USM is tapping into with the ICE minor, now in its third year. With the Creative Strategies course and several other offerings that make up the program, professors Bilodeau, Gary Palin and John Voyer seek to expose USM

students to the science behind creativity, tools they can use to train their brains, and fundamentals of entrepreneurship.

The minor complements any field of study at USM. It is designed primarily for students in majors outside the School of Business who are interested in starting a business or otherwise using creative strategies in their field of interest.

So far, the response has been positive. As of this past spring semester there were



24 students enrolled in the minor. They included majors in art, music, engineering, biology, chemistry, undeclared and more. Another 30 students were enrolled in the Art and Entrepreneurial Studies concentration, which has served as a partial model for the ICE minor, and about 100 students were studying general management with a track in entrepreneurship.

"We see this as a growth area," Bilodeau said. "The ICE minor provides not only an opportunity to vet an idea to turn into a business, but to break out of the common misperception that creativity is the same as being artistic. Being good at art is an expression of creativity, but it is not the only one."

## Reducing stress, optimizing performance

The quest for the state of flow – where a person is fully engaged in an activity, with enjoyment and without stress – has become a holy grail of sorts for businesses around the world, from one-person start-ups to the largest corporations.

It's why employees at Google, Amazon and NASA are encouraged to incorporate play and relaxation into their days, from beach volleyball and dodgeball to, yes, Legos. It's all about reducing stress hormones and allowing workers to find their optimum mindset for creative thinking and critical decision-making. In a poll conducted by IBM in 2015, 60 percent of CEOs agreed that creativity is the most important skill to possess in a leadership role, beating out a long list of other traits such as integrity and global thinking.

For USM students who choose the ICE minor, the idea is that they will graduate with the skills they need to start their own business, or to succeed as an "intrepreneur," which is someone who brings fresh perspectives and creative thinking to an existing company or organization.

"One thing I really appreciated about the program was that I learned how you can fit in within a 'normal' workplace, and your creativity can be a great asset," said Melissa Bardsley, 22, who graduated summa cum laude in spring 2017 with a BA in studio art and the ICE minor.

Bardsley, a native of Oakland, Maine, wants to pursue a career in nonprofit arts management. She is volunteering this fall for the Maine Crafts Association, and working at a stained glass supply store.

"I would highly recommend ICE for



"I would love to be able to own a little bookshop someday, or a cafe, and the ICE minor made me feel that would be possible."

Kayla Caiazzo '17

those who want to set themselves apart in the workforce," Bardsley said.

"It helped me figure out that employers want to have people who are willing to consider brand new ways to approach a problem, people who are willing to stray from the herd, but to do it with reason and smarts."

## Business school gets inspiration from artists

The idea for the minor originated with School of Business professors Nancy Artz and Fred Aiello, both of whom are now retired.

The professors had been hearing from USM students outside of the business program who wanted to take courses related to entrepreneurship. But they weren't able to enroll in those classes because of the prerequisite structure, which required them to first take several foundational courses.

"If someone in music or engineering wanted to get more understanding of

what entrepreneurs do and how innovation and creativity drive the process, they were mostly out of luck," Bilodeau said. "Nancy, Fred and others wanted to change that."

For inspiration on how to frame the ICE minor, they looked to the art department, which for many years had offered a concentration called art and entrepreneurial studies. The concentration combines art and art history courses with a studio focus, a cluster of business courses and an internship with creative professionals. The popular program has produced successful graduates including Becky McKinnell '06, founder and president of iBec Creative.

The School of Business hired Bilodeau and Palin as full-time professors to launch the new ICE minor in 2015. Bilodeau, who taught in the adjunct faculty for many years prior to being tapped for the program, is an entrepreneur himself, having started up small businesses in Maine and in the Southeast.

Another goal of the program, Bilodeau said, is to get first-year students thinking about the spirit and tools of entrepreneurship. He teaches an entry year experience (EYE) course called The Innovative Entrepreneur. EYE courses are designed to expose students to broader themes they will encounter in education.

Kayla Caiazzo of North Yarmouth graduated magna cum laude in spring of 2017, with a bachelor of arts in English language and literature. She chose the ICE minor because she wanted to be a more well-rounded graduate, and because the offerings fit nicely with the courses in her major.

"A business minor would have been too intensive. I found the ICE minor and ended up with Professor Bilodeau as an advisor, and he was incredibly helpful," Caiazzo said.

Caiazzo said she enjoyed the mix of practical learning with exercises in creativity. She also enjoyed the diversity of guest speakers in the ICE courses, and the opportunity to talk with students who had already started their own businesses. As of this summer, Caiazzo was looking for jobs in the editing and publishing field, and was also considering moving to England, where she had spent 18 months studying abroad.

"I would love to be able to own a little bookshop someday, or a cafe, and the ICE minor made me feel that would be possible," she said.

## In the field

# Solar project proves rewarding

### >> USM's Engineers

Without Borders provide a hot water system for a Guatemalan orphanage.

When University of Southern Maine student Hunter Wing was approached by a fellow classmate to join the university's newly established chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) in November 2014, he thought the concept was a great idea.

Since that time, Wing, a mechanical engineering major with a minor in electrical engineering, has gone on to serve as president of the USM chapter, leading his team in accomplishing a project some thought would be too lofty or even too dangerous to complete.

Over the winter break during the 2016-2017 academic year, eight USM students and two professional engineering mentors from the USM chapter traveled to Villa Nueva, Guatemala, where they installed five solar water heaters for the Hogar Rafael Ayau orphanage.

The group not only installed a system that Americans often take for granted, they also prepared those on site to keep the system operating into the future.

Before USM's EWB chapter embarked on the project, residents of the orphanage did not have reliable or safe access to hot water. Residents and staffers couldn't wash dishes with hot water, either, posing potential sanitation issues, Wing said. To negate these problems, EWB came up with a plan to install solar water heaters for the orphanage.

"It really is a quality of life enhancement," said Luke Johnas, a mechanical engineering major who graduated this past spring, and was vice president of USM's EWB chapter.

It's worth noting that the group completed the solar hot water project in two years – three years ahead of schedule –



USM students at work on their solar water-heater project in Guatemala.

Over the winter break during the 2016-2017 academic year, eight USM students and two professional engineering mentors from the USM chapter traveled to Villa Nueva, Guatemala, where they installed five solar water heaters for the Hogar Rafael Ayau orphanage.

thanks to better-than-expected fundraising results.

The project kicked off in February 2015 with a site visit to the orphanage. At the time, USM's chapter had five active members, including Wing. The group brought their findings back to campus and began planning. But to make all of this happen, members of the group knew they would have to grow in numbers.

Sharing the experience from the first

visit turned out to be an incredible recruiting tool for the group. Johnas was in attendance for one of the first presentations. When he heard about the experience and the group's desire to make a difference, he decided to join the chapter.

"We're all very driven by a common goal," added Johnas. By spring of 2017, the chapter was up to 14 active members.

### Funding the project

Planning and installation came with a number of challenges, not the least of which was funding.

The group estimated the total cost of the project, including materials and plane tickets, would be around \$25,000. Due to the high cost, they thought it would take five years to reach their fundraising goal. So the group explored some creative ways to fundraise. Ben Tracy, an economics major in the class of 2017, approached Johnas, his roommate, with some "brilliant" ideas. EWB organized fundraisers at local restaurants and even created a "rent a college student" program.



For seven weekends in the fall of 2016, members of the group offered up their assistance to local residents for tasks such as raking leaves and stacking wood. Through the program, EWB was able to make a dent in their fundraising goal.

And for his efforts, Tracy is now the chief financial officer of USM's EWB chapter. The group also received some much needed help from a well respected ally in Guatemala. After hearing the estimate, Madre Ines Ayau Garcia, the head of Hogar Rafael Ayau, took it upon herself to help defray the costs. With the hopes of keeping the project on schedule, she went to work.

"Madre Ines is very well known in Guatemala. She did a lot of negotiations for the project knowing it was going to be such a high cost," Wing said. After negotiating directly with vendors, Madre Ines was able to knock the total cost down to about \$11,000.

Carlos Lück, associate professor of electrical engineering and faculty advisor for USM's chapter of Engineers Without Borders, said that per EWB guidelines, all equipment required for the project needed to be purchased in Guatemala. The reasoning behind this is to ensure that any maintenance that may be needed can be handled locally, making Madre Ines' efforts all the more valuable.

With funding secure, the group embarked on their journey on Jan. 6, 2017. But a new challenge arose: the actual installation of the units.

## Gaining experience

Luckily for the students, two professional engineering mentors came on the trip to provide assistance. One of the mentors was alumnus and Environmental Science and Policy faculty member, Chris Pickles '15. Pickles earned a Master of Business Administration at USM and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering at Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Geoff Sparrow, director of engineering at Portland-based ReVision Energy, was the second professional mentor. Using his expertise in solar technology, Sparrow had been involved since the inception of the project, helping with calculations, background information and assembling of the water heaters.

"Having Geoff and Chris has provided us with the best possible resources available," Wing said "With the techni-

"Even though the group is called Engineers Without Borders, it's really 'Anybody Without Borders.' We're open to all students, and we encourage anybody to join."

Hunter Wing

cal aspects of international development they were able to provide overall guidance and expertise in areas of engineering and construction to help ensure the direction, safety and the quality of the project."

The USM students and their mentors navigated the facility to install the units. They even scaled the rooftops to complete the installation – not without some creative thinking, such as the use of a pulley mechanism. Like any project such as this one, teamwork and good communication were essential. The group hurdled language barriers as they worked with the local grounds crew – the most impressive and skilled crew Johnas ever worked with – to get the job done.

Once the solar equipment was installed, the students then trained the grounds crew on how to operate and provide maintenance to the units. According to Johnas, the hands-on experience taught them the essentials of solar energy.

"I think the best part about it is that none of us were experts in solar energy, but in our research and our preparation for the trip, we sort of became experts," Johnas said.

## A rewarding effort

As for the reaction of the children and staff members of Hogar Rafael Ayau?

"They were ecstatic," Wing said. "From the moment we arrived, they knew this was going to be a reality."

"Someone looking in would say 'well, the students delivered hot water,' but if you look at what they accomplished, they delivered much more than hot water. They delivered hope," Lück said.

The project not only benefits the population served by EWB, it also instills a sense of community service and volunteerism – a tenet of the EWB program and similar programs, such as Doctors Without Borders. The experience, Lück said,

teaches students there is more to a given profession than just earning a paycheck.

"Students graduate with a broader world view and a broader sense of mission for their profession," Lück said. "It's not about hot water, it's about humans reaching humans."

The expedition to Guatemala provided Wing, Johnas and the rest of the students with memories and experiences they won't soon forget.

"The whole experience was extremely rewarding," Wing said. "It was a great opportunity to pass along the knowledge we learned in class to help create this system."

"It was also a good, first-hand experience to see how they were living in the orphanage," Johnas said. "It's just so rewarding to make a difference in someone's life."

And the experience is already paying off in terms of employment prospects. It helped Johnas and Wing land internships at Lanco Integrated in Westbrook, and Sappi Fine Paper in Westbrook, respectively.

Learning how to manage a project from start to finish, gaining valuable leadership skills and helping the group grow will also stick with Wing.

"Hunter doesn't really stop," added Johnas when commenting on Wing's contributions to the group during his time as president.

Along the way, there were some tense moments regarding funding and reaching deadlines. But for Wing, the end result – seeing the smiles on the children's faces – was worth the stress.

"I'm definitely relieved to be able to go down and get this project done," he added.

Wing was quick to note that it took contributions from the whole team for the solar hot water project to be a success. Everyone, no matter their area of study, was essential in the completion of the task, he said.

"Even though the group is called Engineers Without Borders, it's really 'Anybody Without Borders,'" Wing said. "We're open to all students, and we encourage anybody to join."

"Engineering is interdisciplinary by nature. It brings together professionals in various fields, be it in finance, sociology, or other fields that contribute to the overall mission of the project," added Lück.

## Thinking Matters shows off wide-ranging student research

More than 200 University of Southern Maine students unveiled a wide variety of research projects this past spring during Thinking Matters, USM's annual student research symposium.

Topics ranged from life in refugee camps and the opioid epidemic to cryptography, hydroelectricity and the use of emoji and other nonverbal forms of communication.

The event was held at USM's Abromson Community Education Center.

Student researchers – both undergrad and graduate students – introduced their works in spoken or poster presentations during three 75-minute sessions.

"Thinking Matters" began 16 years ago as a chance for undergraduates to perform in-depth research and present their findings. It has grown into an annual student research symposium, promoting high-quality student-faculty research collaborations. The event provides students the opportunity to share their work with both the USM community and the general public.

"At the University of Southern Maine, our students have the best of both worlds," said Rebecca Nisetich, the director of USM's Honors Program. "The individual attention of caring professors here rivals that of any elite small liberal arts colleges. And the hands-on, real-world learning opportunities that we have here in the Portland area match – and even surpass – those opportunities available at other comprehensive research



USM students discuss their work at Thinking Matters, the school's annual student research symposium.

universities."

USM President Glenn Cummings welcomed Southern Maine Community College President Ron Cantor and thanked Kennebec Valley Community College and Central Maine Community College students for their participation in the event.

## A Passion for Books

### Bodley's Librarian presents at the Kate Cheney Chappell '83 Center for Book Arts

On April 5, the Kate Cheney Chappell '83 Center for Book Arts presented the lecture "Bound to be together: Gray Parrot, Leonard Baskin and the Gehenna Press," presented by Richard Ovenden, Bodley's Librarian at the University of Oxford, England. The public lecture was held in the University Events Room on the 7th floor of the Glickman Family Library in Portland.

Appointed in 2014, Richard Ovenden is the 25th person to hold the title of Bodley's Librarian, which is the senior executive position of the Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford. Ovenden has published widely on the history of collecting, the history of photography and on professional concerns of the library, archive and information world. He is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and was elected to the American Philosophical Society in 2015.



From left, Richard Ovenden, Rebecca Goodale and Kate Cheney Chappell '83.

During the past 43 years, Gray Parrot has been commissioned to create edition bindings for numerous private presses, including Leonard Baskin's Gehenna Press, Dard Hunter's Mountain House Press, Henry Morris' Bird &

Bull press, and the Khelcom/New York press of Peter Bogardus. In addition, he has produced many fine bindings and housings for rare books, as well as modern rebindings. His work may be found worldwide in major libraries and museums, as well as in many private collections. Parrot works from his home in Hancock, Maine.

"To understand that (the Bodley's Librarian) came all the way from Oxford, England to speak, and that we have such a rich heritage of bookbinding and bookmaking in this state with luminaries like Gray Parrot makes me proud," said Chappell. "I am grateful that the little seed of an idea 10 years ago has taken vigorous root. All that we have done together, with Rebecca Goodale's outstanding leadership – all the lectures, workshops and exhibits – came together for me (at the event to create) a realization of my original vision."



## Supporter engagement on the rise at USM Foundation

For the 2016-17 fiscal year, the USM Foundation reports a significant increase in engagement by supporters as illustrated by the following numbers.

### Increase in First-time Donors:

First-time donors increased by the following percentages:

- 226% Alums
- 335% Faculty/staff
- 111% Friends
- 680% Students
- 21% Corporations, businesses

### Increase in Giving Club Memberships

- 29% President's Club (\$1K - \$4,999 supporters)
- 13% Metropolitan Society (\$5K+ supporters)

The USM Foundation supports the success of the University of Southern Maine through philanthropy, engagement, innovation, and service. We are the nimble and responsive partner USM needs to achieve its vision as a community-engaged university.



Aaron Witham, director of the Office of Sustainability.

## Why sustainability matters to USM

By Aaron Witham

Students, staff, faculty and community partners all play critical roles in fulfilling a core part of USM's mission statement, "to support sustainable development, environmental stewardship and community involvement."

This is a mission that is becoming increasingly important to today's college students. In a recent survey administered by the *Princeton Review*, 61% of respondents indicated that having information about a school's commitment to environmental issues would influence their decision of whether or not to apply to or attend that school.

By engaging students in campus-wide sustainability initiatives, USM is not only helping to attract prospective students, we are preparing students in every major for a world that is changing at an unprecedented rate environmentally, economically, socially and technically.

Here are some highlights of what's happening at USM:

- We continue to forge ahead toward our big goal: achieving carbon neutrality across all three campuses by 2040. This means reducing greenhouse gas emissions from our heat, electricity and transportation by 80% over a fiscal year 2006 baseline, and then helping entities off-campus reduce emissions, so we can offset our last 20%.
- To date, USM has decreased greenhouse gas emissions from heat by more than 20%, through energy efficiency projects and switching the primary heat source from oil to natural gas. We are researching ways to increase energy efficiency, while adding new solar, geothermal and biofuel systems.
- We launched a new, eight-year strategic sustainability plan this summer that outlines our roadmap to carbon neutrality and many supporting sustainability initiatives. It can be viewed by visiting the website: <https://usm.maine.edu/sustainability/sustainability-plan>.
- We have won five awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the last three years, including the Partner of the Year Award, the Waste Wise Award and the Regional Food Recovery Award. The awards recognize the impacts of efforts such as Tiny Trash, a waste diversion program, and our Surplus Store on the Portland campus.
- The Eco-rep Program continues to grow in size and quality. Eco-reps are work-study students and volunteers from any major who conduct research, manage projects and carry out education initiatives for the Office of Sustainability. The program aims to expand from 10 to 20 students this year and transition into a full-fledged internship program, where students can earn course credit for their work.

# Critical Thinking

>> New York Times critic Neil Genzlinger '77 shares stories and advice during a campus visit.



New York Times' critic Neil Genzlinger '77 talked about his prolific career and today's newspaper business during a whirlwind visit in April to the University of Southern Maine.

The stay included an interview with WCSH-TV's "207," an interview with USM President Glenn Cummings for an episode of "The USM Update," a public discussion at the Glickman Library and a sit-down with editors at the student-run Free Press, which he edited in his junior and senior years at USM (then called the University of Maine Portland-Gorham).

The skills he learned at the Free Press helped prepare him for a long career in journalism, he said.

"You got a tiny little sampling of all aspects of the business," Genzlinger said of his Free Press experience. "By the time

I graduated, I had the rough idea of how a newspaper was put together. That served me well all the way through."

He counseled students looking for a job in today's journalism market to not only write well but learn to take photos, shoot video and post to social media. They must also be ready to learn skills unimagined today.

"The jobs available to you in 10 years haven't even been invented yet," Genzlinger said.

His first professional job was as the Franklin County bureau chief for the Central Maine Morning Sentinel, a job he held for four years, covering all types of news in Farmington and throughout the county. He left the Sentinel to earn a master's degree in journalism at Penn State. After graduating from that program, he went to the Hartford Courant and the Washington Post before

moving to the New York Times in 1994. He has been there ever since.

After a variety of jobs – working as an editor on the National Desk, the Op-Ed Page and the Culture Desk – he transitioned to become a critic. He is the only critic on the New York Times' staff who reviews TV in addition to movies and theater, though he is best known for his many TV reviews.

He has accumulated more than 3,000 bylines at the newspaper.

"My niche at the Times is to explore the outer fringes of television," he said. "I write about the animated stuff on Adult Swim, stuff with weird and sick humor. I'm the only person at the paper who seems to get those shows."

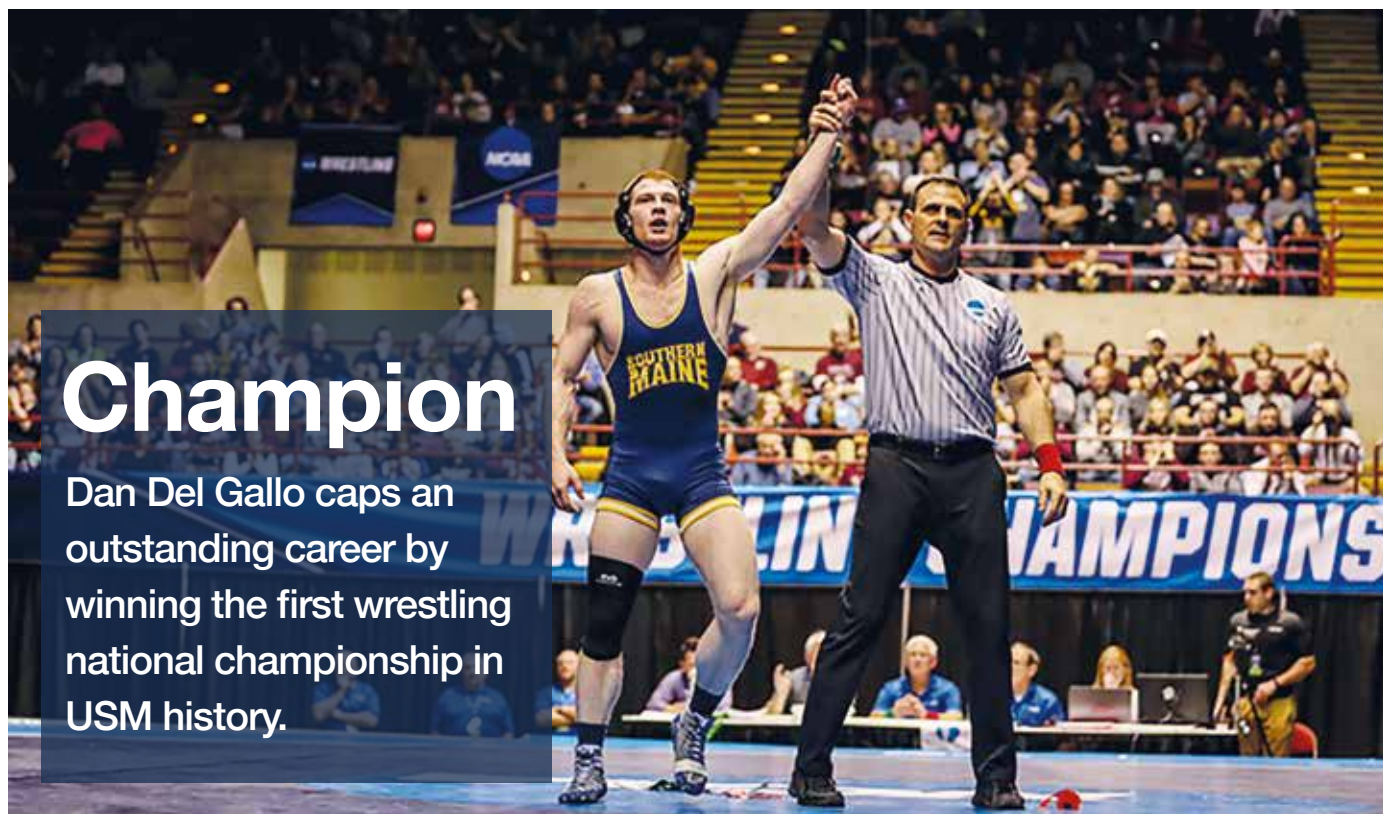
Genzlinger lives with his family in central New Jersey.

He counseled students looking for a job in today's journalism market to not only write well but learn to take photos, shoot video and post to social media.



# Champion

Dan Del Gallo caps an outstanding career by winning the first wrestling national championship in USM history.



Senior Dan Del Gallo capped a historic weekend and an outstanding career as a member of the University of Southern Maine Huskies' wrestling team by ascending to the pinnacle of his sport, winning the national title at 149-pounds at the 2017 NCAA Division III Wrestling National Championships in March.

Making his third consecutive appearance at the NCAA National Championships, Del Gallo achieved a number of milestones during his run to a national title. He established a new all-time win record for USM wrestling, earned the third All-American honor in program history and became USM's first wrestling national champion. With his national championship secure, Del Gallo joined track and field athletes Jamie Ruginski (Buxton) and Peyton Dostie (Standish) as the only individual sport national champions in USM history.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet, completely," Del Gallo told the Portland Press Herald. "It's been an awesome journey. Not even just these past four years, but ever since I can remember."

A double major in philosophy and sociology, Del Gallo is a two-time (2015,

2016) NCAA Elite 90 award winner. The award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's 90 championships.

Del Gallo, a Gardiner native, entered the 2017 National Championship tournament seeded fourth in the 149-pound weight class, and claimed dominant victories in his first two matches of the tournament. With his first win, a 13-1 major decision over Concordia-Moorhead's Ty Johnson, Del Gallo celebrated the 134th victory of his career, making him the Huskies' all-time wins leader. He surpassed the previous record of 133 held by current USM head coach Mike Morin, a former Husky All-American (2009, 2010) at 165 pounds. Del Gallo then vaulted himself in the championship semifinals while assuring All-American status for the first time in his career with a win by fall over Wesleyan's Carter Armendarez in 4:54.

In the semifinals, Del Gallo faced off against top-seed and two-time defending national champion Kenny Martin of Wartburg College with a spot for the

championship bout on the line. Wrestling a smart match, Del Gallo came away with a hard-won 7-5 decision and a chance for a national title.

In the championship match, Del Gallo took on Aaron Engle of Cornell College. After a scoreless first period, Del Gallo recorded a single point in the second period with an escape, before going ahead of Engle 3-0 in the third with a takedown. Engle earned a single point with an escape in the period, before Del Gallo defended his way to a 4-1 win with riding time for the title.

Del Gallo finished the 2017 National Championship with a 4-0 record, and completed his outstanding four-year career with the Huskies with a remarkable record of 137-19. Del Gallo completed his senior season with a near-perfect record of 45-1.

"It's pretty amazing when you lay your goals out and accomplish them," added Del Gallo in the Press Herald interview. "It was amazing to win there, but then after, running off the stage and into the back room, it just kind of hits you. It's just a real sense of relief and happiness, knowing that I accomplished my goal."

>> Game On

## Alex Irvine on his eclectic career and nurturing USM's game creators

Alex Irvine built a career by morphing media: turning movies into books, comic books into games and games back into books.

He's about to begin work on a novelization of Marvel's movie of "Doctor Strange," he's writing a game version of the popular TV show, "The Walking Dead" and he's writing a graphic novel history of baseball.

That's in his spare time.

The English lecturer – he teaches classes in fiction writing and world masterpieces – is also morphing in his USM job.

Irvine is helping to craft a new program at USM – Game Design Studies.

He and other faculty spent much of 2016 designing a formal minor and major curriculum, and submitting their plan through the faculty academic review process. The minor was approved and courses are being offered this fall. Irvine hopes to have the major approved during this academic year.

The aim of the program is to teach students skills in every aspect of game creation: programming, design, writing, art, business and more. In the final year, students would create a professional quality game. Irvine is part of the new program's faculty.

He's straddling the line between the English Department and a program in its infancy. Not that it bothers him. Irvine is accustomed to career left turns.

The Michigan native earned his undergraduate degree in theater and acted for a while before he began writing, beginning with short stories and then novels. His first novel, "A Scattering of Jades" was published in 2002 and was well-reviewed.

"It's kind of a secret, supernatural history kind of thing," Irvine said. "It's about P.T. Barnum and slavery and Aztec mythology. It takes place in New York and Kentucky and places in between, mostly in the 1840s."

It led to other writing, including a Bat-



Alex Irvine, a lecturer in the English department, is coordinator of the Gaming and Simulation Design program.

man novel. A lifelong fan of the character, Irvine savored the job.

"Who wouldn't want to do a Batman novel?" he said.

Batman led to an Iron Man book. Iron Man led to a Transformers book. The writing included 11 Marvel novelizations aimed at kids.

Meanwhile, Irvine morphed again. He worked on writing the alternate reality game, "I Love Bees," which tugged at fans of Microsoft's Halo franchise with real-world challenges. For Marvel, he wrote the game "Avengers Alliance." He also did some work on "Project Titan," the predecessor of the extraordinarily popular game, "Overwatch."

For all of the work, his challenge has been to connect his storytelling and craft with some of pop culture's most committed fans.

"You say, 'This is a universe that a lot of people really love,'" Irvine said. "Those people are going to be really emotionally invested in what you produce. And so, you want to justify that."

He hopes to watch students create their own beloved worlds. Of course, some USM students have already been working on games.

USM, for more than five years, has had a maker's space on campus called the Ci2 lab. Its students have worked with faculty and community partners on projects as varied as games, apps and artificial limbs.

The Game Design Studies program seeks to build on their work.

"The goal is to turn out graduates who understand the team dynamics of how games are made," Irvine said. "My goal, ultimately, is entirely utopian."

In his own experience, Irvine has watched games fail or take too long to develop because their creators had trouble working together.

"I've been in a lot of meetings where some guy has a great idea and someone else goes, 'Nope. That doesn't work on our end,'" he said. "And that's the end of the conversation."

When team members understand each other's jobs – even though they may specialize in something different – they can anticipate obstacles, he said.

And they can have something to share when they've earned their degrees.

"If you demonstrate that you do it, that's still the most attractive thing to most game companies," Irvine said. "You can tell an employer, 'Look at this game I made.'"





## USM celebrates Food Studies Program launch

The University of Southern Maine celebrated the launch of its new Food Studies Program this past spring, including a festive event on March 21 at the Glickman Family Library.

The evening featured locally sourced, seasonal and organic hors d'oeuvres and remarks from several people who were instrumental in the program's January 2017 launch. USM President Glenn Cummings; Michael Hillard, the new program's executive director; Kristin Reynolds, a visiting scholar to USM from Yale and The New School and the co-author of "Beyond the Kale: Urban Agriculture and Social Justice Activism in New York City;" Kristen Miale, president of Good Shepherd Food Bank; and Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (via video) offered their enthusiasm for the inauguration of the new program and its crucial location in Portland.

"There's a real breadth of economic development that's going on (in Portland), and I would say there's a really strong food culture, and the kind of consciousness people have about place and about



Michael Hillard, the executive director of the new Food Studies Program, speaks at the March event celebrating the program's launch.

food as central to place," Hillard said. "It's really a spirited cultural phenomenon."

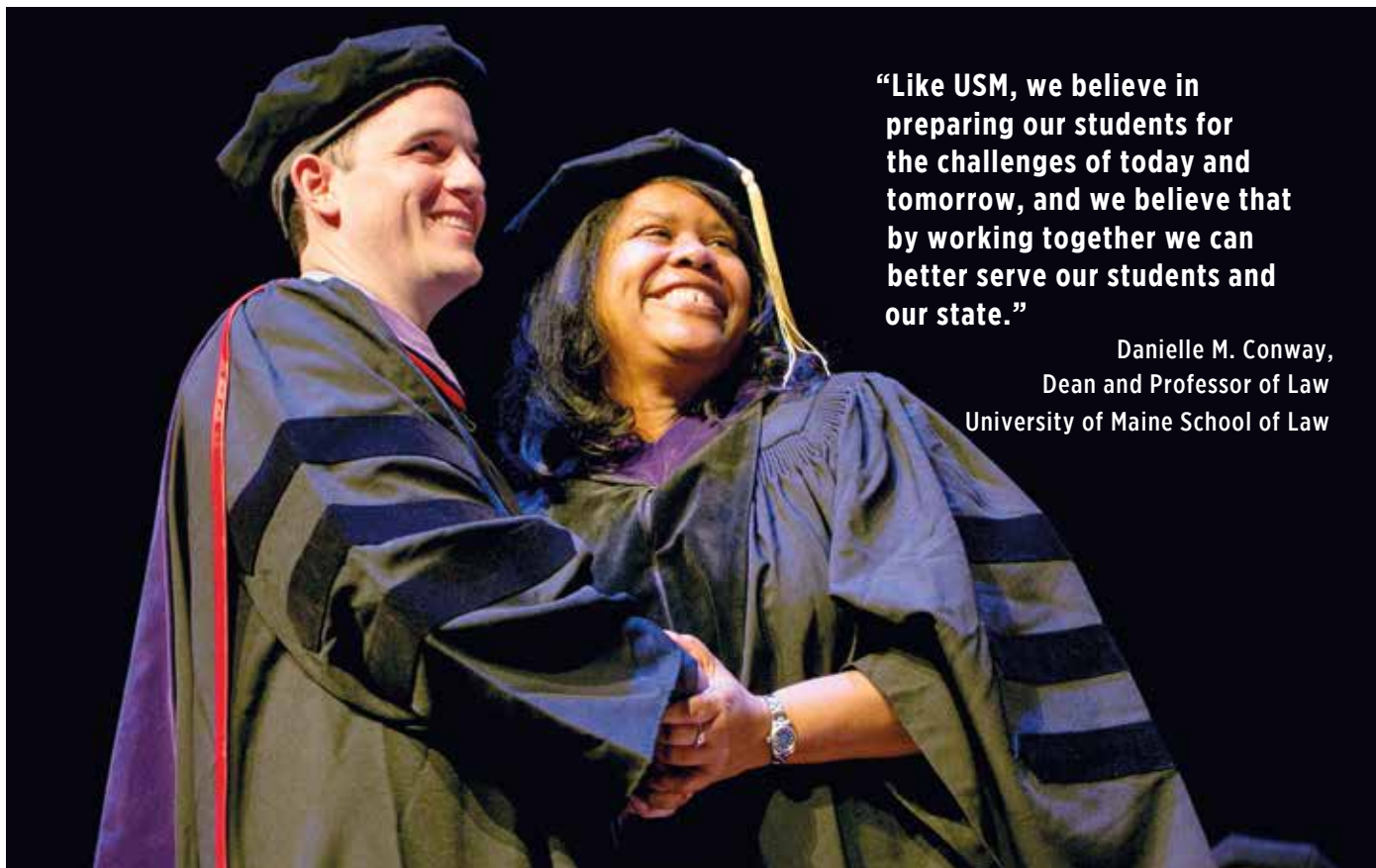
The new program gives students an understanding of the social, economic and environmental issues affecting local, national, and global food systems. It also develops students' abilities to apply their knowledge of food systems to professional challenges in business and entrepreneurship, policy work that promotes social and environmental jus-

tice, hospitality and other food-related settings.

The program offers a Food Studies minor. Undergraduate and graduate internships begin this fall. In the spring of 2018, the university will unveil a graduate certificate program and graduate-level coursework in support of multiple master's programs, including social work and business administration.

"This program has been designed to fit the needs of Portland," said Mary-Elizabeth Simms, graduate research assistant for the program. "We've spent a lot of time looking at other programs and identifying key areas within Portland's community that were opportunities for us to grow and to offer educational opportunities to our students."

More than 100 students enrolled in the program's five inaugural courses, which included Food and the Environment; Food, Power and Social Justice; Food: History, Culture, Politics; Introduction to Food Systems; and New England Foodscapes.



**“Like USM, we believe in preparing our students for the challenges of today and tomorrow, and we believe that by working together we can better serve our students and our state.”**

Danielle M. Conway,  
Dean and Professor of Law  
University of Maine School of Law

## **Maine Law + USM:** **Serving students. Serving Maine.**

**W**e at the University of Maine School of Law are thankful for our close ties to the University of Southern Maine, with whom we share a campus and deep institutional bonds. We are proud to share USM’s vision of helping students succeed in the classroom and beyond. Like USM, we believe in preparing our students for the challenges of today and tomorrow, and we believe that by working together we can better serve students and our state.

As USM President Glenn Cummings says, “The rich relationship between USM and Maine Law will guarantee our students a unique and individualized pathway to professional degree attainment.”

We could not agree more.

Recent examples of the power of collaboration include innovative programs such as:

- **The 3+3 baccalaureate/J.D. Program**, in which USM students are able to earn a USM bachelor’s degree and a Maine Law degree in six years, rather than seven.
- **Dual degree programs**, where students can earn dual degrees through the Law School and USM’s Muskie School of Public Service and the School of Business.

We are looking forward to working with USM on even more ways to meet the needs of our schools’ exceptional students.

Danielle M. Conway, Dean and Professor of Law

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# There Are 7,855 Reasons Why We're Here.



**"The USM Foundation is first and foremost student focused every day. We do meaningful work that makes a difference in the lives of USM students."**

George Campbell, President, USM Foundation

Today, nearly 8,000 students are building their futures at the University of Southern Maine—and the numbers are growing. To support their success, the USM Foundation is finding innovative ways to increase scholarships, expand resources, invest in new programs and facilities, and tackle challenging issues. Because we are an independent nonprofit organization, we can be nimble, responsive and fast as we help USM grow. Your gifts form the cornerstone of the USM Foundation, ensuring that we will be here for our students today and tomorrow.

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“People are realizing that we are the sleeping giant of the UMaine system. We are ideally located, we have great faculty, we have vision, we have capacity, we’ve got support from the community and we are at a place where we are just beginning to understand that.”

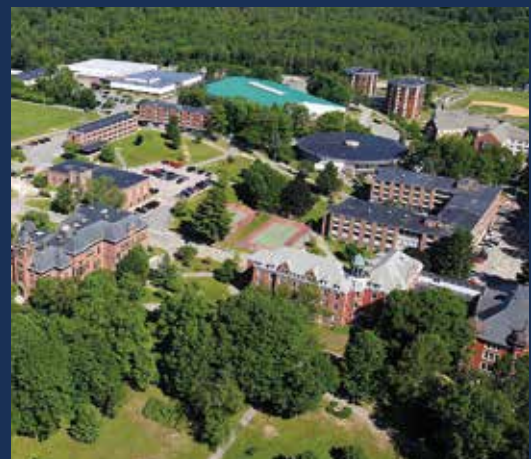
USM President Glenn Cummings



Portland Campus



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Gorham Campus