

9-2-2014

Currents (September 02, 2014)

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Recommended Citation

O'Malley, Judie Alessi, "Currents (September 02, 2014)" (2014). *Currents*. 9.
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Maine Legislators Participate in USM Back to Class Telethon Maine Senate President Justin Alford, Senator Rebecca Millett (senate chair of the state's education committee), Senator Richard Woodbury, and Representative Amy Volk joined USM administration, faculty, staff and students in the "USM Back to Class Telethon" today. The telethon is a continuation of President Flanagan's initiative to call students who have not yet enrolled for the fall semester and encourage them to complete their degrees. Callers also are trying to identify what barriers need to be overcome before these students can enroll, with the hopes of getting them back into classrooms by the spring semester.

If you thought you recognized the Woodbury name, yes, Senator Woodbury is the son of former USM President and UMaine Chancellor Robert Woodbury.

We appreciate the vote of confidence these legislators, and all who participated in the telethon, gave USM during their shifts on the phones.

Deadline to Submit New Student Connections Projects is 9/5

The Office of the Dean of Students is offering up to 10 \$1,000 "New Student Connections Scholarships" for first semester students working with faculty on collaborative research or creative activity this fall.

Faculty need to submit their project proposals via email to deanofstudents@usm.maine.edu by Friday, September 5 for approval. The email should include a description of the 6-8 hour per week project that is an outside the classroom experience, either at USM or directly connected to your work in the community; how the opportunity will benefit the student and USM; and how you will recruit student applicants and your application process.

Faculty will learn if their project has been approved for the scholarship program on September 8, after which the Dean of Students will email all new students with a list of the 10 scholarship opportunities and information on how to apply. Students who are selected are expected to start work the week of September 22.

See [New Student Connections Scholarship Pilot](#) for more information or call 780-

4035.

Record Number Attend Annual Opening Breakfast

On Thursday, August 28, about 600 faculty and staff attended the annual Opening Breakfast, held in the Costello Sports Complex.

President Flanagan introduced his management team, and both he and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Joseph McDonnell spoke. Be sure to read their remarks, which can be found at [Opening Breakfast 2014](#).

During the breakfast, ProSen Chair Larry Waxler and President Flanagan presented the Distinguished Professional Staff Award to Trish Bola and the Emerging Professional Staff Award to Casey Webster. The Classified Staff Senate was thanked for deciding to fund scholarships rather than present awards. **Move-In Weekend a Success** Compliments were bountiful for the staff and 85 upper-class students who helped students move into the residence halls this past weekend. This year, 1,080 students have chosen to live on campus.

Festivities continue during [Welcome Week](#) with welcome tables on each of our three campuses and the 14th annual Husky Fest taking place Wednesday, September 3 on our Portland campus.

USM Cuts Ribbon on New Cyber Security Lab

Using \$1,300,000 in grants received from the National Science Foundation and the Maine Technology Institute, USM was able to construct a [Cyber Security Lab](#) within the Maine Cyber Security Cluster housed in the Science Building on the Portland campus.

Congratulations to the faculty and staff whose vision has now become a reality for our students.

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