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## Currents (October 27, 2014)

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## Over 1,000 Attend Annual Open House

Our annual Open House took place yesterday Sunday, October 26 with rave reviews from prospective students and their families. Over 1,000 attended, which is up from last year.

We received extremely positive feedback from families and students interested in USM, said Interim Director of Undergraduate Admission Rachel Morales. Many families from out of state came to campus, and all who attended were very pleased with the faculty, current students, coaches and staff who were on hand to answer questions.

Kudos to everyone who made these prospective students and their families feel welcome at USM.

### Youth in Action: Side x Side Arts in Education

Congratulations to Assistant Professor of Art Education Kelly Hrenko and USM alumna Beth Wilbur Van Mierlo for their efforts to secure a \$1.9 million grant for arts education in Portland schools. The funding will be used for a four-year-long, arts-education program titled [Project Imagine](#).

This is the first time Maine has received an Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Only 18 of the 105 applications were funded this year.

**Athletes Volunteer in Great Falls Elementary School** USM athletes are working with students in Gorhams Great Falls Elementary School in either the Peer Mentoring program or the Husky Pen Pal program this academic year.

Peer mentors will spend 90 minutes each week doing a variety of activities with their Great Falls buddy including, reading, writing, arithmetic and physical education, while serving as

positive role models.

Pen pals will exchange biweekly letters with Great Falls third graders throughout the academic year. After the final letter is exchanged the third graders will take a field trip to the Gorham campus, have lunch with their pen pals and tour the campus.

Our athletes also host the annual Community Halloween Party, slated for 5:30 p.m., Thursday, October 30 in the Costello Sports Complex.

Thank you [USM Huskies!](#)

Student & University Life Brought Kids to Campus [Student & University Life's](#) first ever Kids on Campus event this past Sunday was a tremendous success. Staff and students welcomed more than 75 USM community members and their families to campus for an afternoon of pumpkin carving, games, candy apple making, and other activities.

What Were Doing, USM in the News & Off Campus If youve recently published a paper or book, presented at a conference, or done any community service work, dont forget to send us your accomplishments using the [What Were Doing web submit form](#).

Feel free to send links to any news story youve been quoted in to [Judie OMalley](#) no form needed for inclusion in "[USM in the News](#)."

If you are interested in writing a Portland Press Herald Off Campus column, contact [Public Affairs](#) to discuss the papers guidelines for these columns. We would be more than happy to assist you.

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