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Susan E. Swain
University of Southern Maine

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CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 16, Number 4

February 1998



Stephen Worchel, Dean of CAS.
Barrett photo

New Deans Start New Semester

USM welcomed two new deans this semester. Psychologist Stephen Worchel is the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Barton Wechsler is dean of the Muskie School.

Worchel comes to USM from Texas A&M University, where he was professor of psychology, head of the Psychology Department and since 1991 Ella C. McFadden Professor of Liberal Arts.

"My experience has been at big research institutions," he said. "I was interested in USM because of the balance here between teaching and research. I was first attracted to academic life because of teaching, the opportunity to work with students. But you lose that emphasis at big research institutes." Also, he said, he liked USM's involvement in the southern Maine community. His experience has been at universities that were removed from the commu-

nities they were near. "USM has a commitment to being part of the community. And I like its size. At a university the size of Texas A&M, with some 40,000 students, instituting change is like moving an elephant. Things can't happen. USM seems to be small enough that you can try things out." And he's been reassured by the quality of the faculty and their dedication to teaching and scholarship.

In addition to his years at Texas A&M, where he'd been since 1983, he also has taught at Duke University, North Carolina Central University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Virginia, and overseas as visiting scholar at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, Waikato University in New Zealand, the Kurt Lewin Graduate School in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and the University of the Basque Country in Spain. A native of Texas, Worchel had visited Maine as a child when his father, a psychology professor at University of Texas, came to Maine to teach leadership skills at

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Barton Wechsler, Dean of Muskie School.
Barrett photo

Funding Update

Trustees reviewed a proposed new funding formula designed to be "evolutionary rather than revolutionary" at their regular meeting, held Monday, January 26 on our Gorham campus.

The board is developing an alternative to the 30-year-old formula for distributing the state appropriation among the seven institutions of the University of Maine System. Under the current formula, USM receives \$30.8 million, or about 22 percent of the total \$138.6 million state appropriation.

A series of public hearings will be held this month to collect additional feedback. Trustees will vote on the proposal at their March meeting.

The revised formula, said Chancellor Terrence MacTaggart in outlining the proposal for Trustees, recognizes the distinct mission of each campus, creates opportunities for Trustees to identify and fund system-wide priorities, requires a review every three years, and includes a "modest enrollment-driven piece."

The proposal calls for a combined \$900,000 appropriation to the University of Maine at Augusta and the University of Maine at Farmington to relieve chronic underfunding. That would be financed through decreases in administrative costs at the system level. Trustees also have identified compensation and library improvements as two system-wide responsibilities that could be the focus of investment initiatives.

The enrollment component would provide a 0.8 percent increase in state funding for each 1 percent increase in enrollment, and a 0.4 percent decrease in state funding for each 1 percent decrease in enrollment. Any increases or decreases would be phased in over a two-year budget cycle to guard against disruptive funding shifts. Trustees still are considering whether the enrollment component should be

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From Cassidy's book: "Hot Still Scape for Six Color--Seventh Avenue Style," oil on canvas by Stuart Davis, captures the energy of jazz.

Art and All That Jazz

The first time that Donna Cassidy, associate professor of art and American and New England studies, saw the painting by Arthur Dove titled "I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise," she was immediately attracted to it because she'd often sung the Gershwin song that inspired the painting. A graduate student at the time, she couldn't know that the Dove painting would inspire many years of research. Her study of the influence of music on 20th century painting became the subject of her dissertation and has culminated in her book, "Painting the Musical City: Jazz and Cultural Identity in American Art, 1910-1940," published in 1997 by Smithsonian Institution Press.

Her book focuses on the work of John Marin, Joseph Stella, Arthur Dove, Stuart Davis, and Aaron Douglas, exploring "how they used music to create a sense of American identity," Cassidy explains. Many American artists in the first half of the 20th century were grappling with the idea of what constituted American culture. They were able to Americanize abstract art, which was European in its roots, by introducing music-based themes into their art. No music was more quintessentially American to the outside world than jazz.

Jazz, while originating in the African American community, had been absorbed into the world of white musicians too, as illustrated by the 1930s film "King of Jazz," in which

white bandleader Paul Whiteman was identified as the jazz king, Cassidy said. "I became interested in the way jazz could be appropriated by a variety of musicians and artists, white and black, to carry meaning related to American identity."

Dove was a particularly good subject for this exploration, Cassidy said, because he kept a diary that explained his response to specific pieces of music. "His diaries provided a good record of what he was reading, listening to, and the movies he saw." Dove employed abstract images of music to illustrate the energy and dynamism that he thought epitomized modern urban life in America. In using abstractions inspired by jazz, he distanced the music that was the source of his inspiration from its connection to African American culture. The Black artist Aaron Douglas, in contrast, centralizes the Black musician in his art, using images of African American musicians and dancers to embody a racial and national identity. His painting "Aspects of Negro Life: Song of the Towers," for instance, juxtaposes the image of a black saxophonist with the Statue of Liberty.

Cassidy came to USM in 1987 as an assistant professor of art after teaching at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Her position became a joint one between the Art Department and the Department of New England and American Studies in 1990. She holds a B.A. in American studies from the University of Lowell, and an M.A. and Ph.D in art history from Boston University.

Research Awards

The Faculty Senate Research Committee announces the following awards for faculty research in 1998:

S. Monroe Duboise, assistant professor of applied immunology, SAS, "Development of a Replication-Defective Gammaherpesvirus Vector for Gene Transfer Applications in Murine Models," \$3,000.

Hugh English, assistant professor of English, CAS, "'By Being Outside:' Gertrude Stein's Invention and Continuation of America and Self," \$2,990.

Deborah Johnson, assistant professor of psychology, CAS, "Philosophical and Religious Influences on the Self-Psychology of Mary Whiton Calkins," \$1468.

Jane Kuenz, assistant professor of English, CAS, "Producing the New Negro: The Work of Art in the Harlem Renaissance," \$2998.

Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh, assistant professor of environmental science and policy, CAS, "Urban Land Use Impacts on Soil Quality in Portland, Maine," \$3,000.

Christine R. Maher, assistant professor of biology, CAS, "Flexibility in Woodchuck Social Organization: How Social is the Asocial Marmot?" \$2996.

Lydia Savage, assistant professor of geography and anthropology, CAS, "Merging Geographies in the Hospital Industry: A Case Study of Boston, Massachusetts," \$2958.

The FSRC members taking part in the selection process were: Vincent Faherty, chair, representing the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS); Peter Aicher, CAS; Elise Bolda, Muskie School; Marijane Fall, College of Education and Human Development; Michelle Hutt, CAS; Stephen Pelsue, School of Applied Science; and Theresa Theodose, CAS.

Award funds are provided by the Provost's Office and administered by Associate Provost Richard Maiman through the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

Deans

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training institutes in Bethel. Worchel holds a B.A. from University of Texas at Austin and a Ph.D. in social psychology from Duke.

Worchel's own research as a social psychologist in recent years has included cross-cultural research on ethnic identity and ethnic violence, stereotyping, culture clashes, multicultural work groups, group dynamics, cooperation and conflict, and the effect of culture shock on performance of business people on long-term assignments overseas. His lengthy publication record goes back to 1967.

Coming from the west, Worchel says he is used to public universities being held in high esteem and is surprised by the general lack of regard for public education in New England. "I think the public here doesn't realize what a bargain, what terrific value there is in state universities." Getting that message out to high school students is one of many priorities Worchel has already identified. His vision includes developing summer institutes on intercultural topics.

Bart Wechsler comes to USM from the University of Illinois where he was a professor and director of the Office of Public Management within the Institute of Government and Public Affairs and also a professor within the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. Wechsler in his first official week on campus said he was impressed by the mix of teaching and applied research within the school and by the quality of faculty and research associates. Now, after meeting with the Muskie School's Board of Visitors, he is also pleased with the external support for the school. "We've got a good core of people here," he said, "and the school is already very productive. Staff here are involved in numerous collaborative projects with the state of Maine and other states. The combination of research and teaching gives us the ability to make solid contributions to the public. What will be important for us as we continue to develop will be to build simultaneously on both fronts, teaching and applied research."

Like Worchel, Wechsler was attracted by USM's emphasis on public service. He believes the Muskie School can become a unique asset to the state and region, applying an extension model of public service in policy and management. In addition to the many university-state projects, through which Muskie researchers provide

analysis of delivery and management of services by state agencies, some potential new avenues for service to the state that Wechsler thinks worth considering are citizen education on public policy issues, training for newly elected legislators, briefing for legislators on current critical issues, and training of new municipal officers.

Wechsler's own research focus has been state government, especially state civil service systems. His extensive publication list in recent years, in addition to government reports, includes numerous articles on strategic planning and government, and efforts to reform and streamline state government. He has provided consulting on strategic management to state agencies, development councils and the like in Illinois, Alaska, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Ohio, Texas, West Virginia, Florida, and Maine.

Before moving to University of Illinois, Wechsler served as director of graduate studies at Florida State University's Reubin O'D. Askew School of Public Administration and Policy, at Wright State University as director of graduate studies in social and applied economics from 1979 to 1981 and then director of graduate programs in business and economics from 1981 to 1984. He holds a B.A. from Antioch College, an M.S. from Wright State, and a Ph.D. from Ohio State.

Parking Revision

Later this month, there will be new signs on the Gorham campus parking lots to reflect the Parking Committee's decisions on the allocation of spaces. A description of the new status follows.

The lot on the left side of Bailey Hall as you face the building, the lot behind Russell Hall, and the small lot adjacent to the Academy Building retain their faculty/staff designations, and consequently are for the exclusive use of faculty and staff.

Fifty spaces adjacent to the new Ice Arena will be marked "Ice Arena Parking" and are reserved for members of hockey associations that have rented ice time.

All other Gorham lots will be marked "Parking, USM Permit Required." Those lots are available to any student, faculty or staff member whose vehicle has a valid USM parking sticker. The sole exception is the lot directly in front of Corthell, which for the time being will remain metered for visitor parking. There are

no changes to designated spaces for the handicapped.

The new signage was undertaken as a result of the construction on the Gorham campus. In developing the athletic complex, about 168 new spaces were created in Gorham; 50 of those 168 are designated for the use of hockey groups that rent ice time, so there's a net gain of 118 for general campus use. In allocating those 118 spaces, the Parking Committee considered the increased student enrollment and the growing student population housed in Gorham and decided to open all new spaces for student use. The committee also recommended removing the faculty/staff designations from 90 existing faculty/staff spaces located behind Anderson, behind the Towers, and at 51 College Ave.

The committee believes that these changes, while giving students more parking options, are not overly restrictive to faculty and staff since parking rules permit faculty and staff to park in student lots. The only exception is the student lot between the Portland Campus Center and Masterton Hall, which is dedicated to student use. Faculty/staff lots are for the exclusive use of faculty/staff.

Questions or concerns about parking should be directed to Bob Caswell, director of media relations and chair of the committee, or other committee members: Peter Allen, Manager, Fitness Programs, Lifeline; Joe Austin, Director, Gorham Student Life; Joel Eastman, Professor of History; Joel Irish, Associate Professor of Mathematics & Statistics; Sharon Parker, Office Manager, Admissions; George Pattershall, Electrician, DFM; Steve Rand, Director, Student Information & Research Services; Michael Shutts, student (a second student slot is vacant).

Funding

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based only on full-time equivalent students or should include a factor for part-time students.

"If this [formula] looks to be gentle," said Trustee John DiMatteo, "it's by design. It's not designed to cause major disruptions [in funding] in the short term."

"The proposal," said USM President Richard Pattenau, "makes progress on a very difficult issue while permitting a degree of managerial flexibility at the campus level."

New Prof Adds Depth to History

Maureen Elgersman joined the USM faculty last September as an assistant professor of history specializing in African American history, adding greater depth on the history of Blacks in the Americas to the USM curriculum. She is also the first faculty scholar for USM's Gerald Talbot African American Archive. Her appointment followed a national search.

The new courses developed by Elgersman are African American history from colonial times to 1865, offered in the fall, focusing on the history and economics of slavery, and this semester, African American history from the Civil War to the present, covering subjects such as the history of lynching, segregation, the Harlem Renaissance, the civil rights movement, and Black popular culture. A course she's teaching on Black cultural and intellectual history in the 20th century considers recent Black intellectuals such as Bell Hooks and Cornell West. She's also organizing a course during Summer Session to be taught through the Departments of History and Women Studies on Black women in the Americas.

In these classes students have an opportunity to explore the relationship of patriarchy to slavery and lynching, and how race, gender and class impact individual experience of American culture. They are introduced to the writings of Ida B. Wells and W.E.B. DuBois and current work by Hooks on the way popular culture influences views of race and gender. Elgersman's



Maureen Elgersman, assistant professor of history. *Barrett photo*

classes have been well received, and she has seen enrollment increase from the fall to the spring semester.

The African American Archive was one of the aspects of the position that attracted Elgersman to USM. "I was excited by the challenge of taking responsibility for developing the archive and its uses," she said. "I want it to be an asset to the university and a community resource that the Talbots can be proud of." The archive materials were donated to USM three years ago by Gerald Talbot, Portland resident and a prominent member of Maine's African American community. Among other accomplishments, Talbot was the first African American state legislator in Maine.

Her role with the African American Archive will give Elgersman greater involvement in the Black community in Maine and with the public in general. She hopes the archive, which is part of USM's Sampson Center for Diversity and will eventually be housed in the Glickman Family Library on the Portland campus, will be developed and used in ways similar to USM's Osher Map Library, also housed in the Portland campus library. She is already using artifacts from the archive to support her courses, giving students the opportunity to see items such as the chains that went around the necks and legs of slaves. "Artifacts such as slave chains can make an impact on students in understanding the physical reality of slavery," Elgersman said.

Other archive materials that she believes are worthy of attention are the 1925 charter for the Maine chapter of the Ku Klux Klan and a letter signed by Booker T. Washington asking for the donation of a filing cabinet from the Ideal Desk and Extension Company in Auburn Maine to Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. The letter was kept in an edition of Washington's turn-of-the-century classic autobiography "Up from Slavery," part of Mr. Talbot's collection of books that form a part of the archive. Another strength of the archive is material on the civil rights movement in Portland and Maine.

"I want the archive to be user-friendly for the public," she says. "Students in high school and lower grades can visit and do research on their own, or view materials with a class group." At this point, since the archive is not yet in a permanent location, access to the archive is through Elgersman. She can be reached at her office at 780-5329. She is also willing to send an inventory of archive materials to people who contact her. The first issue of a

newsletter for the archive will be available this month.

Elgersman will also see her dissertation, which she completed last July, being published soon. It is a comparative study of Black slave women in Canada and Jamaica, and the different labor they performed in two different parts of the British empire.

USM's celebration of Black History month, held every February, began with a lecture by Elgersman from her research, "Fertile Ground: Black Women and Slavery in Early Canada and Jamaica."

Black History Month

An exhibit of material from the African American Archive will be on view in the lobby of the Glickman Family Library on the Portland campus through the month of February. Other events include an exhibit of Haitian art in the Art Gallery in Gorham, an Angolan dance demonstration, and discussions of the Portland Muslim community and issues related to racial identity. For a list of events, times and locations, call 780-4850.

The Mapping of Africa at Library

USM's Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education is the New England host for a traveling exhibition tracing the development of European mapping of Africa. "Africa: A Continent Revealed" was first displayed at CIA Headquarters as part of the agency's 50th anniversary, and has since been shown at the Georgia Museum of Art at the University of Georgia, and the Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem State University.

Maps from the CIA collection and the private collection of Michael B. Toth, a CIA intelligence officer, are featured. For this exhibit, the Map Library is also displaying several rare maps of Africa in atlases from its cartographic collections. The exhibit opened in January and continues through May 16. Call 780-4850 or visit <http://www.usm.maine.edu/~maps/>

Steele Satirizes Academic Life

The tables have turned on USM theatre professor Bill Steele. As drama critic for The Portland Newspapers, he has spent countless evenings reviewing the productions of professional and community theatres throughout Maine. But this month, Steele will have to sit back and let others evaluate the merits of The Portland Players' production of his first original play, "Teasers and Tormentors."

"Teasers and Tormentors" has its premiere run at the Portland Players, the region's oldest community theatre, from Friday, February 6 through Saturday, February 21.

Those of us who have lived and worked in campus settings "will find the turf familiar" as the plot unfolds, says Steele. The play, described as a "comic suspense story," is set in a university theatre department. The central character is Jeff Hunter, a young, up-and-coming theatre professor, passionately committed to his art and to the education of his students. Yet two older members of the department feel threatened by Hunter's popularity, talent and energy. Consequently, they concoct a plan to get Hunter fired based on trumped-up sexual harassment charges. "It's a comedy of wits," says Portland Players' artistic director Janet Ross, "with a wonderful and surprising twist at the end." Neither she nor the playwright would reveal the surprise ending.

Steele wrote the play in the winter of 1995 under the working title of "Small Stakes." After it won the Vermont Playwrights Award, Steele shared the piece with Ross, who agreed to produce it.

"It presented an opportunity to direct an original play, bring a world premiere to the Portland Players and showcase the work of a local playwright," says Ross, a teacher, actress and a former student of Steele's.

Ross and Steele, working as a playwright-in-residence, revised the script six times before bringing in the eight-member cast. "It was a challenge to step back and let a fresh pair of eyes that I trust have some influence over it," notes Steele.

"The play," says Ross, "has evolved into a richer, fuller, more three dimensional piece of work." Ralph Lowe, who plays the egotistical Professor Horn, describes it as "a script in progress." Steele expects the script to evolve further. "This premiere run, I hope, will lead to ideas for



USM dance students rehearse for the USM annual dance concert, to be held at 7:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday, February 12 and 13 on the Main Stage of Russell Hall on the Gorham campus. Dance USM! premieres 12 original dances choreographed by students, faculty and guest artists, under the artistic direction of Emily Ojala. Ojala will present her new work "Water," set to music by Philip Glass. Tickets for the performance are \$8 for the public, \$6 for seniors, and \$4 for students. Call the Theatre Box Office at 780- 5151. *Snell photo*

additional rewrites.

"This is a parody of academic politics," adds Steele, "and the ends to which some academics will go to further their reputations. It's a satire; it's not reality," says Steele. "At least, it's not taken directly from life."

Performance times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays, now through February 21. USM faculty, staff and students with an ID can purchase a second ticket at half price. For reservations, call 799-7337 or 799-7338.

Satellite Imagery Online in Gorham

At first glance, the new computer lab on the third floor of Gorham's Bailey Hall looks like any other. But in fact, the 13 work stations in Room 302 give faculty and students access to digital satellite imagery and related tools. The new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) lab, according to Matthew Bampton, assistant professor of geography, offers faculty a sophisticated research tool while exposing students to an emerging professional field that uses the latest computer technology and vast information data bases to explore a range of important public policy issues. "We're now a big

player in the emerging GIS field," Bampton says.

The GIS lab is enabling the Geography-Anthropology faculty and students to assess landslide hazards in Maine through analysis of satellite-generated geographic images and a range of geologic data. Also underway is a catalog of the physical characteristics of Maine's archeological sites; a student study of Cape Elizabeth's walking trails and a map of the evolution of Portland's transportation system. The Geography-Anthropology faculty and students, in conjunction with the Muskie School, are planning to track the spread of Lyme disease, transmitted by ticks. By evaluating various ecological factors and geographic data associated with confirmed cases, faculty and staff will create digitized maps and databases that track the disease and help pinpoint sites of future outbreaks.

Further afield, Bampton is using a terrain model and aerial shots to reconstruct an archeological site on Easter Island, the South Pacific island known for the giant stone monoliths that dot the coastline.

Construction of the \$100,000 lab was made possible through NSF funding and reallocation of university monies. Nasir Shir, a data distribution analyst from Clark University in Worcester, Mass., joined the Geography-Anthropology staff in September as laboratory operations manager.

What We're Doing

BRUCE ANDREWS, professor of business administration, and JOHN B. JENSEN, assistant professor of business administration, co-authored journal articles titled, "A Technology Assessment of Maine's Metals, Electronics and Instrumentation Industries," Part I and Part II, in the winter and spring 1997 issues of *Maine Business Indicators*. Jensen also prepared an instructor's manual to accompany the text titled "Operations Management Concepts," published by South-Western College Publishing.

NANCY ARTZ, associate professor of business administration, is the editor and author of a book currently in press, titled, "301 Great Service Ideas," which will be published by Inc. Magazine in the fall of 1997. Artz also coauthored an article with RICHARD CLAREY, associate professor of management, titled "Faculty as Advanced Learners: A Workable Model of Team Teaching," to be published in a forthcoming issue of *Marketing Educator*.

JOHN W. BAY, associate professor of economics, published an article in the spring 1997 issue of *Maine Business Indicators* titled, "Interstate Branching Legislation: How Does Maine Compare?"

PIERS BEIRNE, professor of criminology, recently delivered his paper "Towards a Sociology of Interspecies Sexual Assault ('Bestiality') at the Davis Center, Princeton University.

SCOTT W. BROWN, associate professor of psychology, published an article titled, "Attentional Resources in Timing: Interference Effects in Concurrent Temporal and Nontemporal Working Memory Tasks" in "Perception and Psychophysics" (vol. 59, pp. 1118-1140, October, 1997).

C. GEORGE CAFFENTZIS, associate professor of philosophy and honors, presented his paper titled "Paper Money, Slavery and Baptism: George Berkeley in Newport" at a meeting of the International Berkeley Society in Middletown, Rhode Island on August 8, 1997. He presented his paper titled, "After Such Knowledge, What Forgiveness?: Foucault, Racism and the Death Penalty" at the "Intersections of Race" Conference at Morgan State University on November 1, 1997. His paper "Philosophical Reflections Against the Capital Punishment" was published in *The Maine Scholar*, Volume 10 (Autumn, 1997). His paper titled "Why Machines Cannot Create Value; or, Marx's Theory of Machines" was published as a chapter in "Cut-

ting Edge: Technology, Information, Capitalism and Social Revolution" (London: Verso, 1997).

ARDIS CAMERON, director and associate professor of American and New England Studies, presented a paper titled, "Women in Motion: Case Records as Travel Stories" at the American Studies Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in November. Cameron has also been reappointed to the ASA committee on secondary schools. In October she was invited to comment on a session that focused on representations of labor at the North American Labor History Conference in Detroit. She also has been asked to serve on the board of advisors for the University Press of New England new series on "Revisiting New England: The New Regionalism." Cameron just completed a year-long stint as one of three historians from the Organization of American Historians to serve on the Learner-Scott Prize Committee for the best dissertation in American History that focuses on women.

ANDREW COBURN, associate director for research programs and associate professor, Muskie School of Public Service, had his paper, "The Role of Health Services Research in Developing State Health Policy," published in the journal *Health Affairs*. He also was recently asked to serve on the Special Emphasis Review Panel for the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research. In November, he spoke to the Legislature's special commission studying the future of Maine's Certificate of Need program.

ROY A. GALLANT, director of the Southworth Planetarium, has been elected to the rank of Fellow by the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Planetarium Association.

JEAN GUTMANN, professor of associate business administration, had her new book titled "Accounting Made Easy with Your Computer" published by Source Books, Inc. this fall. She also wrote an article titled, "Counting on Software," which was published by *Business Profile* magazine in September 1997.

MICHAEL S. HAMILTON, associate professor of political science and environmental science and policy, published an article titled, "Improving Mining Environmental Policy in Indonesia," in *Natural Resources and Environmental Administration*. He also made a slide presentation on "Developing Capacity for Environmental Management of Mining Activities in Indonesia" to a joint meeting of the New England Association of Environmental Professionals and the USM

Environmental Science and Policy Student Group on the Gorham campus.

JOHN HOULIHAN, professor of business law, presented a paper at the Northeast Academy of Legal Studies in May of 1997, titled, "Comparable Worth: Have We Lost Our Moral Compass?"

STEVEN R. JACKSON, assistant professor of accounting, prepared an instructor's manual and test bank to accompany the text for "Managerial Accounting," published by Harcourt, Brace & Co. in 1997. He also published an article titled "An Examination of the Relative Reliability of Changing Prices Income Data" in the 1997 issue of the *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement*.

JUDITH L. JOHNSON, director, Testing and Assessment Center, was selected as an honorary member of the University College Chi Pi Chapter of Sigma Phi Alpha, the national Dental Hygiene Honor Society at Maine Dental Hygienists' Association annual session.

ASSUNTA KENT, assistant professor of theatre, performed as a guest artist with the Esduardo Mariscal Dance Theatre in "The Secret Waltz of the Flies," in Dance Portland, and for the Pret-a-Portland fashion show. She delivered the following papers and workshops for the Association of Theatre in Higher Education conferences in Chicago: "No(h) Women Allowed: Replacing Lady Murasaki's Authorial Voice in Dramas from 'The Tale of Genji'" and "Eliciting Student 'QuIPs' [Questions, Insights and Points of Dis/agreement]: Fostering Writing and Critical Thinking in Large Intro Courses." In the last year, Kent also published her first book, "Maria Irene Fornes and Her Critics," and contributed an introductory essay to Fornes' play "Springtime," anthologized in "Amazon All-Stars: Thirteen Lesbian Plays," edited by Rosemary Keefe Curb. Kent also serves as book review editor for the *New England Theatre Journal* and for the 1997 edition reviewed "Clit Notes: A Sapphic Sampler," by Holly Hughes. Most recently, Kent performed an oral interpretation of the autobiography of imprisoned Chinese dissident Wei Jingsheng for a program titled "The Courage to Stand Alone," sponsored by Amnesty International and the Portland Public Libraries, featuring Wei's English translator, Kris Torgeson.



Currents

Office of Media Relations
P.O. Box 9300
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Editor Susan E. Swain

Director Robert S. Caswell

Sports Information B. L. Elfring

Editorial Assistance Judie A. O'Malley

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