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# CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

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November 1998

## USM Attracts Most Students

Final enrollment figures for the fall of 1998 show that 10,462 students are attending USM, making it Maine's largest institution of higher education -in terms of total headcount- for the third consecutive year.

The fall '98 enrollment of 10,462 compares to 10,230 (+232) in the fall of '97. The figures include all full and part-time, graduate and undergraduate students. The new totals mark the fifth consecutive year of enrollment increases for USM.

"These increases indicate that people recognize our commitment to academic quality and development of programs that respond to clearly defined student and community needs," said President Richard L. Pattenau.

USM attracted 918 new freshmen, the highest number since the fall of 1992. The number of out-of-state freshmen also is up, from 117 last year to 133 this year. Dormitories, which house more than 1100 students, also are at capacity for the second time in two years, an indication that the institution is attracting more traditional age students. In fact, the number of full-time students is up this year, 4,857 as compared to 4,698 last year. USM also is generating more credit hours, a key indicator of growth since it is a measure of classes taken and tuition generated. This fall, students signed up for 89,440.5 credit hours, an increase of 2,120 over the fall of 1997.

Finally, USM has experienced an increase in the number of graduate students, 1,707 this year, compared to 1,631 in 1997.

USM's five-year strategic plan, created in 1996, has an enrollment goal of 10,700 students by the fall of 2001.



Peter Aicher near the Porta Maggiore in Rome during taping of NOVA program in October.

## USM Faculty on PBS, BBC

The expertise of several USM faculty has been recognized by producers of major television series and in coming months will be broadcast to millions of viewers in the US and UK.

Ardis Cameron, director of USM's American and New England Studies, was interviewed by the British Broadcasting Company this past September on Irish women in America, and two other faculty participated in NOVA programs, one of the most popular shows produced by PBS for American public television.

Peter Aicher, associate professor of classics, probably had the most exciting experience of the three. He was flown by PBS to Italy and Turkey in October to be interviewed for a NOVA program about the ancient Roman baths. Aicher, who has taught at USM since 1993, is the author of a book on Roman aqueducts, "Guide to

the Aqueducts of Ancient Rome," published by Bolcahzy-Carducci Publishers, Inc. in 1995. He spent a week in Rome, where the TV cameras toured the imperial baths in Rome and interviewed Aicher on camera about the ancient aqueducts that fed them. Then he flew with the production crew to Sardis, Turkey, where a Roman-style bath was to be constructed.

The program is part of the NOVA series, "Secrets of Lost Empires," in which academic and engineering experts attempt to recreate engineering marvels of the ancient world. Past shows in the series have included reconstructions of Egyptian obelisks, a stone circle like Stonehenge, and a canopy for the Colosseum in Rome. According to their website, NOVA tries to accomplish "these engineering feats" and "recreate these monuments using only the tools available to the ancients." The program will also be broadcast in the U.K. by the BBC (British Broadcasting Co.).

Aicher teaches courses on the

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NewsChannel 13 anchor Kim Block will be a special guest at this year's holiday music gala. *WGME photo*

## "Season of Light"

The Music Department's annual holiday fundraiser will be a departure from the last seven years. This year's event is contemporary in feel, with music ranging through a variety of time periods. Instead of costumes, dress wear is suggested (black tie optional).

"Season of Light: Festive Music of the Ages" will be held Friday, December 4, 1998, beginning at 6 p.m. The holiday event will again be at the Radisson Eastland Hotel, High Street in Portland. Special guests will include News Channel 13's Kim Block and comedienne Julie Goell.

As this year's corporate sponsor, Portland Volvo set the pace for the fundraiser, which raises money for music student scholarships. More than 34 businesses and companies, a dozen volunteers, and over 50 students, faculty and staff also have contributed goods, services, time, and funds to support the gala.

Tickets are \$50 per person with a special patron rate of \$75, which includes valet parking. For reservations call 780-5003; the deadline is Monday, November 30.

Ellen Chickering is coordinating the music performances by USM music students. The USM Chambers Singers and a brass ensemble will be among the featured performers.

The evening includes the drawing of prizes for a raffle in which the grand prize is two round-trip tickets to anywhere that Delta Airline flies, plus other luxury items. Only 110 raffle tickets will be sold. For more information on the raffle, call 780-5003.

## Faculty Grants Fund Projects

Maine poet Susanne Pelletier will give a poetry reading on Thursday, November 19, that is the first event funded by a new grant program, offered by the the Greater Portland Alliance of Colleges and Universities for collaborative projects among GPACU institutions. GPACU is a consortium of five local institutions - - USM and Maine College of Art, Saint Joseph's College, Southern Maine Technical College, and the University of New England—that was formed in 1993 to expand opportunities for students and faculty and to advocate together for higher education in the region.

A primary benefit to students thus far has been the opportunity to cross-register for courses. Now a grant program expands funding sources for faculty at the GPACU schools, and several USM faculty have benefited. Grants awarded for the 1998-99 year that include USM participants were awarded to members of USM's Art Department, Honors Program and Russell Scholars Program, and the School of Business.

The main criterion for grant applications is that projects involve at least two of the GPACU institutions. A wide variety of projects are possible, including jointly sponsored lectures, theater and musical performances, art exhibits, colloquia and course development.

Jan Thompson, director of USM's Honors Program and Stephen Romanoff, director of USM's Russell Scholars Program, won a Faculty Cooperative Consortium Grant to sponsor a a three-part series of readings by Maine poets in conjunction with the Honors Program at Saint Joseph's College, to be held at three sites: Saint Joseph's campus in Windham and USM's Portland and Gorham campuses. It is hoped the readings will bring more recognition and support to Maine writers as well as introducing students to professional poets.

The first reading in the series, by Pelletier, a Lewiston native, will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, November 19 in Woodward Hall on the Gorham campus. Pelletier, who received a B.A. in English Literature from Bates College and an M.S. in Journalism from Northwestern University, is an instructor at Lewiston-Auburn College, Poet-in-Residence at Bates, and a founding poet in Spiritwords: The Maine Poetries Collaborative. Her

1989 poem, "Immigrant Dream," which is currently in its 3rd printing, gives voice to her deep connections to the Franco-American community, as well as to her vision of social justice and dignity. Her articles and poems have been published in anthologies, literary journals, and political and environmental magazines.

The second Maine poet in the series is Wesley McNair, the director of the creative writing program at the University of Maine at Farmington. He will read in Xavier Hall at Saint Joseph's College, at 7 p.m., February 3, 1999. McNair's sixth book of poetry, "Talking in the Dark," will be published shortly.

The final poet in the series will be Belfast native Gary Lawless, who is currently teaching environmental literature and creative writing courses at Bates College. He is co-owner of Gulf of Maine Bookstore, editor-publisher of Blackberry Books, and poetry editor of "Wild Earth" magazine. Lawless will appear at 7 p.m., April 7, 1999, at the Woodbury Campus Center, on USM's Portland campus. Call 892-6766 for information.

Carolyn Eyler, director of Exhibitions and Programs for USM Art Galleries, Duncan Hewitt, professor of art, and Catherine Hewitt, adjunct professor at SMTTC, received a grant to develop an outreach project on gardening. The project, which includes an art exhibit, guest speakers and a visiting artist workshop open to the community, culminating in a public art project, is scheduled for next spring. The goal, according to the grant application, is "to focus the public's awareness both on how gardens can be art forms in their right and how they are influencing contemporary artistic practice." Sculptor Duncan Hewitt and Catherine Hewitt, a landscape designer, have already collaborated on one public garden at Bonny Eagle Middle School in Buxton as a Percent for Art project.

A third GPACU grant to benefit the USM community will bring distinguished business leaders to speak to GPACU campus audiences and to work on integrating needs of the greater Maine community in academic curricula. USM Business School faculty worked on this proposal with Michael Donovan of SMTTC's Business Administration Program.

For more information on the grant application process, call Karen Moore, executive director of GPACU, at 787-3763 or email her at [KRMOORE@worldnet.att.net](mailto:KRMOORE@worldnet.att.net)

## Faculty on TV

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historic roles of Sardis and Troy, as well as Roman history and ancient civilization, so he was pleased that his experience on television also provided an opportunity for him to acquire more first-hand knowledge of the area.

Aicher led the TV crew to fields outside of Rome to find the aqueducts, which the engineers of ancient Rome built to bring water to the city. Aicher wrote his book to provide a field guide to the aqueducts because he had found they were nearly impossible to locate in the modern landscape.

Aicher says he found his television exciting and interesting, but nerve-racking, too. "I couldn't turn down an opportunity like this," he said after returning to Portland, "but it did cause me anxiety. It mixed stress with fun." He said it was wonderful to return to Rome and interesting to see for the first time the very different culture of Turkey.

As to the television approach to history, Aicher said he worried about making a mistake and also about the material being presented too simply in a seamless choreography of facts. "As a scholar," he said, "I wanted to add qualifications, bring out the complexity of the subject. But I could see their point." The producers told him to consider his audience to be a "precocious 12 year old." And don't worry about the footnotes, they told him.

In the end, he said, he reminded himself that Aristotle had acknowledged the need to use different degrees of precision for different audiences. As for inadvertent mistakes on his part, he was reassured that NOVA's team of fact-checkers would meticulously research everything in the program. "They are super careful about the facts," he said.

The NOVA program featuring Aicher is scheduled to air in France and Britain in the fall of 1999 and in the U.S. in the spring of 2000.

Joel Eastman, professor of history, will appear in a NOVA program on car safety on February 16, 1999. The producer of the two-part NOVA special, "Escape! Because Accidents Happen," came across the book Eastman wrote on the history of car safety, "Styling vs. Safety: The American Automobile Industry and the Development of Automotive Safety, 1900-1966" published in 1984 by the University Press of America. Eastman served as a consultant to NOVA, loaned the producer materials, and was interviewed on camera at the

Lars Anderson Transportation Museum in Brookline, Mass. in 1997. The first of the two, two-hour NOVA programs on accidents is "Fire/Cars," the one which features Eastman. It will be broadcast on February 16; the second is "Air/Sea," that will show on February 17. The program also was scheduled to air in the U.K. and Germany.

Eastman's book on automotive safety is a revised version of his doctoral dissertation. His research for the book took him to Harvard Business School, Syracuse University, the University of Michigan, and Ford Motor Company Archives. He interviewed Robert McNamara, Abraham Ribicoff, and Ralph Nadar, among others.

As with Eastman's contact with TV producers, it was Cameron's book on mill workers in Lawrence that brought BBC producers to her door. Cameron, associate professor of American and New England studies, is the author of "Radicals of the Worst Sort: Laboring Women in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1660-1912." The BBC was making arrangements for a series on the Irish diaspora, examining the lives of the Irish in the U.K., Australia, America, and Canada, and Cameron became one of two American historians interviewed for the series. Her book on the Irish immigrant women who worked in the Lawrence textile mills fit into the section on Irish women.

Cameron was interviewed at the site of the Lawrence mills, discussing the mill workers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She found the experience interesting, she says, and it was flattering, but it also raised questions for Cameron about the process of creating public versions, especially television versions, of history. The program's producers, researchers and fact checkers had looked at texts and materials on the subject and tried to be accurate, she said, but they come to the interview with "a script already conceptualized," Cameron explained. "It's encouraging that they've included historians and academics, but they interweave scholars in a narrative structure. It's the interpretive pull of director or writer or producer which determines how knowledge is presented," she said. "Then they use scholars within the product to provide credibility but not disrupt the narrative."

This bothers Cameron because historians now work with the understanding that everyone brings their own context to understanding historic events and different interpre-

tations result. The TV document doesn't take into account the various possible interpretations. Instead, she says, "it's history being created as entertainment. They're looking for anecdotes of dramatic moments."

Cameron was told that the BBC program on the Irish will air in Europe and the U.K. next spring, and on PBS in the U.S. in the summer or fall of 1999.

## R&D Bond Passes



Voters passed (63 percent to 37) the \$20 million bond to build the state's R&D infrastructure. The issue passed by two-to-one margins in Cumberland and Penobscot Counties, home bases for USM and the University of Maine, Orono, respectively. Funds will be distributed to three entities: the University of Maine System (specifically USM and UM), the Maine Science and Technology Foundation, and the Gulf of Maine Research Laboratory. The funds will be used to upgrade research and teaching laboratories and equipment in areas directly responsive to the needs of key industrial sectors. The bond vote is part of a statewide effort to increase R&D funding. Earlier this year, the Maine Legislature also approved an appropriation for university-related R&D.

A total of \$2,700,000 will be allocated to USM for molecular biology, immunology, micro-electronics, and information technologies laboratories.

The renovated research facilities will greatly enhance our ability to attract and retain top-flight students and research faculty, provide advanced training for students, and increase the capacity of USM research faculty to leverage federal funding for research.



## What We're Doing

**TINA ALDRICH**, coordinator, Portland Student Recreation, received a Maine Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Honor Award, "Worthy of Praise," and the annual MAHPERD banquet for her work as state coordinator for the National Girls & Women Sports Day celebrations in Maine.

**SUSAN M. CAMPBELL**, director of advising services, recently had her chapter, "Understanding Your Needs: Overcoming the Personal Barriers to Success in Distance Learning" appear in "The Distance Learner's Guide" (Prentice Hall, 1998).

**PAMELA EDWARDS**, academic counselor and manager of advising, College of Arts and Sciences, and **COLLEEN WHITE**, academic counselor, coordinator of advising support services, and veterans coordinator, both received certification as career development facilitators in May.

**MUHAMMED EL-TAHA**, professor of mathematics and statistics, had the book he co-authored, "Sample-Path Analysis of Queuing Systems" published by Kluwer Academic Publishers under their "International Series in Operations Research and Management Science." His co-authored paper, "Generation of Correlated Logistic-Normal Random Variates for Medical Decision Trees" was accepted for publication by the journal, *Methods of Information in Medicine*. El-Taha presented a paper titled "Fluid Versions of Little's Formula and Extensions" at the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) national meeting held in Montreal, April 26-28.

**SARAH HOLMES**, administrative assistant, Portland Hall, was awarded the Richard F. Stevens Outstanding Graduate Student Scholarship by The Association for Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

**WIL KILROY**, associate professor of theatre, appeared on the television series "Babylon 5" and "Caroline in the City," where he spent time as a production intern during his spring 1998 sabbatical. He was also an intern in the television/film casting office of Champion/Paladini, at Gossett Entertainment Management, at the Broadway production company for the musical "RENT," and he consulted for ABC's Houston, Texas, television affiliate for "The Doctor and the Diva." While in Los Angeles he worked on script development for "California Dreamin'" with original Mamas and Papas' member Michele Philips, directed a new play for California's

American College Theatre Festival, and taught workshops for the Michael Chekhov Drama Group. In April, he co-directed "Purple Breasts" in Livingston, Montana with USM alumna Anjanette Hawk Johnson reprising the lead role. He taught acting workshops for the graduate programs of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

**VALARIE C. LAMONT**, co-director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Small Business, made a presentation, "Enhancing Rural Economies Through Entrepreneurial Training," at the 1998 annual meeting of the New England Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, October 15-18, held in Bar Harbor.

**MARJORIE THOMAS LAWSON**, assistant professor of nursing, presented a research paper titled, "Provider Communication Styles in the Context of Established Provider-Patient Relationships" at the 6th International Nurse Practitioner Conference in Melbourne Australia, last February. Lawson was invited to present a paper, "Patient Health Care Choices: Considering the How and the Why" at the third annual Maine Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Update held in Portland last May. She also presented a two-day workshop titled, "Integration of Genetics into Nursing Curricula" at a weeklong national workshop for nursing faculty, "A Practice-Based Genetics Program for Nurse Educators: Education and Training Program," held at the Foundation for Blood Research in Scarborough, last June.

**ROBERT M. SCHAIBLE**, associate professor of arts and humanities, Lewiston-Auburn College, delivered a paper titled "College Teaching: Exploring/Exploding the Myth of the Explicator" at the 17th annual Lilly Conference on College Teaching, held at Miami University of Ohio in November 1997. He attended the conference "Christianity and Ecology," at the Harvard Center for the Study of World Religions in April, 1998. His co-authored paper, "White Males Teaching for Diversity," was published in the most recent issue of the *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching*. He attended the summer meeting of the Council of the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS), and co-chaired the 45th annual IRAS conference on Interweaving Art, Science, and Spirituality, in Portsmouth. At the IRAS he was elected vice president for conferences and chair of the long-range planning committee, and he delivered the keynote address, "What Poetry Brings to the (Epistemological) Table of Science and Religion" at the conference. He has been asked

to serve as the coordinator for two interdisciplinary science/humanities workshops, funded by the National Science Foundation and scheduled for May 1999 and 2000 at Drury College, Springfield, Missouri.

**WILLIAM H. SLAVICK**, professor of English (retired), has published a chapter, "The Peace of Christ and Just Violence," in "Rome Has Spoken: A Guide to Forgotten Papal Statements and How They Have Changed Through the Centuries" (New York: Crossroad Publishing, 1998).

**NOLAN M. THOMPSON**, coordinator of employee and community outreach, Office of Campus Pluralism and Equal Opportunity, was a speaker at the Lewiston Library and Sun Journal Luncheon Speaker Forum in September.

**MARGO WOOD**, professor of education, presented workshops on literacy research and on USM's use of America Reads tutors in Portland schools at two America Reads Challenge conferences in New York and Braintree, Mass., last July. The second edition of her textbook, "Essentials of Teaching Elementary Language Arts" was released by Allyn and Bacon in August.

**STEPHEN WORCHEL**, dean, College of Arts and Sciences, co-authored the book, "Pathways to Human Adjustment," that will be published in 1999 by Allyn & Bacon, Boston. His article, "Changing the Guard: How Origin of New Leader and Disposition of Ex-leader Affect Group Performance and Perceptions," that appeared in *Small Group Research* (Vol. 29, pp. 436-451). His papers, "Minority on Minority: An Emerging Challenge for Societal Ideology" and "New Theories of Ethnic Conflict," were presented for the International Society for Political Psychology in Montreal last July. Worchel was appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and was a facilitator at Seeds of Peace, June-July, 1998. He was a talk show guest on WMAL in August and was interviewed by the Baltimore Sun in August and September.

**Storm Notice:** Do not park in outbuilding driveways or in front of building entrances during or the morning after snow storms. Facilities Management needs to plow, sand and salt. If you must park overnight, contact the USM Police Department. For notice of storm cancellations, call 780-4800.

 University of Southern Maine

### Currents

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