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CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

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May, 1996

USM Plans 1996 Commencement

Terrence J. MacTaggart, new chancellor of the University of Maine System, will give the Commencement address at USM's 116th Commencement ceremony, which begins at 9 a.m., Saturday, May 11, at the Cumberland County Civic Center, Spring Street, Portland. Sally Vamvakias of Falmouth, chair of the Board of Trustees, will represent the board on stage during the ceremony.

Faculty and staff who are participating in the ceremony should be in the Captain's Room of the Civic Center by 8:15 a.m. Parking is available for cars with university stickers at the BAMICO lot on Spring St. Shuttle buses to the Civic Center will be available at the Portland Campus Center between 7 and 8:30 a.m., returning to campus at noon.

Nearly 900 students from the Class

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Registrar John Keysor directs graduates to line up every commencement. This year's ceremonies begin at 9 a.m., Saturday, May 11 at the Cumberland County Civic Center.

Getting Down to Business

by John M. Burt, dean, School of Business

Editor's Note: This is part of a continuing series of columns by USM's deans.

I've posted two signs in the School of Business office. One, which is our mission statement, reads, "Our foremost responsibility is to encourage and help students learn." The second reads, "Just Do It."

These signs are more than slogans of the month. We in the school are engaged in making changes that will refocus our energies on the needs of our students.

The fact that faculty and staff of the school are actively involved in one of several committees that are looking at student needs, external linkages and other topics is a testament to their interest and commitment to the school. One outcome of this effort will be achievement of national accreditation within four to five years. It must be stressed, however, that accreditation is not the goal in itself, but will validate the fact that the school has implemented an effective, successful continuous improvement process that benefits our programs and, ultimately, our students.

We've reallocated resources to form a School of Business Office of Student Affairs in order to directly address the immediate needs of our students in advising, academic support, placement and related areas. We're also broadening our definition of students to include the 18-year-old high school graduate preparing for a career, the 35-year-old middle manager who is changing careers and the senior executive who needs a workshop to upgrade his or her skills in a particular subject area.

We are working actively to enhance further linkages to the business community. One example is our

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Five-Year Plan

"We are not going to be at the mercy of forces around us," President Richard L. Pattenaudd said in the final version of his five-year plan, "USM in the 21st Century: Building a Better University During a Time of Challenge." Instead, USM will "rise to new levels of quality and responsiveness" by balancing "moderate growth with judicious reallocations and reductions," he said.

Last January, Pattenaudd released a draft plan that started with the premise that USM would be facing a \$4.4 million shortfall in five years if nothing was done about rising costs and stagnant enrollments. He proposed to make up the shortfall through \$3.3 million in new revenues, combined with \$1.1 million in reallocations and cuts. The final version of that plan is based on feedback from faculty, staff, students and community members.

Much of the \$3.3 million in new revenues will be generated through implementation of needed academic programs such as media studies, sports medicine and health care management that attract new students. Those and other programs, funded largely with a "performance budgeting process" that moves resources to high demand areas, will also meet clearly defined regional needs.

"Thoughtful growth will be the key to this plan's success," says Pattenaudd, "rather than a cut-and-slash strategy that would substantially weaken USM's capacity to fulfill its mission as a comprehensive public university. More importantly, we'll focus on steps that will make us more rigorous and will ensure that students get an education that makes sense for the 21st century, when we will all be part of an information-based economy and society. Investments in technology and curriculum strengthening in writing, computer literacy and global studies are important additions to our

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Commencement

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of '96 are expected to participate in the ceremony of the more than 1300 who are eligible to graduate this year. Six of these students will be receiving double bachelor degrees, having met academic requirements in two majors.

Author Lois Lowry, a USM alumna, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, which is awarded to an individual deemed to have made significant contributions to USM and to the community. Lowry's series of humorous children's books, featuring her young heroine Anastasia and her family, has earned her a broad following among preteens, their parents and teachers for her skillful blending of humor with serious issues. Twice she has won the prestigious Newbery award, the top honor in the field of children's books, for her book about the holocaust, "Number the Stars," and again, for "The Giver," which presents the pros and cons of a controlled society.

Three retired faculty members will receive emeritus status for long and significant service to the university. Helen Greenwood served USM as provost for four years, from 1985 to 1989 and until last December as the first dean of Lewiston-Auburn College. She joined USM's biological sciences faculty in 1969 and taught biology here for more than 20 years. She was instrumental in establishing the graduate program in immunology



USM student Jenny Lynd Robinson, one of the Music Department's leading voice performance majors, will lead Commencement participants in the national anthem during USM ceremonies

Snell photo

at USM in collaboration with the Foundation for Blood Research. Monique Crochet, professor of French, was a member of USM's Department of Foreign Languages for 25 years, and Richard McKeil, professor of associate business administration, taught in USM's School of Business for nearly 30 years.

Student speaker Delia P. Saintcross of Portland will also address commencement participants. Saintcross, one of USM's non-traditional students, represents the opportunity USM offers students to change their lives, their careers and their futures. After a successful career in the banking industry, Saintcross, a former assistant vice president at Gorham Savings Bank and a vice president and trust officer at Casco Northern Bank, decided to change careers and in May, 1994 began to work towards a bachelor's degree in social work. She has served the community as a swim coach and Program Committee member at the Greater Portland YMCA, and held various leadership positions in the professional affiliation Financial Women International. At USM, she has been a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and a student member of the National Association of Social Workers.

The national anthem will be led by student singer Jenny Lynd Robinson of Belfast. Robinson, a student of USM's Ellen Chickering and one of the Music Department's leading voice performance majors, sang the national anthem at the opening of the legislative session in Augusta last November. She has won first place twice in the Boston National Association of Teachers of Singing Voice Competition and also twice won the Maine NATS competition.

Chancellor MacTaggart, who assumed his position on a full-time basis May 1, brings a wide educational perspective to the University of Maine System. Over the past year he was a Fulbright Scholar in Thailand and formerly held the position of chancellor and professor of English at the Minnesota State University System, which has nearly twice as many students as the Maine system. Previous positions include chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Superior, vice president for academic and administrative affairs at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, and other faculty and administrative positions at Saint Cloud State University in Minnesota, Webster University, and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. He received his Ph.D. in 18th Century British Literature from Saint Louis University and also earned an M.B.A.

from Saint Cloud State University.

The School of Nursing is holding their commencement convocation ceremony at 6 p.m., Friday, May 10 in the Sullivan Gym. Susan Flewelling Goran, staff development specialist at Maine Medical Center, will speak to more than 100 nursing graduates. A reception will follow at the Campus Center.

Ceremonies for graduates of the University of Maine School of Law will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 at the State Theater, Portland. Paula Silsby, assistant U.S. attorney and an alumna of the school, will address the 88 members of the Class of 1996.

For more information, call 780-4097.

Business

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Executive Forum '96, which later this month will provide business leaders and faculty an opportunity to share information on how organizations are dealing with downsizing and other challenges of change.

We are changing our curriculum to provide a well-rounded education that also enables career people to retool their skills. The MBA program, for example, has been streamlined to a high quality, 30-credit program that can be completed within two years by part-time students who satisfy newly established foundation coursework. After years of work, our accounting program has been restructured so that the associate's degree qualifies graduates for careers as assistants to accountants, while the bachelor's program features higher minimum grades, new courses and a requirement for 12 credits in one discipline outside the school. The new MBA also offers an accounting concentration. Throughout our departments, you'll see an interdisciplinary approach to learning, with more of an emphasis on developing communication skills, team-building skills and more flexible scheduling. The old model of going to college at 18, earning a business degree and entering the work world for the next 35-40 years is no longer appropriate.

Clearly, none of the progress made to date would have been possible without the active participation of our dedicated faculty and staff. We still have much to accomplish. Change, however, is occurring one faculty member, one staff member and one dean at a time.

Ellen Corkery, assistant to the executive director of public service at USM, and Irwin Novak, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and associate professor of geosciences, co-chaired the campaign. The Annual Fund supports student scholarships and library acquisitions.

What We're Doing

MICHAEL S. HAMILTON, associate professor of political science, environmental science and policy, was appointed by Governor Angus S. King Jr. to a two-year term as Maine Ambassador in recognition of his environmental policy development work in Indonesia. Maine Ambassadors cooperate with the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and Maine & Company in efforts to bring new business activity to Maine.

PAMELA HEWETT, RN, Student Health Services, has recently completed the 100th running of the Boston Marathon with a time of 4.04.44.

RITA M. KISSEN, associate professor of education, presented a paper, "Talking the Talk, Walking the Walk: Educating for Diversity in Maine," at the annual conference of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education in Chicago last February. She will be presenting another paper, "Other Identities: Gay and Lesbian Teachers Talk About Race and Culture," at the sixth annual conference of GLSTN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network, in Boston on April 27. Kissen had two book chapters published this winter: "Gay and Lesbian Teachers: Forbidden to Care" appeared in "Caring in an Unjust World," published by the State University Press of New York; and "Teaching Under Siege: Lesbian and Gay Educators in Colorado and Oregon" appears in "Open Lives, Safe Schools: Addressing Gay and Lesbian Issues in Education," published by Phi Delta Kappa Press.

TERRENCE J. MacTAGGART, chancellor of the University of Maine System, **RICHARD L. PATTENAUE**, president, and **ROBERT J. GOETTEL**, executive assistant to the president, gave a presentation at the National Conference on Trusteeship held by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. The presentation, given at a concurrent session during the conference April 2, was on "Balancing System Goals and Campus Advocacy: Forging Linkages with Political and Business Constituencies in a Public Multicampus System."

CARTER MANNY, associate professor of business law, presented a paper titled "An Examination of the 1996 Revisions of the U.S. Export Control Regulations" at the annual meeting of the North Atlantic Regional Business Law Association at Bentley College, Waltham, Mass. on April 27.

JAYNE D.B. MARSH, research associate at the Muskie Institute, Child and Family Policy Center, has been asked to present the AIMS Preventive Intervention Assessment Methodology at the Healthy Families Maine Conference II: Moving Toward Implementation, on May 3 at the Augusta Civic Center. She will be participating in the ninth annual Maine Association for Infant Mental Health Conference: Prevent Violence—Preserving Attachments, on May 17 in South Portland. Marsh also will be participating in the University of New England clinical training seminar, Infant Mental Health Diagnosis and Classification: Theory and Practice, on May 18 at the University of New England.

JAMES V. SULLIVAN, professor emeritus of health, physical education and recreation, presented a lecture, "Fitness for Seniors," at Bradford Ilkley College and Loughborough University in England.

H. FRED WALKER, assistant professor of technology, recently received a donation of equipment and consumable supplies worth \$6,300 from the International Paper Corporation located in Jay. The items will be used to update the Power and Control Laboratory in the John Mitchell Center.

USM Plan

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academic effort."

The five-year plan also calls for improving the quality of campus life as part of efforts to increase student retention. That can be accomplished by restructuring USM's academic advising, implementing more convenient class scheduling, and placing a renewed emphasis on the Gorham campus.

These retention efforts and other initiatives should increase enrollment from the current level of 9,721 to 10,700 by the fall of 2001.

The final \$1.1 million of the \$4.4 million will be realized through reallocations and cuts. USM will phase out the master's program in statistics and return Wolfe's Neck Farm in

Freeport to the American Farmland Trust.

"Though the master's program, with approximately 13 students, lacks demand to be viable as a major, we'll continue to offer select courses in statistics," explains Pattenauade.

"Wolfe's Neck Farm, while a magnificent natural resource, simply is not linked to our mission."

The plan also calls for merging libraries, computer services, media services and instructional television into a single department. Other mergers include graduate studies and sponsored programs so that services for graduate students and research programs are in one office; noncredit activities and special academic courses for improved coordination of schedules; and the merger of various institutional research services to improve tracking of student enrollments and related data. The combination of reallocations, cuts and reorganizations is expected to save \$460,000 over the next five years.

Another \$460,000 will be saved by funding vacated positions at a maximum 90 percent of the salary last paid.

"Our goal is to increase the value of a USM education, the quality of our students' experiences, our responsiveness to regional needs, and our cost effectiveness," says Pattenauade. "This five-year plan is based on the assumption that a university with a compelling vision, rigorous standards and responsive programs will prosper."

 **University of Southern Maine**

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