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CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 12, Number 5

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Revamping USM

Plans to upgrade USM's theatre facility, housed in Russell Hall on the Gorham campus, and retrofit the former library space in Luther Bonney for new purposes are now set to move forward. At the January 24 meeting of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, the board approved USM proposals to renovate Russell Hall in Gorham and Luther Bonney in Portland.

Since the new Portland library opened in October, much thought has gone to the best use of the former library space in Luther Bonney Hall. In a survey of 589 students conducted in the spring of 1992, 73 percent indicated that expanding student access to computers was the most pressing need. Later that year a committee appointed by the Faculty Senate to consider space needs, recommended that the first floor of the Luther Bonney library space be used for increased computer services for students and faculty, and that the smaller second floor house expanded academic support services.

Renovation of the Luther Bonney space for these two functions only necessitates limited alterations. The project will move the new Center for Teaching and other support services into one central location on campus, consolidating Educational Media, Academic Computing Services and all Learning Assistance services, including the First Year Alternative Experience, Academic Services for Students with Disabilities, and the Academic Support Center. The Core Council also will be located on the second floor.

The number of computer stations available to students will jump from 76 to 121 because there will be room for 45 computers now in storage due to lack of space. There will be room for additional computers also as purchasing funds become available.

Renovations would address handicapped-access needs as well, including an elevator at the rear of Luther Bonney facing Masterton Hall, the side of the building that has handicapped parking spaces.

Board action and campus money management finally has made it possible to begin a long-deferred project to improve the theatre facility in Russell Hall. Bond money allocated

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CAS Libra Prof

A literary scholar with an expertise in Southern literature and gender studies will visit campus for four weeks this semester as the second Libra Distinguished Professor of Humanities in USM's College of Arts and Sciences. Patricia Yaeger, associate professor of English at the University of Michigan, will give class and public lectures on the topic "Gender, Theory and Feminism in a Postmodern World" and meet with faculty and students.

Yaeger will give her first lecture on Thursday, February 10 at 7 p.m. in the Moot Court Room on "Pre-Post Modernism: Academic Feminism and the Kitchen Sink." The lecture will be preceded by a reception at 6:30 p.m. She will also give lectures on Monday, March 9 at 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 6 at 7 p.m., and during the week of April 25. All the lectures are free and open to the public. Information on locations and the time of her last lecture will be publicized later. Yaeger will also participate in the Women's Studies series of faculty reading groups on Wednesdays, February 9 and March 9 at 12 noon. For more information on these groups, contact the Women's Studies Department at 780-4289.

Yaeger's recent work has focused on comparison of New England literature with that of the South. In addition to numerous scholarly articles, she is the author of the book "Honey-Mad Women: Emancipatory Strategies in Women's Writing." She also was co-editor of two critical collections, "Nationalisms and Sexualities" and "Refiguring the Father: New Feminist Readings of Patriarchy." Yaeger, who holds a Ph.D. from Yale, is the recipient of a number of honors and awards, including the Harvard Kennedy School Award, and the Mellon Fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania. Before joining the faculty at the University of

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Luther Bonney Hall

History of Mill Women of Lawrence

A highly praised book on women laborers in the textile mills of Lawrence, Massachusetts by Ardis Cameron, associate professor of American and New England Studies, had its roots in the author's past. As a small child, Cameron visited the textile mills of Paterson, New Jersey with her



great grandfather, who had been a loom fixer. "Growing up near the mill towns of New Jersey, I became intrigued by the history of the mill workers,"

Cameron says.

This interest, pursued during her graduate studies in history at Boston College, was brought to fruition recently when University of Illinois Press published Cameron's book, "Radicals of the Worst Sort: Laboring Women in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1860-1912." The book has been included in the prestigious Women and American History Series and in the series The Working Class in American History. Alice Kessler-Harris, former president of the American Studies Association, praised the book as a "major contribution to

our historical knowledge" as well as a "model of clarity and precision."

While women had always played a central role in the textile industry as workers, their role in labor struggles was largely untold, Cameron says. "When I was in graduate school during the '80s, there was interest in a new social history that looked at the lives of those at the edges of the power structure, workers and women. Labor history at the time focused on unions and male leaders like Big Bill Hayward. But Women's History was emerging as a field and challenging what was being told and how it was being told."

In the introduction to her book Cameron explains that history is not a mere record of facts but a social product that itself produces a particular construction of knowledge, built around the perspective of the dominant part of society.... "the comings and goings of working women thus come down to us in the present as the refuse of the past, incidental lives gathered and stored in the corners of greater narratives." She wanted to shift the historical record from the shop floor and the union hall to the neighborhood where women's roles as workers intersected with their lives as mothers and homemakers.

Already interested in women textile workers and the representation in history of the female militant labor activist as an anomaly, Cameron focused on the strikes in Lawrence of 1882 and 1912 as seen from the inside. In the introduction to "Radicals of the Worst Sort," Cameron says that strikes, because they disrupt the ordinary, bring to the surface "those frequently invisible struggles over the meaning of things —of words, gestures, acts, even of the events

themselves....female radicals were attacked and feared not simply because they were women, but because they were women who in their words and gestures challenged the parameters of what a 'woman' should be, and in so doing, called into question those social and sexual hierarchies defined by conservatives as the very bases of modern civilization."

The Bread and Roses Strike of 1912 had been described and analyzed, but Cameron wanted to take a new look at the role of women. "I wanted to see how women in neighborhoods organized the community and their impact on the strike," she says. "To do that I had to reconstruct the networks of women in the Lawrence neighborhoods. I also examined the way women were represented in public discourse. They were marginalized after each strike in different ways."

She is now studying how the Bread and Roses strike is remembered. It wasn't talked about for a long time because the people of Lawrence were embarrassed about it, she says, until historians became interested in the famous strike during the 1970s. Now the descendants of the immigrant workers are third generation Americans who want to celebrate their heritage but in a non-radical way. "They have de-radicalized the history of the strike and adjusted the image of the strikers to fit into a tourist attracting festival," Cameron states. She is interested in exploring this revision of history further.

Cameron came to USM in 1988 after receiving her Ph.D. with highest honors from Boston College in American social and Cultural History in 1986. She has received research fellowships in the past from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from USM's Faculty Senate.



"Entitled 'A Striker's Family' and not 'A Striker and Her Family,' this photo brought women and children into national focus but it also emphasized women's identity as wives and mothers, masking their position as wage workers." Photo and caption from "Radicals of the Worst Sort," printed in Cameron's book courtesy of the Museum of American Textile History.

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month. For information on programming during March, call Women's Studies at 780-4289. Celebration of International Women's Day on Tuesday, March 8 will include an international women's panel from 4 to 5:30 p.m., followed by the annual dinner, in the Campus Center, Portland. Call for tickets and reservations, 780-4289.

Changes in University Advancement

During the fall semester, reassignments were made within the Division of University Advancement to enhance external relations and alumni and development efforts.

Deborah Krichels has been made director of development in addition to current responsibilities as associate executive director of university advancement, and Noelle Lord, '86, who came to USM in 1993 as a prospect researcher, has been named acting director of alumni relations. Lord replaces William Park, who resigned in the late fall to begin a new career. In her new role, Lord will plan and implement new programs for alumni and work with the board of directors of the Alumni Association. She reports to Richard Sturgeon, executive director of university advancement.

Krichels will now oversee fundraising activities and other advancement efforts related to cultivation, solicitation and stewardship of gifts to USM. Reporting to Krichels are the director of the annual fund, the director of corporate relations, the coordinator of the cartographic campaign, advancement services staff, and a prospect researcher.

In addition, Peg Brown, director of the annual giving since 1989, has been appointed USM's director of corporate relations. Brown will be the liaison between USM and the business community, seeking business input on university programs and advising USM departments on their business outreach projects.

Finally, Frances Frost has been assigned to oversee the planning of special events and to keep policymakers and legislators at the local, state and federal levels better informed about USM programs and activities. She now reports to the executive director of university advancement as special assistant for public affairs.

"We've reassigned our staff in order to be more effective in cultivating a positive image and support of USM among alumni, business leaders and other potential supporters," Sturgeon said.

Renovations

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by the Board of Trustees a year ago to bring USM into compliance with the American Disabilities Act included \$125,000 to make Russell Hall accessible to people with disabilities. This money has been augmented by transferring other campus funds in order to expand the project. A total of \$400,000 has been earmarked, including \$150,000 from the Campus Maintenance Reserve, and \$125,000 in money freed when projects in Bailey Hall in Gorham and Sullivan Gym in Portland did not require all the funds allocated for them.

These funds will enable USM to add an entrance and restrooms which are handicap-accessible and a costumeing area near the stage. The new design includes a basement corridor which will make it possible for actors to enter either side of the stage without leaving the building, as they have had to do. The present entrance will be preserved because of its historic value.

The design can be incorporated into future plans to expand the theatre facility.

In addition, the Board approved construction plans for the Osher Map Library and the Smith Center for Cartographic Education within the new Portland library to house the Osher and Smith antique map collections. Construction will be paid with money raised by a fund-raising campaign which has already raised the funds needed for construction.

Libra

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Michigan, Yaeger was an associate professor of English and American Literature at Harvard University.

Yaeger was named Libra Professor by the UMS Board of Trustees at their September meeting. Members of the CAS Libra selection committee were Ardis Cameron, associate professor of American and New England Studies, chair; Robert Loudon, associate professor of philosophy; Will Kilroy, assistant professor of theatre; and Richard Swartz, assistant professor of English.

Yaeger will be on campus for part of the weeks of February 7, March 7, April 4 and April 25 and is available to consult with faculty, meet with students, and visit classes. Contact Ardis Cameron at 780-4921 for more information and to make arrangements.



USM's new Wolfe's Neck Program on Environment and Society recently received a \$20,000 gift from NYNEX, formerly New England Telephone. The program, headquartered at the Stone House at USM's Wolfe's Neck Farm in Freeport, aims to promote a better understanding of the Gulf of Maine through a range of research and educational activities. Pictured above, from left, Harris Gleckman, interim director of the new program, President Richard Pattenau, Edward Dinan, vice president/ Maine, NYNEX, and Richard Stebbins, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

ARA Adds Room Service

ARA Dining Services began its 27th year of service at USM with something new: lunch delivery to faculty and staff offices on the Portland campus.

Earlier this academic year, ARA entered into a franchise agreement with D'Angelo's Sandwich Shops, offering that chain's full menu at regular D'Angelo's prices. In March, ARA will begin delivering D'Angelo's menu items to Portland offices between 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with no delivery charge. Faculty and staff can place their orders by calling 2839.

The new service, says ARA Director Mark Allen, is part of "... efforts to get out and learn more about what our customers want."

As a result of feedback from a student-faculty-staff advisory committee, ARA has extended its hours and offered more flexible meal plans for the campus community, including faculty and staff.

"We've also supported such things as the Presidential Scholarship Fund, the Faculty Concert Series, the Department of Athletics and physical improvements to the campus centers as a way of showing our appreciation for being on campus," says Allen.

What We're Doing

LIBBY A. BARRETT, coordinator of photography and design, Department of Publications, is one of 12 Maine artists whose work was featured in a calendar produced by Spectrum Printing & Graphics, Inc. in Lewiston. Barrett's watercolor illustrates the month of January.

FREDA BERNOTAVICZ, adjunct assistant professor of public policy and management and research associate at the Muskie Institute, **RICHARD BARRINGER**, director of the Muskie Institute and professor of public policy and management, **MIRIAM CLASBY**, research associate, Muskie Institute, and students who participated in a spring 1992 class "Valuing Diversity," collaborated on the publication, "Addressing Issues of Diversity: A Sourcebook" which was presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Schools of Public Administration and Affairs (NASPAA) in Orlando, Fla. The workbook was funded by the second of two grants from NASPAA and has been distributed to over 100 universities and colleges affiliated with NASPAA.

MUHAMMAD EL-TAHA, associate professor of mathematics and statistics, gave an invited conference presentation at the International Telecommunications Signal Processing Conference, held in Greece, June 1993. The talk was on the paper "Traffic Overflow in Closed Queueing Models" co-authored with **JOHN HEATH**, professor of computer science.

STEPHEN A. FENNER, assistant professor of computer science, had his paper "Almost Weakly 2-Generative Sets" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Symbolic Logic*.

JOHN HEATH, professor of computer science, served on the program committee of the ACM SIGCOMM '93 Conference held in San Francisco, September 1993.

THOMAS S. HOWICK, assistant professor of education, presented his paper, "Case Study of a Sixth Grade Class: Attitudes and Conceptions of the Marine Environment" at the August 1993 third international Seminar on Misconceptions and Educational Strategies in Science and Mathematics, sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. Howick also made a presentation, "Teacher Resource Materials for Wetlands (Salt Marshes)" at the October 1993 Gulf of Maine Marine Education Association annual conference, sponsored by Southern Maine Tech-

nical College. He was appointed to the board of directors of the Gulf of Maine Marine Education Association for three years.

H. DRAPER HUNT, professor of history, had his brief biography of Hannibal Hamlin appear in "Encyclopedia of the American Presidency" (New York, Simon and Schuster, 1994).

EDWIN P. KULAWIEC, associate professor of education, gave the keynote address, "The Educator Who Said 'No'—The Literary Legacy of Dr. Janusz Korczak," at the October meeting of The Women's Literary Union, in Portland.

DIANA E. LONG, professor of history and director of Women's Studies, presented a lecture at Community Programs' Senior Adult Growth Exchange, Fall 1993, a portion of which was featured in WCSH's "Prime Time" segment on October 21. **JOANNE SPEAR**, director of Community Programs, was interviewed during the same segment.

THOMAS B. MacDONALD, assistant professor of associate business administration, **LEONARD J. SHEDLETSKY**, professor of communication, and **HENRY C. AMOROSO**, associate professor of education, presented their paper, "Computer Networking: A Second Try at Training K-12 Educators for a New Technology," at the Northeastern Educational Research Association, Ellenville, N.Y., October 1993.

HAIGH NAJARIAN, professor of biology, has been informed that the Maine Medical Center Board of Trustees approved his re-appointment to the scientific advisory staff of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, an appointment he has held for the past 25 years.

BILL PHILLIPS, chair and associate professor of economics, recently had his article "Allen's Arc vs. Assumed Isoelasticity: Pedagogical Efficiency vs. Artificial Accuracy" published in *The American Economist* (vol. 37, no. 1, spring 1993). His article "Rejuvenating Allen's Arc with the Geometric Mean" has been accepted by the *Journal of Economic Education*, forthcoming, and he presented his paper "Real World Demand Curves: Whatever Do We Tell Our Students?" at the annual meeting of the Atlantic Economic Society in Plymouth, Mass.

THOMAS A. POWER, associate professor of theatre, will have his musical drama "Grannia" (music by USM alumnus Larry "Flash" Allen) staged by the Theater at Monmouth during the summer 1994 season.

ROBERT M. SCHAIBLE, associate professor of arts and humanities, Lewiston-Auburn College, and **BETTY ROBINSON**, assistant professor of management and organizational studies, Lewiston-Auburn College, directed a workshop titled "Promoting Diversity in the Postmodern Classroom" on November 20 at the University of Chicago's 24th National Institute on Issues in Teaching and Learning.

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