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# CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 13, Number 6

March, 1994

## President's Open Letter to Campus

Dear Colleagues:

Over the past several weeks, I've spoken to hundreds of staff, faculty, students, and representatives of the community. I have been reassured by these creative and candid discussions. They have provided many good ideas and have reaffirmed my belief that we need to work more effectively to serve our students well and to provide the highest quality education possible.

We will be budgeting conservatively to better position us for the future. As we do this, we also want to make the university stronger, so we will review what areas need strengthening through investment as well as what areas might be reduced. In the process of matching revenue to need, we may lose some positions, but we will do this through attrition as much as is possible. We project that for the fall semester, we will be holding back



President Pattenauode has been meeting with campus constituencies for discussion.

positions which have not yet been filled.

We have done a survey of students who were here last fall but did not return in the spring, and our initial results are very interesting. Over 80% of those students intend to return at some time in the near future. Their reasons for not being with us in the spring are many and varied, but in addition to personal issues, they focus on such problems as lack of courses and scheduling conflicts. We need to be responsive to those concerns, but I am reassured to learn that there is general support for this university.

At the same time we cannot deny that our enrollments have slipped steadily in all categories since Fall, 1989. I continue to believe that this general settling is greatly influenced by significant forces: increased competition, the stagnant economy, our rapidly rising tuition, and demographic/population forces. The work we are doing now will both reduce our costs to match our revenues and make us more competitive for students who are prepared and motivated to study. We will not abandon our fundamental mission but will rather sharpen our focus and use our resources more wisely.

One important point—I do not see any reduction in course availability for the coming fall. We will reorganize and reallocate some instructional resources to better serve our students, but we will maintain our overall capacity. I hope you will take every effort to reassure students that if they're prepared to study and motivated to learn, they will find a place at USM. High demand program course availability will continue to be at a premium, but we will be working to address that also.

Please be aware that we are working to keep lines of communication open with the media. Though some may disagree with that approach, I believe that it is in our best interest to work with the media since that is the best opportunity to maintain some degree of impact over stories that do

appear. Although the recent article in the Maine Sunday Telegram may have made some people on campus uneasy, our feedback from the outside community indicates that to the public the fact that we are reviewing all programs and assessing our strengths and weaknesses to better serve our students means we are acting responsibly as custodians of a public resource. I want to reassure you that I did not name programs nor make specific references to the reporter. I firmly believe that the quality and reputation of this university, our faculty, our students, our staff and our programs, are more than sufficient to withstand media scrutiny.

Although we are faced with some adversity now, the President's staff and I have set as a goal to find advantages and opportunities that will make us a better university. After the town meetings on each campus and distribution of the proposed actions during the week of April 5, I will meet again with leadership groups and campus constituencies for several weeks to refine and discuss the proposals. I hope you will make every effort to participate in these conversations. We are moving quickly because we must. Working together, I believe we can control our costs and improve this fine university.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Pattenauode  
President

## WinterSession a Success, Again

The number of students participating in WinterSession, the three-week schedule of intensive courses offered between the traditional fall and spring semesters at USM, jumped to 300 this year, up from 172 participants in 1993.

In addition, the number of courses offered increased to a total of 18, up from 9 last year. This year there was a mix of core and upper level courses. "The schools and colleges were very cooperative in offering us a selection of courses," said Rosa Redonnet, executive director of extended academic programs.

Feedback was again very positive, Redonnet said, so at this point USM is planning to continue WinterSession scheduling next year.

A highlight of the 1994 WinterSession was the highly popular excursion to the Caribbean island of Martinique made by Irene Marchenay, lecturer of French, and 13 students. The group stayed in Pointe-du-Bout and received daily instruction, went on field trips, and conducted research on chosen topics.

"Giving students this kind of exposure to French culture was a wonderful use of WinterSession," Redonnet said. She hopes there will be more such excursions during WinterSession in the future.

## "Autobiographics" New Approach

"Autobiographics: A Feminist Theory of Women's Self-Representation" by Leigh Gilmore, associate professor of English, recently was published by Cornell University Press and was praised by reviewers for breaking new ground. Its broad scope, covering "the confessions of medieval mystics to the contemporary self-writings of Chicana and lesbian writers," was especially praised in a reader's report to the publishers by Francoise Lionnet, professor of comparative literature at Northwestern University. Lionnet described the book as a "very impressive study of the politics and possibilities of women's self-representation" and as a "striking feminist critical performance."

Gilmore, who holds a Ph.D. from University of Washington, Seattle, has a second book underway, "Legalizing Modernism: Modern Sexuality, Literary Production, and Law." Gilmore came to USM in 1987. During the 1992-93 year she served as visiting assistant professor of women's studies at Wellesley College.

## Hi-Tech Library Search Easy

by Harris Kennedy  
Reference Librarian

Want to find every book on a subject in a matter of seconds? That's just one of the things you can do on a new research service called FirstSearch, available on a trial basis through the end of April on URSUS, the library's electronic catalog. "World Cat," an electronic catalog of 12,000 libraries containing almost 30 million books, is one of over 20 FirstSearch databases. Most of them list recent articles in journals from many different subject fields.

The University of Maine System is providing the service to assess its value to faculty, students, and staff. It can be accessed from the library or from any terminal which can reach URSUS, including dial in access to the USM mainframe.

Also, get ready for a new look to the URSUS screens. Because URSUS has become much more than just a catalog of the holdings of the UMS libraries, you will soon be seeing a new series of front end menus. They will make clearer the fact that URSUS is a gateway to a growing number of other research resources as well, including direct connections to a number of useful information sources on the Internet.

For more information, contact the library's reference desk on either campus, 780- 4272 or 5344.



At their March 20-21 meeting held at USM, the University of Maine System Board of Trustees approved a request by USM to name the Technology Center on the Gorham campus the John Mitchell Building in recognition of the many contributions made to the campus by Dr. John Mitchell, a former faculty member who retired in 1977. Dr. Mitchell's career at the campus spanned four decades. He served as a Chairperson of the Department of Industrial Education and Technology, initiated a graduate program in his field, and was the leader in planning of the Technology Center. During the 1960's, he received national attention for his contributions to curriculum development in industrial arts. The building name was suggested by the USM Retirees' Association and endorsed by a campus committee.

## Charity Gifts Up

The 1993-94 Combined Charitable Appeal received wide support on campus again. Total contributions were up 16 percent this year to \$29,500. The number of donors on campus also increased slightly.

The four participating federations, through which contributions will be distributed to more than 100 local agencies, are United Way of Greater Portland, International Service Agencies, Combined Health Appeal, and MaineShare.

"The generous support from the campus speaks well of USM employees," said Kathleen Bouchard, university ombudsperson, who chaired the campaign. "It shows that, even in less affluent times, they care about others less fortunate," she said.

## New Director of Teacher Education

USM's teacher education program is now under the oversight of Nona Plessner Lyons, who previously taught at Harvard and Brown.

Lyons oversees USM's Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP), a post-baccalaureate program that in partnership with teachers in area schools provides teacher certification through a year of classroom internships and graduate coursework.

Prior to joining USM this past fall, Lyons served as director of teacher education at Brown University and as a lecturer and researcher at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she did her doctoral work in human development. She also worked as director of curriculum and staff development for Scarsdale (N.Y.) Public Schools, as a curriculum director for the national Education Development Center, and as an English and social studies teacher for New York City Public Schools.

Lyons' research interests have centered on the intellectual and ethical dimensions of people's growth and development; the relationship between gender and learning, especially among adolescent girls; and the professional development of teachers, for which she received a Spencer Fellowship.

She replaces Lynne Miller, who now serves full time as executive director of the Southern Maine Partnership and professor of educational administration/instructional leadership. Established by USM and funded by UNUM, the Southern Maine Partnership is a collaborative effort among 25 public school districts and three private schools to test and implement new teaching practices. Students in USM's Extended Teacher Education Program do their internship year in partnership schools.

## In the News

Two USM people recently participated in federal briefings in Washington, D.C. that were also covered by the media.

Andrew Coburn, acting codirector of the Muskie Institute for Public Policy and Management, testified as part of an expert panel on the implications of national health reforms on



Associate Professor of Nursing Phyllis Foster Healy, recipient of the Nursing Research Scholar Award for 1991-1993, is pictured above holding her award. She presented her historical research, "Weaving a Tapestry of Grey: The Sisters of Charity of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, Thread into the Fabric of Life in Lewiston, Maine 1878-1915," at a reception held late last semester. The award, which is made possible by a gift from an anonymous benefactor, is presented to a School of Nursing faculty member to support research. Healy, who specializes in the history of nursing, says there has been, "...scant research into the history of nursing in this state, yet such research is vital to the vigor and stature" of the profession. Martha J. Haylor, assistant professor of nursing, pictured above, far right, has been named Nurse Scholar for 1994-1996. She will research the effectiveness of various tools used to evaluate clinical teaching. Pictured with the two nurse scholars are President Richard L. Pattenaude and Dean of Nursing Patricia A. Geary, third from left.

rural health care. This Congressional briefing was carried on C-Span.

Cherie Major, associate professor of education, was asked to speak about USM's teacher training (ETEP) program at a forum on education held by Secretary of Education Richard Riley and taped for broadcast.

## Campus Notes

A College Fair for adult students will be held in the Portland Campus Center, from 4 to 6 p.m., on Wednesday, April 6. For more information, please call 780-5670. Brochures are available with more information, also.

The Office of Labor Relations reminds all USM employees that smoking is prohibited in all USM buildings. This revised policy eliminates designated smoking areas in Payson Smith Hall in Portland and Corthell Hall in Gorham.

USM's Free Press won awards for sports news, sports column and over-all design at the recent 16th annual College Media Convention, the largest college media awards program in the country, attracting some 11,000 entries annually.

## Congratulations!

The following USM faculty have been tenured and/or promoted by President Richard L. Pattenaude, on the recommendation of their peer committee, their dean and the provost, and approved by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, effective at the beginning of the 1994-95 academic year.

**Granted tenure at current rank of Associate Professor:**  
Wayne Cowart, Linguistics

**Granted tenure at the rank of Associate Professor:**  
Marvin J. Druker, Public Affairs, Lewiston-Auburn College  
Eileen M. Eagan, History  
Betty D. Robinson, Management and Organizational Studies, Lewiston-Auburn College  
Charlotte Rosenthal, Russian  
Cathy Seibold, Social Work  
Dorothy Woods Smith, Nursing  
David A. Wagner, Social Work

**Promoted to the rank of Professor:**  
Betty W. Atterbury, Music Education  
Charles M. Lyons, Education  
James Messerschmidt, Sociology



## What We're Doing

ARDIS CAMERON, associate professor of American and New England Studies, will deliver a paper titled "The Politics of Looking Back: Style, Image, and Resistance in Lawrence, Mass. and Paterson, N.J. 1912-1913," at the American Studies Association, November 4-7, in Boston. Cameron also spoke at Orono in December as part of the Women's Studies lecture series "Women, Work, and Identity."

GLORIA SHAW DUCLOS, professor emerita of classics, has been elected to the board of trustees of the Vergilian Society of America. Her article, "The Concept of Responsibility in Vergil's 'Aeneid,'" will appear in a forthcoming issue of the New England Classical Newsletter and Journal.

JOEL W. EASTMAN, professor of history, presented a slide lecture on "Greater Portland During World War II," to the USM Retirees' Association in October.

HOWARD M. FAULKNER, associate professor of technology, participated as a panelist and discussion resource person at a workshop of "Affordable Housing in Maine—An International Perspective," held in Bath last December.

ROY A. GALLANT, director, Southworth Planetarium, was appointed as a consultant to the Edison Project to assist in their development of K-12 science curriculum.

MARIE T. HASTINGS-TOLSMA, assistant professor of nursing, presented a paper, "Testing a Theory of Diversity of Human Field Pattern" at the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society 32nd biennial conference in Indianapolis last November. Her research on the study of the resolution of IV extravasations using magnetic resonance imaging was also presented at that conference. On November 14 she presented a symposium paper, "Treatment of IV Extravasations," at the American Nurses' Association Council of Nurse Researchers in Washington D.C. She published "Effect of Warm and Cold Applications on the Resolution of IV Infiltrations," in *Research in Nursing and Health Care* (vol. 16, September/October 1993); "Differences among Intravenous Extravasations Using Four Common Solutions," in the *Journal of Intravenous Nursing* (16, Sept./Oct., 1993); and "Anticipatory Guidance for the Adolescent: Parents' Concerns," in *Clinical Pediatrics* (vol. 32, September 1993). She also co-authored "Fundamentals of Nursing Research" and the second edition is being published this spring

by Jones and Bartlett.

RITA M. KISSEN, associate professor of education, had her article, "Gay Culture and Straight Jackets: Teaching and Action at a Midwestern University," published in the fall 1993 issue of *Radical Teacher*. Kissen also presented a staff development workshop on "Confronting Homophobia in the Schools" to the high school faculty of School Administrative District #6 (Buxton/Hollis/Standish).

EDWIN P. KULAWIEC, associate professor of education, was invited to attend the donor's conference at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. on November 4 where he read his paper, "Janusz Korczak's Last Writings in the Warsaw Ghetto."

AL LEIGHTON, research assistant, Muskie Institute of Public Affairs, co-authored "Variations in the Cost of Diagnosing Dementia Symptoms: Finding from a Three-State Physicians Study," with Rick Fortinsky, formerly of the Muskie Institute. The paper was presented at the 121st annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in San Francisco in October. They also presented a paper "Dementia: Diagnostic and Management Practices among Physicians in Northern New England" at the 46th annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in New Orleans in November.

JULIEN S. MURPHY, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science, gave the keynote address, "Is There a Feminist Perspective to the Delivery of Health Care?" for the second annual Berkshire Conference for Women Health Care Providers: The Primary Care Dilemma in Lenox last November. She also moderated a panel, "Exploring the role of Women as Primary Care Providers," and facilitated a small group discussion, "Ethical Dilemmas in Health Care Settings." She was also an external reviewer for the humanities division at Bradford College this November.

LEONARD J. SHEDLETSKY, professor of communication, was an ITV site facilitator for the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance statewide discussion of equity in mathematics and science education, June, 1993. He was invited by the Southern Maine Technical College Women's Center to lead a discussion on styles of communicating of women and men. In October, he led a discussion on "Male/Female Communication Modes" for the "Educational Equity: How Schools Shortchange Girls," conference held at USM.

WILLIAM H. SLAVICK professor of English, spoke on "The Christian Tradition" at a November 20th Day of Interfaith Dialogue in North Conway.

NIZAM UDDIN, assistant professor of mathematics/statistics, had the paper he co-authored, "Optimality and Construction of Nested Row-Column Designs," published in the *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference* (vol. 37, 1993).

RICHARD L. WEST, assistant professor of communication, had the paper he co-authored, "The End Could be Just the Beginning: Studying Relationship Termination Through the Performance of Literature" published by the *Journal of Communication Studies* in their winter issue.

BART WEYAND, director of the English as a Second Language Program, took part in a panel discussion titled "Articulation of High School Graduation Standards for Non-native Speakers of English" at the regional National Association for Foreign Student Affairs in Hartford on October 28 and at the Northern New England Teachers of a Second or Other Language fall conference at New Hampshire College, Manchester, on November 13. He also presented on "Effective Use of Mime in the Language Classroom" to the New Hampshire Association of Teachers of Foreign Languages at Waterville Valley, NH.

KIMBERLY WHITE SILSBY, assistant director of student life, had the article she co-authored, "Effects of Unwanted Childhood Sexual Experiences on Psychosocial Development of College Women," published in the July 1993 edition of the *Journal of College Student Development*.

L. KINVIN WROTH, made presentations concerning the proposed new Vermont Code of Judicial Conduct before the justices and judges of the Vermont Supreme, Superior, and District Courts at Burlington on March 12, 1993, and before the Vermont probate and assistant judges at Montpelier on April 29, 1993. An article he co-authored, "Good News and Bad News: a Three-Year Progress Report on Implementation of the Legal Needs Study," was published in the *Maine Bar Journal*, May 1993.

DONALD ZILLMAN, dean and Edward Godfrey professor, School of Law, presented a paper that traced the decline in the number of members of Congress who have served in the military, "Military Service and Political Leadership," at the biennial meeting of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, in Baltimore on October 22.



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