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# CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 9, Number 5

November 5, 1990



Trustee Patricia M. Collins, chair of the Presidential Search Committee, reported to the USM community that the committee has held two meetings, has reviewed the report from the Academic Search Consultation Service on campus considerations and has compiled a list of leadership characteristics deemed by the committee to be important in the next president.

Committee members are Board of Trustee representatives James Storer and Owen Wells; faculty members Nancy Greenleaf, associate professor of nursing; Richard Maiman, professor of political science; and Thomas Parchman, associate professor of music; L. Kinvin Wroth, dean of the School of Law; and staff members Mary Collins, staff development director; and Donna Jones, administrative associate at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic; community and alumni representative Richard Libby; student Michele Reagan; and chair Collins. Mary Ann Haas, associate vice chancellor of the University of Maine System, serves as executive secretary to the committee.

The projected schedule calls for finalists to be selected in time for them to make campus visits in January. Collins is asking anyone who wishes to nominate a candidate for the USM presidency to forward the name to her in care of the Chancellor's Office, 107 Maine Avenue, Bangor, ME 04401.

## Enrollment Holds Steady

### Budget cuts cut FT faculty

Provost John Deegan Jr. announced at the October 12 Faculty Senate meeting that USM enrollments have held steady for 1990-91, dropping less than 1 percent from last year's high. That difference, from 10,545 in the fall of 1989 to 10,487 this year, is considered to be insignificant. "We're pleased with the present level of enrollment," Deegan said. "That it has held steady despite the decline in the number of high school students, shows confidence in USM." Deegan noted that the number of transfer students has increased this year and that 80 percent of these come from outside the University of Maine System.

Enrollment of full-time students is 4724 students, up very slightly from 4707 in 1989-90. Part-time students this year number 5763 down from 5838 last year. The number of students below the age of 20 was 890 in 1989-90 and is 958 this fall.

USM enrollments have increased steadily in recent years, rising 20 percent over the last five years. While this has been good news, in the current economic climate rising enrollment becomes a two-edged sword. "The fact is," Deegan said, "we are now at maximum capacity, given the present funding level. Ideally, our current funding should accommodate 9000 students, so we are stretching our capacity to meet the needs of 10,500. As a result of budget cuts, we had to increase the number of sections taught by part-time faculty."

A 1986 visiting committee expressed concern about USM's overreliance on part-time faculty at that time. The problem had been addressed, but we are now losing ground in that area, Deegan explained.

CAS Dean Dave Davis said in a separate interview that a major drawback to heavy reliance on part-

time faculty is increased pressure on the full-time faculty, who must undertake more committee and advising duties as a result. "In some departments," he said, "the advising ratio is now 50 students to each professor." He also pointed out that even advanced level classes are filled this fall.

One major concern of his is that, as a result of reduced funding, the future economy of the state will be undermined by USM's inability to mount new graduate programs, desperately needed in this most populous part of the state. "It is unfortunate that just when we were poised to take the next steps in serving the needs of southern Maine, we are being held back," he said. "The downturn in the economy has made us hard-pressed to do all that we would wish for undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students."

Trustees have requested \$20.2 million in new state funds in the first year of the upcoming biennium and \$19.4 million in the second. "With growing enrollments during the last five years have come expanding obligations to undergraduate education, and graduate research and education have never been more important to the state economy," said Chancellor Robert L. Woodbury.

The need to contain costs on each campus was noted recently by the Board of Trustees. Trustees' Chair David T. Flanagan said, "...we are determined to make the hard choices—not just to scale back everything by some arbitrary amount, but deliberately to choose among programs. A fixed-percentage reduction would dilute quality across the board and end up cheating our students."



"Economic viability of this area depends on education. USM is the place we can build on to make it happen," said Robert Vitalius, president of Sedgwick James of Northern New England at a breakfast held recently to honor the students selected for the Maine Business for USM Scholars program. Here Vitalius, in the foreground, left, talks with student Susan E. Brunelle, sponsored by Nissen Company. Richard J. Clarey, dean of SBEM, is in the background.

Vitalius spearheaded and continues to lead this business-sponsored scholarship program, which matches students in the School of Business, Economics and Management with sponsors from the local business community. "Today we've been able to bring some of the brightest students from the business school together with influential businesspeople," he said. Part of his vision for the program is that sponsors will serve as mentors to their scholarship beneficiaries.

Sixteen students are recipients of scholarships this year, and three companies were added to the roster of donors: Holmes Distributors, Inc., John J. Nissen Baking Company and Portland Glass, joining Southworth International Group, Inc., Porteous, Mitchell & Braun Company, Harris Oil Company, KPMG Peat Marwick & Main Company and Sedgwick James.

Cutcliffe photo

## NOTICE

USM faculty, students and employees are requested to attend a public meeting on university funding. The Legislature's Commission to Assess the Impact of Increased State Spending on the University of Maine System is gathering and analyzing information on the effect of increased state spending since 1986. The public meeting, to be held simultaneously on all seven campuses of the system through ITV, is scheduled from 1 to 3:30 p.m., Friday, November 9 in Room 304, Payson Smith on the Portland Campus. For more information, call 289-1635.

## Scholarships in Public Policy

### New undergraduate program

A new program sponsoring undergraduate research in public policy has been established at USM and at the University of Maine with funding from the Maine Community Foundation. Faculty are being asked to encourage students to apply for the Maine Scholars Program, which will provide four USM students with tuition for the six-credit program.

Student interns will be teamed in pairs with an academic advisor and an outside mentor to research current public policy questions. The internships will begin in the Spring 1991 semester and culminate in presentation and publication of research results. Research topics this year will relate to transportation policy in Maine. Students will receive credit through the internship program in the Political Science Department.

Interested students should contact William Coogan, professor of political science, at 780-4195 or Dennis Presser, graduate student administrator, who can be reached through the Political Science Department at 780-4283.

Deadline for applications is November 30.

## CAS Defines Mission

Last week the first of four forums was held by the College of Arts and Sciences to initiate discussion on the mission of the college. "We hope through discussion to define goals above and beyond those of individual departments," said Richard Stebbins, associate dean of CAS. "The forums, which we've titled 'USM in the 1990s,' will help us explore who we are as a university and as a college and where we want to go."

The first forum presented a panel discussion on "Paradigms Lost: What is an Educated Person Anyway?" Panel members were Michael Hamilton, associate professor of political science; Alan Smith, professor of chemistry; James Smith, associate professor of applied science; Julien Murphy, associate professor of philosophy; Diana Long, associate professor of history and

director of women's studies; and E. Michael Brady, professor of education. Dean Dave Davis served as moderator. The panel suggested that an educated person will not exist until education is made truly cross-cultural; and that the educated person shuns certainty and realizes the breadth of his/her own ignorance.

The next panel, to be held at 7 p.m., with a reception at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 28 in the Moot Court Room, School of Law, will be on "The Great Unwashed: Higher Education for Everyone," assessing the concept of egalitarian education and access to university education. Two spring semester panels will be on "The Road Less Traveled" on Portland/Gorham issues and "Getting What You Don't Pay For" on discount education in Maine. For more information, call the dean's office at 780-4221.

## Serving Students in Summer

The Faculty Senate has unanimously voted to support a series of eight principles incorporated in a new report that is designed to help make the summer session an increasingly important component of students' academic program.

Senators took the action at their Friday, October 19 meeting held in Gorham.

The principles were part of the report submitted by the Three Semester Calendar Committee. The committee, chaired by Executive Assistant to the President Robert J. Goettel, was charged "...with the task of determining the demand for and the feasibility of substantially upgrading USM's summer session, perhaps to a full third semester." President Plante had recommended an examination of the summer session, saying a summer schedule more fully integrated into the fall and spring semesters could relieve pressure on classroom space from September to May and offer attractive course scheduling options to our older students.

Goettel noted that the committee surveyed 4,000 students, conducted focus group sessions with students and faculty, compared summer courses with the traditional academic year offerings, and analysed summer compensation rates at other institutions.

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## Summer

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Based on their studies, the committee recommended that planning for courses be conducted on a year-round basis so that summer academic programming can be more fully integrated into fall and spring programming. The committee also suggested that multi-year scheduling be incorporated into the planning process so that students, particularly older students, can more effectively determine when they are going to take courses.

The committee stressed that the summer academic program would differ from the spring and fall sessions in that it would not be mandatory for faculty or students, would continue to be characterized by flexible class schedules, and would continue to generate well under half of the total credit hours generated in the fall and spring.

Specifically, the committee developed 11 recommendations to guide the implementation of a summer semester that is more fully integrated into the traditional academic year. Those recommendations include: continuing to upgrade faculty compensation for summer teaching to at least eight percent of the academic year salary by the summer of 1992; requiring schools and colleges to begin year-round course planning; continuing the decentralization of budget and course planning responsibilities to the schools and colleges; and determining specific needs for increased support services, among others.

The Senate approved the following principles: decisions about what courses to offer and when those courses should be scheduled during the summer should be driven primarily by student needs; summer academic programming should be integrally connected to programming for the fall and spring semesters; year-round academic programming should not require students to attend classes in the summer; summer teaching should not be mandatory for faculty; faculty governance and committee responsibilities should still continue to be required only in the September to May academic period; the schools and colleges, in conjunction with their academic departments, should determine the nature of summer academic programming; the base budget for the Summer Semester must be increased; decentralization to the schools and colleges should not occur until it is increased; to assure consistent quality, serious examination of the appropriate format for courses should



The USM Jazz Ensemble, above, directed by Scott Reeves, pictured here standing at left, will perform in a Music Department jazz concert at 8 p.m., Friday, November 16 in Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham. The USM Jazz Combo, directed by Bill Street, and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble, directed by Janet Reeves, will also perform. Tickets are \$3; \$1 for students and seniors. Call 780-5555 for reservations.

occur at the school and college level.

"In an ideal world," President Plante told the Senate, "I would like to offer a full academic program year round. We can't." Nonetheless, added Plante, a summer schedule can be structured to better complement fall and spring programming while offering faculty and students more flexibility in their schedules.

to work with department faculty and the Maine Department of Human Services. The goal of the two-year project is to attract more professionals into the child welfare system, particularly those who have the background to work with Franco-American and Southeast Asian communities, and to help increase the quality of child welfare services.

## Research Update

■ Dennis Gale, professor of Public Policy and Management, Edmund S. Muskie Institute of Public Affairs, received a grant for \$5000, in collaboration with Kay Rand of Maine's Department of Economic and Community Development, from the Maine Research Fund to assess perceptions of how well the state's growth management program, which requires all towns in state to submit master plans for town development, is functioning after two years.

■ Mustafa G. Guvench, associate professor of electrical engineering, has been awarded \$63,000 by the National Science Foundation for the development of a computer integrated electronics laboratory.

■ Vincent E. Faherty, professor of social work, received a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for superior undergraduate students

## Correction

In the last issue of *Currents* the appointment of Larry Golan to USM and to the Portland Symphony Orchestra was referred to as the first joint appointment between the two organizations. Although it is the first characterized by an equal distribution of duties, Golan is in fact the third member of the music faculty to have responsibilities at both USM and the PSO. John Boden, associate professor of music, is principal horn player for the PSO, and Thomas Parchman, associate professor of music, is principal clarinetist. Golan, as principal violinist, is also concertmaster, second in command to the conductor. It is the first time that the PSO concertmaster has held a shared faculty position at USM.



## What We're Doing

**KATHIE L. BLINICK**, director, Office for Prior Learning Assessment, served on the NEASC visiting team to Northern Essex Community College for its comprehensive 10-year reaccreditation review, October 14-17. She examined the Division of Continuing Education and Community Service and Special Programs.

**ARDIS CAMERON**, assistant professor of New England Studies, has been invited by the Slater Mill, Pawtucket, R.I., to present her research on textile operatives in 19th century New England as part of their celebration on the "Cotton Bicentennial." The title of her talk is "Local Disruptions: Gender and the Lawrence Strike of 1882." Her essay, "In the Shadow of the Square Deal: Rethinking Workers, Managers and Welfare Capitalism," appears in the fall issue of *New York History*. In September, Cameron participated in the third annual conference on textile history sponsored by the Museum of American Textile History.

**THOMAS R. CARPER**, associate professor of English, had a new poem, "Even the Weariest River," accepted by *Poetry*. Poems appeared in *Poetry's* June and July issues, and a poem, "Like the Spaniards," will appear in the November issue. Three of Carper's sonnets appear in the current issue of *Boulevard*.

**BRUCE B. CLARY**, professor of public policy and management, co-authored a paper titled "Assessing Interorganizational Service Delivery to Homeless Youths: An Emergent System Focus." The paper was delivered at the third annual research conference, "A System of Care for Children's Mental Health: Building a Research Base," in Tampa. Clary was recently asked to serve as an advisory resource consultant to the Consortium on Homelessness, International City Management Association.

**WAYNE COWART**, associate professor of communication and linguistics, is co-author of a paper in a new MIT Press volume, "From Neurons to Reading." Cowart also presented a paper, "Interpreting Reflexives in Coordinate NPs," at the recent annual meeting of the Eastern States Conference on Linguistics in Columbus.

**MAHMUD A. FAKSH**, assistant professor of political science, had his article, "The Rise of Shi'a Power in Lebanon," published in the fall issue of *The Maine Scholar*. Another article, "Concepts of Rule and Legitimacy in

Islam," was published in the spring issue of the *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies*. In October Faksh served as chair of a panel, "Third World Superpower Relations," at the eighth annual meeting of the Association of Third World Studies at the University of South Carolina. He also presented a paper there titled "The Superpowers and the Middle East." He gave a Leadership Breakfast address on U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf to the World Affairs Council of Maine. He gave another address on the causes and consequences of the Persian Gulf crisis to the leadership of the 133rd Engineer Battalion of the Maine Army National Guard.

**MUSTAFA G. GUVENCH**, associate professor of electrical engineering, was among 30 selected professors from a nationwide pool of electrical engineering faculty to attend a two-week workshop, funded by the National Science Foundation, on "VLSI Design" held at Massachusetts Microelectronics Center in June, 1990.

**HAIG H. NAJARIAN**, professor of biology, attended the D. C. Heath & Co. sponsored seminar on teaching introductory biology, held at the publishing company's headquarters in Lexington, Mass. on October 12.

**GORDON E. NELSON JR.**, assistant director, Facilities Management, participated in a panel discussion on recycling at a meeting of the Casco Bay Chapter of the American Business Women's Association in South Portland.

**SUSAN E. PICINICH**, assistant professor of theatre, designed costumes for the recent Mad Horse Theatre production of "Les Liasons Dangereuses." Since last spring she has designed the costumes for "Laughing Wild," also at the Mad Horse Theatre, and the fairy costumes for "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Theatre Project in Brunswick.

**ANDREW J. POTTS**, professor of accounting, had a paper accepted for presentation at the 1990 national meeting of the United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship in Orlando. Potts has been appointed to the Maine Teachers Association Leadership Development Committee. The committee assists affiliates in organizing for collective bargaining, grievance processing, training programs, and compliance with the minimum standards for affiliation.

**KENNETH F. ROSEN**, professor of English, led a plenary session on October 18 at The New England Association of Teachers

of English (NEATE) Conference '90 in Portland.

**ROBERT M. SCHAIBLE**, assistant professor of literature and writing, Lewiston-Auburn College, delivered a paper titled "Lecturing Postmodernist Is An Oxymoron" on October 5 at the annual conference of the Society for Literature and Science in Portland, Oregon.

**MICHAEL SHAUGHNESSY**, assistant professor of art, had two solo exhibitions of large scale sculptural installations. One was at the Zoller Gallery, Penn State University, where he was the subject of a half hour radio program examining the arts. The *Centre Daily Times* reviewed the exhibition. The second installation is currently on exhibit at The Anderson Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. Shaughnessy lectured on his work there and led a graduate seminar class. Group exhibitions that he has participated in include "The Boat Show, Fantastic Vessels, Fictional Voyages," at the Portland Museum of Art; an exhibition at the Trisolini Gallery at Ohio (Athens) University; and "Voyages of the Modern Imagination: The Boat in Contemporary Art," at The Farnsworth Museum in Rockland. He has been the subject of articles in the *Maine Sunday Telegram* and the *Evening Express* in conjunction with the Portland exhibition.

**LEONARD J. SHEDLETSKY**, associate professor and chair of communication, agreed to review Mark Knapp's and Anita Vangelisti's manuscript, "Interpersonal Communication and Human Relationships," for Allyn & Bacon.

**RICHARD STEINMAN**, professor emeritus of social work, will have his article, "Social Exchanges Between Older and Younger Gay Male Partners," published in the *Journal of Homosexuality*, Vol. 20, No. 3/4.

**BILL THORNTON**, assistant professor of psychology, was notified that his paper, "Relationship Between Physical Attractiveness, Physical Effectiveness, and Self-Esteem: A Cross-Sectional Analysis Among Adolescents," has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Adolescence*.

**FIORELLO B. VENTRESCO**, associate professor of history, was the guest lecturer at the Sanford Center's "Dead Poets Society" dinner meeting on October 12. His paper was titled "The Three Faces of Columbus."



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