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# CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 8, Number 15

April 23, 1990

## Melissa Costello To Retire

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Richard A. Costello announced his retirement earlier this year after 37 years at USM. He was featured in the February 26 issue of Currents. Melissa H. Costello, associate professor of education and director of clinical experiences, just announced her retirement, also after 37 years of service. The two met at USM in the fall of 1953 and were married three years later. "We came here together," said Melissa, "so it's appropriate that we leave together." A reception and banquet to honor their nearly 75 years of combined service to the university is scheduled for Saturday, May 19 in the Warren G. Hill Gymnasium, Gorham. For more information, please call the College of Education at 780-5371. In this issue, we profile Melissa's career at USM.

In a mobile society where people can change jobs as often as they change cars, people like Melissa Costello are statistical aberrations.

But teaching careers spanning nearly four decades at one school don't seem unusual to Costello. A drive on Route 2 between Old Town and Lincoln will take you through her hometown of Orono and past the Helen S. Dunn School, named for her mother, who served in that town for nearly 38 years as an elementary teacher and principal. Costello's sister retired a few years ago after teaching for 34 years, most of which were spent in a Bangor school. And her father, though not a teacher, also made a long-term commitment to education, putting in 35 years on his town's school committee. "It's little wonder," she said, "that I wanted to go into education."

The pursuit of a career in education brought Costello to Gorham State Teachers College as an undergraduate, thanks in large part to her high school teacher, Fred Dingley. "He was most interested that I should go into teaching," Costello said "and was very fond of the college so he brought me here for a visit." After graduating in

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## Journalist to Speak at 1990 Commencement



Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Frances Fitzgerald will speak at USM's 1990 Commencement on Saturday, May 12. Fitzgerald won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Bancroft Award for History, and an award from the National Academy of Arts and Letters for her 1972 book "Fire in the Lake: The Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam."

Commencement begins at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 12 and as in the past will be held in the Cumberland County Civic Center on Spring Street. During the commencement program President Plante will honor a faculty member for distinguished service to USM, and three retiring faculty will be named as professor emeriti.

Fitzgerald began work as a journalist with the New York Herald Tribune in 1964, after graduating from Radcliffe College with magna cum laude status. In 1966 she went to Vietnam as a freelance journalist, covering Vietnamese politics and social and economic conditions under the American military presence. Back in the U.S., she studied Vietnamese politics, sociology and culture on an informal basis with Professor Paul Mus at Yale University in preparation for her book. She

returned to Vietnam three more times: for six months in 1972; for a month in 1973 after the conclusion of the Paris Peace Accords; and in 1975 for three weeks just before the start of the final offensive. Her observations appeared in articles in the Atlantic, the New Yorker and the New York Review of Books.

A regular contributor to the New Yorker, Fitzgerald also wrote articles on Cuba, Northern Ireland and the Middle East during those years. Her 1974 article on Iran, "Giving the Shah Everything He Wants," won an Overseas Press Club award.

A second book, "America Revised," on the view of American history produced by school textbooks, was published in 1979. Her latest book, "Cities on a Hill," due to be published this fall, profiles four urban American communities: the homosexual community of San Francisco, the Baghwan Shree Rajneesh community, Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority community in Virginia, and a Florida retirement community.

Fitzgerald is vice president of the P.E.N. American Center and a member of the Society of American Historians and the Association of Harvard Alumni.

For more information on commencement, call 780-4440.

## Recognition Day

Join in celebrating USM's outstanding students of 1989-90 at the annual Recognition Day awards ceremony, Wednesday, May 2 at 2 p.m. in Hill Gym, Gorham. University, Alumni and Student Senate awards will be presented to some 80 deserving students, and the Outstanding Senior Man and Outstanding Senior Woman will be named. Award presentations will be made by President Patricia Plante. A reception follows. Call 780-4090 for more information.



USM third baseman Steve Claire takes a big swing in early season action played in Florida during a Southern tour financed with private donations. Coach Ed Flaherty's squad competed in the NCAA Division III World Series last season and finished fourth in the nation with a 31-10 mark. This year's squad was ranked number one in the nation in a preseason poll conducted by Baseball America and was selected third by Collegiate Baseball. The Huskies are currently the number one team in New England and are on track for another appearance in the NCAA Northeast Regional Championship. *Bean photo*

## The Best at Public Speaking

Six USM students will be competing in the national forensics championship this week, held at Mankato State University in Minnesota from April 26 through May 1. It's the 20th time that USM has sent a team to the national competition—that's a record, according to Walter Stump, professor of theatre and coach of our forensics team. "We're the only school which has had students qualify for every national championship over the history of the competition," he said.

Forensics, the rhetorical art, includes dramatic readings of poetry and prose, which the students have polished in courses on forensics and oral interpretation taught by Stump. To qualify for the national competition, Stump explained, students must place among the top five in a competition category in at least two major tournaments. Major competitions include more than 10 schools. At the national competition, as many as 1500 individuals may be competing in events. The judges choose 24 in the first round of competition, 12 competitors from the second round, and the final six win the championship.

After competing in tournaments in New York, Boston and New Haven, the team went on to the regional tournament for New England, where they competed against 10 schools including Yale University, Cornell University, Bridgeport University, Boston College and University of Vermont.

The six students from USM are Geary Smith and Kim Fletcher, who

placed fourth in the New England tournament in the category of Dramatic Duo; Meagan Hoff and Kate Larlee, who placed fifth in Dramatic Duo; Carolyn Bailey, who placed fifth in poetry; and Diana Chase, who placed fourth in prose. In addition, in the poetry category, Kim Fletcher won a first and Meagan Hoff won a third. Two of the students, Larlee and Smith, of the Student Performing Artists group, are competing through the sponsorship of the Student Senate.

In 1972 USM won a team trophy based on the dramatic duo competition.

## Congratulations!

John Deegan Jr., provost and vice president for academic affairs, has confirmed the following personnel actions during 1989-90, effective September 1, 1990.

**George Burk**, tenured at present rank of associate professor of art.

**Janice Thompson**, tenured at present rank of associate professor of nursing.

**Joseph Conforti**, tenured at present rank of professor of New England Studies.

**Robert Atkinson**, promoted to associate professor of education with tenure.

**John Broida**, promoted to associate professor of psychology with tenure.

**Bruce Fithian**, promoted to associate professor of music with tenure.

**Sat Gupta**, promoted to associate professor of mathematics with tenure.

**Michael Hamilton**, promoted to

associate professor of political science with tenure.

**Thomas Parchman**, promoted to associate professor of music with tenure.

**E. Michael Brady**, promoted to professor of education with tenure.

**Dorothy Woods Smith**, promoted to assistant professor of nursing.

**George Caffentzis**, promoted to associate professor of philosophy.

**Martha Skoner**, promoted to associate professor of nursing (graduate).

**Susan Vess**, promoted to associate professor of school psychology.

**Jean Gutmann**, promoted to professor of associate business administration.

**Charles Kading**, promoted to professor of theatre.

## Costello

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1952, she landed a teaching job very quickly. "There was a great demand for teachers at the time, and I took a job teaching English and math in Eliot," Costello said. That might have been the end of her direct affiliation with the university were it not for the tenacity of Francis L. Bailey, then president of Gorham State Teachers College.

Costello was completing her first year in Eliot when Bailey contacted her. "He asked me to teach fourth grade at what was then the Campus School (on School Street in Gorham), and serve as assistant to the dean of women, Edna Dickey. Dr. Bailey



Melissa Costello in 1969 in front of Bailey Hall. She can look back on a 37-year tenure that has influenced literally thousands of educators.

never took no for an answer," Costello recalled. So in the fall of 1953, she was back in Gorham, first in the school that the town and university cooperatively ran as a community school and as an experiential teaching lab for the college's education students. In the fall of 1958 she moved from the Campus School to the college classroom. Thousands of prospective teachers would pass through her classrooms and teaching labs over the next three decades.

Recognized for her innovative approach to teacher preparation, Costello became a regional and national leader in the Association of Teacher Educators. One innovation was the Partnership in Teacher Education, created with Kennebunk Superintendent of Schools Leo Martin.

The partnership, the forerunner of more recent innovations in teacher preparation, was a cooperative venture between the university and school district that offered prospective teachers a one-year classroom internship in place of the traditional 16-week student teaching assignments. At the time, it was the only program of its kind in New England and one of the few in the country.

Costello's other career trademark is an intense dedication to her students, the university and the community, said Dorothy D. Moore, dean of the USM College of Education. "I continually meet teachers and other education leaders in Maine and throughout the country who have benefited from her commitment and influence," said Moore. "Melissa has an exceptional record of service to this institution, her students, profession and community. She has always been there for us."

Given her professional commitment, Costello, of course, has more than a passing interest in the current school reform movement. And she doesn't hesitate to identify what she considers to be the most crucial need facing this country's public education system. "The public needs to recognize the marvelous job that teachers do, day in and day out, and support their efforts. They deserve so much credit for what they are doing, much more than what they receive. There is simply not enough respect for and appreciation of our teachers."

She also stresses that teachers must truly care about children. "I've always taught my students that the teachers' attitude has much to do with whether or not children succeed or fail in school. I've observed enough teachers in classrooms over the years to know that their attitudes toward the children makes a great deal of difference in student performance."

## Campus Notes

■ "Recent Works on Paper" by George Burk, associate professor of art, will be on exhibit in the AREA Gallery, Portland Campus Center, through Wednesday, May 23. The 24 works reflect the importance in Burk's work of repeated visits to the same site, in the case of most works in this exhibit, a salt marsh near Parsons Beach, Kennebunk.

■ Devis Grebu, distinguished political and social illustrator and recipient of numerous international art awards, will present a special lecture/slide exhibition at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 26 in 305 Masterton Hall, Portland. Grebu's presentation is sponsored by the Alliance Francaise in conjunction with USM's Art Department. Call 780-5460 for more information.

■ The Language Science Laboratory will present a talk by Wayne Cowart, associate professor of communication, titled "How to Dissect Minds: Some Recent Research on Language and Cognition" at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 26 in 310 Luther Bonney, Portland. Call 780-5387 for more information.

■ Nationally prominent economist, Professor James Crotty of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, will speak on "Super Salesmen, Shabby Merchan-

dise: Conservative Economics and the Decline of America in the Reagan-Bush Era", at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 27 in Luther Bonney Auditorium, Portland. The free lecture, open to the public, is sponsored by the Students Economics Association and the Department of Economics. A reception will follow, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Boiler Room at the Campus Center, Portland. For more information, call 780-4416.

■ USM's International Students Association is sponsoring an International Evening of cultural experiences with international food, music and displays from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, April 27 in the Campus Center, Portland. Call 780-4959.

■ The Maine and Canadian Women's International Network, a coalition which includes the Women's Studies Consortium of the University of Maine System, is holding an all-day conference for faculty and students on women's studies issues on Saturday, April 28 at Bowdoin College. USM faculty will present a panel on "Sustaining a Women's Studies Program." For more information, call 780-4289.

■ A lecture on "Economic Realities of Television News" by Michael Horton, former CBS newsmen, will be presented by the Communication Department at 2:30 p.m., Friday, April 27 in Room 208, Luther Bonney Hall, Portland. The lecture is free and open to the public; for more information call 874-6530.



Lewiston-Auburn College unveiled the newly acquired painting "Red Sky" by Ralph Fasanella at an open house, Sunday, March 11. A group of Lewiston area business and community leaders, organized as the Maine Labor Heritage Committee, raised money to purchase the painting by Fasanella, whose paintings evoke the heritage of America's urban labor force. "Red Sky," part of a series Fasanella did of New England mills, is reminiscent of Bates Mill in Lewiston. The painting is now owned by the University of Maine System and will eventually travel to other System campuses, although its permanent home will be at Lewiston-Auburn. Here, Fasanella addresses guests at the open house.

Caswell photo



## What We're Doing

**NANCY AUSTIN**, assistant professor of education, has been granted funding for Project WIM (Working In Mathematics: Curriculum, Teaching, and Reflection) under the Dwight D. Eisenhower Mathematics and Science Act of 1989 to work with 16 K-12 mathematics teachers in a three-week institute this summer. Co-facilitated by Michael Efron, curriculum director in the Cape Elizabeth School System, the project will have teachers build curriculum units based on the "National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Curriculum and Evaluation Standards" that will be field-tested in participants' districts under their leadership. Austin will give a workshop titled, "Making Fractions Real and Meaningful," for teachers of grades 6 through 8 mathematics, at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics regional meeting in Hamilton, Ontario on May 11.

**ROBERT D. BROWN**, lecturer in physical education and men's basketball coach, was the featured speaker at the Schenck High School basketball banquet in Millinocket. He was also the featured speaker at the Harnden Real Estate Awards Banquet.

**JOSEPH CAPELLUTI**, assistant professor of education, recently gave two presentations, "Improving Middle Schools: A Strategy That Works" and "Ways to Enhance Staff Morale," at the annual conference of the New England League of Middle Schools, in Hyanis, Mass. during March.

**VINCENT E. FAHERTY**, professor and chair of social work, delivered a paper titled, "PROSIM: A Process Simulation of a Public Agency Adoption System," at the Seventh International Conference on Technology and Education in Brussels, Belgium in March.

**WILLIAM J. GAVIN**, professor of philosophy, organized and chaired a Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy session on "John Dewey's Epistemology" at the American Philosophical Association's eastern division meeting in Atlanta last December. He chaired a session on "Recent American Naturalism from a Soviet Perspective" at the annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy in Buffalo, and he gave a paper titled, "Metaphors Reveal as Well as Conceal: Images of Japan," at the annual convention of the Popular Culture Association in Toronto, both in March.

**NANCY P. GREENLEAF**, associate profes-

sor of nursing, was invited to present a plenary address for the AFSCME National Nurses Congress held March 16 in Washington D. C. The title of the address was "The Future of Nursing, or 1000 Points of Resistance." She has been selected by the National League for Nursing Board of Governors to serve as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Articulation, established in response to a resolution submitted by Greenleaf and unanimously approved by NLN membership in June 1989. She has provided leadership to the Maine Cooperative Nursing Education Mobility Project, jointly sponsored by the University of Maine System and the Maine Technical College System.

**KATHRYN LASKY**, assistant professor of communication, and Kathy Krendl from Indiana University have had their article titled, "Influences of Television: Views from the Next Generation," published in the forthcoming volume of "Communication Research Reports."

**ANDREW J. POTTS**, professor of accounting, attended the 1990 NEA Higher Education Conference and the annual meeting of the National Council for Higher Education in San Francisco, Calif., in early March.

**CYNTHIA QUINN**, manager, bookstores, received the Presidential Service Award from the College Stores of New England at the annual spring meeting held at the Sonesta Hotel in Portland on March 13.

**LINDA L. RICHARDSON**, assistant professor of finance, presented a paper co-authored by **THOMAS B. SANDERS**, assistant professor of business administration, titled, "A Predictive Model of Abnormal Returns to Leveraged Management Buyouts," on April 6 at the Eastern Finance Association's meeting in Charleston, S.C.

**MICHAEL SHAUGHNESSY**, assistant professor of art, currently has a work on exhibit at the Fort Lauderdale Art Museum that is part of an exhibit titled, "The Boat Show: Fantastic Vessels, Fictional Voyages," which was organized by the National Museum's Renwick Gallery. While constructing the work he was the subject of a feature article in the Sun Sentinel newspaper.

**MARTHA SKONER**, assistant professor of nursing, presented a paper titled, "Dealing with the Problem of Urinary Incontinence in Women," at the 1990 annual meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology in York, England on March 31.

**KIMBERLY J. STROM**, assistant professor

of social work, was recently named "Social Worker of the Year" by the Maine chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. The award was presented April 6 at a banquet following the organization's annual conference and was interviewed by WVII-TV about the honor.

**WILLIAM STURNER**, professor of management, is the author of an article titled, "Organizational Leadership: Mastering the Process of Change," published in the March-April, 1990 edition of Broadcast Financial Journal.

**CHARLES WELTY**, professor of computer science, has an article titled, "Human Factors Studies of Database Query Languages: SQL as a Metric," appearing in the April issue of the Journal of Database Administration.

**ARTHUR WEYAND**, instructor of English as a second language and ESL program coordinator, presented a workshop on "Communicative Language Activities for Intermediate and Advanced Students" at a recent conference for Northern New England Teachers of English as a Second or Other Language in Brattleboro, Vt.

**KATHLEEN J. WININGER**, assistant professor of philosophy, participated in a panel and chaired a session at the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association. In April, Wininger will be giving a paper at Bowdoin titled, "The Spectacle of the 'Other.'"



**William B. Bullock**, USM business manager for the past 20 years, retired recently and was honored by 75 friends and co-workers at a reception. Bill and his wife are moving to North Carolina. *Caswell photo*

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