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CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 7, Number 1

September 12, 1988

Plante Looking Ahead to Year 2

"Our single greatest cause this year," President Plante told faculty and staff, "is to support the bond issue which would provide a new library facility for USM." The occasion was the September 1 Faculty/Staff Breakfast, an annual salute to the opening of school and the opportunity for an assessment of the state of the university.

Her assessment included these other major points for moving USM forward: the need to build a common will through a stronger Faculty Senate and the need to establish priorities that would clarify USM's identity and mission as an urban comprehensive university.

After a humorous aside advising anyone interested in heading a college or university to skip the first year of presidency and go right into the second, the president got down to brass tacks, telling faculty and staff she now better understood USM's history and place in the national picture of higher education and could better plot a course for the future of the university.

The senate, whose rules of governance are now under review through a committee led by Fred Aiello, would in the president's vision evaluate all matters of serious academic input. In referring to the University of Maine System bond issue coming before voters this fall and the need for expanded library space, she said, "the buildings you build and the ones you choose not to build are symbolic of the values you hold."

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Administrative Review

No Easy Answers, Says Report

Earlier this year in response to concerns she had heard, President Plante established a committee to look at USM's administrative structure and explore whether there are too many administrators in relation to the university's size and mission. The 11-member committee chaired by Craig Dietrich, professor of history, recently submitted a 17-page report to the president.

After wrestling with the difficulties of compiling and assessing data, the report states that the committee "...is not prepared to state categorically that there either are or are not too many administrators."

A comparison of professional staffs at eight similar institutions shows that USM is toward the high end when calculating full-time professional staff per one thousand students. The high is 23.28, the low 5.63, with USM rated at 18.36. During a 10-year period from 1977/78 to 1987/88, the number of USM administrators, according to the report, increased considerably more (in percentage) than students or faculty.

"We did find growth," said Dietrich, "but we could not precisely ascertain if in all cases the growth at USM was needed or unnecessary or if in fact there were areas which need more growth in staff."

The report did recommend that increases in the administrative staff be closely monitored.

The president, in thanking the committee members for their time

and efforts, said she plans to closely monitor additions to the administrative staff.

"I thought it important that we look at this issue through the forum of a study committee," said Plante. "A careful review of the committee's report has confirmed what I have come to believe; the size of our administrative staff is appropriate, given our size, growth and hopes for the future."

The president has placed one copy of the report in each of our libraries for review by the university community. In addition, she will discuss it with the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and later this year plans to present the conclusions before the Program and Review Committee of the Legislature.

Other members of the committee were: L. Morrill Burke, associate professor of English; Ronald F. Cole, professor of music; Mary I. Collins, director of staff development for the Division of Human Resources; Melissa H. Costello, associate professor of education; Cathy Lessard, student; William G. Mortensen, director of public service; Gus Nelson, student; Stephen G. Pollock, associate professor of geology; Marianne W. Rodgers, associate professor of nursing; and Richard H. Sturgeon, director of advising and academic information.

New Appointments Davis Dean of CAS

Dave D. Davis, former chair of the Department of Anthropology at Tulane University in New Orleans, assumed his position as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the beginning of August.

Davis, who earned his Ph.D. in anthropology from Yale, has 12 years of teaching and administrative experience, including work in program development and international research. As director of Tulane's summer programs in Antigua, West Indies and as coordinator of their junior year abroad program, Davis managed academic and financial arrangements with many institutions overseas. He has also been principal investigator in 16 research projects sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the Exxon Educational Foundation, among others.

"Expectations for the university are changing from within and without," Davis recently told *Currents*. "The measure of our ability to meet those expectations is the faculty, and therein lies the greatest attraction of USM. The College of Arts and Sciences is the academic heart of the university; maintaining and building upon the strengths of its faculty are central elements of my job."

New Director for PPM

Richard E. Barringer has been named the new director of our graduate program in Public Policy and Management, succeeding Tim Honey, now vice president for development and external relations.

Barringer, a former state planning director in the Brennan administration, also served as commissioner of conservation for Governor Longley and as director of public lands and deputy commissioner of conservation for Governor Curtis. Since 1987 he has consulted Maine Maritime Academy and the Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other organizations on planning and

public policy. A Harvard graduate, Barringer earned his Ph.D. from MIT. He is a former lecturer and assistant dean at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Coburn Named to Head HSDI

Andrew F. Coburn has been named director of the University of Southern Maine's Human Services Development Institute, an applied policy research arm of USM's graduate program in Public Policy and Management.

Coburn, who holds a Ph.D. in social policy from Brandeis University, is a specialist in health policy research and management. He has testified before congressional and state legislative committees on extending Medicaid coverage, long-term care policies and health care financing. As head of HSDI's Health Policy Unit, he consulted for the Maine Department of Human Services and Brandeis University's Health Policy Center. He also teaches in USM's Public Policy and Management program and is currently on the steering committee of the National Academy for State Health Policy in Washington, D.C.

President's Speech

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It is the president's opinion that USM cannot progress as quickly as it should without an improved library.

She also touched on the need for close examination of our admission standards and retention rates; the possibility of establishing a university college, now being assessed by a committee under the chairmanship of Joel Gold, to bring less qualified students up to par on all skills; and exploration, under Remo Riciputi, chair of the Faculty Senate, of the possible advantages of moving to a tri-mester academic calendar.

Media Log

Editor's Note: One indication of the respect and credibility that faculty and staff command is the degree to which their expertise is called upon by the news media. With that in mind, the Office of Media Relations wants to recognize faculty and staff who have taken the time to share their expertise with the public. If you can comment on current news events, please call Media Relations at 780-4200.

Karen Erickson, assistant professor of political science, was interviewed by WGME-TV on the shooting down of an Iranian airliner.

Marvin Druker, assistant professor of political science, was interviewed by WMTW-TV, WCSH-TV and WGAN radio on the selection of Lloyd Bentsen as Dukakis's running mate and by WBAL radio in Baltimore and WCSH-TV on the Democratic Convention. The Associated Press also interviewed him on Bush's image.

Michael Hamilton, assistant professor of political science, spoke on growth management to WPOR radio.

Joseph Conforti, director of New England Studies and professor of history, spoke to the Maine Times and the Lawrence Eagle Tribune on New England's heritage.

Michael Hillard, assistant professor of economics, was interviewed by WGME-TV on Dukakis's selection of Lloyd Bentsen and by the Portland Business Journal on Maine's minimum wage.

Cherie Foster, associate professor of education, was interviewed by the Lewiston Journal on the Middle Level Education Institute.

Susan Kingsland, assistant professor of sociology, was interviewed by the Evening Express about the sociological impact of traffic.

Alison Rieser, director of Marine Law Institute and adjunct associate professor, School of Law, spoke on WGME-TV on laws to prevent ocean dumping in the wake of medical waste washing up on beaches.

Loren Coleman, research assistant, Human Services Development Institute, answered questions on teens at risk for suicide on WTKN radio in Tampa, Florida and was interviewed by the Associated Press on his views of the Center for Disease Control's report on suicide clusters.

Raymond Neveu, professor of finance, was interviewed by Portland Business Journal, WGAN radio,

WGME-TV and WCSH-TV on prime rates.

Richard Maiman, professor of political science, did a wrap-up on both party conventions for WGME-TV and commented on Bush's choice of Quayle for running mate to WGAN radio and WGME-TV.

Oliver Woshinsky, professor of political science, was interviewed about Quayle on WMTW-TV.

Linda Richardson, assistant professor of finance, discussed the possibility of inflation in Maine on WYNZ radio.

Joseph Austin, director of Residence Life, took WMTW-TV on a tour of new Portland Hall.

Andrew Coburn, director, Human Services Development Institute, talked on health cost containment on WPOR radio.

Rebecca Lockridge, assistant professor of communication, was interviewed by the Christian Science Monitor on the popularity of afternoon talk shows.

Janet Burson, associate professor, School of Nursing, was called on by the Portland Press Herald to comment on the nutritional value of local school lunches.

William Wells, Law librarian and associate professor of Law, was interviewed by the Press Herald, WYNZ radio and by Casco Bay Weekly on the donation of Iran-Contra testimony to the School of Law Library.

New Moves

Fall '88—Where to Find:

- Academic Computing—new Office/ Classroom Building
 - Foreign Languages and Classics—55/57 Exeter St.
 - International Programs—39 Exeter St.
 - Law Clinic—65 Exeter St.
 - Philosophy Dept—entirely in 47 Exeter St.
 - School of Nursing—new Office/ Classroom Building
 - Small Business Development Center—59/61 Exeter St.
 - Social Work Dept.—new Office/ Classroom Building
 - World Affairs Council—39 Exeter St.
- And:
- Lewiston/ Auburn College—opened at 51-55 Westminster St., Lewiston.
 - Portland Hall—new residence hall opened on Congress St. in Portland, formerly was the Best Western Executive Inn.

Research Update

• **Mark Swanson**, assistant professor of geology, has received a grant for \$77,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior to investigate a rare geological site in Greenland.

• **Andrew Coburn**, director of Human Services Development Institute, was co-author of a grant for \$430,405 from the Bingham Foundation in Boston to promote better health care through more coordination among health care providers in Maine. The grant will fund establishment of a consortium on health care in Maine.

• **Robert French**, associate professor of geography, received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to participate in a five-week institute in historical archaeology. He and 24 other faculty from around the country worked on a digging and analysis of the early 17th Century Flowerdew settlement on the James River in Virginia under the auspices of the Williamsburg Foundation.

Application deadlines for the 1989-90 Fulbright grants in research and university lecturing abroad still ahead are:

- November 1, 1988: Scholar-in-Residence Program.
- January 1, 1989: International Education Administrators Program in Germany, United Kingdom and Japan; Seminar in German Civilization; NATO Research Fellowships and Spain Research Fellowships.
- February 1, 1989: travel-only awards to France, Italy, and Germany.

The basic eligibility requirements for a Fulbright award are U.S. citizenship; Ph.D. or comparable professional qualifications; university or college teaching experience.

Applications are open for study and research in the People's Republic of China in social studies and humanities in the following categories:

- Research: open to scholars with Ph.D.s or equivalent; deadline October 15.
- Dissertation Research: deadline October 15.
- Graduate Fellowships: for senior advanced study, especially work on dissertations; deadline October 15.
- Graduate Fellowships: for general advanced study involving regular course work; deadline October 15.

For more information and applications, call the Office of International Programs at 780-4550.

Did You Know?

- The UM School of Law Library received 42 volumes of testimony heard by congressional committees that investigated the Iran-Contra affair. The material, now available to the public, was donated by Senator George Mitchell.
- Seven volunteers contributed their time to a bar-coding project at the USM library in Portland this summer. Four faculty members, one classified staffer, one student and an outside volunteer were trained to work with library staff in the reclassification campaign.



Michael Derby, assistant professor of biology, demonstrates equipment in new molecular biology lab to Pat O'Mahoney-Damon, chair of the Biology Department, President Plante and Provost Helen Greenwood.

What We're Doing

JOSEPH M. AUSTIN, director of Residence Life, MICAH ENGBER, associate director of Residence Life, and RACHEL E. STEVENS, resident director/counselor, attended the 40th Annual Association of College University Housing Officers International Conference last July at the University of Maryland in College Park. Austin and Stevens gave a presentation on "Common-Area Damages in Residence Halls." Austin and Engber participated in a presentation on supervision of the "First-Time Live-In Professional."

ANDREW F. COBURN, director of the Human Services Development Institute, lectured on "Health Care in Maine, an Overview," at a conference focusing on Health Care Cost Containment sponsored by the Maine Chamber of Commerce and Industry on August 24 in South Portland.

JUAN-RICARDO COJUC, assistant professor of communication, recently gave a presentation on USM and its Instructional Television System (ITV) to French-speaking Haitian radio journalists who were visiting Maine as part of a Voice of America-sponsored project. Cojuc also lectured on the evolution of silent cinema in USM's Summer Faculty Lecture Series. This May, he obtained his Ph.D. in Mass Communications from the University of Michigan.

DIANA C. CRADER, assistant professor of anthropology, served as the education curator of the "Land of the Giants" dinosaur and prehistoric mammal exhibit presented by The Children's Museum of Maine and the Dinamation International Corporation in Portland, June 11-September 11. In July, she also presented two teacher training workshops for the STAR Foundation in which she instructed Maine elementary school teachers in current issues about dinosaurs.

GLORIA SHAW DUCLOS, professor of

classics, conducted a workshop, "Writing Latin Reading Comprehension Questions," at the annual meeting of the American Classical League, at the University of Tennessee in June. During the one-week Portland-Falmouth Teachers Summer Academy in June, she was the principal lecturer and presented five lectures on Homer's "Odyssey." In July she taught a one-week mini-course on pastoral poetry at the Dartmouth College Classical Institute. Duclos also participated in the Vergilian Society Summer Session at Cumae on the Bay of Naples in August.

NANCY P. GREENLEAF, dean, School of Nursing, presented a paper titled "Managing Tender Loving Care in America's Health Industry," which focused on the leadership role of nurse executives, at the Psychology of Women at Work International Research Conference sponsored by the British Psychological Society held at Goldsmith's College, University of London, July 15-17. Greenleaf also presented a paper which focused on contradictions faced by nurse managers in health care delivery systems at the National Women's Studies Association Tenth Annual Conference held at the University of Minnesota last June.

STEPHEN T. HONEY, vice president for development and external affairs, addressed the Joint Standing Committee on Economic Development on "Educating for Competence in a Global Economy," on August 9.

ROBERT LEMELIN, director, Learning Assistance Systems, is the editor of the Directory of Learning Assistance Programs in New England, 1988 and has his article, "Embedding the Microcomputer in the Collegiate Business Writing Course," published in the July 1988 issue of *Academically Speaking*.

ROBERT B. LOUDEN, associate professor of philosophy, was awarded a NEH Summer Fellowship to participate as a fellow in the 1988 Council for Philosophical Studies Summer Institute on "Aristotle's Metaphysics, Biology and Ethics" at the University of New Hampshire, Durham in June-July.



The prize-winning woodwind quintet the Block Ensemble will open the 1988-89 Faculty Concert Series at 8 p.m., Friday, September 16 with a performance in Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham. Tickets for the chamber music concert are \$7 and \$4 for students, seniors, faculty and staff. Call 780-5555; for information call 780-5256.

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