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CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 7, Number 7

December 5, 1988

Honoring Scholarship

The essential work of a university is the work of words: "the energy of language and thought transformed into insight, possibility, question, dream, story." Thus, Chancellor Robert L. Woodbury introduces the new Maine Scholar, the journal of the University of Maine System Honors Programs. The journal has taken as its reason for being, as Woodbury points out in his foreword, "to have the work of this University appear in a more public forum, to share its words and thoughts with the wider community of Maine citizens."

Publication of the first issue will be celebrated with a special ceremony on Tuesday, December 6 in the USM Honors House. Woodbury, campus presidents, honors directors and other guests are scheduled to attend.

Authors represented in the journal include professors and students throughout the system as well as outside authorities who have lectured on our campuses. The subject matter ranges from heady philosophy to an appraisal of Stephen King's work.

As illustration of the purely academic, consider the article "How to Teach Belief?" by Alasdair MacIntyre, Luce Visiting Scholar at the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale and a leading philosopher on the national scene. His piece urges that Plato's "Republic," as translated by Allan Bloom, be used in our classrooms not as a "great book", but as a means to initiate the practice of rational enquiry. MacIntyre further recommends "The Republic" for Plato's "subversive" thesis: "... the pursuit of the good and the best for its own sake through theoretical and practical enquiry is incompatible with caring about wealth, power, reputation and worldly success in general."

One of MacIntyre's more provocative statements is that educators who teach critical analysis in the absence of

an underlying set of beliefs "...collude with the powers that be in rendering their students defenseless before the solicitations of an advanced market society." He concludes that teaching analysis within a body of values can protect students from the brainwashing of modern society.

The journal also provides a forum for the examination of current political issues. James M. Friedman, professor of law in the School of Law, and Richard Ayre, assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice at UMPI, take opposing positions on the Israeli/PLO situation. Ayre contends, "It is simply not the case that attacks by the Israeli military on civilian targets represent, for the most part, regrettable collateral casualties in reprisal for Palestinian acts of terror." He claims that "much of Jewish fundamentalism involves a messianic, virulent racism."

Friedman questions Ayre's view that the PLO is the only representative of the Palestinians. He emphasizes that it's "impossible to analyze Zionism or Israeli politics without reference to the

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More on Core

by Henry Amoroso, Director, Core Curriculum

Nearly 70 faculty, administrators and students gathered at the Campus Center on November 2nd for a marathon discussion of the University's Core Curriculum. The meeting, chaired by Ray Riciputi, president of the Faculty Senate, was called at the request of the Core Council to receive comments on the initial findings and recommendations of a review effort begun last Spring.

The meeting deliberately avoided taking action on any specific recommendation, but focused instead on three broad issues: (1) Whether or not USM should engage in a complete rethinking of the goals and means of a liberal education; (2) the need to understand better who the students USM seeks to educate really are; and (3) whether the current Core Curriculum should be retained and strengthened or whether a new model should be adopted. At no time did anyone

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We wish you all Happy Holidays! This will be the last issue of Currents for the fall semester. The next issue will be published January 23.

The Politics of Life Stories

Willard D. Callender wonders if we have traded the art of personal storytelling for the confessional of psychiatry or the analysis of social science. He will examine this and other questions in a presentation on "The Politics of Life Stories" sponsored by the Center for the Study of Lives at 4 p.m., Thursday, December 8 in the Portland Campus Center, Rooms A, B and C.

Callender, professor of human resource development and this year's Russell Chair Scholar, asks, "If we wanted to accept every person's life story as the basis of their actions, would it be possible to operate schools, corporations, governments and similar organizations? If we concluded that it isn't possible to administer organizations on the basis of people's understanding of themselves, do people thereby lose the capacity to know and tell their life stories to themselves and others? And if people lose the ability to tell their life stories, on what alternative grounds of understanding does society rest?"

The Center for the Study of Lives, recently inaugurated by the College of Education, takes as its charge the celebration of life stories, the promotion of intergenerational communication and the creation of forums of exchange. For more information on this event, call Callender at 780-5066 or Bob Atkinson, director of the center, at 780-5078.

More on Core

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recommend that the notion of a core curriculum be abandoned.

It was suggested that arranging outside speakers, a retreat and a series of discussion papers would engage all segments of the university community in an examination of what it is we seek to teach and how we might achieve it.

Throughout the meeting individuals expressed misgivings regarding the availability of support resources: extra faculty, the size of courses, and the actual expense of increasing certain requirements (e.g., the amount of natural science to be taken). The underlying concern, however, was the more fundamental question, "Is a core curriculum that is rooted in a liberal arts conception possible in an urban comprehensive university such as USM?" The quest for a core curriculum that is an integral part of all degree programs at USM, in the professional schools as well as the College of Arts and Sciences, remains a unique feature of this university's efforts nationally



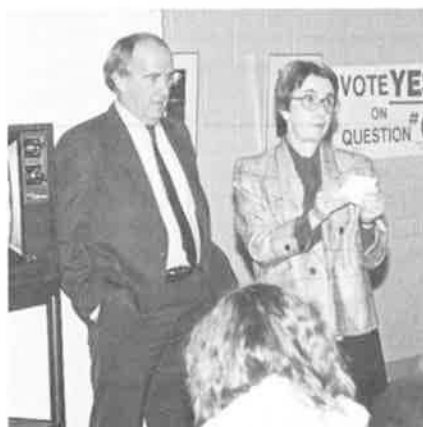
Pieces from USM's L.M.C. Smith Cartographic Collection now are on public display for the first time as part of "The Land of Norumbega: Maine in the Age of Exploration and Settlement." The exhibition is at the Portland Museum of Art through January 22. Pictured here is the Smith Collection piece "New England Observed" from John Smith's "The Generall Historie of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles," published in London in 1624.

and sets the stage for continuing debate.

The next step will be a day-long retreat at the beginning of January, involving the Core Council, task force chairs, and others, to distill the results of the review and to prepare specific recommendations for the Faculty Senate.

President's Notes

As a child I was always baffled by the school year question that asked me to reveal my favorite number. I am pleased to report that in middle age I have at last discovered it: "6." There will be other



President Plante announces the vote results at an Election Night reception at the Campus Center. Pictured with her is Harrison L. Richardson Jr., chair of the UMS Board of Trustees. Caswell photo

bond issues in the future of our university, but none will ever carry for us the symbolic significance of one that made clear, as no other could, our central commitment to the life of the mind. Please

know how grateful I am to the many of you who helped USM succeed when success was critical.

We will be hiring a professional to examine potential sites for the central library as soon as possible, and we have already begun assembling committees of faculty, staff and students who will make recommendations on all aspects of the expansion of the Law School Library, the construction of the new central library and the parking garage.

A la gloire!

Honors

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unremitting history of Palestinian [and Arab] hostility [to Israel]."

The first issue of Maine Scholar, supported by a grant from the Chancellor's Office and a contribution from the USM Alumni Association, will be sustained in the future by subscriptions. The first printing of 4000 copies will be mailed to all UMS faculty, to 350 honors programs throughout the country and to 300 research libraries. Jeremiah Conway, director of USM's Honors Program and editor-in-chief of The Maine Scholar, said that 58 submissions were reviewed and 17 chosen. "We are very pleased at the interest in publishing in this forum and we're particularly proud of the student submissions," he said. Students participated as readers and editors as well.

Now that the first issue is out, Conway is hoping for greater participation from all campuses with more submissions from students and faculty. "Maintenance of a first-rate journal requires active support," he observed.

Campus Notes

■ A discussion, sponsored by the School of Business, Economics and Management, on "1992: Integration of the European Common Market" will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 8 in Room 303 of Payson Smith, Portland campus. For more information, call Conrad Boyle at 780-4303.

■ USM's Professional Development Center is offering training for sign language interpreters. One year of interpreter training coursework is offered one evening per week during the semester and more intensively during the summer. Courses are designed for students beginning their careers in the area of hearing impairment as well as those who are seeking more advanced training in interpreting for deaf persons. Call 780-5326 for more information.

■ The Library has expanded its hours of operation due to the addition of two new staff persons in the Circulation Department. The new schedule, effective on November 28, is: Sunday, 1 p.m.-10 p.m.; Monday-Thursday, 7:45 a.m.-12 midnight; Friday, 7:45 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

Starting next semester Sunday hours will increase further. Call 780-4270 (Portland) or 780-5345 (Gorham) for more information.

■ USM's Sanford Center sponsored a faculty dinner October 28 at the Sanford High School Cafetorium. Thomas Baum, manager of Pratt & Whitney, was the guest speaker. Six students: Marie Hamel, Rebecca Podsiadlo, Rose Ann Thibodeau, Timothy Jalbert, Daryl Hutchins, and Wendy Brackett received the "spirit" award for scholarship, attitude, service, accomplishment, and/or self-directedness. The Director's Award for Leadership, Spirit, and Contribution to the center was presented to Margaret O'Brien, admissions coordinator, Sanford Center.

Ring Christmas Bells

USM's Children's Christmas Party, the largest Christmas party in Maine, will be held from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, December 10 in the Portland Gym. It is open to the children of USM faculty, staff, students and alumni. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at 1:15 p.m. The festivities will include entertainment, caroling, balloons, candy canes, toddler programs and more. USM Alumni may make



The Bowdoin Trio—Alexander Simionescu, violin; Jon Klibonoff, piano; and Semyon Fridman, cello—will perform in their only Maine performance this year at 8 p.m., Thursday, December 8. Klibonoff was a full-time member of the USM music faculty last year. The Bowdoin Trio is presented by the Cultural Affairs Committee at USM in association with the Music Department. Tickets are \$10 for the general public; \$8 for students and senior citizens. The Portland String Quartet will perform as part of the Faculty Concert Series at 8 p.m. on Friday, December 16. Tickets are \$7 for the public, \$4 for seniors/students, faculty and staff. Both concerts will be held in Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham. Call 780-5555 for reservations, 780-5256, for more information.

reservations by Friday, December 9, by calling the Alumni Office at 780-4110. Donations of canned food for the needy of Portland will be accepted at the door. The Student Senate and their organizations, Portland Events Board, Commuter Life, Child Care Services, Human Resources, the USM Alumni Association, Student Activities, Peer Advising Program, and USM Greek organizations are involved in organizing the party. For more information, call Student Activities at 780-4090.

What We're Doing

JOHN W. BAY, director, Off-Campus Instruction and Academic Support, presented a paper with George Connick, president, University of Maine at Augusta, on "The Use of Instructional Television to Expand Access and to Improve the Quality of Instruction in Off-Campus Education" at the 11th annual Quality in Off-Campus Credit Programs Conference in October.

JEANA DALE BEARCE, professor of art, had a solo show of her paintings, some of which were done during her sabbatical

studies in India, at the Center for the Arts, the Chocolate Church, Bath.

DIANA C. CRADER, assistant professor of anthropology, and JUDY TIZON, associate professor of anthropology, have been selected as panelists for a presentation titled, "The Challenge of Incorporating New Scholarship on Gender in Introductory Anthropology," at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in November.

LUCIA A. diBENEDETTO, associate professor of French, has a review of Alain DuGrand's novel, "Une Certaine Sympathie," published in the October issue of *The French Review*.

CLAUDE FILE, assistant professor of theatre, was in New Orleans October 28-30 to choreograph fight scenes in a production of Shakespeare's "King Lear" which was part of the Louisiana Shakespeare Festival's 5th season.

WILLIAM J. GAVIN, professor of philosophy, recently had an anthology titled, "Context Over Foundation: Dewey and Marx," published by D. Reidel Publishing Company of Holland.

RICHARD A. GROVER, assistant professor of business administration, delivered a

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What We're Doing

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paper titled "Current Approaches to the Management of High Customer Contact Service Personnel: Problems of Application and a Suggestion for Integration," to the national meeting of the Association of Human Resources Management and Organizational Behavior in Long Beach, Calif.

RUSSELL J. KIVATISKY, assistant professor of communication, presented a paper, "A Longitudinal Study of Local Access Cable Television in a Small New England Community," as part of a panel on the social impact of technology at the Northeast Popular Culture Conference in Windsor Locks, Conn., November 9-11.

RICHARD O. KRATZER, professor of mathematics, received an outstanding service award, recognizing his efforts on behalf of mathematics education in Maine, from the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in Maine at the association's annual meeting in Bangor on October 28.

KATHLEEN I. MacPHERSON, associate dean, School of Nursing, gave the keynote address, "Menopause: A Delight, a Disaster or Nothing to Get Excited About?" at the Women Sharing Knowledge and Power Conference sponsored by the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Bangor on October 15. MacPherson was also invited to present an all-day workshop, "Menopause: A Positive Approach," on October 26 and a paper, "The Politics of Estrogen Replacement Therapy," for a conference on Primary Care of Mid-Life and Older Women organized by the Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner Program at Hunter College on October 27.

LORRAINE D. MASURE, director, Sanford Center, was the guest speaker on "Instructional Television: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" at the chapter meeting of the York County Association of Credit Unions in Springvale.

MICHAEL MAZURKIEWICZ JR., professor of biology, attended the fall meeting of The New England Estuarine Research Society at Holyoke, Mass., October 21-22, where he presented a research paper titled "Abundance and Distribution of the Mud Snail *Ilyanassa obsoleta* in Overwintering Intertidal Clusters at Back Cove, Portland, Maine."

LYNNE MILLER, associate professor of education, has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Overseers of The Regional Laboratory for Educational Improvement of the Northeast and Islands.

S. HENRY MONSEN, professor of sociology, and DONALD F. ANSPACH, associate professor of sociology, presented their paper, "Determinate Sentencing, Formal Rationality and Khadi Justice in Maine: An Application of Weberian Typology," at the American Society of Criminology meetings held in November in Chicago.

IVANG. MOST, director, Production Technology Center, and JOHN A. ZANER, associate professor of technology, will give a presentation on "The Technology Audit—a Starting Point" at the northeast annual meeting of the National Association of Industrial Technology at Fitchburg State College, Mass., on December 15.

AH-KAU NG, assistant professor, Applied Immunology Program, attended the Coulter Instrument Course in Miami, Fla., to be trained in the use of the Coulter Epics Flow Cytometer.

JOHN S. RICCI, professor of chemistry, gave an invited talk at the U. S. Department of Energy in Washington D. C. on the effectiveness of faculty/student research programs at the National Laboratories on November 2.

NEAL S. ROTE, director, Applied Immunology Program, presented "Identification of a Phospholipid Antigen in Partial Thromboplastin," at the 8th annual symposium for the American Society for the Immunology of Reproduction at the Black Point Inn, Proul's Neck. Rote has been asked to author

a chapter on "Transplacental Alteration of Fetal Coagulation: Antiphospholipid and Antiplatelet Antibodies" in the "19th Annual Birth Defects Symposium on Transplacental Disorders: Perinatal Detection, Treatment, and Management," for Alan R. Liss, Inc.; and a chapter in "Immunological Obstetrics" on "Role of Phospholipid Antibodies in Reproduction" for W.W. Norton Publishers. He served as a member of the panel, "Student Rights, Faculty Rights, Animal Rights," at USM; helped to edit the immunology section of the book, "How to Prevent Miscarriage and Other Crisis of Pregnancy," and will serve with Ah-kau Ng on the steering committee for the 1989 Maine Biological and Medical Sciences Symposium.

LEONARD SHEDLETSKY, associate professor and chair, Department of Communication, presented a paper titled, "Intrapersonal Communication Activities: Representing Experience," at the session, "Great Ideas for Teaching Speech: A Resource Exchange," sponsored by the Speech Communication Association in New Orleans in November.

SUSAN M. SINCLAIR, staff director of the Growth Management Project, Public Policy and Management Program, had a paper published by the National Governor's Association titled "Growth Management in the Late '80s: Expectations and Opportunities." Real Estate Update featured excerpts from the paper in their November issue.

MARTHA SKONER, assistant professor of nursing, presented her paper, "Game Playing: A Behavioral Category and Transition from Illness to Recovery in an Eating Disorders Program," at the International Congress on Women's Health Issues in Tampa, Fla., on November 10 and at the American Public Health Association Meeting in Boston on November 16.

RICHARD STEINMAN, professor of social welfare (retired), is speaking on the topics of the "Lesbian-Gay Liberation Movement in Eastern Europe" at the University of Kansas School of Social Work on November 28 at a meeting of Seacoast Gay Men in Portsmouth, N.H. on December 5.



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