

4-24-1989

## Currents, Vol.7, No.14 (Apr.24, 1989)

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### Recommended Citation

Caswell, Robert S. and Swain, Susan E., "Currents, Vol.7, No.14 (Apr.24, 1989)" (1989). *Currents*. 129.  
<https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/currents/129>

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# CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 7, Number 14

April 24, 1989

## Cartoonist/ Playwright at Commencement

Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Jules Feiffer has been selected as the featured speaker for USM's 109th annual commencement, scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Saturday, May 13 in the Cumberland County Civic Center, Portland.

Called, "the most talented social commentator in cartooning in our generation," Feiffer won the 1986 Pulitzer



for his weekly cartoon strip. He began his career 30 years earlier as a freelance cartoonist for the famous New York weekly newspaper, the Village Voice. Today, Feiffer is an internationally syndicated cartoonist whose work also has appeared in 12 book collections.

Though best known for his cartoons and captions, Feiffer is in addition a novelist and an award-winning playwright. His first full-length work for the theatre was "Little Murders," the 1967 play that won an Obie. It was the first play chosen for production by Great Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company. Another work, "Grownups," was presented as part of the PBS "Great Performances" series.

Feiffer is the author of two novels, "Harry the Rat with Women" from 1963, and "Ackroyd" from 1967. He also wrote the screenplays for the films "Carnal Knowledge," "Little Murders" and "Popeye."

For more information on commencement ceremonies, call 780-4440.

## New Accreditation for School of Nursing

The National League for Nursing has reaccredited for eight years USM's undergraduate nursing program and granted a first, eight-year accreditation to the graduate program. The eight-year periods are the longest accreditations that the NLN offers. The NLN is officially recognized as the national accrediting agency for nursing education.

More good news: new enrollment figures indicate that recent declines in nursing students could be turning around. Enrollment reports show that undergraduate majors in the School of Nursing peaked back in 1984 with 416, then decreased 32.7 percent to a low of 228 majors in the spring of 1988. But the latest figures for spring 1989 show a 15.4 percent increase over 1988, to a total of 263. The graduate program opened in 1983 with 23, increased to 55 students in 1986 and now has 37 students. Graduate enrollments are expected to rise, said Dean Nancy P. Greenleaf, due in part to a new option that helps registered nurses streamline undergraduate study and begin work on a master's degree. A new concentration in adult health should also attract graduate students, Greenleaf said.

"During the last few years we've been working with our students, graduates and members of the nursing community to develop quality nursing education and research programs that can be a valuable resource to the communities we serve," Greenleaf said. "The accreditations, coupled with new enrollment figures, indicate that our efforts are beginning to pay off."

"An accreditation certifies that the program not only meets national standards of quality but also is geared to the unique health care needs of the region it serves," said Patricia Moccia,



Kramer photo

NLN vice president for education and accreditation.

In its report, NLN officials cited a number of strengths, among them: a high number of faculty members who hold Ph.Ds or are enrolled in a doctoral program; faculty research in diverse areas such as the mental health of refugees; new facilities in Masterton Hall on the Portland campus; and "the high calibre of graduate and undergraduate students."

The first Nelson and Small Prize will be awarded on Thursday, May 4 to the USM employee who has made special contributions to the USM Electrical Engineering program.

The deadline for nominations for the \$2,000 award is Wednesday, April 26. Please send nominations to Provost Helen Greenwood, 711 Law Building, Portland campus.

The Nelson and Small Company of Portland established the prize in recognition of the electrical engineering program and as a way to stimulate further development of it.

For more information, call Provost Helen Greenwood at 780-4485.

## Exploring a Three Semester Calendar

At last September's faculty and staff breakfast, President Plante indicated that a major project for the next 12 to 18 months would be a thorough examination of the feasibility of expanding academic programming during the May to August period. To assess the impact of such a far-reaching change, the Three Semester Calendar Committee, appointed by the president, has scheduled a series of survey and exploration activities, to begin this month and to conclude next October.

During the fourth week of April, all students in Tuesday and Wednesday classes will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire concerning their patterns of attending classes at USM and the factors that influence their choice of courses during the summer, fall and spring. During the prior week, focus group sessions designed to explore needs and alternatives in greater detail than permitted by a survey will begin with students and faculty.

The investigation into a three semester calendar was motivated by two major concerns. First, an increasing number of students, especially those who attend USM on a part-time basis, have expressed interest in the regular availability during the summer of required courses so that their programs could be completed in less time. Second, in order to meet increasing demand for classrooms, more effective use of available space is essential. In the absence of substantial increases in classroom space and/or greater utilization of classrooms May through August, enrollments would have to be capped at the current level.

The Calendar Committee was appointed in the fall under the chairmanship of Robert Goettel, executive assistant to the president. The committee's charge is (1) to determine the need and the demand for greatly expanded academic programming over the summer months, (2) to identify alternatives for meeting such demand, and (3) to assess the financial and other implications of those alternatives. The committee, which has met biweekly

since December, includes faculty from each school and college, students, and administrators and professional staff from units which provide services or programs during the summer.

Other study activities to be undertaken by the committee include a survey of student support services currently available during the summer session, surveys and visits to other universities, and detailed discussions with the chairs and faculty of individual academic programs. An allocation of \$10,000 from the President's Discretionary Fund will support the study.

"Serious exploration of alternatives for expanding academic programming over the summer months is critical to our goals of more effectively meeting student academic needs and utilizing scarce classroom space," President Plante said. "I strongly urge every USM faculty member and student to assist the Calendar Committee with respect to these important issues."

## A Ringing Success

USM alumni from Fort Kent to Florida were asked to support their alma mater with pledges to the 1988-89 Annual Fund. Over 130 students as well as staff and alumni volunteers contacted more than 4000 alumni during the nine nights of the March phonathon. A total of \$28,444 in pledges was raised, representing 51 percent of those called. Another 727 alumni made unspecific pledges.

Several area restaurants donated gifts for students who called the most alumni. Each volunteer received a coffee mug decorated with the phonathon logo: "USM Annual Fund Phonathon—Don't call us, we'll call you."

Peg Brown, director of the annual fund, said she was pleased with the turnout of volunteers and the amount raised. "Alumni are USM's most important constituency," she said, "and phonathons are a very effective way of reaching them and asking for their support."

Three more phonathon evenings are planned, for May 15, 16 and 18 at the Campus Center. The goal for the Annual Fund is to reach \$100,000 by June 30. Money raised will be used for student scholarships, instructional equipment and athletic and cultural programs.



The works of three USM art faculty members are being featured at the Portland Museum of Art as part of the exhibition series "Perspectives," which features Maine artists, through Sunday, May 21. Photographs by Rose Marasco, assistant professor of art; drawings by Michael Moore, associate professor of art; and sculpture by Duncan Hewitt, associate professor of art, are on exhibit. Pictured here, a sculpture by Hewitt, "Fish and Cornstalks," 1985. For more information, call the Museum at 775-6148.

## Congratulations

Helen L. Greenwood, provost and vice president for academic affairs, has confirmed the following personnel actions during 1988-89:

**Frederick Aiello**, tenure at present rank of associate professor of associate business administration, School of Business, Economics and Management.

**Francis C. McGrath III**, tenure at present rank of associate professor of English, College of Arts and Sciences.

**Charles N. Greene**, tenure at present rank of professor of management, School of Business, Economics and Management.

**Betty W. Atterbury**, promoted to associate professor of music education with tenure, College of Arts and Sciences.

**Joseph E. Medley**, promoted to associate professor of economics with tenure, School of Business, Economics and Management.

**Julien Murphy**, promoted to associate professor of philosophy with tenure, College of Arts and Sciences.

**Henry L. Parsons**, promoted to associate professor of production/operations management with tenure, School of Business, Economics and Management.

**Mark T. Swanson**, promoted to associate professor of geology with tenure, College of Arts and Sciences.

**James R. Westfall**, promoted to associate professor of associate business administration with tenure, School of Business, Economics and Management.

**Gale W. Rhodes**, promoted to professor of chemistry with tenure, College of Arts and Sciences.

**Bruce MacLeod**, promoted to assistant professor of computer science, School of Applied Science.

**Gerald J. LaSala Jr.**, promoted to associate professor of physics, College of Arts and Sciences.

**Ah-kau Ng**, promoted to associate professor of applied immunology, School of Applied Science.

**Lee Goldsberry**, promoted to associate professor of education, College of Education.

**Libby G. Cohen**, promoted to professor of special education, College of Education.

**Louis F. Gainey Jr.**, promoted to professor of biology, College of Arts and Sciences.

**John R. Heath**, promoted to professor of computer science, School of Applied Science.

**Peter J. Martin**, promoted to professor of music, College of Arts and Sciences.

**Richard G. Stebbins**, promoted to professor of chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences.

All personnel action is effective September 1, 1989.

## New Minor in Business

Faculty who have wondered how to advise a humanities major worried about preparing for a career should keep in mind the newly revised minor in business administration. It may be the answer for the psychology major wishing to do personnel work, the chemistry major who wants to go into marketing for a chemical company, or the music major interested in music management rather than performance.

The minor is available to any non-business baccalaureate student at USM and can be tailored to meet the needs of the student. Students who have no prior business education or experience are encouraged to take the general business minor, requiring completion of five courses covering accounting, computer applications, investments, management and marketing, as well as two electives. Those with prior business education, work experience or specific career goals can choose the self-designed option.

Kathy Huhtala, a psychology major interested in a career in industrial organization, was one of the first students to register for the new minor. "I believe the courses in this minor will provide me with useful and relevant background material for my future career goals," she said. Huhtala chose the self-designed option.

President Plante observed that the newly restructured program will allow students many new academic opportunities. For more information, contact Conrad Boyle at 780-4303.

## Recognition Day

Join in celebrating USM's outstanding students of 1988-89 at the annual Recognition Day awards ceremony, Wednesday, May 3 at 2 p.m. in Hill Gym, Gorham. University, Alumni and Student Senate awards will be presented, and the Outstanding Senior Man and Woman will be named. President Plante will give opening remarks and award presentations. Eight new awards will be presented this year, and 80 students will be honored. A reception follows. Call 780-4090 for more information.

## Campus Notes

■ "Soviet Relations with Latin America," a lecture by Wayne Smith, will be held at 12 noon on Thursday, April 27 in Rooms A, B and C, Campus Center, Portland. The lecture, free and open to the public, is part of USM's 1988-89 Convocation, "Worlds In Flux: The Soviet Union." Smith is an author, commentator and former head of the U.S. Interest Section in Cuba. His talk, sponsored by Convocation 1988-89 and the World Affairs Council of Maine, will be followed by an evening debate with Constantine Menges of the Hudson Institute, formerly of the CIA's Board of National Estimates and the National Security Council during the Reagan administration. Menges, a close associate of Oliver North, was a principal strategist for the Grenada invasion. The debate is at 7 p.m. in the Law School Moot Court Room and is sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Maine. Call 780-4440 for information.

■ Robert Kuttner, syndicated columnist and economics correspondent for Business Week and The New Republic, will speak on "After the American Century," from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 27 in the Moot Court Room, Law School, Portland. For more information, call 780-4416.

■ The faculty concert featuring Bruce Fithian has been rescheduled from April 28 to Friday, May 12.

■ USM's Department of Continuing Education for Business and the York County Chambers of Commerce are again sponsoring the York County Secretaries Day Conference on Wednesday, April 26 at the Shawmut Inn, Kennebunkport. Keynote speaker will be Linda Abromson, a member of the Portland City Council, president of the Greater Portland Transit District and former mayor of Portland. The conference will include workshops and demonstrations of high-tech office equipment. Call CEB at 874-6510 for registration/information.

■ A Financial Security Review Seminar is being offered on Thursday, April 27 from 9:30 to 11 a.m., in Hastings Formal Lounge, Gorham; and from 2 to 3:30 p.m., in Campus Center B, Portland. Participants will learn how to develop a personal financial plan around university and Social Security benefits. The seminar is presented by TIAA-CREF. Call Mary Collins, director of staff development at 780-5173 for more information.



## What We're Doing

**JODY CAPELLUTI**, assistant professor of education, delivered a paper titled "Can We Replicate a Successful Middle School Through a School Partnership" at the National Association of Secondary School Principals annual conference in New Orleans in February. The speech was audiotaped for publication and distribution by the Association.

**MICAH ENGBER**, associate director of residence life, **HELEN GORGAS**, resident director/educational programmer, and **MARILYN KANE-BRETTON**, coordinator of substance abuse prevention programming, presented a program at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Conference in Denver, Colo., on March 17. The program, "Addressing Diversity in a Non-Diverse Population," was chosen from a national pool of over 100 proposals.

**MAHMUD A. FAKSH**, assistant professor of political science, had a paper, "Saudi Arabia and Iran: The Challenge of an Insurgent Islam," published in the Fall 1988 issue of the *Journal of Arab Affairs*. He organized and taught two half-day symposia for social science teachers on "Understanding Islam" and "Arab Nationalism and the Middle East" in March and lectured at Waynflete School on "The Palestinian Problem."

**CLAUDE FILE**, assistant professor of theatre, appeared in the Portland Stage Company's April production of "Breaking the Silence."

**BRUCE FITHIAN**, assistant professor of music, will sing Bach arias with the Atlantic Chamber Soloists in Philadelphia on May 4. On May 7 he will be a soloist in the Choral Art Society performance of "The Elijah" at Portland City Hall Auditorium. His original song cycle "Kinderlieder" will have its world premiere at his performance in May as part of our Faculty Concert Series and

will be performed again in East Bristol, Conn. by the Melisande trio in June. Fithian will be a featured soloist on May 28 and 30 in the opening concert of the International Boston Early Music Festival in Cambridge. In June he will perform at USM with the Atlantic Chamber Soloists and will sing the world premiere of his "Dickinson Songs" with the Almont Ensemble at the Pasadena Art Center, Los Angeles.

**JOHN J. HOULIHAN**, associate professor of business law, presented a paper titled, "Whistleblowers: Is the Law Really Protecting Them?" at the March meeting of the Southwest Federation of Administrative Disciplines in New Orleans, La. He also served as a prepublication reviewer for the Tucker and Henkel textbook on the "Legal and Social Environment of Business" and participated in the American Business Law Association's recent planning review. Houlihan and **ANDREW J. POTTS**, professor of accounting, recently presented a jointly authored paper titled "The Accountants' Dilemma" at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Business Law Conference in Richmond, Va. They also coauthored a paper titled "The AICPA Code of Ethics and the Accountability of Accountants" which will be presented in April at the North Atlantic Business Law conference in Lowell, Mass.

**CHARLES M. LYONS**, associate professor of special education, presented a paper titled "Facilitating Discussions of Death and Decision-Making with Families of Infants in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit" at the annual Mid-South Symposium on the Family at Arkansas State University on April 13. He also presented a paper titled "Ethical Issues for Neonatal Intensive Care Nurses" at the National Conference of the Association for Death Education and Counseling at Hood College in Baltimore on April 14. During March, Lyons made seven presentations to various school and human service agency conferences in Maine on the subject of services for children with disabilities.

**BRUCE B. MacLEOD**, instructor of computer science, traveled to Dhaka, Bangla-

desh in February to conduct a review and assessment of two data monitoring projects in order to make the data accessible for analysis.

**AH-KAU NG**, assistant professor of applied immunology, has been appointed adjunct associate professor, Department of Pathology, Columbia University, N.Y.

**BILL PHILLIPS**, associate professor of economics, has been awarded a teaching research grant by the Centre for Computer-Based Learning at the University of Birmingham, for research to be done in England during the spring of 1990. He has been notified by the journal, *Computers & Education*, that his article, "Individual Author Prototyping: Desktop Development of Courseware," has been accepted for publication. Phillips has been selected by the University of Arizona to participate in a National Science Foundation seminar, "Laboratory Experiments for Undergraduate Instruction in Economics," from July 31 through August 4. He has been selected by Brown University to give a paper, "Prototyping Economics Courseware," at the fourth annual Macademia Conference, May 24-27.

**JAMES W. ROBERTS**, associate professor of political science, has been selected for participation in the fifth annual summer faculty Institute on U.S.—Soviet Relations, at Hampshire College, Amherst, Mass., sponsored by the Five Colleges Program on Peace and World Security Studies in association with Columbia University's Harriman Institute for Advanced Study of the Soviet Union.

**DAVID L. SILVERNAIL**, director of Graduate Affairs, and **JUDITH L. JOHNSON**, associate director, Testing and Assessment Center, presented a paper titled, "The Impact of Interactive Televised Instruction on Student Achievement and Attitudes" at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in San Francisco on March 28.



### Currents

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96 Falmouth Street  
Portland, ME 04103

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Currents is published bi-weekly on Mondays throughout the academic year. Materials should be submitted no later than Thursday noon, 11 days prior to publication to: Media Relations 96 Falmouth Street, Portland.

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