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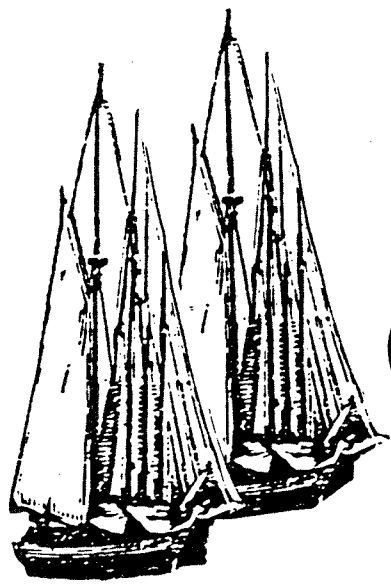
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University of Southern Maine CURRENTS

Volume 4, Number 7

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What's Inside

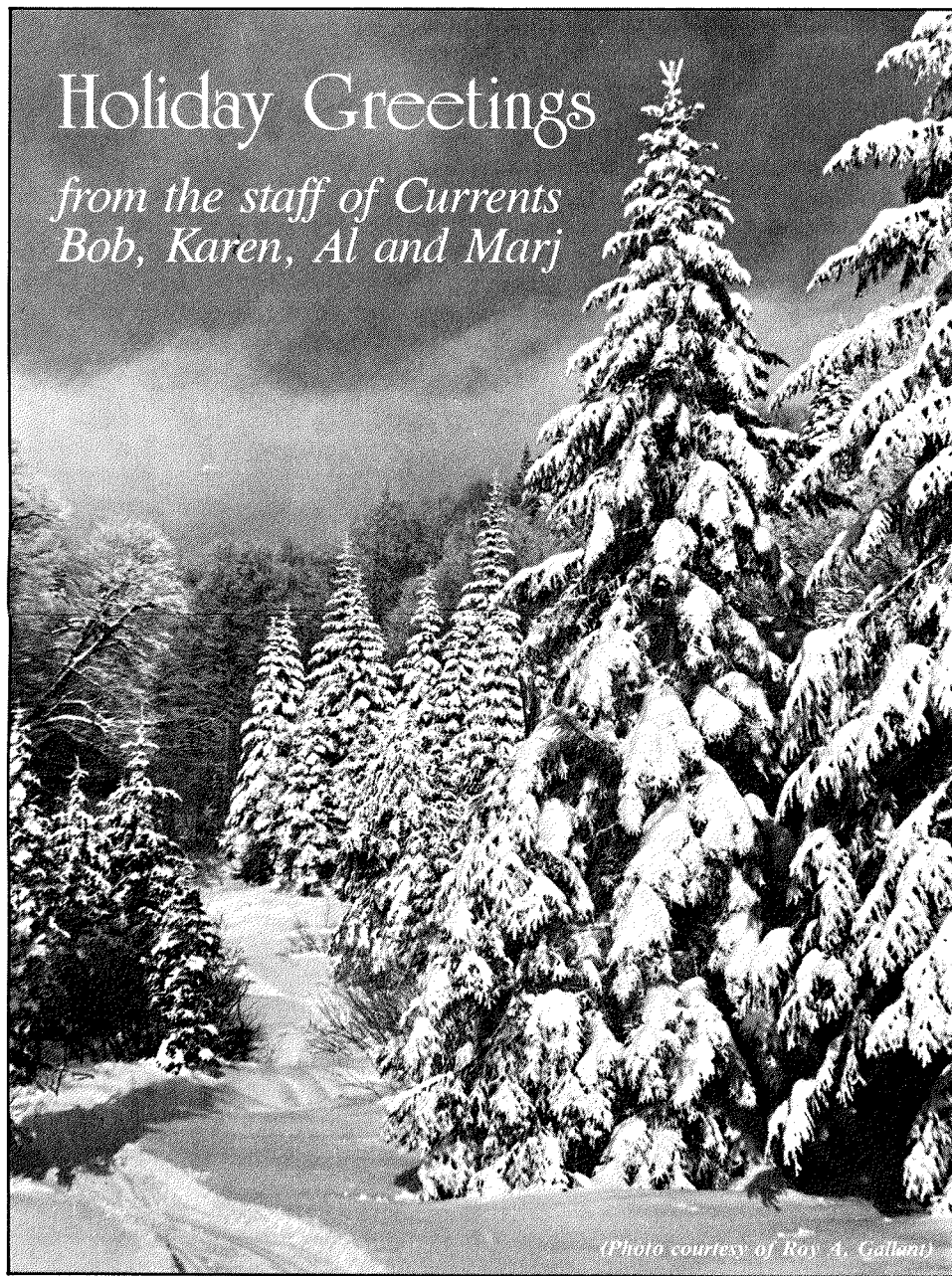
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A Unit of the University of Maine

Holiday Greetings

from the staff of Currents
Bob, Karen, Al and Marj



(Photo courtesy of Roy A. Gallant)

Asbestos: A Continuing Concern

Pliny the Elder, a first-century Roman naturalist, observed that slaves engaged in the weaving of asbestos cloth were afflicted with what he called a sickness of the lung.

Yet it would take centuries before man realized that exposure to the microscopic fibers released into the air could cause serious lung disease. In fact, asbestos was a commonly used building material up to the mid-1970s. And as members of the campus community know, most USM buildings were erected prior to that time.

USM has been working to correct

asbestos problems in buildings for the past several years, beginning with work in a dormitory in the early 1980s. More recently, \$10,000 was spent to remove asbestos pipe coverings from the basement of Payson Smith Hall during last summer's renovation project. Another \$8,000 was spent to conduct testing in campus equipment rooms. An additional \$17,000 has been allocated to take care of material containing asbestos in damaged areas within two four-story stairwells in Upton Hastings Hall, Gorham.

Those were some of the asbestos

Executive-in-Residence Established

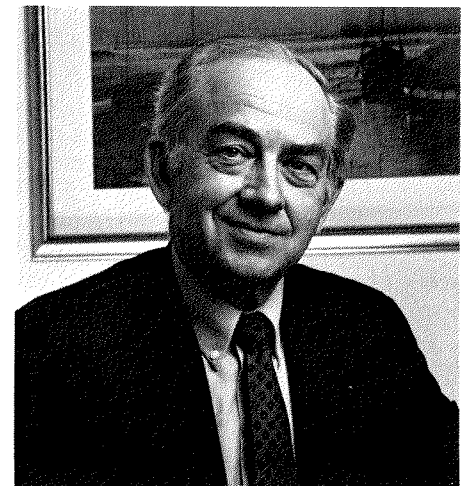
Weston L. Bonney, president and chief executive officer of Peoples Heritage Savings Bank, has returned to college as our first executive-in-residence.

The position — established by Duane R. Wood, dean of the USM School of Business, Economics and Management — calls for the annual appointment of an executive to present guest lectures in undergraduate and graduate business classes; lead presentations on career opportunities; give community lectures on public issues related to his field of expertise; and to advise faculty on curriculum development.

Bonney has lectured before several money and banking, finance and marketing classes at the University and has given one presentation on career opportunities in banking. Later in the year he will give a public lecture on the impact that rapid changes in banking are having on consumers and society.

"The executive-in-residence program adds a dimension to the School of Business, Economics and Management program that simply cannot be replicated with the traditional faculty and student classroom interaction," said Wood. "I'm particularly delighted to initiate the program with someone of Wes Bonney's business experience and interest in higher education."

Bonney began his career with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston where he served in a variety of positions, including financial economist. Since the early 1960s the Cape Elizabeth resident



Weston L. Bonney

has held executive banking positions with the Depositors Corporation of Augusta and the Massachusetts Bay Bancorp. Inc. of Lawrence, Mass., among others. Prior to accepting his present appointment with Peoples Heritage, Bonney was the chairman of the board and chief executive officer at the Bank of New England-Bay State in Lawrence, Mass., and a senior vice president and director of its holding company, the Bank of New England Corporation.

A graduate and trustee of Bates College, Bonney also serves as a trustee of the Portland Symphony Orchestra. He is a candidate for an MBA degree from the Graduate School of Business at New Hampshire College.

"The chance to share experiences with students is fantastic in and of itself, but the interaction also challenges you to define sharply your own thinking and can infuse your professional expertise with some fresh ideas. It seems to be a beneficial program for students as well as for those of us in the business community," Bonney stated.

Executive-in-residence programs usually require top-level business people to accept a full-time appointment for a fixed length of time, said Wood. The new USM program is designed so that executives can remain at their jobs and meet with students at various times during the day and evening over the duration of the academic year.

problems brought to light at a meeting late last month in the Center for Research and Advanced Study/School of Law. The meeting was called so that staff members and students could find out more about recently reported asbestos problems in CRAS/SOL.

The presence of unencapsulated asbestos was discovered when Maurice Nadeau of Maine's Bureau of Labor Standards conducted a regular OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) inspection of our campuses. Nadeau passed through the Law

(Cont. on p.3)

EDITOR'S NOTE: What's the significance of all those "grip-and-grin" photographs that Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev posed for late last month in Geneva? Will the symbolic unity they projected become a reality? If so, what are the implications of a superpower accord? Karen Erickson, an assistant professor of political science, takes a look at those questions in the following piece. Erickson is an expert on U.S./Soviet relations and has been interviewed numerous times by the state's newspaper, radio and television reporters.

The cordial tone of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit belies the reality behind the U.S.-Soviet relationship but, nevertheless, is significant in its symbolic value. The reality that persists is that the two countries have widely different views of their national security needs. This means that in the high politics of arms control and weapons development, there is little chance for substantive agreements in the near future.

For example, the respective U.S. and Soviet proposals made earlier this year indeed call for giant cuts in offensive strategic weapons, but each proposal lopsidedly favors the country that originated it. The Soviets, for their part, would reduce strategic delivery systems by 50 percent but they include more U.S. systems than their own. Likewise, the American proposal would cut the strategic missile forces to 5000 warheads for each and would drastically reduce, even eliminate, intermediate-range missiles on both sides. Since the Soviets are "ahead" of the U.S. on both counts, our proposal would have the Russians eliminate more warheads than the U.S.

On the other hand, the upbeat tempo of the summit creates anticipation of a positive and dynamic course of development in U.S.-Soviet relations. The superpower harmony that is projected is largely symbolic but not without significance. It means that while the relationship is short on mutual interests and trust, this need not prevent the two from cooperating on issues that do **not** touch their respective vital interests. As a pledge of their intentions, each side agreed to a tacit moratorium on "megaphone diplomacy": the U.S. will be less vociferous on human rights issues and the Soviet Union less acrimonious in its anti-"Star Wars" campaign. These understandings incur no real costs or risks, and the effect is to remove for the time being obstacles that have hindered discussion on subjects that might be relatively open for a concerted superpower effort.

Foremost among the issues that could be discussed and agreed upon in the near future are the Threshold Test Ban Treaty and the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty. The treaties were negotiated a decade ago by the superpowers and only await

ratification. Both agreements would ban underground nuclear tests above 150 kilotons. The Americans and Soviets may also work cooperatively on ways to uphold the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to seek to ensure against the spread of nuclear weapons.

The second set of issues where the superpowers could cooperate relate to regional problems, particularly Afghanistan and the Middle East. The Reagan-Gorbachev talks revealed areas for possible discussion in reducing Soviet troop strength in Afghanistan, as well as in having both an American and a Soviet presence in the framework of the Middle East peace process. A closely related problem — terrorism — might also prompt combined U.S.-Soviet efforts to deal with the random violence that has affected Soviet as well as American citizens.

Is it possible that the symbolic unity displayed by the 1985 summit will become a reality? What does President Reagan's reference to "a fresh start" mean for the future course of superpower relations? What role might they together play on the international scene? What kind of a world would we want superpower accord to create? We tend to assume that a "closer" U.S.-Soviet relationship is an end in itself. Is it?

The implications of the growth of superpower accord for the rest of the world, as well as for the superpowers themselves, have not been thoroughly considered. Attention has been so heavily focused on bringing the superpowers together that we have not explored the implications of U.S.-Soviet solidarity for Europe, China, Japan, or the host of small powers. There may be a point where the development of mutual interests between the "Big Two" becomes so dominant that they work to the disadvantage of the many.

Nonetheless, the fact remains that our times and the recent summit conference, in particular, reflect a world that is dominated by the superpower relationship. That world however, enjoys none of the certainty or security that historically has resulted from hegemonic power. The challenge to the U.S. and the Soviet Union is not whether they can work together but how they can order and manage their condominium of power to serve best the interests of the rest of the world.

Campus Notes

- Our first Core Curriculum course, "Three Crises in Western Culture: Civilization on Trial," was featured in the October 1985 issue of "Forum for Liberal Education." Published by the Association of American Colleges, this issue was devoted to exploring the recent emphasis on the more traditional subject matter of the humanities. In the words of editor Peggy Ann Brown: "The programs described here demonstrate that the humanities are alive and connected to what students need and want to know."

"Three Crises in Western Culture," first taught in 1981, has been presented four times to our undergraduates and three times in the summer institute for talented and gifted high school students. The course was designed and taught by Robert A. Walkling, associate professor of physics; Gloria S. Duclos, professor of classics; Craig Dietrich, associate professor of history and current director of the Core Curriculum; William J. Gavin, professor of philosophy; and Jeremiah P. Conway, associate professor of philosophy.

- There will be meetings on both campuses for employees to air concerns about the smoking policy to be implemented on January 1, 1986. In Portland the meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 11, in Campus Center, Room C. The Gorham meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Thursday, December 12 in the Presidential Dining Room.

- There will be a party in honor of Joseph Chandler, associate professor, School of Business, Economics and Management, who is retiring after 17 years at this institution. The party will be held beginning at 6:00 p.m., Friday, December 13. For more information,

call Marie Dickson, SBEM, at 780-4020.

- Part II of a Communication Workshop presented by Staff Development Program will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, December 10, in the Presidential Dining Room, Gorham. It is open to USM staff who are interested in an in-depth discussion of good communication. For more information, call Mary I. Collins, director, Staff Development, at 780-5383.

- The Department of Conferences is now offering a "Hotel Corporate Room Rate" at several participating hotels in Greater Portland. With this special contract, Conferences acts as the agent for the University and gets reduced sleeping rooms and meeting room rates for guests of USM departments and divisions, schools and colleges. There is no charge for this new service. For more information, call 780-4074.

Menna Means Music

Jenny Menna calls music "a special language." She uses that language to "communicate my feelings more clearly, and I find the flute to be a really good vehicle."

The junior music major and her group — the Jenny Menna/Tony Gaboury Jazz Quartet — have just released an album of their music entitled "Times Remembered." On the Jento label (their own), it is a collection of the quartet's "smooth, fluid, melodic improvisation" on flute, guitar, acoustic bass and drum.

Menna began playing the flute just 10 years ago at the age of 16, after years of playing the piano. She studied, before coming to USM, with Randy Bowman, principal flutist with the Portland Symphony Orchestra. Here she has been a pupil of Rhonda Martin and Susan Thomas. Although her work at USM has been in classical music, she credits her instructors with giving her the courage to branch out into jazz. "They've really supported my jazz playing," she said.

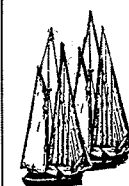
The quiet-spoken musician finances her part-time education here with "gigging and teaching." She has 10 private



Jenny Menna pictured here with UMA guitar instructor Tony Gaboury. (Nina Carter photo)

flute students. A recent "gig" that many members of the University community will recall was the public opening of the Campus Center, when the elegant sounds of the quartet floated among the festivities with the delicacy of a hummingbird.

For those who would like a copy of "Times Remembered," it is available in the Concert Manager's Office in room 103, Bailey.



University of Southern Maine
CURRENTS

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Materials should be submitted no later than Thursday noon, 11 days prior to publication to: 601 CRAS, Portland. Distribution is free. Third class postage is paid at Portland, ME 04103.

Is there really a Santa Claus?

Adults have fielded this question more often than any other on record. Of course there's a Santa. Talk to any merchant during the month of December if you need convincing. Better yet, buttonhole any 6-year-old child. After that age, children leave home and may fall under the spell of some hard-nosed, worldly-wise classmates. Although these smart alecks are everywhere, they seem to abound in nursery schools on university campuses. Many are the offspring of learned professors and, as such, have traveled the globe on expeditions and research grants. Yet in their entire repertoire of speech, there's rarely an instance of "please," "thank you," "may I," "sir or ma'am." We call them "cultured barbarians." Poor Christopher, my son, suffered from one year when I was a graduate student. They did more to tarnish his image of Santa Claus than anything we had ever encountered. Cold, rational, and calculating, they waged a veritable crusade against old St. Nick. However, Christopher eventually beat these little brats at their own game.

Being of the twenty-first century, these intellectual snobs put little stock in folklore, yet could be sold the Brooklyn Bridge if the pitch were made over television. They were prodigies of the electronics age; TV transistors and cassette recorders were their bible. That was to be their downfall, as you shall see.

For years we had made tape recordings of Santa's visit to our home. With time, the production became fairly elaborate, almost rivaling the best of



radio during its golden era. My wife Mary provided the sound effects, bells and the sound of boots and reindeer hooves, while I provided the "ho, ho, ho." After a few dry runs, the tape rolled. Up I marched to the children's rooms, mentioning some personal highlight of the year, ticking off their gifts, and then planting "the magic kiss" on each forehead, which, with the help of Mary's special audio effects, sounded like a popping champagne cork.

On Christmas morning, the children

would bail out of their beds and head to the tree like assault troops hitting the beach. After a few frantic minutes of tearing open presents, they would inevitably start begging for the Santa Claus tape. The tape became so famous that eventually every child in our neighborhood came around to get an earful of Santa.

Such an outpouring of interest and belief gave Christopher all the courage he needed. On the first day after the Christmas vacation, he brought the tape to school. You didn't need a crystal ball to predict the results; most of the children were immediately convinced, a few were borderline, while one

or two remained doubting Thomases.

What grown-ups fail to understand is that a belief in Santa Claus and other great heroic figures is as much a part of the child's natural development as learning to talk, walk, read or ride a bike.

Like developments in other areas, the belief in Santa goes through stages. At first, this belief is based solely on blind obedience to authority, namely, the parents' statement about whether there is or is not a Santa Claus. Next, the child hopes that by believing in Santa he'll get his presents. It's the old saw: you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours. The third level finds the youngster on the fence. He is in doubt, but continues to believe to please his parents or to keep peace in the house with his younger brothers or sisters. At the next stage, the child makes the break with belief not because of any hard reason but rather because he's going along with the crowd: in short, peer pressure. Finally, logical inconsistencies blow the belief to pieces: "How does he get all those toys for everyone in the world in one sleigh?"

Ask your youngster about Santa and use these stages to help gain some insight into his belief. Remember this belief passes through five stages: (1) blind obedience; (2) hope; (3) doubt; (4) peer pressure; and (5) logic.

Stephen P. Lehane is director of University Child Care Services. This is a chapter from his book, "The Creative Child," published by Prentice-Hall.

• Asbestos (cont. from p.1)

Library just as workers were replacing drainpipes as part of the repairs made to the lower roof of CRAS/SOL. During the procedure, workers had dislodged asbestos-bearing textured cement on the ceilings and upper walls in three areas. Nadeau recognized the textured cement used for cosmetic purposes as a spray-on product which sometimes contains asbestos. Later tests confirmed this and revealed it to contain 10-20 percent of the naturally occurring, fire and rot resistant fiber. (CRAS/SOL is the only USM building containing this spray-on asbestos finish, according to Nadeau.)

All three of the areas around the drainpipes which originally had appeared as "sores or bubbles" have been re-encapsulated, according to Joseph P. Papa, director of Facilities Management, who along with Nadeau attended the informational meeting arranged by Law School Dean L. Kinvin Wroth.

Asbestos fibers, when airborne, have been known to cause serious lung disease once inhaled. Encapsulated asbestos, that is, asbestos locked in or enclosed, poses no health threat. It is when the integrity of materials is disturbed that the fibers become air-

borne and potentially hazardous if exposure occurs for sustained periods of time. OSHA has established safe levels of asbestos in the air which allow only two fibers, no longer than five microns per milliliter of air, with no more than 10 fibers per milliliter over an 8-hour period.

Since the November meeting, Cur-rents has learned that there has been a visual check of all areas of CRAS/SOL containing the spray-on asbestos for possible problem areas; that air samples were taken from several areas and are being analyzed by an independent laboratory; and that training sessions on the proper recognition and handling of asbestos have been conducted for DFM by an outside safety/medical consultant.

If USM employees suspect dust to contain asbestos, Nadeau advised at the meeting that they spray it first with a fine water mist — "Don't disturb it," he cautioned — and call DFM at 780-4160 for removal. Nadeau also encouraged students and staff who have questions about regulations and removal procedures to call the Bureau of Safety Standards in Augusta at 289-2591. That office will follow up on any verbal inquiries.

Gorham Night

The USM Athletic Department will roll out the red carpet on Saturday, December 14, in a special appreciation night for the people of Gorham. The Huskies men's and women's basketball teams will do battle with the Anchormen of Rhode Island College in a high-powered double-header that traditionally promises excitement.

The women's game will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by the men's tip-off at 7:30 p.m. in the Hill Gymnasium. Fans in attendance will be treated to pre-game festivities and Gorham residents will be provided with halftime refreshments. Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend.



Some administrative changes were announced in the School of Nursing prior to the start of the fall semester. Sallie C. Nealand, left, formerly acting associate dean for undergraduate affairs, has been named the new associate dean for undergraduate affairs. Kathleen I. MacPherson has accepted the appointment of associate dean for graduate affairs. MacPherson previously held the post of acting assistant dean for graduate affairs.

(Caswell photo)

What We're Doing

HENRY C. AMOROSO JR., associate professor, College of Education, has been informed that his manuscript, "Conversations with a New Literate," has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Reading* as a commentary. He also has received notice that two of his research papers have been accepted for presentation at the 1986 American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The titles of the papers are "Creole Language Differences and Literacy: Some Psycholinguistic Considerations for Global Development of Education," and "Personal and Social Aspects of Literacy Learning."

KATHIE L. BENTON, director, Office for Prior Learning Assessment, spoke to the Maine Association of Professional Accountants on the topic "Educational Assessment for Professional Credits."

JOSEPH CHANDLER, associate professor of labor and industrial relations, School of Business, Economics and Management, has had one of his cases published in the *Bureau of National Affairs Labor Arbitration Reporter*, November 13, 1985: 85 LA 511. The case concerned the use of unit personnel in non-unit work at a plant in Elizabethton, Tenn.

CAROL LYNN DAVIS, assistant professor, College of Education, and **CHERIE M. FOSTER**, assistant professor, College of Education, presented a paper on "When is the Middle School Job Finished?" at the National Middle School Association's annual conference held in Baltimore, Md.

ROBERT W. FINDLAY, professor of accounting, spoke to the Maine Association of Professional Accountants on the topics "Requirements for a Degree; Continuing Education; Cooperative Education; and Internship."

ROY A. GALLANT, planetarium director and adjunct professor of English, is doing a live show, "Comet Watch," every Monday at 6 p.m. on WCSH-TV News, Channel 6, Portland. He is reporting on the progress of Halley's Comet and presenting information on comets in general.

HAIG H. NAJARIAN, professor of biology, gave a public lecture on "Religion and Politics in the Middle East" at Temple Beth-El in Portland.

FRANCES SAYERS, assistant professor of communication, attended a seminar entitled "Women and Their Communicative Power: Theory, Research and Practice," in connection with the Speech Communication Association's annual convention in Denver, Colo., and presented a paper, "A Statement of Position on Gender and Power."

LEONARD SHEDLETSKY, associate professor of communication, presented a position paper at the Speech Communication Association's seminar, "Intrapersonal Communication: Theory, Research, and Practice," in Denver, Colo. Also, he participated in two workshops: "Microcomputer Applications in Communication" and "Teaching the College Course Series: Gender and Communication." Earlier this fall, he rated and ranked the manuscripts submitted to the Western Speech Communication Association's Language Behavior Interest Group for their 1986 conference.

WILLIAM H. SLAVICK, professor of English, presented a paper, "The Souths of DuBose Heyward and William Faulkner," at the DuBose Heyward Centennial Conference in Charleston, S.C. Slavick had proposed the conference to the sponsoring South Carolina Historical Society and assisted in securing its funding.

ROBERT S. SOUTHWORTH, professor of educational psychology, and **JOHN W. SUTTON JR.**, associate professor of human resource development, gave a presentation "Are Male and Female Counselors Really Different?" at the New England Personnel and Guidance Conference in Hyannis, Mass.

RICHARD H. STURGEON, director of the Advising and Academic Information Department, was recently selected as the recipient of the Marion Meyer Distinguished Service Award for the Northeast Region of Academic Affairs Administrators. The award was presented at the annual meeting of the organization.

WILLIAM STURNER, professor of management and organizational psychology, gave three

presentations on various aspects of "Risking Change" at the meetings of the National Association for Gifted Children held in Denver, Colo.

JOHN M. SUTTON JR., associate professor of human resource development, and **ROBERT F. SEIBEL**, associate professor of law, have had an article entitled "A Joint Internship Program for Law and Counseling Students" published in the *Journal of Counseling and Development*.

DUANE R. WOOD, dean, School of Business, Economics and Management, has been named program chairperson for the New England Association of Colleges of Business Administration for 1986. The University of Southern Maine will be the host institution for the 1986 NECBA Regional Meeting.

L. KINVIN WROTH, dean, School of Law, served as chairman of the Joint American Bar Association-Association of American Law Schools site inspection team that visited the University of Toledo College of Law. The visit was part of the 7-year reaccreditation procedure conducted by the two organizations for all accredited law schools. Wroth was recently appointed a member of the board of directors of Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc. Pine Tree is the statewide provider of legal services for the indigent funded by the Federal Legal Service Corporation. It employs 25 lawyers who serve Maine's low income people at offices located throughout the state.

A Call for Themes

Although our successful 1985-1986 Convocation, "The Aging of America" is well underway, President Woodbury has invited us to submit proposals for a theme to the 1986-1987 Convocation.

The Convocation theme should "incorporate issues of a serious intellectual nature, lend itself to consideration by a wide variety of disciplines and fields, bring together different constituents within the University, and be accessible to the larger community outside the University."

The past four Convocations have focused on the city, changing roles of women and men, computers and the nuclear age.

Please submit your ideas to the President's Office, Portland Campus.

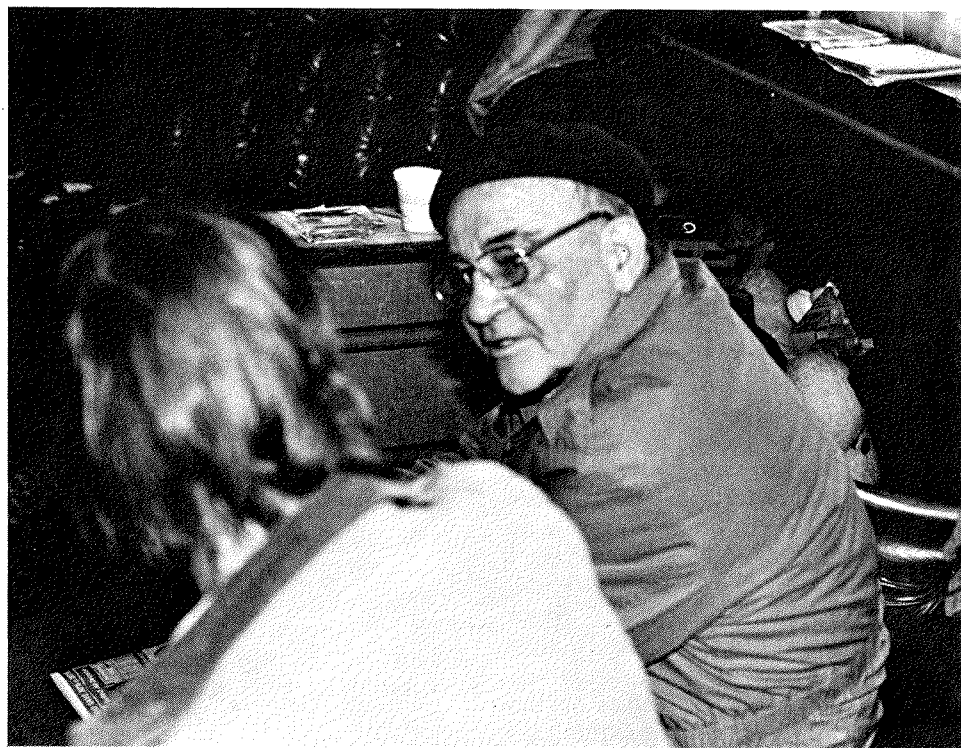
Alumni Telethon Exceeds Goal

The 1985-86 Alumni Association Telethon wrapped up its annual effort with pledged amounts in excess of its \$30,000 goal.

For the third year, USM students participated in the Annual Fund campaign. Sixteen people worked a bank of phones in Alumni House, Portland, to reach graduates in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Florida.

"The annual telethon is one of the most efficient and cost effective fund-raising techniques, exceeded only by one-to-one personal contact, which simply is not possible for the thousands of alumni we reach each year," said Alumni Director Anne M. Theriault. "Also, we have seen an increase in telethon dollars since students joined the effort. Alumni like to talk with present students and alumni workers enjoy working with students — enthusiasm runs high and a real momentum builds during the evening.

A Valuable Resource



Joe Kreisler (on the right) talks with a client at the Preble Street Resource Center. The project, supported by a crazy quilt of funding, is run largely on voluntary donations, proceeds from student bake sales and an occasional grant such as a recent \$1500 gift from Mark Stimson Associates. The space for the program is donated by the Portland Ministry. (Greaves photo)

He has a round face, merry eyes framed in wire-rimmed glasses and a hearty laugh. Sound like Santa Claus? Well, to many of Portland's troubled and homeless people, he is Santa Claus, but the University community knows him as Joseph D. Kreisler, associate professor of social welfare.

For more than a decade, Kreisler has run the Preble Street Resource Center, an 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. crash pad for drifters and first aid station for people with housing difficulties in Portland.

With the help of student interns — this semester there are nine, "but we've had as few as three" — Kreisler serves nearly 1000 people each month, helping them find suitable housing, or deal with a difficult landlord, and sometimes providing clothing. Many clients come to use the phone, a connection to a world that is often hostile. At the resource center, located in the basement of the Preble Chapel, there is always hot coffee and some donut holes, a pot of chili or beans, and a tray of cheese and crackers. Most importantly, however, there is always a willing listener.

"The people who come here feel pretty much rejected by the whole world, and we try to create an atmosphere where they can take a break from life, relax a little bit, find out there are some people who are kind, and hopefully, learn a little bit in the same process," explains Kreisler. "When they're ready to talk about solving some issue, they know somebody's here to help them with it."

Linda is one such client. A 34-year-old married woman with a school-age son and another child "possibly" on the way, she is a regular at the Resource Center. She's received help with a troublesome landlord, got clothing for her son, and heard sympathetic words when her mother died not long ago.

"I can come here when I'm down and out to turn to somebody," she said. "They may not have the right words all the time, but they listen."

She and others who talked with Currents view the Resource Center as a place to socialize, like 72-year-old Betty, who appreciates "the sociability here. Without the Resource Center, you'd have no place to go and see nice people. You'd wander around all day," says this wizened woman who, until interns here found her shelter that had "a little privacy," toted her worldly goods around in bags and boxes.

For Parke, a middle-aged cook and house painter, Kreisler's crash pad helps establish a routine to keep sober. He, too, needs the social aspect of the center, but in the past was helped to find his current housing — a place where he enjoys kitchen privileges. "I'm an alcoholic by trade," he says, "and I hang around here to keep away from the people on the streets. This eight hours a day helps keep me sober. Here there are people who understand me and help me. This is a wonderful place."

For the students, of course, it is a learning laboratory, a different kind of placement than in schools or human services agencies. Here they see all the "different populations," as one termed it, or as another put it, "a whole grab bag of people of all ages." An internship here provides an opportunity for students to work with various agencies and members of the business community, a chance to learn what to expect from a job supervisor and to decide on a graduate school specialty. Senior Julie Bourgoine says her experience at Preble Street has been "a real awakening to learn that these people really are here, and really are in need of housing." Students also learn that they can help direct these people to resources that alleviate their needs.

Since 1974, Joe Kreisler has offered this valuable learning experience to hundreds of USM students, but more than that, he has given the gift of hope to those without it, and provided a shelter from the cold and a respite from loneliness to thousands of Portland's homeless.

Sounds like Santa Claus to me!

by Karen Greaves