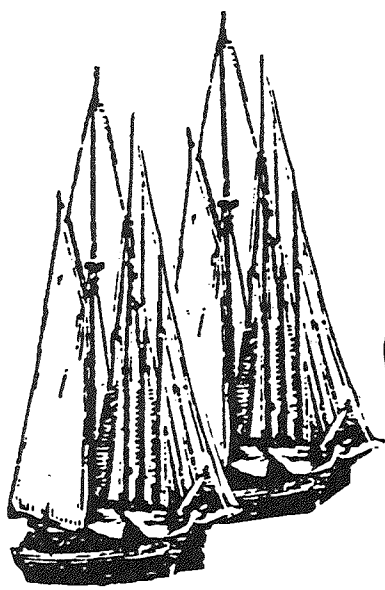


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*University of Southern Maine*Sandy Hughes
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University of Southern Maine CURRENTS

Volume 5, Number 11

February 23, 1987

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(Hughes photo)

And the Winners Are . . . Robert McGurn and Michelle Damato!

For the first time in the history of the American College Theatre Festival, two theater students from the same school have earned the top awards in the Irene Ryan Competition.

The festival, held at Keene (N.H.) State College earlier this month, netted USM students Robert McGurn the best actor award and Michelle Damato the best partner (supporting) award. Some 76 contestants from 50 New England schools were competing for honors at the annual event.

McGurn and Damato will travel to Washington, D.C. this April to compete against 11 other regional winners in the national competition held at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

McGurn of Scarborough presented excerpts from two plays: "Constantinople Smith" by Charles L. Mee, Jr., and "Cabin Twelve" by John Bishop. The competition called for two contrasting performances, one solo and one with a partner. McGurn, an English teacher at Bonny Eagle High School in Standish, is on a one-year sabbatical to earn a theater degree at USM.

Damato of Rockland partnered with McGurn on "Constantinople Smith" to win the best partner award. Damato, a junior, is best known for her work in the hour-long WCSH-TV special "The Quest for Grace O'Malley," the 1985 winner of the Children's Theater of Maine play

writing contest which aired in September, 1985.

This is the second time in four years that a USM student has won the Irene Ryan Competition. Terry Drew from Oakland won the best actor award in 1984 as a USM senior.

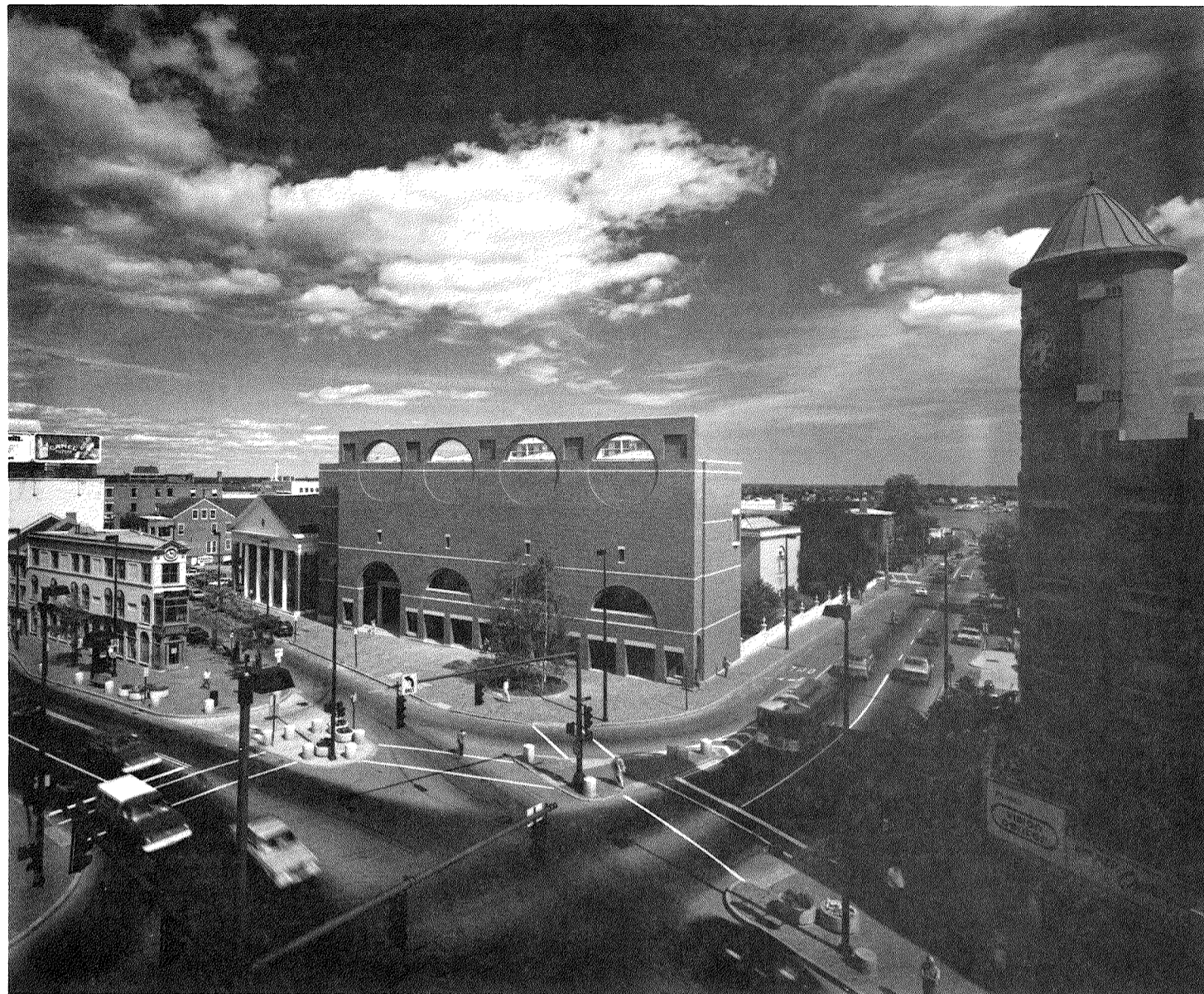
And of course, just last year USM's production of "GYNT" was named one of the best collegiate plays in the country.

"Bob and Michelle are both extremely talented students," said Minor R. Rootes, chair of the Department of Theatre, "and representative of the kind of students the department has attracted in recent years. They've accomplished this feat not only with their talents, but with long, long hours of

rehearsal for a five and a half minute performance. They are the kind of people who make teaching worthwhile."

The Irene Ryan Foundation was established in 1971 to award scholarships to the most talented student actors playing in the American College Theatre Festival. Irene Ryan's credits included numerous stage and screen appearances, including a role as "Granny" in the television series "The Beverly Hillbillies."

If McGurn and Damato are successful in the national competition, they will earn scholarships of \$2,500 for the best actor award and \$250 for best partner award.



The Portland Museum of Art at Congress Square.

(Rosenthal photo)

A Free Museum Visit

Have you been to the Portland Museum of Art recently?

Well, now's your chance and all you'll need is your valid University I.D. card.

To support the University's convocation theme, "The Arts in Our Lives," the museum is generously offering free admission to all staff, faculty and students (and one guest) from Tuesday, March 10 through Sunday, March 15. Museum hours are: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Thursday 'till 9 p.m.) and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

On special exhibit that week will be "The Modernist Tradition: Paintings and Sculpture from the 1950s to 1980s." John Holverson, museum director, will give a "gallery talk" on the exhibition at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday the 11th and Saturday the 14th.

Also, on Thursday, March 12, the film "Artists at Work" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. The film highlights the various endeavors of the WPA project in the 1930s.

If you haven't been to the museum in a while, now is the time. Margaret K. Burchenal, education director at the museum, explains, "Exhibits change all the time. If you haven't been here since we opened, you may be pleasantly surprised."

Computer Adventures in Cairo

by Bruce MacLeod

EDITOR'S NOTE: It started out as a single trip to Cairo. Bruce MacLeod, an instructor of computer science, accompanied his wife to Egypt while she completed research on Moslem customs. By the time it ended, Bruce was leading seminars throughout several Middle Eastern countries to help social scientists with their work on such problems as child mortality and nutrition.

Cairo, Egypt is a strange place to learn about computers. It is a noisy city. A million taxicabs successfully (most of the time) negotiate narrow, pedestrian-filled streets thanks to Allah's grace, a lot of nerve and the car horn. Cairo also hosts the "Kumseen," two weeks of sand and hot desert winds which reduce visibility to levels similar to those off the Maine coast in heavy fog. And you also contend with interruptions in the workday. Three-hour teabreaks are not uncommon; residents are justifiably proud of their characteristic Middle Eastern hospitality.

These images are indeed difficult to square against the feverish pace of "high-techies" in sleek-glassed buildings surrounded by superhighways.

My adventure into the world of Egyptian computer science started on one very hot day during a year's stay in Cairo. An offer was extended to visit an antiquated mainframe computer. Given that mainframes need to be air

conditioned, I was more than happy to accept.

It was an ancient metallic thing, left over from first-world computations and passed on to an unsuspecting institution. The enormous effort that went into making this monster perform made it clear that up-to-date information on computers was needed in this developing country. Equally clear was the absolute hopelessness of trying to satisfy their computer needs with this beast called a machine.

With support from the Ford Foundation and Population Council, I learned how to effectively use microcomputers to solve many of the computational problems posed by social scientists. From this experience, I was asked to develop a training seminar for social scientists who wanted to be self-sufficient computer users. In all, seven seminars were held in Egypt, Sudan and Jordan. The most recent was held over this past winter break.

The success of these seminars has been largely due to the interest of participants. They are a dedicated group of individuals working on such problems as child mortality, nutrition, and population growth. For these researchers, microcomputers are the only avenue for effective and timely analysis of their data. In Cairo, it is not unusual

for a mainframe establishment to take six months to perform approximately 20 percent of the analysis needed. The only other real alternative to local mainframe establishments is for the researcher to pass the data on to colleagues in developed countries. Microcomputers allow researchers in developing countries such as Egypt to analyze their own data, in their own country and in a reasonable amount of time.

The content of the seminars primarily involved the use of a data base package (dBase III) and statistical analysis package (SPSS-PC). Elementary material in both these software packages was covered in the seminar. Some advanced material, meant to address the specific needs of social scientists was also covered. The participants brought a dataset to the seminar and perform analysis on that data during the "hands-on" portion of the seminar.

Overall, it was one of those rare instances that worked to the benefit of all concerned. I felt fortunate to be working with an interested and dedicated group of colleagues. And we all were gratified to put our expertise to use in helping people solve some of the pressing social problems of the late 20th century.

Presidential Fellowship Deadline Nears

The University of Southern Maine offers one outstanding, graduating senior of a four year program, a full-time, professional internship each year. This internship — called the Presidential Fellowship — allows the student an opportunity to work in university departments of his or her interest.

The appointment begins in September, 1987 and will continue until May, 1988. Faculty should encourage seniors with a strong academic record, and solid interpersonal skills, to apply. Students who have been extensively involved in University activities are given preference.

Those interested should submit a current resume and cover letter to the President's Office no later than Friday, March 13. Specific areas of interest within the University operations should be noted. Two letters of recommendation should also be sent directly to the President's Office.

The current Presidential Fellow, James Parker, graduated last year with a B.A. in political science and communication. He has worked in the Office of Admissions, Division of Human Resources, Financial Resources and Institutional Research. If you have any questions, feel free to contact him at 780-4400.



Sue Ellen Kuzma in Concert

Russian songs by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff and a contemporary song cycle by Argento are a few of the works to be presented by Sue Ellen Kuzma, soprano, as part of the 1986-87 USM Faculty Concert Series. The program will be held at 8 p.m. Friday, February 27, in Corthell Concert Hall on the Gorham campus. Tickets are \$5 for adults; \$3 for students and seniors.

In addition to the aforementioned pieces, Kuzma will also present "Cuatro Madrigales Amatorios" by Rodrigo, "Ch'io mai vi possa" by Handel and several songs by Wolf and Strauss.

Kuzma, who teaches voice at USM, is a resident of Boston where she has been active in the musical community. Most recently she appeared as Despina in Peter Sellar's acclaimed versions of Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte" at the Castle Hill (Mass.) Festival in 1984. She also appeared at the PepsiCo Summerfare

Festival in Purchase, N.Y. Last year she sang Violetta in "La Traviata" with the Concert Orchestra and in the world premiere of the Philip Glass/Robert Moran opera, "The Juniper Tree," at American Repertory Theater in Boston.

She has studied at Ithaca College and at the New England Conservatory of Music, and has performed with the Cambridge Opera Workshop and the Handel & Haydn Society.

Kuzma will be accompanied on the piano by Gary Wedow, also of Boston. A collaborative pianist, Wedow has been active in the Santa Fe Opera (he has been chorus master since 1983), was associate conductor of the Handel & Haydn Society from 1974 to 1984 and is cofounder and pianist for the American Vocal Arts Quintet.

For more information contact the USM Music Department Concert Manager at 780-5256 or 780-5265.

National Women's History Month Observed at USM

"Whereas American women of every race, class and ethnic background helped found the Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways as servants, slaves, nurses, nuns, homemakers, industrial workers, teachers, reformers, soldiers and pioneers..."

The above paragraph is the beginning of a Joint Congressional Resolution passed recently by the House and Senate to make 1987 the first ever "National Women's History Month." It has been observed as "Women's History Week" since 1978.

At USM, Jo Anne Preston, assistant professor of sociology and director of the Women's Studies Program, is coordinating the many scheduled events with the assistance of secretary, Wendy Willette.

The following agenda is far from complete. Other events and observances are planned and will be announced shortly.

Any questions or comments can be directed to the Women's Study Program at 780-4289 or 780-4530.

Women's History Month Agenda

Friday, March 6

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg will present the keynote address of the month-long observance. She is professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania and president of the Berkshire Women's History Association. She will speak from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Moot Court Room, School of Law. A reception will follow the presentation from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Campus Center.

The **International Women's Day Dinner** will follow the reception and will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Campus Center dining room. Tickets for the dinner are available through the USM Women's Studies Office.

Wednesday, March 11

Joan Ferrante from Columbia University will speak on "Public Posture, Private Maneuvers: Roles Medieval Women Play," at 4 p.m., One Payson Smith Hall. The lecture is cosponsored with the Honors Program.

Thursday, March 12

Marsha Carlisle, part-time USM history instructor, will speak on "The Politics of Prostitution" at 7 p.m., Room C in the Campus Center. The lecture is cosponsored by the Women's Studies Student's Association.

Tuesday, March 17

Margaret Palmer, assistant to the dean, USM School of Business, Economics and Management, will present the film "NOW's Twentieth Anniversary" at 4 p.m., in 502 Luther Bonney Hall. The discussion and film are cosponsored by the USM School of Business, Economics and Management.

Wednesday, March 18

The film "Small Happiness" will be presented at 11:30 a.m. at 10 Bailey Hall. A discussion will follow with panelists Yilan Lui, from Hangzhou University, China; Craig Dietrich, USM history professor; and Judith Tizon, USM chair and associate professor, Geography and Anthropology Department.

Thursday, March 19

The "Small Happiness" program will be repeated at 1 p.m. in Luther Bonney Auditorium.

Tuesday, March 24

Kathleen Ashley, associate professor, USM Department of English, will present "En'gendering Faith: The Credit of Female Vision in Late Medieval Drama and Culture" at noon in the Hasting Lounge, Gorham campus. The lecture is cosponsored by the History Student's Association.

Wednesday, March 25

A panel discussion will be held beginning at noon in Rooms A and B of the Campus Center. "Issues in Women's Health" will be chaired by Nancy Greenleaf, dean of the School of Nursing, and will include panel members Julien Murphy, assistant professor, USM Philosophy Department, who will discuss "Women with AIDS: Sexual Ethics in an Epidemic" and Susan Bell from Bowdoin College who will speak on "The Lives of DES Daughters." The panel discussion is cosponsored by the School of Nursing.

Friday, March 27

Arlene Safazadeh, an Iranian filmmaker from Boston, will speak about "Nomad Life of Women in Iran" at 5 p.m. in Rooms A and B of the Campus Center. The lecture is cosponsored by the Minority Student Affairs.

A Letter from a Friend

Dear Currents:

As Anne and I drove out of the driveway of an empty President's House at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, January 30th we reflected on how the past 7 years had been some of the best years of our lives and how much we appreciated the friendship and support of so many people at USM.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are pleased to share this note from Chancellor Robert L. Woodbury. Bob and his wife Anne recently settled into their new home in Bangor.

What We're Doing

E. MICHAEL BRADY, associate professor, adult education, is coauthor of the article "The Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation of a Certificate Program in Nursing Management." It was published in the December issue of *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*.

JOHN P. BROIDA, assistant professor, psychology, has recently been awarded a grant by the National Institutes of Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse to study the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol on adult male rat sexual and aggressive behavior.

JULIE A.W. CUNNINGHAM, administrative assistant, Cooperative Extension Service, is secretary-treasurer and one of the teachers at the Hand-in-Hand Baha'i School held Sundays in Luther Bonney Hall, Portland.

GLORIA SHAW DUCLOS, professor, classics, taught a four-session program on "Law vs. Justice in the Ancient World" to gifted and talented students at Scarborough High School during November and December.

WILLIAM F. GAYTON, chairperson, psychology, recently served as moderator on panels dealing with the "Use of the MMPI with Adolescents" and "Assessment of the Adolescent At-Risk for Suicide" which were presented at the Rivendell Foundation Conference for Clinical Practitioners held in Memphis, Tenn.

JOHN GREGG, instructor, Theatre Department, directed a six-performance run of "My Three Angels," by Sam and Bella Spewack, for Theatre-on-the-Rocks, York, Me., in February.

JULIEN S. MURPHY, assistant professor, philosophy, delivered her paper "The Moral Sense — Social Systems of Relevance," at the American Philosophical Association Meetings, December 1986. In February 1987 she presented her paper "Women with AIDS: Sexual Ethics" in the Murray Center Lecture Series, at Radcliffe College.

Campus Notes

- Curtis B. Sweet, director, Telecommunications, has recently established a statewide telecommunications users group to meet monthly for the discussion of telecommunications topics including new technologies, new services in Maine, and state and national regulatory issues. He can be reached at 780-4054.

- Employee Health & Recreation is sponsoring a Boston Bus Trip, which will include stops at Quincy Market and the Flower Show, 8 a.m., Satur-

day, March 14. Cost is \$13 per person. Contact Employee Health and Recreation Program Office 780-4172 prior to 4 p.m., Friday, March 6.

- An opening reception for "Synergy — The Synergists Exhibit" will be held Saturday, February 28 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Campus Center Gallery. The exhibit, which features paintings, drawings and computer imagery of the internationally renowned artists and collaborators Darrel Anderson, Richard Berry and Phil Hale, will run through March 27.

JOB OPENINGS

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, deadline March 31, contact Leonard Shedletsky, 780-5387.

Assistant Professor, Educational Administration/Instructional Leadership, two positions, deadline March 31, 1987, contact Chairperson, Search Committee, Professional Education Department: Graduate Division, 780-5300.

Laboratory Instructor, Department of Geosciences, deadline March 9, 1987, contact Irwin Novak, 780-5350.

Director, Residence Life, deadline March 31, 1987, contact Search Committee c/o Dean for Educational Services, 780-4035.

New Academic Calendar (clip and save)

The University of Maine Board of Trustees recently approved the USM academic calendar for 1986-1987. We're publishing it here for your reference.

FALL 1987 SEMESTER

First Day of Classes	8:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 1
Labor Day (No Classes)	Monday, September 7***
Convocation	Wednesday, September 30
	No Classes: Portland, 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Gorham, 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
October Break Begins	After all classes on Thursday, October 15
Classes Resume	8:00 a.m., Monday, October 19
Thanksgiving Vacation Begins	4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25
Classes Resume	8:00 a.m., Monday, November 30
Last Day of Classes	Saturday, December 12
Final Exams	Monday, December 14 through Friday, December 18

***Special Note: Monday 4:00 p.m. and later classes will be scheduled for an extra meeting on Friday, October 30

SPRING 1988 SEMESTER

First Day of Classes	8:00 a.m., Monday, January 11
Winter Vacation Begins	After all classes on Saturday, February 13
Classes Resume	8:00 a.m., Monday, February 22
Spring Vacation Begins	After all classes on Saturday, March 26
Classes Resume	8:00 a.m., Monday, April 4
Last Day of Classes	Saturday, April 30
Final Exams	Monday, May 2 through Friday, May 6
Commencement	Saturday, May 7



(Snell photo)

A Grand Dedication

Frank Glazer will be the featured artist in a special performance scheduled for 3 p.m., Sunday, March 8 in Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham. The concert is being held to dedicate the nine-foot Concert Grand Steinway piano that graces the Corthell stage. Glazer, who advised USM on the purchase of the instrument, will perform pieces by Handel, Brahms and Chopin. A former artist-in-residence at USM, Glazer has performed in concert halls throughout the world. He has recorded numerous record albums, and is a founding member of the New England Piano Quartette. Admission to the USM concert is \$5 for adults, and \$3 for students and seniors. For more information, contact the Department of Music at 780-5256.

New Faces — New Places

DECEMBER 1986

Gordon E. Nelson, Jr., was promoted to assistant director of Facilities Management in Portland.

Fred W. Remen, was promoted to assistant director of Facilities Management in Gorham.

Daniel F. Boisclair was promoted to manager of engineering and technical assistance in Facilities Management, Portland.

Lorie M. Gallant was reclassified as senior control clerk with the Registrar, Gorham.



University of Southern Maine CURRENTS

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