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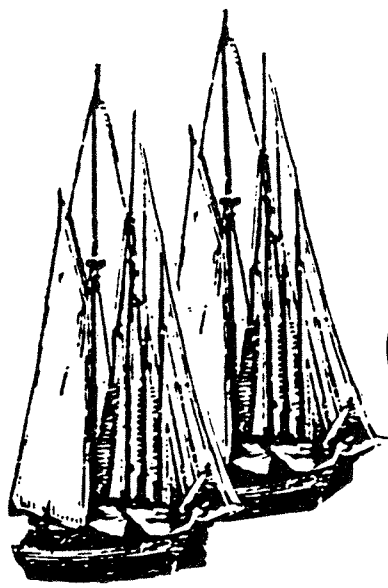
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Designer Majors Available

Things like self-designed major programs at universities had their start, it would seem, in the "do-your-own thing" 1960s.

Not so, says Robert B. Loudon, chair of USM's Self-Designed Major Program.

"Some universities have had these kinds of programs since the Second World War. Maybe in the 1960s it got a little more attention," he smiled.

At USM, the Self-Designed Major Program has been in existence since the early 1970s and Loudon, assistant professor of philosophy, took over the program this past fall.

Simply put, the Self-Designed Major Program offers students the opportunity to study areas of interest where no degree program or department currently exists. Students design their own academic programs by integrating the offerings of two or more departments into a coherent program of study leading to a bachelor's degree in self-designed studies.

Thanks to the program Paul Erwin, a junior, is earning his degree in conducting. "I've synthesized the majors in music performance and music education into a music degree in instrumental conducting," he explained. "This is probably the only place in New England where I can receive an undergraduate degree in conducting and get hands-on experience."

"The program is designed for the motivated student," said Loudon. "The typical student is older, and many times is a transfer student who started a degree program elsewhere and then finds that degree is not locally available."

This year, 30 students are participating in the program. "As a sign of the times, this year we're getting many requests from students who want to study a mix of business and communication courses," said Loudon, "and the overwhelming majority of students in the program are women."

The key to success in the program is close contact between the students and faculty. "Our faculty advising committee is made up of six faculty members, and myself, representing various areas of study at USM. We serve as judges for determining the individual merits of proposals from students and then assist them along the way," said Loudon.

Committee members are: Karen

Erickson, assistant professor of political science; Gale W. Rhodes, associate professor of chemistry; Mara Ubans, associate professor of German; Duane R. Wood, professor of management; Bruce Fithian, assistant professor of music; and Paul E. Heckman, associate professor of education.

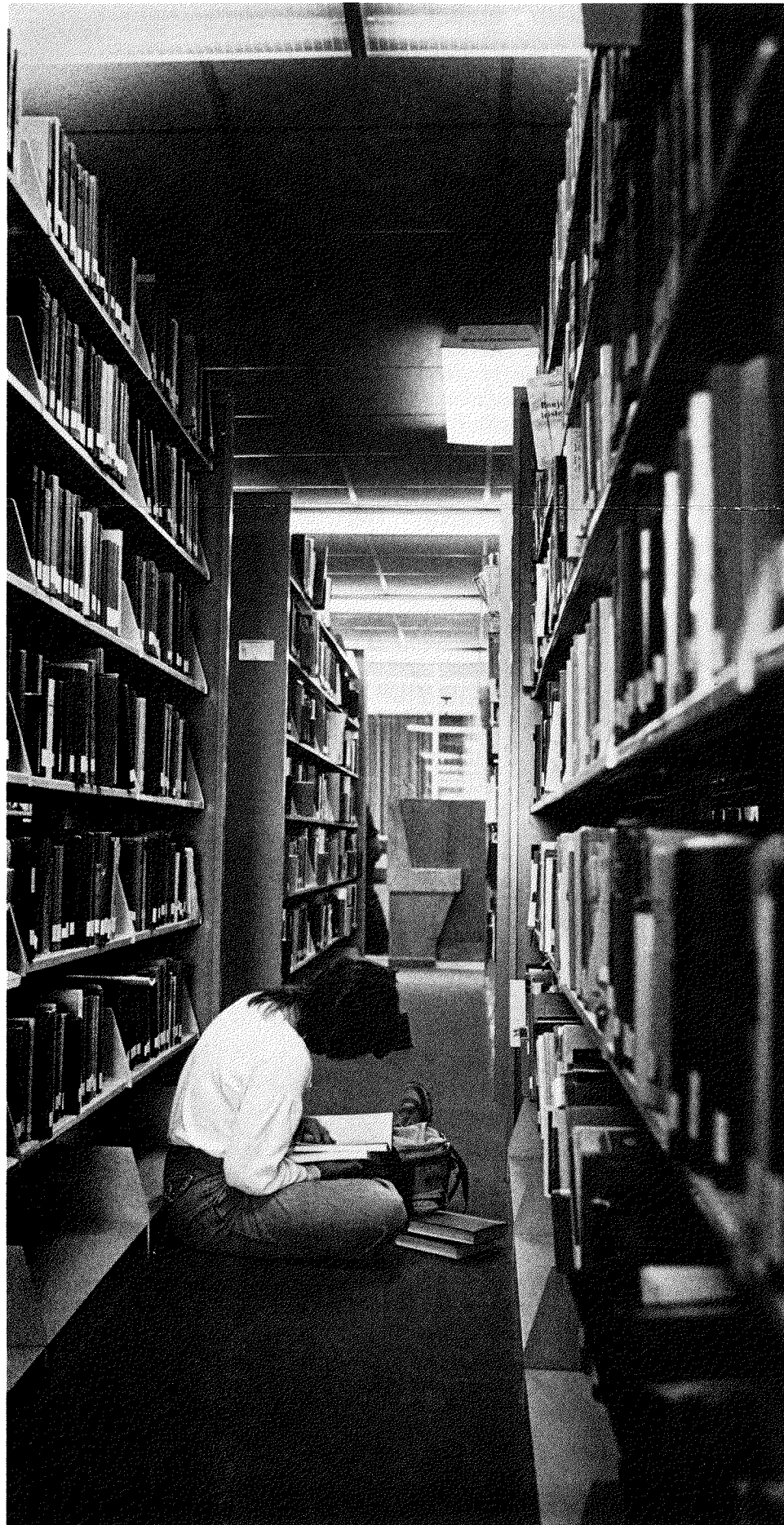
Two types of individualized programs are available: the liberal studies major and the self-designed major. Both programs are designed by the individual student in conjunction with the faculty advising committee. The liberal studies major is an interdisciplinary program within the College of Arts and Sciences; the self-designed major allows students to take a higher percentage of courses outside the College of Arts and Sciences. Approved self-designed majors in recent years have included legal studies, environmental science, health and human services administration, broadcasting and media arts.

Group contract majors are also offered under the Self-Designed Program. These majors are not totally individualized programs of study. Instead they are approved B.A. degree programs designed by USM faculty to allow a number of students to enroll in the same course of study. These include: international studies, women's studies, biotechnology, foreign languages and social science.

The Self-Designed Major Program is flexible according to the individual wants and needs of students, yet at the same time demands high academic quality before awarding a degree in any subject.

Recent proposals from hopeful entrants into the program include creative writing, personnel management, even magic. "Any student who comes to us with a serious proposal," said Loudon, "will receive serious consideration."

USM's Self-Designed Major students are, for the most part, older, more motivated and predominantly female.



USM Faculty Members are Augusta Bound

Governor John R. McKernan Jr. has named two members of our faculty to serve in top advisory posts during his administration.

Richard H. Silkman, associate professor of public policy and management, now is director of the State Planning Office, while Sawin H. Millett Jr., assistant professor of education, is McKernan's director of legislative relations. Unlike other top posts, appointments to the State Planning Office and the legislative relations staff do not require legislative confirmation.

McKernan described Silkman as a "top-flight academic who has demonstrated his concern and commitment to public policy issues." Maine's first Republican governor in 20 years will look to Silkman for growth management strategies, economic analyses and studies of related public policy issues.

The Yarmouth resident joined USM in 1983 after a tenure at the W. Averell Harriman College for Urban and Policy Sciences in the State University of New York, Stony Brook. His recent research has focused on intergovernmental relations, the efficiency of local government agencies, and the economic value of public services. Trained in economics at Yale, he most recently served as acting director of our Public Policy and Management Program.

Willis Lyford, McKernan's press secretary, said the governor asked Silkman for advice on public policy

issues during the campaign. "His appointment was a natural continuation of that," said Lyford, "and I know that Governor McKernan considers it a coup for his administration and the state as a whole to have him on board." Silkman could not be reached for an interview prior to the Currents deadline.

Millett, who served as state education commissioner in the Longley administration, joined the USM College of Education four years ago as an adjunct professor. He was named an assistant professor in 1985, specializing in school law, school financing, labor relations and related topics.

A major part of his new job will be to "develop, present and promote the governor's legislative program to the Legislature." The other major responsibility, said Millett, will be to advise McKernan on all other bills that come to him.

The Harrison resident said he volunteered to work with McKernan during the transition period before the inauguration. "This position came up in that framework," said Millett.

"Sawin brings 20 years of experience in dealing with the Legislature to this key post in my office," said McKernan. Millett also has worked as associate executive director of the Maine School Management Association.

Searches will soon be underway to find replacements for the new gubernatorial appointees.



Muskie Bikes for Upbeat

Former Secretary of State Edmund S. Muskie was in Portland late last month to cut the ribbon for a new program cosponsored by Mercy Hospital and our Lifeline. The new Upbeat cardiac rehabilitation program is for people who have been recently discharged from hospitals after treatment for heart diseases. Here, Muskie, who has suffered a heart attack, exercises while Len P. Jordan of Lifeline monitors his progress. Jordan will serve as program director of Upbeat. Look for a story on Upbeat in the Monday, January 26 issue of Currents. (Photo by Doug Jones, Courtesy of Portland Press Herald)



And you thought you had it bad?

Members of our Facilities Management crew had to clear the more than 21 miles of sidewalks leading to and from buildings on both campuses as well as the university-owned houses. Despite the Herculean task facing them, cleanup following the first storm of 1987 posed no major problems, reported DFM. The 26 university parking lots are plowed by off-campus contractors. (Hughes photo)

Consulting in Cairo

Though often busy with research and teaching duties, the University of Southern Maine's Bruce MacLeod has discovered that being a self-described Cairo "couch potato" can have its benefits.

A few years back, MacLeod, an instructor in our Computer Science Department, accompanied his wife, a professor at Bates College, on a research project in Cairo, Egypt. While she was busy with her work, researching why Moslem women were returning to veils and headcoverings, he had very little to do.

Somehow, somebody at the Population Council in Cairo got wind that there was a computer whiz just loung-

ing around and he was offered some work as a consultant.

Recently, the Ford Foundation and the Population Council, both international development foundations, invited him back during semester break to develop and conduct a seminar for Middle Eastern social scientists to help them develop the necessary skills to conduct their work on microcomputers.

MacLeod is back in the States and has agreed to write an article about his work in Cairo for Currents. We're looking forward to his insights.

Down on the Farm

Carl Veazie, an economist with an insatiable appetite for Maine statistics, is at it again. Veazie, senior economist for the Center for Research and Advanced Study who has produced statistics for such reports as "The Maine Seacoast," "The People of Maine" and "The Economy of Maine," has recently added another feather to his cap: "The Farms of Maine."

The 20-page report is filled with charts and statistics that reveal how farming has changed over the past century and how today's Maine farming community fares with other regions in the country.

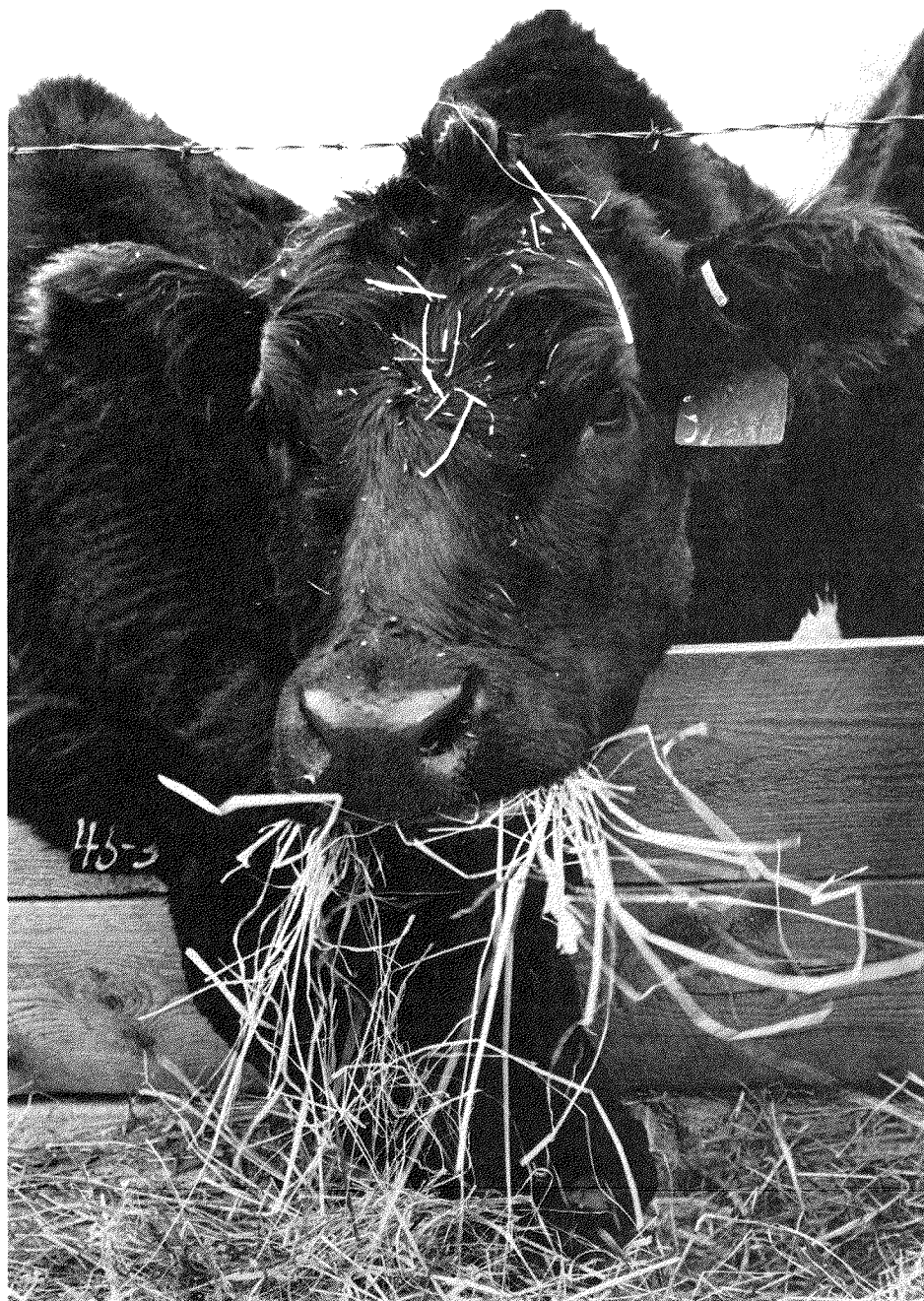
For instance:

— Only 3 percent of the state's lands — 611,000 acres — are considered farmland.

— The average size of Maine farms is 210 acres, as compared to the national average of 433 acres.

— Maine has more blueberries, chickens and sheep than any other New England state. Maine also ranks second in the country in potatoes and first in the production of brown eggs.

"The Farms of Maine" report, released last September, is the fourth "Atlas of the Resources of Maine" report that Veazie has helped research and write. "The Atlas of the Resources of Maine" series, a cooperative effort between our Center for Research and Advanced Study and the Land and Water Resources Center at the University of Maine, includes reports that focus on "every important economic and environmental facet of this state," said Veazie.



Don't tell this guy, but Maine has more chickens and sheep than any other New England state.

Economic Emphasis Underway at USM

Using private money and public resources, the Maine Council on Economic Education (MCEE) addresses a very real problem among Maine's teachers... a lack of training in economics. And this lack of training translates into a lack of understanding among students.

"Without a sound background in economics, children can't really understand how American history developed and therefore they do not get a complete education," explained Robert Mitchell, executive director of the MCEE, headquartered at the University of Maine.

Last semester a new Center for Economic Education opened at USM. The MCEE is sponsoring the center in collaboration with our College of Education's Professional Development Center and the School of Business, Economics and Management.

Under the direction of Richard L. McKeil, professor in SBEM, the new center has targeted social studies teachers in Greater Portland for in-service training in economics.

Through a series of afternoon classes, teachers study the discipline and theory of economics, and are assisted in developing curriculum programs for their schools.

In conjunction with the new Center for Economic Education at USM, the MCEE also has opened a branch office at 68 High Street in Portland in USM's Division of Public Service. This office will allow the council to serve the needs of the educational and business communities in southern Maine.

State to Act on HSDI Study

State officials will soon be addressing a need for more skilled nursing beds in Maine nursing homes thanks to a study recently completed by our Human Services Development Institute.

The study — conducted for the Maine Department of Human Services' Bureau of Medical Services — concluded that there is a lack of skilled nursing beds in the homes. HSDI Research Associate Richard H. Fortinsky headed the study.

According to Trish Riley, director of the Bureau of Medical Services, "The lack of Medicare-funded skilled nursing facility beds means that many individuals are not receiving the Medicare benefits they've paid for throughout their working lives. Without skilled nursing beds these individuals must use the intermediate care facility beds which are funded by state and federal Medicaid dollars. As a result Maine loses an estimated 2 million Medicare dollars each year."

Fortinsky conducted the research over a nine month period which included interviews with staff members of the Bureau of Medical Services, nursing home administrators, hospital discharge planners, Maine Blue Cross/Blue Shield (the Medicare agent in Maine) and the Maine Committee on Aging. He compiled statistics on cost and utilization in Maine's nursing homes to chart the trends of the past 10 years.

"The issue is a complicated one," explains Fortinsky, "The Medicare rules are over 20 years old and have not been changed to reflect the drastic changes that the health care reimbursement system has seen in the past few years.

"Medicare has continued to contribute a smaller and smaller share of funding for skilled nursing facility beds and financially, it has not always been in the best interest of nursing homes to offer skilled nursing care."

Riley noted that the bureau will be talking with the Maine Health Care Association, hospitals, nursing homes and other groups to determine ways to provide more skilled beds. "The problem is complex," she said, "but the solutions are clearly to be found through cooperative efforts of the agencies involved."

The Bureau of Medical Services has a three-year contract with HSDI to conduct studies which the Bureau feels are priority issues facing Maine residents.

HSDI is currently working on several projects for the Bureau including developing a new reimbursement system for Maine's nursing homes. HSDI is a unit of our Center for Research and Advanced Study.

A One Woman Show

An actress with numerous film, television and theatre credits will appear on campus this week in a special, one woman show.

Julie Goell will present "Parto II... Or How I Got Out of My Pajamas: The Making of a One Woman Show" at 8 p.m., Thursday, January 15, in Russell Hall, Gorham. Described as a series of experiences used to create an illusion of life, "Parto II..." has never been staged in the U.S. Goell last presented it in Poland.

An equity director, Goell, now a resident of Peaks Island, Me., has worked throughout Europe for the last seven years. Among her credits are roles in the films "Cassandra Crossing," "Eye of the Tiger," the National Public Television production of "The Life of Verdi" and several European theatre tours. In addition to acting, the Emerson College graduate has studied modern dance, jazz singing and mime.

Tickets for her January 15 show are \$3 for general public, \$2 for senior citizens, students and USM faculty/staff. For more information, call the USM Theatre Department at 780-5480. Goell's performance is sponsored by USM Cultural Affairs.

What We're Doing

JERRY L. BOWDER, professor and chairperson of the Music Department, had his composition, "Tracings," a work for string orchestra, performed by the Portland Symphony Orchestra at the November 8 Classical Series Concert.

TYBE ANN BRETT, associate professor of law, will have an article dealing with insurance against the liabilities and remedies under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund) in a forthcoming issue of the *UCLA Journal of Environmental Law and Policy*.

MONIQUE Y. CROCHET, professor of French, attended the fall meeting of the AATF — Maine Chapter which took place November 15, 1986 in Waterville.

JAMES M. FRIEDMAN, associate professor of law and legal studies, spoke on "The Rehnquist Court" at Dalhousie University in Halifax last month.

WILLIAM J. GAVIN, professor of philosophy, has an article entitled "James and Deconstruction: What Difference Does Difference Make?" appearing in Vol. LXVIII, No. 4 of *Soundings*, an interdisciplinary journal.

JOSEPH GRANGE, professor of philosophy, has been selected to be an editorial referee for the journal *Environmental Ethics* which is published by the University of Georgia.

ROBERT B. LOUDEN, assistant professor of philosophy, had his essay "Kant's Virtue Ethics" published in the October 1986 issue of *Philosophy*.

ANDREW J. POTTS, professor of accounting, has been selected to field test the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants self-study courses offered by the institute's New York office. The courses will be marketed by the AICPA to practitioners who can earn Continuing Professional Education credit.

ELLEN SCHIFERL, associate professor of art, had her fifteenth art exhibition review, entitled "Recent Works by Italo Scanga" published in *Art New England*.

LEONARD J. SHEDLETSKY, associate professor of communication, reviewed manuscripts submitted to the Language Behavior Interest Group of the Western Speech Communication Association for the 1987 conference. Last November, at the national conference of the Speech Communication Association in Chicago, he presented a critique of five papers on "Teacher Intrapersonal Communication" and attended a workshop on "Funding Sources and Proposal Development Strategies for Communication Research Projects."

DR. IRA STOCKWELL, team physician, and **DAVID BREW**, athletic trainer, conducted a clinic for basketball coaches at Hill Gym in November. The clinic was a success and a semi-annual presentation is planned.

WILLIAM STURNER, professor of management, has been appointed principal facilitator of the Chief Executive Development Program, Regional Management Centre, Co. Clare, Ireland.

L. KINVIN WROTH, dean, School of Law; **MELVYN ZARR**, professor of law; and **DAVID D. GREGORY**, professor of law, were participants in the Maine Bar Association's first annual Legal Year in Review Seminar held at the Augusta Civic Center in September, 1986. Gregory moderated a panel on tort liability; Zarr spoke on the rules of civil procedure; and Wroth, who organized the seminar, co-moderated the panel on the code of professional responsibility.

PSQ at Corthell

The Faculty Concert Series will present the Portland String Quartet on Friday, January 30 at 8 p.m. in Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham. This renowned string quartet, in residence at USM, will perform selections of music from string quartet literature spanning the classical, romantic and contemporary periods. Admission is \$5 for the general public and \$3, USM students.

Campus Note

• **Jaya Srivastava**, professor of statistics and mathematics at Colorado State University will visit USM this Thursday, January 15 for a special lecture.

Srivastava will talk on "New Results on Factorial Designs Obtained by Partial Pencils in Euclidean n-space" at 3 p.m. in Room 208, Science Building, Portland. His lecture is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact B.C. Gupta, professor of mathematics, at 780-4225 or 780-4246.

JOB OPENINGS

Job postings for classified positions are now being made on Tuesdays and Fridays at the following campus locations:

68 High Street — Portland Campus

Payson Smith Hall — Portland Campus

Law School — Portland Campus

Luther Bonney Hall — Portland Campus


Bailey Hall — Gorham Campus

Corthell Hall — Gorham Campus

Commencement Nears

Commencement this year on Saturday, May 9, will include an address given by a graduating student. Faculty members may wish to encourage their outstanding students to submit a speech, five to eight minutes in length, original in content and on a topic suitable for Commencement to the Office of Student Affairs. Selection will be based upon review by a committee of students, faculty and administrators who will judge the speeches based on quality and content.

For further information contact the Office of Student Affairs at 780-5242. Deadline for entries is Friday, February 27.



University of Southern Maine
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Clark Joins USM

Donald J. Clark has joined USM as director of Continuing Education for Business, a department which assists Maine employers with their staff development needs through seminars, courses and programs. The department is within the Division of Public Service.

Clark was previously executive director with the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a community development and management training group based in Chicago with offices worldwide. The

Old Orchard Beach resident is also founder of IRI Optimum Systems, a training consultant firm in Tokyo, Japan.

During 1987, his department will offer courses and seminars which include: management and supervisory techniques; housekeeper's programs; professional engineer review courses; quality control programs; and instruction in production and inventory control.

An Outstanding Professor

Richard H. Carter, associate professor and coordinator of industrial technology in the Department of Technology, has been named "Outstanding Professor of Industrial Technology" for Region I of the National Association of Industrial Technology. Region I is comprised of 12 states in the northeastern part of the country.

Carter received the honor for his outstanding work and active involve-

ment in industrial technology.

This includes development of teaching materials and the development of off-campus applied management degree programs at area industrial and military sites.

The Gorham resident has been a faculty member at USM for 23 years. He is a graduate of Gorham State Teachers College, the University of Maine and Boston University.

Japan-American Conference

The 39th Japan-America Student Conference designed to promote peace through mutual understanding, friendship, and trust will be held in Japan, July 20-August 20, 1987. This annual conference is student planned and managed. Students from all disciplines, freshman to graduate levels, are encouraged to apply. No fluency in Japanese is required to participate.

If you know any students who might be interested, please ask them to contact the Japan-America Student Conference, 2025 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 1023, Washington, D.C. 20006, or the USM Office of International Student Development, 120 Upton Hall, Gorham, tel: 780-5313. Application deadline is Sunday, March 1.

JOB OPENINGS

Assistant Professor, Exceptionality/Elementary Education, deadline March 1, 1987, contact Dr. David Morrill, 780-5300.

Undergraduate Faculty, Math Methods, deadline February 12, 1987, contact Dr. Margo Wood, 780-5310.

Assistant Professor, Chemistry, deadline February 15, 1987, contact Richard G. Stebbins, 780-4232.

Assistant Professor, Sociology, deadline February 16, 1987, contact Piers Beirne, 780-4100.

Assistant Professor - Sculpture, Art Department, deadline January 28, 1987, contact Juris Ubans, 780-5467/5409.

Assistant Professor - Painting, Art Department, deadline January 28, 1987, contact Juris Ubans, 780-5467/5409.

Assistant Professor - Art History, Art Department, deadline January 28, 1987, contact Juris Ubans, 780-5467/5409.

Assistant Professor - Photography, Art Department, deadline January 28, 1987, contact Juris Ubans, 780-5467/5409.

Visiting Artist-In-Residence, Art Department, deadline April 9, 1987, contact Juris Ubans, 780-5467/5409.

Management Information Systems, School of Business, Economics and Management, effective date September 1, 1987, contact Dr. Henry Parsons, 780-4328.

Assistant Professor of Business Law, Assistant Professor of Computers in Business, Assistant Professor of Real Estate, School of Business, effective dates September 1, 1987, contact Professor Joel Gold, 780-4301.

Economics Faculty (two positions), Economics Department, effective date September 1, 1987, contact Robert C. McMahon, 780-4308.

Assistant Professor, School of Business, Economics and Management, contact D.B. Hodson, 780-4187.

Assistant Professor, Human Resource Development, deadline March 15, 1987, contact Robert S. Southworth, 780-5316.

Assistant/Associate Professor, Human Resource Development, deadline March 15, 1987, contact John M. Sutton, Jr., 780-5316.