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## Post War Development at the University of Maine

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Post War Developments  
at the  
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The Maine Bulletin  
November, 1946

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A Letter from the President to  
Graduates and Former Students



University of Maine  
November, 1946

THE MAINE BULLETIN

Vol. XLIX

NOVEMBER, 1946

No. 4

Published by the University of Maine  
Issued monthly in August, September, October, November,  
December, January, April, and May, twice in February, and  
three times in March.

Entered at the Orono Post Office as second-class matter.

Orono, Maine

November 18, 1946

*To the Alumni:*

A year ago the University of Maine had 1,231 students. By the end of the 1946 spring term, enrollment had increased to 1,896. Today there are 3,253 students on the Orono Campus and another 800 on The Brunswick Campus, which has been established for freshman war veterans at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Behind those figures is a story of effort, achievement, and opportunity. It is a story of lasting significance in the history of the University. That is why, as president of the educational institution which has meant much to you, I am writing now to tell you of things that have been done and of goals that have been set for the future.

An era of expansion for the University was foreseen last winter, when large-scale demobilization got under way. It was soon apparent that there would be a flood of entrance applications from veterans—from our own former students, and from those who had gone directly from the secondary schools into military service.

As a State institution, the University recognized that it owed a particular obligation to the war veterans of Maine. Trustees and staff decided to "go the limit" in admitting qualified men and women from the services and in enabling them to continue their education under the most favorable possible circumstances. At the same time, it was recognized that here was the greatest single opportunity the University had ever had to widen its influence in the community it was built to serve, and in the very ways for which it was designed.

Besides the 800 veterans at The Brunswick Campus, there are 1,976 veterans, including 51 women, at Orono this semester. (Women students in the non-veteran group at Orono number 700.) Such is the statistical reflection of the University's acceptance of its responsibilities to the men and women from the armed services.

#### HOW A CHALLENGE WAS MET

Getting ready for 4,000 students was not easy. Our highest prewar enrollment had been 2,100, in 1940-41. Time was short. Careful planning and some unusual expedients were required. Because of construction difficulties, opening of the fall semester had to be twice postponed. But we did get ready; we did begin the semester with

4,000 students; and the excess over the previous high enrollment represents for the most part students who might not have had an opportunity to go to college this year at all.

I shall tell you now of some of the extraordinary measures that had to be adopted.

### *Housing*

Of major concern was the matter of adequate housing. This problem was complicated by the fact that many veterans are married. By February, 1946, the University had provided living accommodations for veterans' families in a trailer colony of 32 units, in the University cabins, and in two other buildings converted into eight apartments.

During the summer, the Federal Public Housing Agency erected 23 two-story buildings at the southern end of the Campus. These, designated as "South Apartments," accommodate 196 families. Because many of our new staff members, and some of those who were returning from wartime leaves of absence, could not find places to live, the colony in South Apartments temporarily includes 40 faculty families.

At the north end of the Campus, 690 men are living in barracks, which were also provided by the Federal Public Housing Agency. Two bar-

racks in front of the Carnegie Library are housing freshman women. The cost of erecting these temporary buildings has been borne by the Federal Government, but the University has had to bear the cost of grading of roads and of providing access to utilities.

Admittedly, these temporary buildings detract from the appearance of the Campus, but their present usefulness cannot be questioned, and they will be removed as rapidly as adequate permanent facilities can be made available.

Fraternity members will be glad to learn that the chapters are again active, and that the houses are filled to normal capacity. During the war many of the houses were leased to the University, which used them as dormitories for members of the Army Specialized Training Program and, in some instances, for women students. The cooperation given by the fraternities and their chapter advisers was of greatest assistance in the war period. Our obligation to them is gratefully acknowledged.

### *Dining Hall*

Students have to be fed as well as housed. At first it was planned to build a large dining hall on the parking area near the Field House. This project had to be abandoned when it was deter-



mined that building material shortages would make it impossible to complete such a structure on time. The feeding problem was solved by converting the east end of the Indoor Field into a dining hall and kitchen and by installing cold storage equipment in the gun room of the Military Department. Students living in the north barracks get their meals in this temporary dining hall.

### *Classrooms and Laboratories*

Even when there were only 2,100 students, we felt the need of additional classroom and laboratory space. With our increased enrollment, we have had to make more extended and more intensive use of all existing facilities. Classes are now held continuously from 7:45 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. on every school day except Saturday, when only morning sessions are held. In some courses, there are evening classes.

### *New Library*

The Trustees have felt it imperative to proceed with the interior construction of the new library even though building costs have been exceedingly high. Work is progressing steadily. The building will provide not only library facilities but some new classrooms and offices. When

construction is completed, we plan to use the Carnegie Library for classrooms, particularly for Art and Music.

### *Medical Care*

Providing adequately for the medical care of the increased number of men students necessitated an expansion of infirmary facilities. North Hall, which has served so many useful purposes in the past, has been converted into a men's infirmary of 40-bed capacity. A full-time physician has been employed as director of the University Health Service.

### *Teaching Staff*

You have read much in the news concerning the nationwide shortage of teachers. Colleges and universities everywhere have been in competition for the services of experienced and capable instructors. With its greatly enlarged student body making a much larger faculty an obvious need, the University of Maine has had to join this competition. Results, however, have been gratifying, and we feel that we have started the year with a well qualified staff at both Orono and Brunswick campuses.

In surprising degree, the situation has been alleviated by the response of educated men and

women who sensed a challenge and determined to do what they could. Persons who had left teaching to enter other fields have returned to the classroom, in some instances giving up larger salaries. Professional men and technicians have left their offices and their businesses to teach applied courses. Still others with advanced academic training and special talents that had never been put to classroom use have reported for duty. The University welcomes these newcomers and applauds their spirit.

At this point, I wish to express a sincere word of appreciation for the loyal and unselfish work done by the members of the University staff, teaching, administrative, business, and maintenance, during the war and during this period of unprecedented expansion. They have given many extra hours in order that the University might do its part in providing educational opportunities for former servicemen.

### *The Brunswick Campus*

The idea of having the University extend its operations to another campus was born early in the spring of 1946. When it became evident that the University of Maine and the colleges in this state could not expand sufficiently to enroll all qualified veterans and recent high school gradu-

ates in the fall, Governor Horace Hildreth appointed a committee to study the problem. This committee, representing the State Department of Education, the Normal Schools, the Maine Colleges, the Veterans' Administration, and the University of Maine, recommended the establishment of "an extension of the State University."

The Trustees voted to accept the assignment. They entered into an agreement with the United States Navy whereby certain facilities of the Brunswick Naval Air Station located on U. S. Route 1, about three miles from Brunswick and five miles from Bath, were made available. Cooperation and financial assistance were given by the Governor and Council and the State Legislature. The outcome of all these efforts was The Brunswick Campus.

Entrance requirements for The Brunswick Campus are the same as for Orono. Courses paralleling those given at Orono are provided for freshmen who seek degrees in Arts and Sciences, Agriculture, and Technology. Through the College of Arts and Sciences at Brunswick and Orono, preprofessional courses are offered to meet requirements of professional schools in such fields as medicine, law, dentistry, and teacher training. In addition, an extensive athletic

and recreational program is planned for the students at The Brunswick Campus. An intramural sports program will be carried out, and a schedule of games in major sports is being arranged with other schools.

Such, in brief outline, is the record of how changing times have affected the life and work of the University in the past year.

### LOOKING AHEAD

What remains to be done is no less important than what has been done. It is true that the University has had some difficult problems. We hope that it has faced them in a manner that may be gratifying to its well-wishers. It is also true that a university exists to solve problems, that it must keep on solving them if it is to play the dynamic role in human society which properly belongs to it. Difficulties, therefore, need not be deplored unless surmounting them prove to no purpose. We must look ahead, then, to measure the import of what we have accomplished and to find the new objectives upon which we must set our sights.

With this thought in mind, I shall list some of the developments that will further the work of our University.

## *New Dormitories*

Construction has been started on an extensive project for permanent housing. Even before the war, dormitory capacity was inadequate, whether for men or for women students. To this inadequacy was added the fact that the 800 freshmen at The Brunswick Campus will require, in their later college years, the educational facilities that can only be provided at Orono. This problem was presented to the Governor and the members of the special session of the Legislature which was convened last July. An appropriation of one million dollars was granted the University, and the Trustees were authorized to borrow up to one million dollars, for construction of dining and housing facilities for 600 students.

Plans call for three dormitories with a normal capacity of about 200 each. Under ordinary conditions, two of these will be used for men and one for women. At first all three will be used for men students. The men's dormitories will be located directly north of Hannibal Hamlin and Oak Halls on Alumni Field. The site of the new women's dormitory is southwest of Balentine Hall. It is hoped that the buildings will be ready for occupancy by the opening of the fall term in 1947.

## *New Athletic Field*

Alumni may wonder why new dormitories are being constructed on Alumni Field. In 1932, at the suggestion of the Alumni Council, the Trustees adopted a block plan for the development of the Campus. This plan made provision for men's dormitories on the site of the Athletic Field and for relocation of the field on an area north and west of the Memorial Field House and Gymnasium. A recent careful restudy of the plan brought agreement that the best possible place for additional housing units for men was on the site selected by the campus planner. Necessity for prompt action left no alternative but to relocate the football field and track. The new field was used this fall with the steel stand in its permanent location.

Physical education and athletic programs (particularly track) will, of course, be somewhat handicapped this year. The new field, however, will be completed by September, 1947, including some additional play areas which will be made from the fill taken from the excavations for the new buildings. The Athletic Board members and the Physical Education and Athletic staffs agree that the new facilities for practice and games will be better than those available before the change was made.

### *Proposed Memorial Union Building*

The University is proud of the 3,900 alumni and students who served in the Armed Forces. It is, therefore, most gratifying to the Trustees and to the entire University that alumni have chosen to raise funds for a Union Building as a memorial to the 172 who died in service and as a tribute to the others whose names are on our World War II military honor roll. A finer choice could not have been made. A Union Building will represent the broadest interests of student life. It has been greatly needed for many years. By its very nature, this project is one in which alumni, students, faculty, and friends can join to render a great service to the University while honoring those to whom honor is due.

You now have the story of the doubling of the University's enrollment, and you know the plans that have been made for the immediate future. Any hardship or inconvenience that may have been caused by this expansion has been made inconsequential by what has been gained. The fine attitude and high academic achievements of our student veterans make our service as teachers and administrators a privilege. In the days ahead you will be proud to claim these



young men and women as fellow alumni of the University of Maine.

We now know that it was not a problem, nor a series of problems, that confronted us, but a great opportunity. May we continue to make the most of such opportunities.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Arthur C. Hauck*

PRESIDENT

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE



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