UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM TRUSTEES APPROVE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR USM

The University of Maine System’s Board of Trustees gave permission to the University of Southern Maine to proceed with a two-year, $25 million fundraising campaign. The Board also approved the purchase and renovation of a building in Lewiston adjacent to USM’s Lewiston-Auburn College campus and establishment of a Bachelor of Applied Science degree for the University of Maine at Augusta.

Meeting in Lewiston on Nov. 14-15, the trustees heard USM president Richard L. Pattenaude outline the $25 million fundraising campaign, which he said would be the largest in the school’s history. Funds would come from both private and public sources, with approximately $7 million already pledged or received. The funds will be used to complete existing fundraising projects such as construction of a new home for USM’s Muskie School of Public Service, its School of Applied Science, Engineering, and Technology, and the Abromson Community Education Center.

Other elements of the USM capital campaign include creating a “University Commons” on the Portland campus. The project includes a new facility to house the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and other campus improvements. Additional funds would support USM’s endowment and annual fund.

“This capital campaign will help ensure that the university has the physical capacity to increase access to high quality education,” Pattenaude explained. “It will establish the Portland campus as USM’s ‘hub’ of its multi-campus university.”

ENROLLMENT NOTES

More than three-quarters of students enrolled in public higher education in Maine attend a University of Maine System school. Enrollment totals for each of Maine’s public universities, and the net change from 2003, are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2004 Enrollment</th>
<th>Net change from 2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The University of Maine</td>
<td>11,358</td>
<td>136-student increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Southern Maine</td>
<td>11,089</td>
<td>82-student increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maine at Augusta</td>
<td>5,538</td>
<td>405-student decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maine at Farmington</td>
<td>2,349</td>
<td>71-student decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maine at Presque Isle</td>
<td>1,852</td>
<td>106-student increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maine at Machias</td>
<td>1,191</td>
<td>122-student decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maine at Fort Kent</td>
<td>1,076</td>
<td>152-student increase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other notable statistics include:

• Nearly 88 percent of students are Maine residents, following the pattern of the past several years.
• The largest numbers of in-state students come from Cumberland (6,007) and Penobscot (4,785) counties. Every county sends at least 350 students.
• More than 62 percent of students enrolled in Maine’s seven public universities and 11 academic outreach centers are women.
• Maine’s public universities include students from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Massachusetts is home to more than 23 percent of the System’s 4,262 out-of-state students.
• Student enrollment includes residents of 87 countries, with 799 Canadian students representing the largest foreign delegation.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM ENROLLMENT REMAINS STRONG

For the third year in a row, enrollment within the University of Maine System exceeds 34,000 students, with students taking a record-high number of courses and credit hours. The 2004 total of 34,253 students is the second-highest in the University System’s history, just a half-percentage point lower than last year’s record enrollment of 34,375.

“We are continuing our effort to provide high quality, affordable, and accessible education,” said University of Maine System Chancellor Joseph W. Westphal. “Maine’s future depends on cultivating an educated and qualified workforce, and we will continue to aggressively encourage Maine learners of all ages to pursue education at the next level.”

Overall, students this semester are taking more classes than in past years, resulting in a record total of 345,781 credit hours being taught by faculty members across the University System. The combination of part- and full-time student credit hours being provided creates the equivalent full-time enrollment of 24,118 students, a record net increase of 180 students over 2003.
CHANCELLOR WESTPHAL PROMOTES EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

University of Maine System Chancellor Joseph W. Westphal recently spoke to Maine’s school guidance counselors and asked them to be “active partners” in helping students and parents recognize the quality, value, and breadth of opportunities available through Maine’s public universities.

Westphal’s remarks were part of his keynote address at a two-day annual conference of the Maine School Counselor Association (MESCA) in November.

“Our objective is to increase both the number and the percent of Maine’s high school graduates who stay in Maine for their university or college education,” Westphal said. “Maine’s communities and economy suffer when young people pursue school or jobs out of state. The students lose out on the quality and value that our public universities offer, while our communities and our economy suffer from the loss of that brain power and potential.”

Westphal also reminded attendees of the University System’s initiative known as the “Public Education Partnership,” which he spoke about during his remarks at the organization’s 2003 conference.

“This Public Education Partnership commits us to offering and extending our services to our public schools, to preschools, and to related government agencies such as the Department of Education,” he explained. “It is intended to expand the university’s role as a resource for Maine’s teachers, Maine schools, and Maine’s education leaders, especially in the areas of teacher preparation and professional development.

“This is a top priority of the University of Maine System,” he added. “We have invested over $250,000 in this initiative and are working with others, including Education Commissioner [Susan] Gendron, to identify other sources of financial support to accelerate our pace.”

UMS FACULTY PARTICIPATE IN DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

The University of Maine System faculty recently explored ways to further integrate issues of diversity and interdisciplinarity into the mission and teaching of Maine’s public universities at the second annual System-wide Diversity Conference in October.

“Over the past decade, faculty members and departments within the University of Maine System have made great strides in incorporating gender, ethnicity, race, and other issues of diversity into curricula,” said Theodora J. Kalikow, University of Maine at Farmington president and chair of the UMS Diversity Committee. “Now we need to take the effort a step further to ensure that these issues are implemented more fully into academic disciplines across the University System.”

The two-day conference involved a series of panel discussions. Panelists included members of the UMS faculty and staff, representatives of Maine’s Native American populations and immigrant communities, and archaeologists and sociologists who provided expertise on issues of diversity. The goal of the conference was to lay a foundation that would enable participants to engage discussions and promote awareness in their own campus communities.
Trustees Approve Campaign for USM
(continued from page 1)

USM also benefits from trustees’ approval of a $2 million project to purchase and renovate a 40-year-old industrial building located next to USM’s Lewiston-Auburn College. Funding for expansion to LAC was provided through a voter-approved bond proposal in 2003. LAC currently enrolls more than 1,600 part- and full-time students, including approximately 400 students enrolled in courses offered by the University of Maine at Augusta.

“The expansion of LAC reflects both the demand for university opportunities in this area as well as the region’s importance to Maine’s economy,” stated Charles L. Johnson III, chair of the Board of Trustees.

Trustees also approved establishment of a Bachelor of Applied Science degree for the University of Maine at Augusta. As described by UMA president Charles Lyons, the new degree will provide graduates of a two-year technical college program — associate of applied science, or A.A.S. — to receive credit for two years of study toward a four-year bachelor’s degree in a related field.

Though more than 100 of these “articulation agreements” exist between the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System, none addresses the specific needs and interests of students whose two-year degree has focused on technical education. The new program will provide the liberal arts base and general education requirements necessary under a four-year university education, Lyons explained.

Enrollment Remains Strong
(continued from page 1)

Four of the seven universities experienced net increases in student enrollment, while three experienced net declines. Most of the decline is found among the number of students enrolled in associate-degree and non-degree programs and courses, which appears to correlate with growth in those areas among Maine’s community colleges. Under its recently approved Strategic Plan, the University System intends to eventually transfer most of its associate-degree programs to the community colleges as a way to avoid unnecessary duplication of offerings and to focus academic programming on bachelor’s and graduate degree programs.

Enrollment in off-campus distance learning courses, which are delivered through University College outreach centers and learning sites, increased by nearly one percent to 3,504 students. Of those distance learning students, 80 percent are part-time students; 79 percent are women; and 79 percent are 23 years of age or older.

The University of Maine
UMaine Prof. Kevin Boyle has been recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as the 2004 Maine Professor of the Year. A Presque Isle native and UMaine graduate, Boyle is chair of the Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy. Former Nebraska governor and U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey visited UMaine on Nov. 9 to deliver a talk based on his role as a member of the 9/11 Commission. The UMaine College of Education and Human Development, in partnership with the Old Town-Orono Kiwanis Club, has launched the 27th annual drive to collect books for needy youngsters.

University of Maine at Augusta
UMA’s new Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree has been developed to meet primarily the needs of students from the Maine Community College System (MCCS). Students who have earned an Associate of Applied Science or Applied Arts (AAS/AAA) degree in a technical or vocational area from one of the MCCS campuses may elect to pursue a baccalaureate degree, which will require the selection of a University minor program. Offered state-wide through on-site courses and Distance Learning technology, the BAS degree will be offered beginning in the Spring 2005 semester, which opens Jan. 18.

University of Maine at Farmington
In November, UMFK began construction of a new, five-story, 100-bed residence hall on campus. The $4.46 million building — being constructed to meet the University’s growing demand for on-campus housing — is slated to open in January 2006. The project is being funded by University bonds stretched over 30 years, not by taxpayer dollars. Beginning Jan. 17, UMFK will offer “Assistive Technology in Special Education,” a graduate-level course that will examine the range of “assistive technologies” available to teachers in order to serve the special needs of various students.

University of Maine at Fort Kent
UMFK, through its partnership with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities American Democracy Project, sponsored a series of political debates on campus, including one of only three held between the candidates for Maine’s Second Congressional District. A recent forum on changing forestland use and ownership in Maine brought together leaders in the industry and other concerned stakeholders with students and faculty.

University of Maine at Machias
A member of the Green Campus Coalition, UMM is committed to sustainability. UMM was recently honored by the American Cancer Society for its smoke-free policies; students and faculty in environmental sciences received an EPA grant to design a new “green” science building; and the campus continues its campaign for energy efficiency and use of “green” products. Its goal of “care of self and care of the planet” has led to the creation of a new garden maze devoted to indigenous plants, an Outback Nature Trail, and a year-long “Search for Sustainability” course and lecture series.

University of Maine at Presque Isle
UMPI and Caribou High School have been selected to join three other school-university partnerships in the Nellie Mae Education Foundation’s Partnerships for College Success initiative. The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation will provide technical assistance as the intermediary for the program. Partnerships for College Success is a new multi-year grant program of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation designed to strengthen existing collaborations between universities and high schools that seek to improve college preparation and success for all students.

University of Southern Maine
This month, University of Southern Maine unveiled its 23,000-square-foot addition to the John Mitchell Center in Gorham. The enlarged facility allows USM’s School of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology to boost educational programs and consulting services needed to grow Maine’s manufacturing and advanced technology industries. Highlights include new laboratories for industrial control and robotics, digital arts and technology, and environmental safety and health instruction, and a materials testing lab, in which a 5-ton crane facilitates testing of Maine-made products.

University College Outreach Centers
At the Maine Adult Education Association Conference in October, University College honored Judy Green and Roger Woodworth, whose commitment to providing access to post-secondary education has set the standard for service to their schools and communities. As site coordinator for 15 years, Green served students at the South Paris site until it grew to become the Western Maine University and Community College Center. Woodworth has been part of the University System’s distance education program since 1989 as site coordinator at Summer High School in East Sullivan.
CHANCELLOR’S NEWSLETTER
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To receive this publication in electronic form, please send an e-mail request to editor@maine.edu. For more information about the University of Maine System, please contact:

University of Maine System
Office of External Affairs
107 Maine Avenue
Bangor, ME 04401
Phone: 207.973.3240
www.maine.edu

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