# HUSSON

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## The Inauguration of President Lynne Coy-Ogan, Ed.D.

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HUSSON UNIVERSITY


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Dear Husson Supporters,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you in the Husson Magazine for the first time as the university's seventh president. Over the last six months, I have had the honor of speaking with and meeting many Husson alumni and supporters who have shared well-wishesin addition to ideas for what Husson's next chapter could encompass.

It is both an exciting and challenging time to be a higher education institution. Market pressures like a declining demographic and the prevalence of free community college combined with concerns about student debt require us to change to remain competitive in the higher education marketplace.

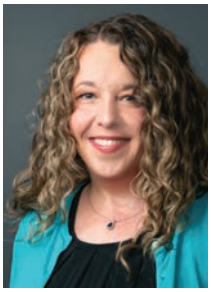
Husson University has built its reputation on being an institution with a commitment to quality experiential learning opportunities that prepares students for the realities of career responsibilities. Our focus on career-readiness along with affordability sets us apart from our competitors. Recent gifts, including those from Bob '67 and Fran O'Keefe and Joe '20H and Sue Cyr '65/'20H, will help us remain strong as an institution even as the world rapidly changes. I hope you enjoy the stories in this issue that share how these transformational gifts will benefit current and future Husson students.

Thank you so much for your support as we strive to provide our students with a high quality and affordable education. Best wishes for a joyful 2025.

Best Regards,

**Lynne Coy-Ogan, Ed.D.**
President

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Dear Fellow Alum:

As Husson University continues to grow and thrive, we, as alumni, have the opportunity to be a part of its incredible journey. Under President Lynne Coy-Ogan's leadership, Husson is poised to build on its strong foundation and reach new heights — and our support is more important than ever.

Being involved isn't just about staying connected; it's about giving back to the university that helped shape who we are today. By attending events, mentoring current students, or contributing on our annual Giving Day in the spring, we can make a tangible difference in the lives of future generations of Husson students. Our participation strengthens the community, fosters opportunities and ensures that Husson continues to provide the transformative experiences that shaped so many of us.

One exciting way to stay connected is through Husson Horizons, a career services podcast featuring alumni sharing their career stories and advice. The first season has been a huge success, and we're looking forward to even more inspiring episodes in 2025. It's a reminder of the diverse paths we've all taken and the many ways we can support and learn from one another.

Husson gave us the skills, experiences and friendships that continue to impact our lives. Now is our chance to give back, not just financially but with our time, energy and involvement. Together, we can keep the Husson spirit alive and ensure the university continues to thrive for years to come.

Thank you for all that you do, and I hope to see you at a Husson event soon!

Warmly,

**Amy Clark, MBA '12G**
President, Husson Alumni Association

HUSSON HORIZONS
An Alumni & Career Services Podcast

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# Around the Circle

Accomplishments, events and items of note happening at Husson



Husson University welcomed nationally recognized speaker Dr. Anthony Jack, author of "The Privileged Poor," to the Gracie Theatre as the keynote speaker for Faculty and Staff Development Days in August. In his presentation, Jack explored why colleges are so unprepared to support their most vulnerable students, and more importantly, how they can move forward. Jack is an associate professor of higher education leadership at Boston University and serves as faculty director of BU's Newbury Center, where he works to increase understanding and equity around first-generation students on campus.



**President Lynne Coy-Ogan** was the first speaker in the 2024-2025 Distinguished Business Speaker Series. During her presentation, Coy-Ogan spoke about the role that mentors played during her career from working as a teacher to serving as an administrator in K-8 schools and in higher education. The in-conversation event was a discussion between Coy-Ogan and **Dean Marie Hansen, JD, PhD, SHRM-SCP, PCC**, of the College of Business and New England School of Communications.

Husson University's Institute for Strategic Leadership and Workforce Development and Northern Light Health celebrated the presentations and graduation of the seventh class of Professional and Organizational Development program participants at an on-campus event on Aug. 28, 2024, at the Gracie Theatre. The program, which began in 2017, is a partnership between Husson University and Northern Light that involves the teaching of leadership and business related skills. The participants are divided into teams and work on group projects during the 12-month program in addition to learning key organizational subjects.

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**Brien Walton, J.D., Ed.D.**, an associate professor in the College of Business and director of the Richard E. Dyke Center for Family Business, placed 2nd in the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Technology Transitions EnergyTech University Prize Faculty Track. This contest asked collegiate faculty to create educational activities designed to educate and engage students in the commercialization and entrepreneurship of energy technology. Walton was among several faculty members from 46 schools across the country who sent in submissions for the contest. As part of placing 2nd in this contest, Walton was awarded a $15,000 prize.

Two College of Business professors completed PhD programs: **Michael Camire**, director of corporate partnerships, program coordinator and an assistant professor in the School of Business and Management; and **Michael Knupp**, an assistant professor and director of the School of Technology and Innovation. Camire also advised on the publication of "Serve Safe Alcohol Guide, 3rd Edition," which is used by restaurants, hotels and other organizations nationwide.

### School of Business and Management

**Belinda Wee, PhD**, an assistant professor in the School of Business and Management, contributed to a Business News Daily article entitled, "Setting Clear Expectations in the Workplace." In the article, which talks about how managers can set clear expectations for employees, Wee discusses how employees should act in the workplace, expectations that employees should have for managers, expectations among coworkers who are part of a team, the importance of clear performance expectations, and how to clearly and regularly communicate expectations to employees.

### School of Hospitality, Sport and Tourism Management

School of Hospitality, Sport and Tourism Management instructor **Lisa Sturgeon, MBA, CHE**, was named to MaineBiz's 2024 40 Under 40 list, which recognizes young leaders and up-and-comers in Maine's business community. Sturgeon is in her third year as a full-time instructor at Husson University, though she had served as an adjunct instructor for several years prior. She is also the founder of Getting Married in Maine, a wedding planning and production company.

School of Hospitality, Sports and Tourism Management Associate Professor and Director **Lee Speronis, JD, BS CHE, CHIA, CAHTA**, spoke on the topic of experiential intelligence at the International Accreditation Council for Business Education Region I conference in late October 2024. Speronis serves as the president of IACBE Region I, which consists of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut, and meets each year to share best practices in business education.

**Steve Cunningham, PhD**, who holds the Dr. Phil Grant Distinguished Professorship in Management and Economics at Husson, was quoted in a MaineBiz article in October about how a longshoremen's strike along east and gulf coasts could impact Maine's economy. Cunningham predicted at the time that it could result in some price increases and job loss, but said Maine should be relatively fine due to its stable economy and "strong, hard-working labor force." He also said that the topic has come up in class discussions, noting that some of his students come from fishing communities being impacted by the strike.

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

**Kathi Smith, MFA**, an associate professor in the College of Science and Humanities, organized an artist retreat and curated an art exhibition on Monhegan Island over the summer. The exhibition, entitled "A Sense of Place: Monhegan Island," was featured in New Hampton School's Galletly Gallery from late August through early October and featured works by artists from across the country.

### School of Education

**Rebecca Edelman, PhD, NCC**, an assistant professor in the School of Education, co-authored an article in the Journal of Ecopsychology entitled "Outdoor Sandplay: Using Jungian Inspired Sandplay Therapy in an Ecotherapy Session." The article, which featured Joshua Mangin from the University of Southern Maine as a corresponding author, introduces readers to sandplay therapy and how it can be used by ecopsychology practitioners. In addition to publishing this article, Edelman was named the chair of the Maine School Counselor Association.

**LeeAnne (Sandip) Wilson, EdD**, a professor in the School of Education, gained approval for Husson University to be the new site of the Maine Writing Project. The project held its first conference, which took place in early November, featuring an array of panels, workshops and networking opportunities for writing educators. The Maine Writing Project aims to support literacy across the state of Maine.

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PHARMACY

### School of Nursing

School of Nursing associate professor and Chief Nurse Administrator **Valerie Sauda, Ph.D., MSN, RN-BC, CNE, MGSF**, had the opportunity to attend the annual conference for the American Association of the History of Nursing in September. As a result, Sauda will be working with faculty to integrate nursing history across the curriculum as part of the American Association of Colleges in Nursing (AACN) competency-based essentials for nursing practice and advanced practice.

**Sarah Bedi, DNP, FNP-C**, an assistant professor in the School of Nursing, and **Valerie Sauda, Ph.D., MSN, RN-BC, CNE, MGSF**, have completed training in "Campus Colors and Connections," a part of Project UnLonely out of the Foundation for Art and Healing, to improve health and wellbeing through individual reflection, expression and action. Sessions will be offered to the campus community starting in Spring 2025.

School of Nursing instructors **Ellen King, DNP, MSN Ed, RNC-OB**, and **Valerie Sauda, Ph.D., MSN, RN-BC, CNE, MGSF**, participated in the nationally recognized Rape Aggression Defense instructor training alongside Husson security staff and students and plan to deliver the program on campus. They will hold their first training session in November 2024.



Miss Ellen '58 stands with members of the Husson women's basketball team and Coach Kissy Warren in front of the Bell Tower on Bell Tower Beautification Day. The Bell Tower was dedicated by Pi Rho Zeta on August 9, 1969, in honor of Clara Swan, who was Miss Ellen's coach.



President Lynne Coy-Ogan, Ed.D. stands with Provost Victor Brown, Ph.D. who was master of ceremonies at her inauguration.

# *The Inauguration of* President Lynne Coy-Ogan

Husson University inaugurated its seventh president and first female CEO on Friday, Oct. 18th at The Gracie Theatre in a ceremony that included dignitaries from other universities, faculty, staff, students and U.S. Senator Susan Collins.

President Lynne Coy-Ogan was presented with the university medallion and honored with comments on behalf of the student body, staff, faculty, trustees and alumni.

"It's heartening to see this remarkable woman breaking the proverbial glass ceiling here by becoming Husson's first-ever woman president and CEO. What an amazing example of perseverance and hard work for all of us," said Lucy Stone, president of the Husson University Student Government and Board of Trustees Student Trustee.

Many spoke about the future of higher education and how Coy-Ogan is ideally suited to lead the 126-year-old Bangor college as it positions itself for future demands.

"In an interview shortly after she was named president, Lynne was asked about her hopes for the future of Husson," said U.S. Senator Susan Collins, who delivered the guest address. "One word that came up throughout her response was 'focus.' I have never known a school, a faculty, or a student body more focused on preparing for a professional career. Husson truly is unusual in its dedication to this aspiration and its clear sense of purpose."

Remarks were also given by Alumni Association President Amy Clark '12G and Faculty Forum President Mike Knupp. William Forbes, DDS, M.Div., of the Oakland University School of Medicine, a longtime friend of Coy-Ogan's parents, gave the invocation.

Coy-Ogan, who delivered a speech about honoring the past as Husson moves toward the future, spoke about the challenges higher education faces in this unique moment.

"To thrive, we must be bold in our thinking to leverage our history to write Husson's next chapter. The Husson of tomorrow will have a national footprint. We will bring a quality Husson education to new audiences while extending and broadening our reach in emerging fields," said Coy-Ogan. "The Husson of tomorrow will develop a pipeline of innovative ideas that encourage the University to think boldly and creatively about its future, while working with industry leaders to drive new partnership, programs and technologies."















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# Inauguration Reception













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# Q&A *with* Dr. Victor Brown

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Victor Brown joined Husson University in September 2024.

Brown came to Husson from Lehman College at the City University of New York, where he most recently served as Associate Provost.

Unanimously supported by the university's provost search committee and the Board of Trustees, Brown has been meeting with faculty, staff and students as he continues to get to know the Husson community.

After receiving both his undergraduate degree in chemistry and biochemistry and his Ph.D in biochemistry/biotechnology from the University of the West Indies, Brown also earned postgraduate diplomas in molecular plant pathology and tissue culture from the University of London and a MBA in business administration from Emory University.

Husson Magazine recently asked him a few questions to introduce him to our greater Husson community.

**Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?**

I'm the last of nine children for my parents, and the first to go to college. Growing up, I never saw anyone going to college within my community or within my family, but I had a mentor who saw potential in me. I remember when he asked me, after graduating high school, if I intended to attend college. I said to him, "No, my mother cannot afford it." And he said to me, "I didn't ask if she could afford it. I asked if you're going." I remember thinking, this guy thinks he's my father. He can't tell me what to do.

I'm very happy I didn't say that to him, because it ended up with him paying for my undergraduate degree. I ended up going to University of the West Indies in Jamaica, where I majored in chemistry and biochemistry. Fortunately, I was offered one of two graduate scholarships, either in chemistry or biochemistry, which started me on my graduate pathway to complete a master's degree and ultimately a PhD. After graduating, I spent four years doing cancer research.

**Why Husson?**

I believe Husson is an institution that places a strong emphasis on student success, faculty growth, and staff development. When I first met the search committee and President Coy-Ogan, I immediately felt a genuine sense of community. Visiting the campus confirmed that Husson doesn't just talk about its values – it actively lives them. Husson also focuses a lot on experiential learning, which is critical to student development. I also realized that every building on campus is named after either a past president, an alumni or a friend of the institution, which shows the great impact the institution has on not only the local Bangor community but Maine and the nation. Those things encouraged me to come to Bangor, Maine, because I wanted to be a part of creating and providing those experiential learning opportunities that create successful student learning outcomes for the next generation.

**What are your top priorities as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost?**

My top priority is to ensure that Husson remains around for another 126 years and beyond. So, I'll be working with the president and the senior cabinet to ensure that we have academic programs that are going to meet the challenges of the future while also preparing the next generation of students. This will ensure a unified campus at Husson University, providing a robust experience both on-campus and online for all our students. Additionally, I aim to collaborate with my colleagues to offer professional development opportunities, fostering a dynamic and enriching learning environment.

# Husson Professor Accepted into Fellowship Program to Study Religious Identity and Moral Beliefs

## *Dr. Clifton Guthrie begins research on religion*

Husson University's College of Science and Humanities Professor Dr. Clifton Guthrie has been accepted to a fellowship program at the University of Birmingham in England and received a grant of $26,000 through the Templeton Foundation to fund his research.

Through the fellowship, New Perspectives on Social Psychology and Religious Cognition for Theology, Guthrie will learn social science methodologies and put them into action in a study on religious identity and moral beliefs.

"Dr. Guthries' fellowship as well as the funding from the Templeton Foundation is important to Husson because it publicly demonstrates that we educate the whole person at Husson while preparing them for their future careers," said Dean Phillip Taylor III, dean of the College of Science and Humanities. "The ability to think clearly and understand others from their point of view are essential elements of a professional education and helps make a Husson education unique."

The fellowship began with a three-week workshop over the summer with 30 other fellows held at the University of Birmingham in England, where they studied moral psyche and psychological methodologies. Now Guthrie will proceed with his individual research before sharing some of his findings at another fellowship workshop in April.

Guthrie's research will consist of examining how religious identity affects or doesn't affect individual moral beliefs. The research is centered around people who were raised religious but no longer consider themselves as such, paying close attention to how much of their religious upbringing or religious past carries forward with them.

"So if they formed certain attitudes or morals while they were religious, do they still abide by them or do they reject those moral ideas? Those are the kinds of questions that I'm interested in," said Guthrie.

The topic is of particular interest in Maine.

"We are one of the least religious states in the country as a percentage and so there are lots of people who are ex-religious here, so part of why I'm interested in this topic is that it's very applicable to people here in Maine," said Guthrie.

The grant money will help finance the study as well as travel for the fellowship including attending the workshop in England in April.

Taylor said there aren't many fellowships that look at the intersection between philosophy and science.

"I hope he gets to interact with like-minded colleagues from around the world," said Taylor.

Guthrie plans to present his research at Husson with his mentor at an event on campus in Fall 2025.



# Celebrating More Than Three Decades of Kissy and Warren on the Court

Any college basketball program in the country would be grateful to have a head men's basketball coach and a head women's basketball coach combine for nearly 1,150 wins over two different time periods, but Husson University has had the luxury of having sustained success with its basketball programs over the past 34 years, courtesy of Warren Caruso '89 '08G '18G and Kissy Walker '03G.

Both Caruso and Walker served under other head coaches before taking the reins. Caruso was an assistant under Bruce MacGregor for six seasons before taking charge when MacGregor went on sabbatical. Walker had just one season as an assistant under Lauree Gott before she became the head coach of the women's program when Gott earned a coaching job at Northeastern University.

"[MacGregor] was only 56 at the time and I didn't foresee him retiring, so he took a year sabbatical to give me the opportunity to be a head coach," Caruso said. "We happened to win a championship that year. I think he felt like the program was in good hands and it was time for him to step aside, which I'm incredibly grateful for, but I've always felt like having a mentor was so important. The 10 years I spent with him – four as a player, six as an assistant – really prepared me to be a head coach."

Both Caruso and Walker flourished in their first seasons as head coach. Caruso led Husson to a 23-9 record and a Maine Athletic Conference tournament championship in 1994-95. Walker guided the women's program to a 23-8 record in her first season at the helm in 1989-90.

"I knew I wanted to coach and Lauree got the job here, so it worked out perfectly," Walker said. "It wasn't a full-time position. She was working three jobs to make ends meet and we kind of had a pact that if one of us got the job, the other one would be the assistant because we were college teammates. Lauree took the program and went 26-2. Then she got offered a job at Division I Northeastern and so I just kind of fell into the position after that."

Caruso is now in his 31st season as Husson's men's basketball head coach. Last season he surpassed MacGregor's record for wins in the program history, setting a new bar at 561 and counting. Over his more than three decades at the helm, Husson men's basketball has had 15 national tournament appearances and 10 All-American selections. The program currently ranks in the top 10 in the nation for NCAA Division III wins and second in New England in wins by an active coach.

Walker is coaching for her 34th season

# Husson at Harvard

## *Husson faculty and students represented our university at two recent Harvard conferences*

Husson University was represented at two recent conferences held at Harvard University in October centered around women leaders.

Both conferences took place on Oct. 8 and 9. The Women in Leadership Conference was an opportunity for women in higher education leadership to come together, share stories and connect.

The Intercollegiate Business Convention was held on the same days in a nearby space and brought together where women in college business groups to learn from women business leaders.

At the Women in Leadership Conference, two members of the Husson community presented on panels.

Ghada Konsawa, director of Simulation Education Center, spoke on the panel "Upward Influence: Mastering the Art of Managing Up."

Konsawa said she was proud to represent Husson while discussing emotional intelligence and its importance in managing upward.

"Being part of this panel was an amazing experience. Preparing for the panel took a couple of sessions to set the objectives and brainstorm the most compelling topics or answers to questions that might interest the audience. It was also a valuable opportunity to learn about each other and facilitate a productive





and just 12 shy of 600 career wins as head coach. Under her leadership, the team has made 12 national tournament appearances including the NAIA National Tournament Quarterfinals in 1992-93. Women's basketball has had a 20-win season 10 times in her illustrious career on the sidelines. Additionally, in 2019 Walker became the 32nd NCAA Division III women's basketball coach to surpass 500 career victories. She is the longest tenured coach for a single sport in Husson athletics history.

Having both served as head coach for more than three decades, Caruso and Walker have witnessed the evolution of the game.

"I think one thing that we've both done really well is change with it and adapt to who we're coaching today," Caruso expressed. "We always felt like we were coaching adults back in the 90s because of the way they grew up and I think today we're a bigger part of the development of preparation for what's next for them than we were when we started."

For Walker, increased opportunities and attention on women's sports stands out as a big change.

"On my side, women's basketball is just blooming and athletes are getting better and better and there's just more opportunity for women, so it's really amped up, recruiting to a different level," Walker added.

Working alongside each other for more than 30 years also has meant growing together as coaches.

"I've been very fortunate because we've ridden the buses together and he's got a great demeanor," Walker said about Caruso.

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conversation," said Konsawa.

For Amy Arnett, associate provost for Online and Distance Education and interim dean for the College of Health and Pharmacy, speaking the panel "Building a Pipeline of Underrepresented Leaders in STEM," was an opportunity to also network on behalf of Husson.

"I was able to speak to many high-level administrators about Husson and its culture. This opportunity provided me a platform to not only spread the name of Husson, start to make new connections for programming and student opportunities, but also to personally connect my career path with other women who have also had a similar journey," said Arnett.

At the Intercollegiate Business Convention organized by the Harvard Undergraduate Women in Business, Husson's Women in Business Club had the opportunity to both learn from powerful women in business and network with peers.

"One of my favorite keynotes was from Mari Llewellyn, co-founder of Bloom Nutrition. She spoke about inventing something that she knew she needed and other women would too. She also spoke about the process of getting the start-up funding, all the way to where she is today," said Erin Toomey, president of Husson's Women in Business Club. "All of the speakers were very inspirational and taught me about the process of becoming an entrepreneur, something I have come to be very passionate about. Overall, all of the presenters were passionate about seeing the new wave of women exceed in the business industry."

The club's attendance was made possible by both club fundraising and a generous gift from Husson's Women's Philanthropy Council.

"Beyond any words, we greatly appreciate the funding from the Women's Philanthropy Council. They are amazing supporters of our club and were even the ones to assist in funding the trip last year, which I also attended," said Toomey. "Covering the cost of gas, three hotel rooms, and tickets for the conference is difficult for a club to undertake. Having their funding eliminated so many barriers for students to come on the trip and allowed us to take more girls to the conference."




# Building Connections

## *Live programming from Husson University is now available worldwide*

It takes less than a half mile to walk from one end of Husson University's campus to the other.

But when you do complete that journey, you will have traversed across nearly 100 miles of fiber optic cable. In fact, you're technically stepping on it.

"We have somewhere in the neighborhood of 100 miles of fiber infrastructure just on campus," said Rodney Verrill, director of operations for the College of Business, New England School of Communications and Gracie Theatre. "On top of that, we're connected to several partners off site including the Cross Insurance Center and Maine Public Broadcasting Network."

But it didn't happen overnight. This project actually began 15 years ago when NESCom was working with an outside contractor to run fiber optic cable throughout the entire campus for the school's television system.

"And we did it pretty quietly," said Verrill. "It's not that people didn't know, it just wasn't something we made a big deal about."

"Our needs were very modest back then," said Matt Bryant, Systems Engineer, Broadcast & Media Technology for NESCom. "But we pushed to have as much fiber as possible because we knew it would be utilized later on. We were able to significantly overbuild at the time without having a specific plan for its use."

Fiber optics are razor thin strands of glass that are arranged in bundles. Light encoded with information is pulsed through one end of the fiber until it reaches its intended signal. Different colored lights mean multiple signals can be sent through one bundled cable at the same time.

"In a way, our modern system is like an old fashioned telephone switchboard system," said Bryant. "Each location around campus where we produce live events has an optical path back to NESCom and we physically change a patch cable when moving from one location to another. It's just a matter of plugging your box into a connector on the wall."

"Most people may not realize just how much information can be delivered over a single strand of fiber," said Steve Toothaker, the engineer at NESCom. "All video, audio, intercom, network and remote control is passed through two strands of fiber about the diameter of a hair."

NESCom initially ran cable from the Wildey Communications Center to Peabody Hall. Two years later when the Gracie Theatre was built, a fiber optic connection was made to that as well. Then came Newman Gymnasium, the Winkin Sports Complex and the soccer and softball fields.

"Rodney and I always shared a vision of what was possible," said Husson Men's Head Basketball Coach Warren Caruso. "He's always been the tech side of things while I took care of sponsorship and funding."

Having the ability to live broadcast games helps to recruit future athletes to campus, Caruso said.

"When a family member of a recruit is at home looking to watch a Husson broadcast, they simply pull it up on their TV via YouTube. It is a high definition, full scale broadcast complete with announcers, multiple cameras, replay and real-time graphics stats," Caruso said.

Nathaniel Roberts '07 joined the team of fiber optic technicians this summer as the systems, broadcast and media support engineer at NESCom. He said

setting up for a live broadcast of a game or other event can take hours to set up, with hundreds of feet of cable needed to be run from the mobile production truck to the scene.

“Now, we just plug everything into one box,” said Roberts. “I always think this is cheating because it is so much easier than it used to be.”

Losing that labor intensive step has led to even more live broadcasting opportunities for games both on and off campus, as well as the College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series and more recently the inauguration of Husson University President Lynne Coy-Ogan.

Roberts works alongside Assistant A/V Broadcast Engineer Sam Hallett ’07. And while both men are relatively new on NESCom’s fiber optic team, they have a long history together.

“Nate and I were actually friends and roommates when we were students at NESCom,” said Hallett.

Both NESCom graduates realize the advanced opportunities this fiber optic network offers to current students.

“Adding new camera angles, incorporating IP workflows, new audio options — these are all ways we are trying to keep our broadcasts on the cutting edge of technology and keep our students up to date with current workflows,” said Hallett.

Verrill credits his entire team of forward thinkers for recognizing the need 15 years ago, and continuing to carve paths both literally and figuratively. “We really took a lot of time to future proof this technology as best we can,” he said. “I’ve visited dozens of institutions and they don’t even come close to the technology that we have on campus. Everybody was on board from the start, saying, ‘Okay, if this is the wave of the future, let’s go.’ And we did, and it’s just amazing to see what’s come out of the hard work and collaboration of our team from our students and the greater Husson community.”









# Bob and Fran O'Keefe Leave Lasting Mark on Husson

## Their recent $2.18 million gift brings their total giving to Husson to over $3 million

Bob O'Keefe, class of 1967, and his late wife, Fran, have been generous supporters of Husson University for more than 20 years, and have shown particularly avid support for Husson's softball program. To see the impact they have made on the softball program, you don't need to look any further than the name of the softball field itself, which is called the Robert and Frances O'Keefe Softball Field.

The O'Keefes began supporting the softball program in the early 2000s. In 2023, Husson unveiled the Fran O'Keefe Hitting Pavilion, a softball batting pavilion located between the softball field and Dr. John W. Winkin Sports Complex.

"When we opened the field, it had a fence, a backstop and two foul poles. That was it," O'Keefe said. "We've added to it over the years, and as you can see, it's turned into quite a facility. I'm biased, but I like to think it's one of the finer softball facilities in the northeast."

O'Keefe recently decided to take their support one step further by contributing a $2.18 million estate gift to Husson, the largest single gift in the school's history. The $2.18 million gift will support four separate areas, including the Bob and Fran O'Keefe Scholarship Endowment, the President's Priority Fund, a future athletics project, and the Bob and Fran O'Keefe Softball Endowment. The scholarship provides $2,500 to a student from Old Town High School in Old Town, Maine, which is where O'Keefe attended high school, and follows the student through their four years at Husson.

*I'm biased, but I like to think it's one of the finer softball facilities in the northeast.*

This most recent gift brings the O'Keefe's total financial support for Husson to more than $3 million, which includes multiple contributions to areas of Husson outside of athletics. In addition to their support for the softball program and student scholarships, they have helped fund on-campus science lab renovations and made contributions to the creation of Harold Alfond Hall, home of the College of Business.

O'Keefe's journey with Husson started back in the 1960s, and he certainly made a name for himself right out of the gate. As a member of the men's basketball team, he climbed the leaderboards in several statistical categories and, to this day, remains in Husson's top-25 career leaders in free-throw percentage. He went on to graduate with a bachelor of science in business administration in 1967 and was inducted into the Husson Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.

However, despite being part of an illustrious list of athletes to have played sports for Husson, O'Keefe said there is another honor in which he has more pride.

"I'm more proud of being a member of the Alumni Hall of Fame than the Sports Hall of Fame, because that's what this is all about — it's about education," O'Keefe said.

Going forward, O'Keefe hopes his latest gift will spur other alumni to contribute to Husson as well. He also believes the future of the university is bright, especially under the leadership of President Lynne Coy-Ogan, who took the job earlier this year after spending nearly two decades at the university in other leadership positions.

"We had two terrific presidents in front of her in Bill Beardsley and Robert Clark, and I think Lynne is definitely the right person for Husson," O'Keefe said. "I think she's going to do a heck of a good job. She just gets it. She understands Husson."

Bob O'Keefe participated in this year's Homecoming festivities.



O'Keefe honored in August 2024 for reaching $1M in support of Husson.



Bob and Fran O'Keefe softball field ribbon cutting ceremony, held in 2004.

# How Two Husson Alums Are Helping Local Students Go to College for Free

## New scholarship will support bright local students seeking quality education

Community leaders and Husson alumni Joseph ’20H and Suzanne Cyr ’65, ’20H, are the former owners of the bus company that’s transported students in the Greater Bangor area to K-12 schools for years. That makes it extra special that a new scholarship at Husson carries their name and will help some of those same students.

The Cyr Opportunity Scholarship will provide first-time, full-time students who have earned a 3.0 GPA in high school, have a family AGI of $80,000 or less and who live in Penobscot County a tuition-free offer to attend Husson via a combination of the scholarship and federal, state and institutional aid.

“As a university, Husson wants to ensure that capable, driven students here in Maine can afford a quality education that prepares them for the future. Enabling local students to attend Husson without incurring debt is an investment in our future, their future and the future of our local economy,” said Husson University President Lynne Coy-Ogan.

The Cyrs, who owned Cyr Bus Lines and Cyr Northstar Tours before transferring ownership to their children, are longtime supporters of the university. The bus company provides school bus service to 13 Maine school districts serving 25 communities as well as charter services for many customers including Husson.

“We’re pleased to be the main supporter for this incredible new opportunity for local students that will enable more young people to experience a quality Husson education like we received,” said Joseph and Suzanne Cyr.

With a lifetime contribution of about $5.5 million, the Cyrs have previously supported scholarships, the renovations to the health sciences labs and the construction of Harold Alfond Hall. They are also big supporters of the Husson Fund. In recognition of their contributions and commitment to Husson, the Cyr Alumni Center in Beardsley Meeting House is also named for them.

“We’re so grateful for the support of the Cyr family, and look forward to the exciting opportunity this provides students in Penobscot County,” Coy-Ogan said.




Pictured l-r: Sue Cyr ’65, ’20H, President Coy-Ogan, Joe Cyr ’20H at the recent Holiday Party.






Pictured above: Joe and Sue in front of the plaque which dedicates the first floor of Harold Alfond Hall to them from the ribbon cutting event held in 2021.




Pictured above: Joe and Sue flank Senator Collins at a ribbon cutting event held inside the Beardsley Meeting House in 2010. The Cyr Alumni Center (top) which bears their name is part of the Beardsley Meeting House.

# A Legacy of Giving

**Planned gifts and endowed scholarships are just two important ways you can have a lasting impact on Husson and its students. These gifts are a reliable revenue source for Husson University and provide students with assurance that their Husson education is affordable. There are many ways to achieve lasting impact and these donor stories are examples of how their legacy will enable dreams to come true at Husson for years to come.**

## Errol and Nancy James

Errol James, '74, and his wife Nancy, know the value of a good education. In fact, Errol James credits much of his professional success to the bachelor's degree in accounting that he earned from Husson.

"As a result of my B.S. Degree in Accounting, I obtained a great position with Deloitte, one of the top international Big 8 accounting, tax and consulting firms, which had offices in Boston," Errol said. "I was very fortunate and had a great and successful career with Deloitte and Computer Sciences Corporation in accounting, business, information technology and management consulting leading professionals and serving major companies across the U.S. and internationally."

However, getting a good, affordable college education wasn't always a given. Neither came from a wealthy family, and while they had access to assistance from the G.I. Bill, they still had to work part-time jobs while pursuing their degrees in order to graduate from college without any debt. After college, Errol and Nancy James moved to Massachusetts to pursue their careers.

"Our education was key to obtaining great careers and our overall success," Errol James said. "We are fortunate to have accumulated some wealth to give back and be able to help other students to obtain an education, secure a good paying career, raise a family and have a good life."

In exploring how to give back in a meaningful way, Errol and Nancy James decided on establishing a $1 million trust that will, upon their deaths, provide $40,000 per year to fund scholarships for four Husson students. After 30 years, the remainder of the trust will be transferred to Husson and added to the endowment and the scholarships will continue to be awarded in perpetuity.

*Major gifts help the university thrive.*

Through their generous gift, Errol and Nancy James are striving to help underprivileged students earn a college education and successful career.

## Geneva Allen

The late Geneva Allen, Class of 1949, gifted her stock portfolio to Husson University. The $1 million estate gift was used to create the Geneva S. Allen '49 Endowed Professorship in Health Sciences as well as to create a fund to honor outstanding Husson faculty and staff.

The endowed position and fund will ensure that Allen's support will positively impact Husson for years to come, while honoring her legacy. Professor Ben Sidaway has been named the first Geneva S. Allen '49 Endowed Professor.

At Husson, Allen was a member of the Epsilon Tau Epsilon sorority. She graduated from Husson with an executive secretarial diploma and was awarded an Honorary Associates Degree in 1995. After graduation, she worked for Chesley Husson and Clara Swan for five years, before leaving to focus on her children and family business.

Allen was passionate about charity and volunteerism. In addition to her support for Husson University, Allen volunteered for Meals on Wheels and Maine Veterans Home as well as served on the Bangor Regional YMCA board. She also volunteered for Eastern Star, where she served as a volunteer with several chapters over the course of multiple decades.

## Fred and Christine Newman

If the Newman family's name sounds familiar, it should. William Newman was the namesake for Husson's Newman Gymnasium. The family continued a legacy of giving to Husson with the creation of the Newman Scholarship, and a recent donation by Fred and Christine Newman of 96 acres of land near Orono valued



at about $321,000. Fred Newman is William's grandson.

"We are committed to Husson and the viability of the university," Christine Newman said. "The land gift was just another way for us to allow Husson to move forward and continue the wonderful progress that they so deserve."

Despite not being a Husson graduate, Fred Newman has had a close connection to the university over the years. Although he grew up in Louisiana, he visited his grandparents in Bangor throughout his childhood and fell in love with the area. According to Fred Newman, his summer visits to see his grandparents went a long way toward instilling the importance of education in him.

The high value that Fred and Christine Newman place on education was made evident over the years through their support for Husson and the Newman Scholarship fund. Fred Newman eventually received an honorary degree from Husson in 2016, and Christine Newman is currently serving on the university's Women's Philanthropy Council, which gives scholarships to students who meet certain requirements. Their granddaughter is Husson graduate who earned a nursing degree and now works in Portland, Maine, as an emergency room nurse.

The Newman's legacy of support will continue on through their land gift, which is an excellent way to provide support for Husson while also earning a charitable tax deduction. In cases like this, the deed for the property is transferred to Husson, which will then likely sell the land and put the money from the sale toward a project or fund chosen by the donor. The donor then receives a charitable tax deduction based on the property's appraised value and may also avoid capital gains taxes from the donation of the property.

## Arlene Clifford

The late Arlene Clifford, Class of 1944, left a $40,000 estate gift to Husson University when she died in 2024. Her gift will be used to create the Arlene Clifford '44 Memorial Scholarship.

Clifford earned her stenography diploma from Husson in 1944. While a student, she was a member of the Epsilon Tau Epsilon sorority at Husson. She was inducted into the Husson Alumni Hall of Fame in 2017.

She was an administrator at the Eye Care Surgery Center in Portland, where she was known for focusing her practice administration around providing excellent patient care. Clifford was a member of the National Medical Group Managers Association and the Maine Medical Practice Management Association. She also served on the Maine Medical Assistant Program Advisory Board at Westbrook College and worked as the Western Prom Townhouse Association director and treasurer. After retiring in 1990, she moved to California for seven years. Returning to Maine in 1998, she settled in Falmouth.

Clifford was someone who liked to help. In addition to her professional work, she volunteered for decades with the Red Cross, serving as a Presidential Disaster Volunteer. Trained in mass care, feeding and damage assessment, she helped in disaster locations across the country where she assisted victims of floods, tornados, earthquakes and more.

## John and Theresa Bragg

John Bragg has been a Husson University supporter for decades. He joined the Board of Trustees in 1977, serving for 32 years. He was an eyewitness as Husson grew, changed and developed.

"It's been exciting to watch the organization grow from a college to a university, and to see the financial stability it has gained over the years," Bragg said. "Whenever something succeeds, it's fun to be part of it, and Husson has been a great success story."

Together with his wife, Theresa, he's continued his support of Husson with a $25,000 charitable gift annuity. Charitable gift annuities provide the giver with a tax deduction and a fixed income stream. At the end of the donor's life, the university will receive the remainder as a gift.

"It's like having your cake and eating it too," Bragg said. "You still enjoy the benefit of the value of the gift, but the college knows for certain that it will eventually be transferred to them."

# Class News & Notes

*Promotions, engagements, weddings, birth announcements and other accomplishments.*

## 1990s

**Brandy Schofield '99** has been named director of the benefits division at Allen Insurance and Financial. Schofield has been a benefits account manager at Allen since 2007.

## 2000s

Korean Dad of Veazie was named EMDC's Business of the Year for 2023. The honor was presented to restaurant owner **Changsu "Kris" Lee '00G**. The Korean Dad building, which housed a single restaurant for decades, is now home to a rotating slate of businesses representing cuisine from across the globe. This creates a restaurant incubator, giving would-be-restaurant owners a chance to try their hand at the business with low overhead costs. Lee, a professor of Business and Mathematics at Eastern Maine Community College, uses his academic talents to assist his vendors by providing small businesses with advice and marketing/branding assistance.

**Aimee Garneau, MBA '04, '06G** was appointed as chief financial officer at VizConnect, Inc. In her role, she will focus on shaping and directing the organization's financial reporting and compliance. She has years of experience in finance, focusing on accounting and financial management.

**Ginger Girard '05** graduated with her Juris Master's in Legal Studies at Cornell Law School in August 2024. She was asked to present "Overcoming the Glass Ceiling Effect in Women" and was selected by her Cornell classmates as the Student Commencement Speaker.

**Amy R. Fecteau '05, '12G** was hired by The States Project in Washington D.C. as senior director of people & culture. This progressive organization works with state legislatures to move forward bills such as Paid Leave, Equal Pay Transparency, Gender expression non-discrimination, Affordable Housing, Climate Change and more. Fecteau served as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Southern Maine Husson University Alumni Board from 2015-2022 and has been a certified member of the Society for Human Resources and Human Resource Certification Institute since 2007. Fecteau lives in Portland, Maine, pursuing art and dance when she is not traveling for both work and pleasure.

**Corenna Quirk '07** has been honored with the 2024 Greater Bangor Area Realtor of the Year Award by the Greater Bangor Association of REALTORS. Quirk works as a Broker and Realtor for NextHome Experience.

## 2010s

**Erin Fogg '10G** has been named the new vice president of advancement and alumni relations for the University of Maine at Augusta. In her new role, Fogg will guide fundraising efforts, donor relations and alumni engagement as well as build strong university partnerships, oversee development campaigns and support sustainable growth.

**Heather Doyle '12, '12G** was recently promoted to contract administrator lead at Elevance Health. In her new position, Doyle collaborates with federal and state health insurance regulators and oversees the regulatory approval process for submitting insurance products.

Rockland Police Department recently announced the hiring of officer **Gabrielle Duke '14**. Duke spent the last seven years teaching elementary physical education at RSU 13 before deciding to make the switch to a career in law enforcement. She looks forward to working in Rockland and connecting with the youth that she taught for many years.

Colby College Athletics recently announced **Marc Roy '18, '18G** as assistant athletic director for facilities and operations. He rolls into the position after a successful term with Colby's Department of Recreation, helping to expand the recreation footprint at Colby in many areas. Since arriving at Colby in 2021, he has helped establish a personal training program for faculty and staff and created a group fitness and personal training certification pathway for students at the College.

## 2020s

**Hanna Hembrow, DPT '22, '22G** recently graduated from the Sports Residency program at Brooks Rehabilitation in Jacksonville, FL. Since graduation, she's started a new position as a physical therapist at Stetson University and AdventHealth.

The Lyndon Institute Upward Bound Program recently gained a new program assistant. **BryAnna Goslant '23** shared that she is a first-generation college student within her family and overcame other additional challenges during her adolescence. In her role, she helps students at the Institute achieve their dream of earning a four-year college degree. She attributes much of her success to an internship with the Vermont Department of Corrections' Probation and Parole Office. Goslant shared that "while much of the work was challenging and triggering, it was fascinating and fulfilling… an amazing experience."

**Ebonie Baker '24G** recently began a new role as an academic advisor at Eastern Maine Community College. Baker works in TRIO Student Support Services, which serves to motivate students toward the successful completion of post-secondary education, aiming to increase college retention and graduation rates for students.

**Lucas Boulanger '24** turned a student internship at Dufour Tax into a full-time position as a staff accountant. Beyond his professional pursuits, Boulanger finds joy in spending quality time with friends and family, engaging in outdoor activities, and entertaining his passion for sports, particularly basketball. He is an avid fan and supporter of the Boston Celtics.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

***We want to hear from you!***

What have you been up to? New job? Got married? Received an honor or award? We want to share your news!

Submit your update at **www.husson.edu/class-notes**

# Young Alumni – Where Are They Now...




## Meet Jenna Keach '24 Probation Support Technician

Like most students, Jenna Keach wasn't entirely sure what she wanted to do after graduating from Husson University. She was studying criminal justice, but hadn't narrowed down the options for her degree until attending the annual Legal Studies Career Fair during her final year when something finally caught her interest.

Keach is now a probation support technician with the Federal Probation and Parole office for the United States Probation and Pretrial, District of Maine.

"I actually didn't know a whole lot about probation until I found them at the career fair last year, a job opening became available and I've been doing it ever since," said Keach.

Keach returned to Husson this fall as a recruiter for the organization, just months after her May 2024 graduation with a bachelors in criminal justice, bachelors in psychology and a masters in criminal justice administration.

Keach said that the skills she learned from Husson have prepared her for her current job. Capstone classes, where students could apply the skills they were learning in real world situations, were particularly helpful. Another class that stuck out to her was report writing and testifying where students would watch a police interaction and have to write a report on it.

"In my position I have to do a lot of writing, so learning the correct way to write has helped me a ton," said Keach.

During her time at Husson, Keach helped to organize the career fair alongside John Michaud, director of the School of Legal Studies. Returning to Husson University to take part in the 15th Annual Legal Studies Career Fair as a vendor was a special homecoming for her.

Keach's job as a probation support technician means that she works alongside probation officers, keeping in contact with police stations in the towns where people on probation are residing. She then communicates relevant information to the parole officers. She also supports their work through other tasks such as filing, scheduling appointments and preparing reports.

"It's a lot of attaining materials for officers so they can continue to do their jobs," said Keach.

Keach also has her own caseload of probationers that are on low intensity supervision and require her attention.

She anticipates staying with probation and would like to move up to probation officer in the next three to five years. Keach wants to learn more about the judicial branch and everything that probation and pretrial does because she feels she has so much more to learn.

"I didn't know much coming into this and everyday there is still more that I don't know and more to learn but I have coworkers that have been doing this for 10 to 15 years and they still don't know everything, so it's a constant learning environment," said Keach.

Keach advises current and future students to take advantage of internships, career fairs, and to build connections with professors and peers.

"If even the smallest thing interests you, pursue it, opportunities are everywhere," said Keach.

## IN MEMORIAM

**1950s:** Harry G. Moore '53 | Irene Sevey (Goulette) '55 | Janeanne McEwen (Sargent) '56
**1960s:** Norman E. Fenlason '60 | Charles K. Bolster '64 | Hugh B. Hooper '64 | Glendon E. Jackson '65 | Paul B. Peters '66
Frank C. Weatherhead '66 | Robert J. Apprich '68 | Edna M. McIntosh **1970s:** Richard L. Giroux '70 | David F. Donnelly '71
Janet E. Grolley (Marr) '71 | Gaetano T. Morano '71 | Gary C. Tucker '75 | Gary J. Dumas '76 | David A. O'Donald '79
**1980s:** Harold C. Cook '80 | Martha Murphy (Maude) '89 **1990s:** Timothy A. Riley '96 | Donna L. Ault (Snow) '97
**2000s:** Debra L. Roberge '05 **2020s:** Alex M. Pelletier '24







# A Look Back at Homecoming

Husson's Homecoming Carnival returned for the second year with fun for all ages. Husson alumni, employees, students and their families were treated to face painting, carnival games, cotton candy and more.

Emily Parent, a senior majoring in Business Administration with certificates in Hospitality and Marketing Communications, organized the Homecoming Carnival. Keeping in line with Husson's mission of providing hands-on educational experiences for our students, she was given a project in Event Planning and Management class to assist with an event on campus. Parent brought together students from the Art & Design Club, the Black Student Union, Chi Sigma Iota, the Crafting Club, the Criminal Justice Club, CRU – Campus Crusade for Christ, Husson University Theatre, the Neurodiversity Club, the Psychology Club, Student Government and the Women in Business Club to run the carnival.

"I really appreciated being able to use the homecoming carnival as an outlet to put what I'm learning in the classroom into a practical setting. I gained a lot of really valuable information that goes beyond what's in my textbook, and I feel like I have a much stronger understanding of what planning and managing events looks like," Parent said. "I appreciate Professor Lisa Sturgeon and Christine Mihan for supporting my education in a meaningful way."

The Pep Band provided musical entertainment in Homecoming Headquarters. The Hispanic and Latine Association sold aguas frescas and esquites. Meanwhile, the Alumni Association Board brought back tailgating competitions with categories in decorating, BBQ and side dish. Entries were judged by a panel that included alumni, employees and members of President Lynne Coy-Ogan's family!

Speaking of President Coy-Ogan, homecoming attendees were able to meet her and Provost Victor Brown. She also kicked off the Homecoming football game by being the official coin tosser.

**Save the date for our next Homecoming: Saturday, October 18, 2025**. We hope to see you there!



**SCAN TO VIEW MORE PHOTOS OF HOMECOMING**

flickr.com/husson-university











# Alumni & Friends **Regional Events**

During ***Celebrate Husson Week***, held the week of June 9, Husson alumni enjoyed a variety of activities and celebrations.

More than 60 alumni gathered in Portland, Maine, to cheer on former President Robert Clark as he threw out the first pitch for the Sea Dogs on June 9.

The celebration continued in Bangor on June 11 at Geaghan Brothers Brewing Co. They brewed a special beer in honor of Husson's 125th anniversary. Attendees were able to enjoy Green and Gold Kölsch on draft.

On Tuesday, July 9, the Husson University Alumni Association hosted an Open Board Meeting so that alumni could learn more about what the Alumni Board does and how to get involved. The alumni board and guests also heard from President Lynne Coy-Ogan about her vision and priorities for her presidency. If you would like to get involved with our events, marketing or GOLD (Graduates Of the Last Decade) committees, email alumni@husson.edu.

President Coy-Ogan then hit the road to visit with alumni throughout New England. She met with alumni in Falmouth and Yarmouth, ME, Rye, NH and Burlington and West Harwich, MA.

This October, alumni gathered in Bar Harbor at Bar Harbor Beer Works, owned by Husson's own **Kristi Bond '00G**. Alumni from the classes of 1969 to 2021 were able to network and enjoy downtown Bar Harbor during peak foliage season.

Alumni, employees, students and families gathered on campus to honor our veterans on November 10 and 11. On Sunday, Nov. 10, they walked around the circle to raise funds for the Maine Veterans Project. On Monday, Veterans Day, a mural painted by Brewer High School art students and AFJROTC, was revealed in the newly refurbished Veterans Student Center.

We have many more exciting events happening in the new year, including ***Alumni Appreciation Week*** from February 3 to 8, 2025, and our annual week of alumni events throughout Florida, happening March 1 to 8, 2025.

Visit **Husson.edu/alumni/events**, subscribe to our e-newsletter and follow Husson Alumni on Facebook and Instagram regularly to learn more about how you can connect with your alma mater and fellow Husson classmates.

**@HussonAlumni**














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*For More Information and to Register Visit*: www.husson.edu/florida