HUSSON

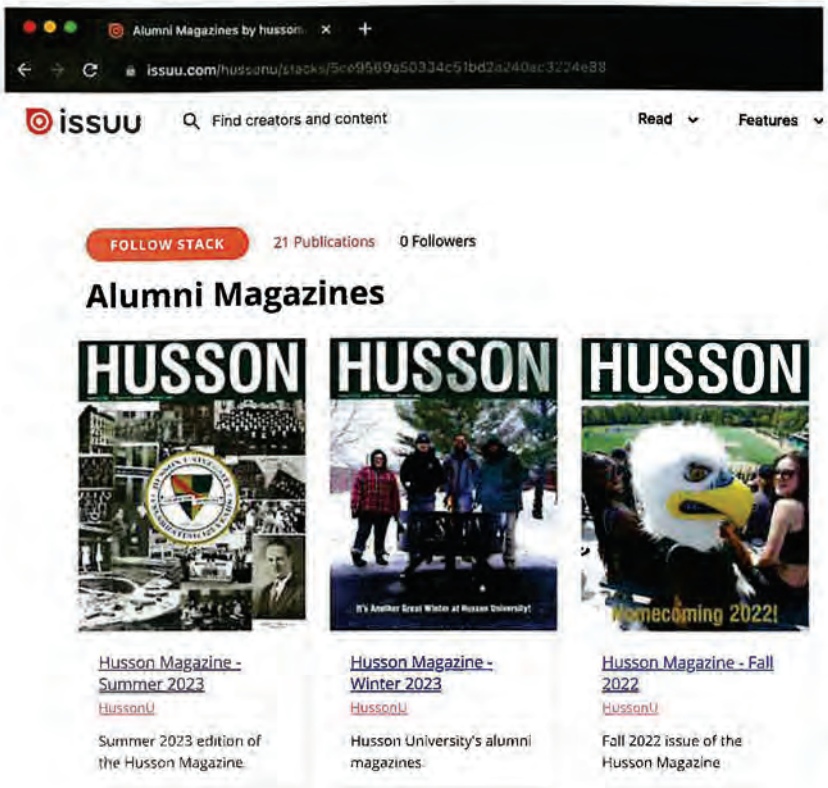
MAGAZINE | Fall 2023 | husson.edu

HUSSON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
3 6978 00163304 4



SAWYER LIBRARY
HUSSON UNIVERSITY

The Husson Magazine is going DIGITAL



To be mindful of our environment, we will publish the Summer 2024 edition digitally on issuu.com/hussonu.

We want to make sure you get your copy!

To receive an electronic notification for the Summer issue of the Husson Magazine, scan the QR code or visit **www.husson.edu/alumni**

SCAN HERE TO SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR DIGITAL MAGAZINE

Want to check out a previous magazine edition? Visit www.issuu.com/hussonu

HUSSON UNIVERSITY | 125 YEARS 1898 - 2023

Magazine Staff

Sarah Walker Caron
Director of Communications
Editor

Jill K. Fiore
Executive Director of Marketing & Communications

Warren Caruso '89, '08G, '18G
Executive Director of Major Gifts

Taylor Avery
Lisa Frazell
Christine Mihan
Sarah Cary Robinson
Derek Simmons
Joseph Swanson '12
Contributing Writers

Photographers
Larry Ayotte
Kevin Bennett
Daniel Falcone
Matthew Green-Hamann '00
Eric Ogden
Monty Rand

How to contact us

Advancement Office
Husson University
1 College Circle
Bangor, ME 04401-2929
alumni@husson.edu
800.726.7073

General Information
husson.edu/alumni

Husson supports equal opportunity in recruitment, admission, educational programs, and employment practices. The University complies with all major federal and state laws and executive orders requiring equal employment opportunity and/or affirmative action.

Announcing My Retirement

Dear Alumni and Friends,



As I write this Ledger column, I have recently shared with the Board of Trustees and the Husson community my intention to step down at the end of 2024, when my current contract is completed. It has been my great privilege to serve as the president of Husson for the past 14 years. I am grateful for the wonderful friendships and relationships I have developed here over the years. Thus, my transition comes with mixed emotions, but with the knowledge that Husson is well positioned for the future.

During my tenure, more than 10,000 students have graduated and earned their degrees and certifications, while both our campus and our curriculum have continued to grow. Husson has strengthened its finances and expanded enrollment.

We established the university's academic infrastructure with the creation of schools and colleges and fully integrated the New England School of Communications. The new Harold Alfond Hall, home of the College of Business, was completed in August 2021 and is the signature image of the campus.

Thanks to our generous donors, we completed a $38 million capital campaign that supports faculty and staff development, scholarships, infrastructure projects including residence and dining hall renovations, construction of the Darling Learning Center, the Wellness Learning Center and the townhouses. In addition, significant improvements were made in athletics, including the Wadleigh Academic Center, the renewal of two artificial turf fields, lighting Boucher Field and the transformation of O'Keefe Field.

I wish to extend my special appreciation to our alumni who continue to be advocates for Husson in our communities. I am grateful to each of you who are a part of the Husson legacy.

Much credit goes to our faculty, staff and Board of Trustees who have worked tirelessly to help our students by elevating their experience on campus. They are deeply committed to Husson's students and believe in their potential. I take great pride in knowing that the next president of Husson University will take over a thriving campus.

Thanks to each of you for your support and encouragement as we serve Husson's students together in the year ahead. Best wishes for the future journey as we continue to instill our students with character and humility.

With best regards,

Robert A. Clark, Ph.D., CFA
President



Being 125-years-old is a big deal! Such an auspicious anniversary gives us an opportunity to reflect and remember as well as look forward with anticipation for what the next 125 years may bring. A century and a quarter ago, Husson University embarked on a remarkable journey. It was a time when education was a privilege reserved for the few, and access to higher education was often determined by factors beyond one's control.

Yet, Husson's founders had a vision that transcended barriers and ignited a flame of learning in the hearts of many. As we celebrate 125 years, I have spent time reflecting on the incredible role philanthropy has played in Husson's journey. In a 1967 speech to the US Senate, Maine Senator Edmund Muskie said, "In general, the policy (at Husson) is to give every ambitious youth their chance. Over the years, many students with limited financial resources have been assisted by the college in finding ways to finance their education."

During my eight years at Husson, many of you have shared stories of small kindnesses by cherished faculty and staff who made your education a little easier to complete. Often, this was before Husson was a non-profit and had an organized philanthropy program. Yet, someone recognized your need and reached out a helping hand.

Those helping hands are still reaching out to today's students. Last year alone, 99% of Husson students received some form of financial aid, including 576 students helped by philanthropic scholarships. Join me this year and honor 125 years of making a difference in student lives. Consider a gift of $125, or, if you are able, consider joining our one-year-only Quasquicentennial Society with a gift of (wait for it) $1,250. Give to the area of campus that means the most to you. Collectively, every gift makes a tremendous impact.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Cary Robinson
Vice President for Advancement

Around the Circle

Accomplishments, events and items of note happening at Husson

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

School of Technology and Innovation



Brave Williams, MFA, iEX Center director and associate professor in the School of Technology and Innovation, gave a presentation in June via the Augmented Reality World Expo's (AWE) online portal. The presentation, entitled "How To Build a World Class XR Educational Facility," covered Husson's XR program and how it has grown over the last seven years.

Williams and **Tony Gerow**, iEX Center multimedia/extended reality technologist, attended AWE USA 2023 conference, which took place May 31 to June 2, where they learned about the latest advancements in XR technology. They also networked with tech-industry leaders and professionals such as Eloi La Roux, an engineer with Forma Vision (a holographic meeting application) and Shelly Peterson, the director of strategic operations at Microsoft, will be joining the advisory board for Husson's XR program.

School of Legal Studies



Lori Perez, Ph.D.(c), an assistant professor and coordinator of the Conservation Law program in the School of Legal Studies, led a group of 10 students on an educational trip in May to study federal lands and conservation efforts in Alaska. The group observed wild preservation efforts at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, explored Kenai Fjords National Park, met with a wildlife biologist at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, surveyed the scenic beauty of the Chugach National Forest, and took the Alaskan Railroad to Denali National Park, home of Denali – the highest peak in North America.



Christopher Bruce, MS, an assistant professor in the School of Legal Studies, gave a presentation entitled "Understanding Relational Data, With Examples in Microsoft Access" at the 33rd annual International Association of Crime Analysts (IACA) training conference in Grapevine, Texas, in August. Bruce served on the IACA board between 2000 and 2019, including six years as president (2007-2012).

New England School of Communications (NESCom)



Eric Ferguson, MM, an assistant professor in the New England School of Communications, published an article in the July edition of Live Sound International, a journal for live event professionals. The article is entitled "E.D.T.C - A Methodical Troubleshooting Approach to Identify and Address System Problems." The piece was published on the ProSoundWeb website.



WHSN 89.3 FM, Husson's student-operated radio station, received the Merit Award in the Radio Public Affairs category at the 2023 Maine Association of Broadcasters News & Creative Awards, held Saturday, Oct. 14 in South Portland. The award is for an episode of the series "The Holistic Tea" created in partnership with the Husson University Wellness Center. Produced by WHSN station manager Mark Nason, MEd, and hosted by Nichole Proulx, LMFT, lead counselor in the Wellness Center, the episode featured guest Sarah Fucillo, Ph.D., NCC, an assistant professor in Husson's Clinical Mental Health Counseling department, talking about vicarious trauma.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

Maria J. Cahill, Ph.D., an associate professor in the College of Science and Humanities, completed "Through the Lens of Astronomer Helen Sawyer Hogg: One Woman's Journey With the Stars," a monograph on American-Canadian astronomer Dr. Helen Sawyer Hogg (1905-1993), during her sabbatical in fall 2022. Through this study, Cahill shares the personal journey of Dr. Hogg, one of Canada's most prominent astronomers and one of the first women to earn a Ph.D in astronomy. The monograph is set to be published by The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) by winter 2024.



David Prescott, Ph.D., an associate professor in the College of Science and Humanities and chair of social science and humanities at Husson, was a presenter at the 2023 European Congress of Psychology in Brighton, England. His presentation, entitled "Professional Support for Healthcare Executives During COVID-19: A Consultation Model," took place during an invited symposium called "International Innovations in Collaborative Integrated Care."



Rachelle Smith, Ph.D., a professor in the College of Science and Humanities, recently worked with the Maine Discovery Museum on a new exhibit called "Inside the Brain," that features children's activities based on certain parts of the brain.



Jessica Hacker, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the College of Science and Humanities, won the Griffith Memorial Award for a presentation she gave at a Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology conference last spring. The presentation was based on Hacker's dissertation, "Effects of Task-Switching On Proactive Control and Metamemory Regulation," which she successfully defended prior to attending the conference.



Maria E. Rave, an adjunct faculty member in Husson's College of Science and Humanities, has an art exhibition entitled "Magical Realism and Latin America," on display in the Robert E. White Gallery on campus through Dec. 29.

The exhibition includes paintings and mixed media artworks with narrative storytelling in both Spanish and English. Included are writings about a sampling of the artworks, which are symbolic and Surrealist based. Many of Rave's stories connect to her experience in Colombia as well as the United States.

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, which took place Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, Husson University hosted an artist reception during which Rave spoke about her work.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PHARMACY

School of Pharmacy



James Nash, Ph.D., Pharm.D., MPH, BCPS, dean of the College of Health and Pharmacy, and **James Singletary, RPh**, an instructor of practice in the School of Pharmacy, were recognized on Friday, Oct. 13, for their contributions to pharmacy and education. Nash was awarded the Bowl of Hygeia Award for his contributions to the practice of pharmacy, and Singletary was awarded the Douglas H. Kay Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award in recognition of his many years of excellent service as a pharmacy educator.



Husson University's **School of Pharmacy** program was also recognized for producing ten years of pharmacy graduates, with **Lynne Coy-Ogan, Ed.D.**, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, receiving the commemorative plaque.



Cassandra White, Pharm.D., BCACP, BCGP, an associate professor of pharmacy practice for Husson University's College of Health and Pharmacy, served as the Maine voting delegate at the 119th Annual Meeting for the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) held last May in Nashville, Tennessee.

White has served as a pharmacist member on the Maine Board of Pharmacy since her appointment in December 2021. Additionally, she was featured as a poster presenter for her research titled "Compensation for State Board of Pharmacy Members," which she worked on with Husson Class of 2023 graduates Hannah Pham, Pharm.D., and Chidubem Ifeji, Pharm.D.



Dr. Cavenaugh Kelly, Ph.D., OTR/L, and four Husson Occupational Therapy Students, **Delanie Boone, Molly Frasier, Riley Hanson, Mikaela Ryan**, presented at the Fall Maine Occupational Therapy Conference in Orono. Their presentation was on the role of dance in reducing fall risk through lecture and in-person dancing demonstrations. The occupational students have also worked with exercise science students at Husson to design a website with videos on graded dances and exercises to address the sensorimotor components of dance. Dr. Kelly and the students will also be presenting on the role of occupation in fall prevention at the spring AOTA conference in Orlando, Florida.

Investing in Husson's Future

An endowment is a fund created and built through a gift with the intention of providing economic stability for the future. The actual gift is invested and a sustainable portion of the earnings are spent each year. The rest is reinvested, ensuring that the endowment remains strong and helps support the dreams of future generations of students in perpetuity.

Endowments can be unrestricted, allowing the trustees to deploy funds where they are most needed, or restricted for a particular purpose. The most common restrictions create endowed scholarship funds. They help students attain a college education with less debt. Currently, Husson has 147 endowed scholarships, which awarded $809,901 to students last year.

Endowments can support faculty through enrichment funds that allow faculty to stay current and bring new ideas to the classroom. Endowed faculty chairs bring prestige to a professorship and help attract top talent to Husson. Program, school or college specific endowments provide critical stability and ensure future innovation.

While NCAA rules prohibit athletic scholarships at Husson, endowments can support teams or the overall athletic program. Endowments also maintain the buildings, grounds and athletic fields, keeping facilities current and attractive.

If you want to or have considered remembering Husson in your estate, please let us know. Our goal is to work with you to create a legacy that reflects your interest and passions. Please reach out to **Sarah Cary Robinson**, vice president of advancement, at **207.941.7617** or **robinsons@husson.edu.**



Interested in establishing an endowment?

Contact:
Sarah Robinson, CTFA, vice president for advancement, at robinsons@husson.edu or 207.941.7617.

TRANSFORM YOUR CAREER

HUSSON UNIVERSITY
ONLINE

Whether you've decided to pursue a graduate degree, complete a bachelor's degree or are still exploring your options, see all Husson has to offer through online learning!

- Flexibility to fit your life
- Exceptional affordability
- Personable, practicing faculty
- Free 24/7 tutoring
- Your own academic advisor to help you stay on track

EXPLORE PROGRAM OPTIONS

Visit **husson.edu/online**

Or speak with an enrollment counselor today **207.992.1972**



Meet Husson's New Director of Athletics: John Sutyak

Husson University has a new director of athletics on campus this fall.

Maine native **John Sutyak** began work at Husson in September after serving as the director of athletics of Ferrum College for three years. Sutyak, a native of Scarborough, Maine, earned his bachelor of arts in history from Wheaton College in Massachusetts in 2000 and a master of education in athletic administration from Springfield College in 2002. At Wheaton, he was a four-year member of the baseball team, including during the program's first varsity season in 1997. He also was part of the program's first two NEWMAC championship teams in 1999 and 2000, and part of its first NCAA tournament appearance in 2000.

"John's extensive experience as athletic director at Ferrum College in Virginia and Wheaton College in Massachusetts will serve the Husson community well as we continue to lead the way in conference play," said Husson President Dr. Robert Clark. "As a Maine native, John's enthusiasm for the role athletics plays in the life of the university is readily apparent. We welcome his energy as we provide a robust, co-curricular experience that is a hallmark of the Husson Eagles' experience as it develops leaders on the field, in the classroom and in their professional lives."

During his time at Ferrum, Sutyak helped to grow athletics giving by 550%, oversaw the addition of men's and women's track and field teams, helped to lead a renovation of its softball facility and saw the establishment of the Black Hat Football Endowment to help support Ferrum's football program.

Additionally, Sutyak played a key role in helping license Ferrum's athletic logos and marks with the Nexus Licensing Group. He also worked with the office of institutional advancement to develop a corporate sponsorship program, and was a key partner in Ferrum serving as the host institution for the 2023 NCAA Division III Men's Wrestling national championship.

"Words can't describe how excited I am to be afforded the privilege to lead the athletics department at Husson University," said Sutyak. "Over the years, this institution has shown continued growth and been a leader in providing a high-level academic experience for its students. I look forward to working alongside the leadership of the college to complement our academic excellence by continuing to provide championship level experiences for our student-athletes."

Sutyak brings a wealth of NCAA Division III knowledge to a growing Eagles athletic department along with an important understanding of strategic planning. He developed a five-year plan at Ferrum to help enhance the student-athlete experience, grow internal operations and establish competitive goals for individual athletic programs.

Sutyak serves the NCAA as a member of its nominating committee and as the ODAC representative on the baseball regional rankings committee. Sutyak also was appointed to the Maine Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors in 2022 and serves on the Wheaton College Hall of Fame committee.

Prior to his work at Ferrum, Sutyak spent over a decade at Wheaton in various roles, beginning as assistant sports information director and area coordinator in residential life before being promoted to associate director of athletics and later director of athletics in April 2012. At Wheaton, Sutyak was involved in the development and construction of Wheaton's Diane Nordin '80 Athletic Field, a $3.8 million artificial surface athletic field project.

Under Sutyak's direction, Wheaton qualified for 33 NCAA championships and won 16 New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference regular season and conference titles, including baseball making the national championship game in 2012 and regional championships by softball in 2015 and baseball in 2017.

Sutyak also spent time as an assistant baseball coach at Western New England University from 2001 to 2002 and worked at Yale University in varsity sport operations and athletic facilities for three years.

Sutyak will now spearhead an athletics department that won 10 conference championships during the 2022 to 2023 season, sent four teams to the NCAA postseason, hosted a New England Football Bowl and produced nine conference athlete of the year recipients.



Husson's new Simulation Education Center brings synergy to labs

Jointly used by PT, OT, Nursing and Pharmacy, sim labs prep students for real-life work

While simulation labs for healthcare professions aren't new at Husson University, uniting them under one title is a step toward creating a synergy between disciplines that will better prepare students for work in the future.

Guiding the Simulation Education Center program toward both synergy and accreditation, is director Ghada Konsowa, MBBCH, MBA, CHSOS.

Simulation education at Husson follows the most recent best practices, starting with instructor-led learning. The process then enhances the personal hands-on skills through education in a lab setting. Simulation comes next in the stage, creating real-life scenarios where students learn to practice different skills simultaneously, such as critical thinking, decision-making, communication and clinical skills practice. Finally, students will be assessed. This learning sequence will allow students to sharpen their skills and understand more about what they are learning, better preparing them for their future careers, Konsowa said.

"It is important for our Simulation Education Center to become accredited because it will add credibility to the excellent education Husson University is providing to students in nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and pharmacy programs. Along the way, we are making improvements to our simulation labs including standardizing our practices to ensure that students experience the highest quality learning environment and experience possible. I'm thrilled that we're taking the steps to make this happen," said James D. Nash, Ph.D., Pharm.D, MPH, BCPS, dean of the College of Health & Pharmacy. "Accreditation will improve the possibilities for additional funding opportunities in the future, helping us continue to improve and enhance our state-of-the-art simulation labs."

Using tools like low-, mid- and high-fidelity manikins and implementing with cutting-edge teaching technology using different computerized trainers, Konsowa is building the state-of-the-art simulation lab of the future.

In doing so, she is also working to improve the sim lab experience through a new approach. Previously, labs were only used for testing, but now they will be utilized for both teaching and testing. This new approach will provide students with the opportunity to acquire practical experience, which in turn will help them to better prepare for testing.

"One of the main concepts of simulation is that it's a safe place for learning," Konsowa said.

Creating the entity will encourage interdisciplinary collaboration among nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and pharmacy programs while maximizing lab facility use.

"We're trying to create equal access for all the schools to use the tools and resources we have," Konsowa said.

There is also emphasis on treating the simulation labs as independent entities, not affiliated with any particular discipline. According to Konsowa, this approach will help eliminate psychological barriers, such as the perception that labs are exclusively reserved for nursing students. She hopes that occupational therapy, physical therapy and pharmacy students will feel more comfortable in this learning environment and take ownership of the space and equipment available to them.

> One of the main concepts of simulation is that it's a safe place for learning
>
> —*Ghada Konsowa*

The guiding best practices that Konsowa is instituting come from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, the nonprofit organization that certifies simulation labs around the world.

"It will be easy to put ourselves among the other schools that already exist worldwide," Konsowa said.

Obtaining accreditation is a lengthy process that requires Konsowa to establish and execute systems to facilitate the operation, policies, guidelines and strategic planning to define the mission and vision of the Simulation Education Center. This will involve creating standardized operation procedure manuals, among other things. Additionally, Konsowa will need to collect two years' worth of requested data by the accreditor body on the number of students, labs, programs, inventory, maintenance and more.

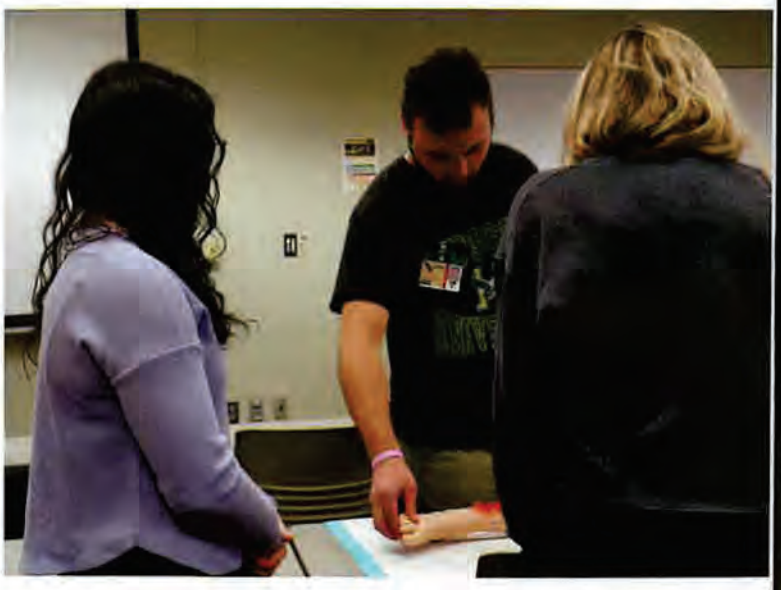
"Not only do we have to prove that we have a solid operation but also that it is efficient in teaching the students and elevating their skill level," Konsowa said "We are starting to build the pieces."

In the meantime, new websites for both internal and external use are being developed. These websites will showcase various activities and updates within the simulation program as it moves toward accreditation.

It's an exciting time for Konsowa and students across these programs.

"I love my job. I am very fortunate to be here. Not every time in your career can you have a chance to apply all that you have learned," Konsowa said. "I also feel very fortunate to have an ally in Dean Nash who is tremendously supportive of my work."





A Dream Realized



The founding father of Husson University wanted everyone to have the opportunity to obtain a college education

The year 1969 was a big one for Chesley Husson. The college he created had moved to its permanent location at One College Circle in Bangor the year prior. And on September 12th, his youngest son Paul was going to get married.

A week before the wedding, Chesley Husson's wife Dorothy called Paul, asking him and his fiancee' Judy to come down to their camp on Green Lake in Dedham.

"Paul said to me, 'My father wants to talk to you,'" said Judy Husson. "I started getting a bit nervous because I didn't really know him all that well."

Soon after the couple arrived, Chesley Husson turned to his son and said, "Your mother would like to go for a walk."

Once Dorothy and Paul left, 'Chief' as he was affectionately known, gestured for Judy to have a seat. Chesley Husson remained standing.

"I did," said Judy Husson. "And the whole time I am thinking to myself, 'what in the world is going on?'"

Chesley Husson looked down at her and without hesitation, asked, "Why are you going to the University of Maine in Orono instead of Husson?"

Judy Husson smiled wide. "I was completely unprepared for that question," she said, chuckling at the memory.

She had an answer though.

"I told him Husson doesn't offer a degree in Secondary Education for Teaching, and UMaine does."

Chesley Husson nodded his head in acceptance. But he had another question for his soon to be daughter-in-law.

"He pointed out that Paul and I were going to be married next weekend," said Judy Husson. "He then looked directly in my eyes and asked, 'You are going to finish school, right?'"

Judy assured him that she wanted to graduate so she could become a teacher. "That was a very big deal for him."

Completing a college education was a priority for Chesley Husson from the time he was young. He came from a family of nine children. Chesley was the oldest. His parents emigrated from Canada to Lynn, Massachusetts, where his dad was a fisherman.

When Chesley Husson finished the 8th grade, his father sat him down. It was around the time of the Great Depression and families everywhere were struggling. "He said to Chief, 'Okay, you need to drop out of school now and help take care of the family,'" said Judy Husson. "'We can't afford to feed you anymore, without your help.'"

Chesley Husson was just 13 at the time. And as much as he wanted to stay and help his family, he wanted a high school diploma even more so that he could go on to college.

So he moved out, and into the local YMCA. The young teen slept on a pool table at night and did janitorial work before and after school to pay for his sleeping quarters. "He was very determined and knew exactly what he wanted," said Judy Husson.

Chesley Husson went on to graduate high school and attend the University of Maine in Orono. In 1926, he became a teacher and coach at the

Bangor branch of the Maine School of Commerce, formerly known as the Shaw Business College and School of Penmanship.

In 1933, Chesley Husson decided to purchase the school, mortgaging his house and borrowing funds to pay for it. By 1935, he was named the school's principal and president of the corporation. The school officially became known as Husson College in 1947.

Knowing what it was like to raise a family, Chesley Husson took it upon himself to reward the spouses of students who graduated from Husson College. "If they were married, he would give a certificate to the wife or husband of the student," said Judy Husson. "He knew the sacrifices those spouses made and wanted them to be recognized for all of their hard work and dedication also."

In its early years, Husson College only had about 250 students and a handful of faculty, but Chesley Husson had big dreams.

After graduating from Husson with an associate degree in legal secretarial science, Sue Cyr worked for Chesley Husson from 1966 to 1968. "Both President Husson and his wife were extremely passionate about the quality of education for all who attended Husson," said Cyr.

She recalls a painting Chesley Husson had hanging on his office wall at that time. "It was of his dream campus," Cyr said.

That dream became a "to do" starting in 1961 when Chesley Husson initiated the procedure to change the corporate structure of the college to a non-profit, private educational institution of higher learning. Chesley Husson, Vice President and Academic Dean Clara Swan and Executive Director and Treasurer Priscilla Clark then set about developing plans to create a new campus along with nationally recognized accreditation.

A Board of Trustees was established in 1962.

It was also around that time when 500 acres of dairy farm land became available for purchase off Broadway in Bangor. Chesley Husson worked with his colleague, Dick Dyke to acquire the property in parcels. Dyke said in an interview that they were trying to do it quietly, before anyone realized it was going to be a campus for Husson.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new campus was held on June 10, 1966. That November, Husson alumni were approached for the first time to help contribute toward the $562,312 needed to complete construction. One year later, the funding was secure and work was underway.

On September 1, 1968, Husson College welcomed its first students at the new campus at One College Circle.

Sadly, just two years later, Chief suffered a series of strokes. He was forced to give up the college presidency.

In February of 1972, Chesley H. Husson, Sr., died.

Paul and Judy Husson acquired the camp on Green Lake after both of Paul's parents passed away. One day, the couple was standing on the shoreline. Paul turned to Judy and said, "Look across the lake and tell me what you see."

"I see beautiful trees and a mountain way over there," she answered, noting the mountain was probably two to three miles across from the water.

Paul asked his wife if she saw anything else.

When she answered no, he said "Let me tell you what Chief saw when he looked out over the water to the far shore. He wanted to know what was on the other side of that mountain. What was on the other side of those trees? He was always looking for the other side."

As for what Chief Husson would think of his campus today, with 65 undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees offered to approximately 2,500 undergraduate and 650 graduate students enrolled annually, Judy Husson does not hesitate before responding.

"Prayers answered," she said emphatically. "Same thing for my honey Paul, prayers answered."

Judy paused, lost in her own thoughts for a moment.

"When I look out across that lake now, I see those two men," she continued. "Only this time, they're on the other side of that mountain."



Esports Center Expands to Meet the Needs of Growing Program

You never know what you might hear when walking down the sunny perimeter hallway in the Darling Learning Center these days.

It could be the squeak of sneakers on a basketball court or excited voices cheering teammates on. Between the colorful lights snaking across the room, the large-screen televisions broadcasting games and the nearly three dozen specialty computers with glowing blue lights, the Husson University Esports Center just has a certain vibe.

Newly expanded, the Esports Center is home to 17 esports teams, populated by 64 students that compete on varsity and junior varsity teams nationally against other colleges in nine video game titles including Rocket League, Overwatch, League of Legends, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate and VALORANT. The teams are part of the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC).

Unveiled in September, the expanded Esports Center has not only doubled in size but also grown technologically. There are now a total of 35 gaming computers – up from 15 last spring – along with Xbox, Playstation and Nintendo Switch consoles. There's also a new dedicated competition room with seven computers and a streaming room where student broadcasters can livestream competitions on the Husson Esports Twitch social media channel.

Like other sporting competitions, the broadcasters can switch between cameras, showing different player's screens, as well as pan to an overhead view of the competition room. Soon, they'll also be able to show the broadcasting room when streaming.

But the expansion isn't just about technology or games. It's also about meeting the needs of people.

"The expansion of the room was necessary for us to meet the needs of all the students wanting to be involved in esports," said A.J. Kool, esports coordinator at Husson University.

Since launching in Spring 2022 with 32 players, esports has also doubled the number of people involved.









A.J. Kool, esports coordinator.

Senior Griffin Reed has been competing on esports teams since the center first opened. He's also done work-study in the Esports Center and become a game lead. Reed, who transferred from a community college because Husson offered a psychology program he was interested in, said that joining esports helped him create community for himself at Husson.

"Meeting these people and seeing them even two or three times a week and hanging out ... just building that connection it started bleeding over in the outside life as well," Reed said.

He and his teammates went bowling together, to trivia nights and even had team dinners.

"Last fall, before every Monday night, we'd go to Happy China Buffet for a few hours before our game time," Reed said. "It makes it easier for people to get to know one another who might not normally cross paths."

Beyond creating community, the game play is also helping Reed practice the classroom skills he's developed in his forensic psychology program. He's looking for patterns in the behaviors of other players, for instance — a skill that will come in handy in his future career. Reed hopes to work as a forensic psychologist with federal law enforcement after he attends graduate school.

Kool said developing useful skills is all part of the fun.

Students involved in esports learn important skills that can benefit them in many life scenarios, similar to other competitive sports. Those skills include schedule management, communication, preparation and how to use data analytics in decision making.

"We have a lot more leadership opportunities as well," Kool said. Team captains take on greater responsibility as leaders, ensuring practices and competitions run smoothly as well as keeping track of teammates.

These days, practices can happen at the same time as competitions. There's room for watching streamed games as well. That's a big change from last year when only one team could use the Esports Center at a time.

The hard work of the competitors is paying off as well. In the spring, five teams went to the playoffs. Esports landed its first sponsor — Bye Blue Light — and also raised money for charities twice last year, including $660 for the Student Assistance Clothing Fund. And the program was awarded the 2022-23 Commissioner's Cup, which is awarded to one ECAC Esports member university each year that has had both in-game success and a positive impact on its campus and the greater community.

In addition to the game play and community building, esports is a lucrative business. For the Husson University Esports Center, that's an opportunity to give back to the Husson community, the Bangor community and the college landscape in the state as a whole.

"A lot of our focus when we generate revenue is on what we can do for the community," Kool said.

Esports by the Numbers

- 64 Students
- 35 Gaming Computers
- 17 Esports Teams
- 9 Games

Husson's Homecoming Kicks Off Quasquicentennial Celebrations!











Homecoming was extra special this year as it marked the kick off of Husson University's 125th anniversary celebration.

Husson University welcomed students, alumni, family and friends back to the Circle for Homecoming, a beloved annual event. Festivities began with the annual Women's Philanthropy Council Scholarship Luncheon on Friday, Sept. 22, where Husson student scholarship recipients could connect with the donors behind the scholarships they've received. It also showcased the collective impact of scholarships on students, hopefully inspiring attendees to give one day too.

Homecoming festivities continued Friday evening when three outstanding individuals who exemplify the founding characteristics of Husson – Character and Humility – were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame. The Young Alumnus Award was presented to **Connor J. Archer '21, '21G**, while **Kissy Walker '03G** was named this year's Alumna Hall of Fame Inductee and **Betty Constantine Floris** was inducted as an Honorary Alumna of Husson University.

On Saturday, the 125th Kick-Off Carnival brought more excitement to campus with an inflatable obstacle course, cotton candy, chalk art on Husson's sidewalks, spin-art, tie-dying of commemorative shirts and more. The carnival was the joint work of the Alumni Association and Husson's Advancement Department who partnered with Student Life, Student Government and the Art and Design Club.

Visitors to campus also got to experience Husson's new Homecoming Headquarters, located in the recently completed Frances M. O'Keefe Hitting Pavilion. Husson was humbled when Geaghan Brothers Brewing Company unveiled its Green and Gold Kölsch, brewed in honor of Husson's 125-year history.

"We proudly present this beer as our way to celebrate Husson University's past, present, and future on its 125th anniversary and in gratitude for all it does to help build a great future in our city, state, and beyond," said owner, Andrew Geaghan.





Alumni Board Volunteers: L-R - Ryan Tribou '18, Cameron Clark '20, '20G, Christopher Paradis '97G, Ryan Barlett '15, MyMy Nguyen '15, '15G, Marrissa Williams '21, Lisa Sturgeon '11, '15G, Jack Donovan '64.





















L-R: Christine Mihan, director of alumni relations; Victoria Pereira, former director of annual giving; Warren Caruso, executive director of major gifts and men's basketball coach; Connor Archer '21, '21G; Kissy Walker '03G, women's basketball coach; Betty Constantine Floris; Lisa Sturgeon '11, '15G, president of the Alumni Board; President Robert Clark.

Alumni Hall of Fame Recognition

Each year, the Husson University Alumni Association recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding professional career accomplishments as well as exemplary leadership, character and humility, and have made significant contributions to their community or Husson University, by inducting them into the Alumni Hall of Fame. This year's inductees, **Connor J. Archer '21, '21G, Kissy Walker '03G** and **Betty Constantine Floris,** personify these outstanding characteristics. It is our hope that the plaques honoring our Alumni Hall of Fame members adorning the walls of Peabody Hall will inspire our current students to achieve their full potential.

Young Alumnus

Connor J. Archer '21, '21G earned his bachelor of science in integrated technology and his master's degree in business administration from Husson University in 2021. As a local graduate of Old Town High School, he is continuing to give back to those who helped him succeed in life as an individual living with autism. Archer is well known for growing a local non-profit organization he created when he was a sophomore in high school called The Courageous Steps Project. The organization serves children and young adults with various abilities and challenges in Maine. Archer also launched his own business to provide business and education consulting. He speaks and hosts presentations around the country, leads a project with the Maine Department of Education, serves as both a self-advocate advisor through the University of Maine and in an initiative funded through the US Department of Education to improve inclusion and transition continuums from birth to 22 years old.

Alumna

Kissy Walker '03G has been the head coach of Husson women's basketball since 1989 and has led teams to 12 conference championships and 12 NAIA/NCAA National Tournament appearances, including an NAIA appearance in 1993. Walker's teams won five of the last seven conference titles and Walker was named Conference Coach of the Year 11 times, Maine State Coach of the Year thrice, NAIA District V Coach of the Year twice and New England Women's Basketball Association Coach of the Year. The winningest coach in program history and the longest-tenured head coach for a single sport in Husson University history, Walker has been inducted into the Husson Sports Hall of Fame, Maine Basketball Hall of Fame and New England Basketball Hall of Fame. Walker has spent over 30 years with Husson as both an assistant coach, head coach and instructor. A 1986 graduate of the University of Maine, Walker earned a BS in health and physical education and an MS in business administration from Husson in 2003.

Honorary Alumna

Betty Constantine Floris, a Bangor native, graduated from Bangor High School in 1975. Floris earned a bachelor of science degree in education from the University of Maine in 1979; a master of science degree in exercise physiology from University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse in 1984; a certificate in change management from Harvard University in 1995; and a certificate in women's leadership from Cornell University in 2020. Floris worked locally, regionally and nationally in teaching and consulting in executive non-profit management for over 25 years. Floris graduated from the Florida Gold Coast School of Realty, which allowed her to take care of her father, Earl Constantine, as he approached 90 years of age. In 2009, she helped her father, a 1942 graduate of Husson, establish the Earl R. Constantine Endowed Scholarship. Since his passing, Floris has continued her father's legacy and sits on the Women's Philanthropy Council at Husson. Additionally, she and her husband support many areas of campus.

If you would like to nominate someone to the Alumni Hall of Fame, please visit **www.husson.edu/alumni/ahof.**

Husson Athletics Inducts the 2023 Hall of Fame Class

Nine former Husson athletes and the 1988-89 women's basketball team were inducted into the Husson Sports Hall of Fame on Friday, Nov. 17.

"All of these alums have exemplified what it means to represent Husson University at the highest level both on and off their respective playing surfaces," said Director of Athletics John Sutyak.

The inductees join an elite Husson Athletics Hall of Fame membership of 251 student-athletics, coaches, administrator, contributors and teams.

"This incredible group of student athletes left their mark both on their sport and the university, earning them a place among the best to put on a Husson uniform," said Hall of Fame Committee chairman Bobby Campbell '92.

Mariah Arno Gagné '14, '16G
Mariah Arno was a four-year letterwinner for the Eagles from 2010-2013, and was one of the most skilled forwards in Husson University's field hockey program history.

Trevon Butler '17
Trevon Butler was a standout for the Husson University men's basketball team from 2013-2016, and is one of only 11 players in school history to finish with over 1,500 career points and 500 career rebounds.

Ed Dingo '73
Ed Dingo was a standout baseball player for Husson from 1972-73. In just two seasons with the Eagles, Dingo posted a 10-3 record with a 1.08 ERA and 172 strikeouts. Additionally, Dingo helped lead Husson to a NCC Championship, the program's first-ever showing in a NAIA District 32 Championship.

Jason Jack '06
Jason Jack was a fullback and tight end for Gabby Price from 2003-2005. In 24 career games played, Jack ran for 218 total yards on 64 attempts with four touchdowns, while catching 26 passes for 228 yards and a score, giving him 500 all-purpose yards.

Kayla Merrill Beers '16
A key piece in the early part of the softball dynasty at Husson University, Kayla Merrill helped the Eagles capture four-straight North Atlantic Conference regular season and tournament titles during her career as a pitcher and infielder.

Alecia Palmer '16, '17G
Alecia Palmer competed in three varsity sports at Husson University from 2012-2016 and excelled at all of them – cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field. Palmer won the individual North Atlantic Conference Championship in 2012, in addition to being named NAC runner of the year that same season.

Lara Sarett '19 *(Posthumously)*
Lara Sarett was the first swimmer in program history to capture three conference individual event titles in a single championship meet – Sarett won five individual events and set the GNAC championship record in the 100-yard breaststroke as a sophomore.

Bethany Sevey Shalit '12
Bethany Sevey was a standout shooting guard for the women's basketball program, playing for hall of fame member Kissy Walker '03G from 2008-2011. Sevey garnered North Atlantic Conference Player of Year honors and was named to the All-NAC First Team and to the Maine Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-State Second Team.

Dr. Kylan Smith, DPT '11, '13G
Kylan Smith was a three-year letterwinner from 2007-2009 as a midfielder and is regarded as one of the best two-way players in Husson University women's soccer program history. The 2009 North Atlantic Conference Tournament MVP started all 62 games of her Husson career as a member of the defensive unit and was a two-time All-North Atlantic Conference honoree.

Shawn Smith '14, '16G, '23
Shawn Smith was a four-year letterwinner for the Eagles from 2010-2013 as both a pitcher and outfielder earning two North Atlantic Conference All-Conference Selections as well as being named NAC player of the year. Smith also became the first player in program history to be selected to play in the NEIBA Senior All-Star Game.

1988-1989 Women's Basketball Team
The 1988-1989 women's basketball team coached by Lauree Gott and assisted by hall of fame member Kissy Walker '03G became the first women's team in school history to be ranked nationally. The 1988-1989 team finished as the fourth best team in New England by the New England Women's Basketball Association (membership included NCAA Division III and NAIA schools) and the second-best team in the State of Maine by the Maine Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.



Campus before building.



Undated campus aerial.

A Legacy of Learning

Husson's past presidents and other school leaders reflect on the school's 125th anniversary

Penmanship, Ornamental Penmanship, Typewriting and Elocution.

Those were some of the courses offered to students at the Shaw Business College at the turn of the 20th Century. Today, Husson University offers 43 bachelor degrees, eight master degrees, two doctoral degrees as well as numerous certifications. In addition, Husson is now accredited by 11 organizations.

"Over time, the academic portfolio at Husson has become more diverse, more robust, and certainly more elevated in terms of the types of accreditation," said **Dr. Lynne Coy-Ogan**, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost.

But while the curriculum has evolved in the last 125 years, the core commitment of preparing students for productive careers has remained the same.



Dr. Phil Grant began teaching business courses at Husson in 1968, the same year the school moved to its permanent location at One College Circle.

"We all knew that life in the new facility would provide a much larger measure of efficiency and better communications among faulty, students and administration," said Grant. "With all the facilities located 'around the circle,' everyone could see the relationship of academics, administration, athletics, dormitory life, dining and more. The community saw that [Chesley] Husson believed in the city's future and was willing to make an investment to further the overall quality of life in the Bangor area. And consequently, the city became very supportive of what Husson was about."

Sadly, Chief, as Chesley Husson was fondly known, passed away just a few years after the campus opened. He stepped down as president in 1970 after suffering a series of strokes.



Barkev Kibarian stepped in as president of Husson College during that time and



Campus in 1996



Campus in 2003



stayed on for another three years. He was replaced by **Franklin Peters** who served until 1978, four of those years as acting president.

Greg Vermette '74 started working as an admissions counselor at Husson two days after graduation. He was eventually promoted to associate director of admissions. He remembers when school officials began talking about an expansion of the Husson campus into southern Maine to try and attract students from out of state.

"These were very, very trying times not only for Husson but an awful lot of small, private colleges around the country," Vermette said. "Enrollment was down and we had some real challenges in the admissions department."

Vermette lived in the Portland area at the time. He began working there as well, directing the new southern campus for Husson.

"We collaborated with Andover College, a two-year business college out of New Hampshire," Vermette said. "They had a small campus in Portland. We hired adjunct faculty to teach Husson courses to Husson students attending school on the Andover campus. We also had Bangor instructors that would come down on the weekends to teach Saturday night classes."

In 1977, Husson granted its first master's degree.



Delmont Merrill was named president of Husson a year later. He was no stranger to the school, having graduated from what was then the Bangor Maine School of Commerce in 1948 and then returning to Husson in 1953 to teach.

Clara Swan is credited with recruiting Merrill from his coaching position at Sumner High School in Sullivan, Maine, to coach baseball and basketball at Husson. He would go on to become Husson's athletic director while also serving as the Maine State Basketball Commissioner.

"Being a coach and athletic director did more to develop my leadership qualities than anything I could have done," Merrill told the Bangor Daily News in 1981. "In coaching I had to deal with all kinds of people at all levels and age groups. Teamwork goes way beyond athletics."

When he was just 19 years old, Merrill found himself on Iwo Jima, Red Beach as a member of the Marines, 5th Division during World War II. He and two other marines were the only ones in their 18-man assault squad that survived the battle.

"That experience left him feeling lucky to be alive," said Linda Sparks, Merrill's daughter. "He thanked God for sparing him and made a promise to himself to do good in life and help those who were less fortunate than him."

While coaching at Husson, Merrill and his wife, Betty, would often invite athletes to their house for a home cooked meal. That tradition continued when he became president.

"They had a fireplace in the living room and would cook steaks over the open fire," said Sparks. "Friendly conversations in a room lit with candles left the students feeling relaxed and able to enjoy some lighter moments of college life."

"He was known for being very approachable," said Del's son, Bob Merrill. "To have someone at that level that the students could talk to, that's kind of unusual and pretty remarkable."

Additionally, Betty Merrill hosted an annual Faculty Wives Tea each fall at their home in Brewer.

"Husson Food Service would cater and lay out tasty treats in Martha Stewart

Continued on page 20



Campus in 2007



Campus in 2012

Continued from page 19

fashion," said Sparks. "Tea was actually served in tea cups."

Merrill's tenure as president of Husson would continue until 1987. During that time, he initiated the bachelor of science in nursing degree program at the school working closely with the nursing program at what was then known as Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, as well as the first master's degree program in business. Merrill invited what was then known as the New England School of Broadcasting to lease academic and residential space on campus. Additionally, Maine Job Corps rented out Bell Hall along with several classrooms on campus for its training and development programs.

Merrill also managed to convince Chesley Husson's son Paul to come on board as the founding director of the International Center for Language Studies.

"Del Merrill was one of the best men in the whole entire world," said Judy Husson, Paul's widow.

Paul Husson traveled all over the world, encouraging potential students to attend Husson. He also worked with senior leaders at other international colleges and universities to help create synergies between the institutions.

Merrill stepped down as Husson's president in 1987.



That same year, **Bill Beardsley** stepped in as the new president of Husson College. It was a time of economic uncertainty in the country, just after the historic Black Monday. Months into his presidency, Beardsley was faced with a major crisis.

"We got a letter that our millions in federal funding was in default," he said. "If we didn't pay it back immediately, the federal government would take the campus as collateral."

Additionally, the Reagan presidential administration was cracking down on college accreditations.

"They had accredited a lot of colleges," Beardsley said. "Now those schools were under the microscope. Husson was told that we needed to prove we were financially viable."

But that would be tough to prove. Enrollment at the school was down. There were no subsidies for financial aid. A number of smaller private colleges in Maine actually closed up shop.

Beardsley was determined to keep Husson in business. He started with the money owed to Uncle Sam.

"We were trying to get a line of credit," said Beardsley. "Every bank was turning us down."

He contacted Malcolm Jones, then president of Bangor Savings Bank. "He had a little office right in the middle of the bank," said Beardsley. "You had to walk in and sit with all the customers."

Bangor Savings Bank agreed to give Husson the loan.

"And Jones said, 'do you know why I am going to do that?' Because my cat uses your campus for a kitty litter box,'" Beardsley said, chuckling loudly. "Apparently Jones lived right next door to Husson and his cat would occasionally come onto our campus to relieve itself."

With that line of credit, Beardsley was able to pay back the federal government loan at a reduced rate, and begin bringing Husson back on budget. That meant some hard choices early on including a spending freeze.

"We achieved a balanced budget with $1,000 to spare," he said, proudly.



John Porter '74, '97 MAB was the chief financial officer for Husson for about two decades beginning with the Beardsley administration.

"When I started at Husson, my major challenge was making payroll, paying creditors, and keeping the books," he said. "As our financial condition



Campus in 2019



Campus in 2022

improved, challenges shifted to balancing the budget, financing infrastructure improvements and providing meaningful information for making solid financial decisions."

In 1996, Beardsley hired a new assistant coach for Husson's baseball team.



"Almost immediately, **John Winkin** began envisioning a sports complex at Husson," Beardsley said.

Winkin gave $50,000 of his own money to Husson to further the project. That inspired long-time friend Harold Alfond to donate $1 million toward the complex in 2002.

"It was the first million dollar gift ever given to Husson," Beardsley said.

Next for Beardsley came tackling Husson's declining student enrollment. For that, he would need a touchdown.

"We didn't have any students from southern Maine and southern New England," said Beardsley. "We knew we couldn't grow just based on a Maine population of students. So, what do we do?"

The answer came in the form of football.

"There were few innovative opportunities for decent athletes to play college football anywhere in southern Maine or northeastern Massachusetts during that time, with the exception of the University of Maine at Orono," said Beardsley. "In the first year, close to 100 football players and friends matriculated and enrollment continued to surge."



In 2002, Husson hired **Gabby Price** from Bangor High School to lead the Eagles football team. He coached until 2008 and then again from 2013-2018. During that time, Price coached 17 all-americans, 13 major all-conference selections ranging from player of the year to rookie of the year and produced 74 all-conference players. He retired from Husson with 72 wins, the most in program history at the time.

Under Beardsley's leadership, Maine Job Corps moved off campus, and NESCom moved to a non-profit status, merging with the university. Husson also established the School of Pharmacy and began offering doctoral programs.

But perhaps the most notable change under Beardsley's leadership was Husson's momentous transition from a college to a university on



Oct. 11, 2008. **Dr. Lambros Karris Ed.D. '22H** was the chair of the school's Psychology Department at the time. A former student had reached out, frustrated that his degree from Husson was not being recognized in Greece because there, many foreign colleges are only at a high school level.

"After reviewing the Carnegie Association's criteria for an academic higher education institution to identify itself as a university, it was clear that Husson qualified to call itself a university," said Karris.

He approached President Beardsley with the proposed name change. Beardsley, in turn, began promoting the idea of Husson University to the community at large.

The school established a Futures Committee with Karris as the chair.

"We developed a functional survey for all constituents of Husson, including faculty, administrators, current students and alumni," said Karris. "About 80% of the constituents were in favor of a name change, with alumni scoring the highest."

In 2008, the Board of Trustees officially approved the name change to Husson University. A large

Continued on page 22

Continued from page 21

celebration was held on campus with Karris named the Master of Ceremonies.

That same year Husson also awarded its first doctoral degree.

In January 2009, Beardsley announced that 2010 would be his final year as president. Husson University officially dedicated the Beardsley Meeting House on campus. The 55,000 square foot building houses the College of Science and Humanities, The Gracie Theatre, WBRC/Rohman Gallery and administrative offices including that of Husson's president. It was Beardsley's dream to have a common place on campus for Husson's community to congregate.



Dr. Robert Clark became the sixth president of Husson University on Jan. 1, 2010. Clark, currently the longest serving president at any four-year college or university in Maine, has seen Husson through a period of growth and development – and that will be the legacy he will leave when he steps down as president and CEO of Husson in December 2024.

Born and raised in Albion, Maine, Clark lived and worked all over the world before returning to his roots.

"One of the things I said when I arrived in Bangor is that you can be globally minded without ever leaving," said Clark. "But it certainly does help to provide a broader perspective."

That broader perspective meant taking a new and innovative look at Husson University's modalities of learning.

> Husson is agile, adaptive and responsive to allow our students to succeed.
>
> —*Robert Clark*

In particular, where that learning took place.

"Ten years ago, you could not have completed an entire degree online at Husson," Clark said. "Today, we have online opportunities for individuals to complete business, psychology and other undergraduate degrees, in addition to the MBA and MSN degrees and more. Even our traditional students who are in the classroom, all integrate hybrid learning in their portfolios. Or complete classes online to compliment their learning styles and provide them with some diversity."

Clark is quick to point out, the fundamental building blocks of education are still a valuable part of the Husson portfolio.

"The faculty has diligently reviewed and continues to evolve general education during the past decade," he said. "How do we make it more responsive? For example, what are our technological information literacy needs?"

Responding to changing times took on a whole new meaning in 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic. In the spring semester, the environment required that the entire university transition to online learning. Students were away on spring break when the news hit.

"Husson was cited in Boston papers as being one of the most successful pivots," said Clark, proudly. "I commend our faculty for turning over almost 1,000 classes into online learning in four days, literally."

"We were very well prepared for the pandemic because we'd begun already planning for the expansion of online programs as a key element of our academic portfolio," said Coy-Ogan. "We already had several online experts and our faculty were working with instructional designers. We prioritized providing Husson faculty with professional development experiences focused on best practices in teaching online."

During Clark's tenure, both the campus and curriculum have grown. The College of Science and Humanities, College of Health and Pharmacy, College of Business and the School of Technology and Innovation were established. Also the New England School of Communications was fully integrated into Husson.

And, more than 10,000 students have graduated with degrees and certifications. A majority of them now contribute to the workforce locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

"What I hear most from alumni is that they are concerned that as the university grew and expanded or changed over time, it would lose its perspective on character and humility which were founding mottos," said Clark. "And yet when those alumni come back to campus, they see those values continuing to be reflected. Husson is agile, adaptive and responsive to allow our students to succeed. And those are the things that we're most proud of in terms of our mission."

In 1965, Chesley Husson wrote in Husson's yearbook, The Chieftain, confirming the rumors of a new campus and described his vision going forward.

"Our growth must match size with strength," he wrote. "It is our objective always to merit the respect, the affection, and the continued endorsement of those whose credentials include the statement – I am a Husson graduate.'"



Husson University, Harold Alfond Foundation Partner To Prepare Students for Careers In Technology

On the east side of Husson University's campus stands the new Harold Alfond Hall, a strikingly modern building with distinctive angles, large glass walls and intricate exterior landscaping.

It's here where students in the School of Technology and Innovation (SoTI) who are pursuing a degree in extended reality (XR) – which includes the study of virtual reality and augmented reality – use cutting-edge technology such as VR headsets and LiDAR scanners to create virtual environments in the new iEX Center. In addition to XR, SoTI offers degrees in software development and computer information systems as well as certificates in business analytics, web design and web media.

Husson students use the new facilities and devices to prepare for growing career fields in the technology sector, and they are able to do so thanks to the ongoing support of the Harold Alfond Foundation. Over the last two years, SoTI has received more than $2.7 million in Alfond grants, including a recent $500,000 grant.

The money has been used to acquire new equipment, support student scholarships, and bolster student outreach efforts across Maine and New England.

Another area where SoTI will use the Alfond grant funds is in the hiring of new faculty and staff. Knupp said it will allow them to hire experienced industry experts such as **Tharun Thiyagarajan, BCA, MBA**, who has 20+ years of experience in XR and immersive technologies, and **Marlon Lagulos, MEng**, who also has multiple decades of experience in his respective field.

These investments have helped SoTI to nearly double student enrollment in STEM degrees while continuing to enrich the student experience, said Michael Knupp, Ph.D.(c), SoTI director and Husson assistant professor.

"We are extremely excited about the Alfond Foundation's continued commitment to Husson University and specifically the School of Technology and Innovation," Knupp said. "The grant plays an integral role in our continued advancement of technology offerings and capabilities within SoTI."

While SoTI's investments in its degree programs have brought in many new students, they have not gone unnoticed by students already on campus.

"The fact that Husson is pushing for this technology is amazing," said Dylan Avelange '26, a sophomore in the XR program. "I don't see it happening in other schools. It's going to give us a huge leg up in being established as a reliable XR school."

Avelange notes that the technology upgrades will not just benefit Husson's ability to attract new students, but also better prepare students to work in the field after they graduate. For SoTI, the readiness of students for professional careers is vital as it cements itself as a driver of technological innovation and job creation in the region.

"If you aren't working with current tech, then you kind of fall behind in the industry," Avelange said.

Class News & Notes

Promotions, engagements, weddings, birth announcements and other accomplishments. Class notes can be found online at **husson.edu/class-notes**

1970s

Lee Surridge '77 retired after 33 years as an insurance premium auditor.

2000s

Sim City Westbrook is coming to Bangor, Maine. **Chad Curley '00,** is the managing partner for the facility and the golf-pro running the space. Golf is a seasonal sport in Maine, but Sim City Westbrook will allow for year-round access. This facility will have four or five different golf simulators. A former pro at Northeast Harbor Golf Club and the Penobscot Valley Country Club in Orono, Curley is originally from New York but graduated from Caribou High School where he played soccer, basketball and baseball. He went on to play golf at Husson, where he was a captain.

Rose M. Leung '04 '04G has joined Norman, Hanson & DeTroy as chief financial officer of the Portland law firm. Previously, she worked as managing director of finance at Foreside Financial Group in Portland. She has over two decades of financial experience and earned a B.S. in accounting and M.S. in business from Husson University.

The Maine Credit Union League has honored University Credit Union (UCU) Chief Lending Officer **April Gleason '07, '11G** as the recipient of its annual Political Involvement Award for her contributions to the League's legislative advocacy on behalf of Maine credit unions and their members statewide.

As chief lending officer, Gleason is a member of UCU's senior leadership team and has been with the credit union since 2003. Since 2011, Gleason has served on the board of the Maine Association of Mortgage Professionals (MAMP), promoting education within the mortgage industry, and providing a legislative voice to mortgage professionals in Maine. She has also served on the board of HoMEworks since 2013, helping to promote homebuyer education across the state. In addition to earning her MBA from Husson University, Gleason is a Credit Union Business Lending Professional (CUBLP), a designation from CUNA.

Jason Falvey, DPT, Ph.D. '08 '10G presented at West Virginia Univeristy, as part of their Visiting Professor Series. Falvey is a board-certified clinical specialist in geriatric physical therapy. He has authored 57 peer-reviewed publications and his clinical and research expertise has been featured in local and national news outlets, including the *Washington Post*.

2010s

Dorothy O'Donnell '12 was promoted to Assistant Head Coach of Colby College's softball team. O'Donnell, the 2010 North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Player of the Year is entering her sixth season with the Mules with the new title. Last year, she helped lead Colby to a 24-14 record while coaching three Second Team All-Conference players. Before joining the Colby softball coaching staff, O'Donnell was an assistant coach at Husson in 2012-13 and former JV then varsity softball coach in 2017-2018 at Ellsworth High School.

Benjamin Staples, CPA, MBA '17, '17G has been promoted to manager in the tax practice at Baker Newman Noyes. Staples specializes in tax planning and compliance for individuals and closely held businesses, including partnerships, LLCs, and S Corporations. He joined the firm as a tax accountant in 2017.

Pride Pediatrics Therapy is a new private practice specializing in occupational therapy for children opened by **Courtney Pride '18, '19G.** Pride's main goal with the practice is to bring more specialized care to Franklin County.

Jarrod Guimond '18G has been promoted to senior vice president, commercial banking team lead (Northern Maine) at Bangor Savings Bank. Guimond joined

IN MEMORIAM

1940s: Esther Galpern '43 | Shirley P. Whitney '46 | Charlene M. Carter '47 | Mary L. Maragus '48 | Geneva S. Allen '49
1950s: Merrill R. Barter '50 | Vernita M. Gajewski '50 | Charlene B. Clark '54 | Carrie T. Murphy '58 **1960s:** Ruth M. McLaughlin '62 | Richard M. Southard '62 | Milton R. Wright '62 | Blaine T. Holmes '64 | Thomas V. Barrows '66 | James V. Hoteling '68 | Michael B. Trainor '69 **1970s:** Jane M. Harburger '71 | James R. Clark '73 | Clinton R. Tilton '76
1980s: Lee W. Brown '81 | Karen A. Hudgins '83 | Wayne M. Ferland '86 | Alden R. Mills '86 | Paul R. Robbins '89
1990s: Brian J. Letourneau '91 **2000s:** Karen S. Burton '05

the bank in 2001 as a branch teller. He holds an MBA from Husson University and a bachelor's degree in business administration and management from the University of Southern Maine.

Adam Carter '18, was recently offered the role of executive director of the National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory (NEIDL) in Boston. It is a COO role working directly with the director/CEO to develop and execute organizational strategy. The NEIDL is a $50M research institution comprised of 200 people, owned by Boston University.

Michael Yerxa '18, '18G has been promoted to vice president, senior relationship manager (Bangor and Augusta regions) at Bangor Savings Bank. Yerxa joined the bank in 2016.

2020s

Lisa Brislin '20, a financial advisor with Hughes Wealth Advisors, recently obtained the Certified Financial Planner certification. She graduated from Husson with a degree in business administration and has 23 years of experience in the financial services industry.

Ashley Babcock '21 joined the Belfast Police Department as a full-time officer. Babcock served in the U.S. Army for over five years. During those years, she was assigned to a military police company, spending four years assigned to the horse-mounted unit. Babcock received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Husson University and a master's degree in animal sciences from Unity College.

Sarah Hubert '22G has returned to Wiscasset Middle High School as the new vice principal and athletic director. Hubert's education career has spanned more than 20 years. After graduating from the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor in 2001, she worked as a Title 1 educational technician helping first and second graders with their literacy skills. She received her Master's in school counseling in 2022 from Husson and prior to this promotion, was the school counselor at Winthrop High School.

Submit *your* class notes at **husson.edu/alumni**



Gabby Price Inducted into Maine Sports Hall of Fame

One of the most decorated high school and collegiate coaches in State of Maine history, legendary Husson University football coach Gabby Price was inducted into the Maine Sports Hall of Fame in October.

Price left a lasting impression during his time with the Eagles serving as the director of athletics from 2004-08. He also had two stints with the Eagles as head football coach – from 2002-2008 and from 2013-2018. He retired with 72 wins – the most in program history.

With the Eagles, Price coached 17 All-Americans, 13 major conference award selections ranging from player of the year to rookie of the year and produced 74 all-conference players. Additionally, Price mentored 73 All-Academic team selections and three Cliff Harris Award finalists.

Price was named coach of the year an impressive four times and won five conference titles with the Eagles, made four NCAA tournament appearances and two Eastern College Athletic Conference Bowl Games.

Prior to Husson, Price coach at nearby Bangor High School from 1973-75 as offensive coordinator and 1976-84 and 1992-00 as head coach winning Maine State Class A State Championships in 1979 and 1981 before helping Husson start its football program.

Warren Caruso Inducted into the Maine Basketball Hall of Fame



538 wins, 15 conference regular-season championships, 14 conference tournament championships, and many more accolades later, Husson University head men's basketball coach Warren Caruso was inducted into the Maine Basketball Hall of Fame in August.

Caruso is the 13th member of the Maine Basketball Hall of Fame to come from the Husson men's basketball program.

The winningest coach in the history of the North Atlantic Conference (NAC), Caruso also ranks inside the top 10 in the nation for NCAA Division III wins, as well as ranking second in New England for wins by an active coach.

"I always believed my success, our success, has been a team effort," Caruso stated. "You can't do it without great assistant coaches and great student athletes."

The four-time NAC Coach of the Year got his start in 1989, when he became an assistant coach under former Husson head men's basketball coach Bruce MacGregor.

"I had a year remaining in school and had always talked to coach MacGregor about pursuing coaching in high school or whatever fit the professional career I had at the time," Caruso stated. "He said 'Why don't you come coach with us?' and it was a tremendous year and I just kind of got hooked there."

Caruso is about to enter his 30th season as the head coach of the Husson men's basketball team.

Creating New Spaces

Generous gifts are helping Husson transform

Frances M. O'Keefe Hitting Pavilion

When Bob and Fran O'Keefe first discussed giving to Husson University, they didn't have a specific project in mind. So they asked what was needed and learned a softball field could be helpful.

"We were coming up here for homecoming and I told Fran I wanted to do something for Husson – a legacy gift," said Bob O'Keefe '67.

That was 2003. Now, 20 years later, the softball facilities supported by gifts from the O'Keefes have continued to grow, culminating with the newest gift – a softball batting pavilion named the Frances M. O'Keefe Hitting Pavilion in honor of Bob's late wife.

"We've been the primary donors to the [softball facilities] project," Bob O'Keefe said.

The gift of the pavilion is something Bob O'Keefe wanted to do as a tribute to Fran, who he lost three years ago. While she was ill, she pushed Bob to move back to the greater Bangor area from New York where they'd met and made their life together.



"She was dying and she was worried about me," Bob O'Keefe said.

And now, her legacy is secure in the facility too.

The Quiet Room in the Library

When university librarian **Shelly Davis, MLIS,** first started at Husson two years ago, many people told her they wished the rear doors of the library would be accessible again.



The doors had been closed for years – only usable as an emergency exit – to create a quiet study area.

But the problem was two-fold. Not only was the entrance inaccessible, creating challenges for admission tours, students and staff alike, but the quiet study area wasn't so quiet due to its proximity to a busy hallway.

A grant from the George I. Alden Trust has helped change that, creating a new quiet study room and allowing the doors to be accessible again. The new space is outfitted with a variety of seating options in an array of colors, part of an initiative to make the library more inviting.

"It's a nice visual change both for our current students and for every tour that comes through," Davis said.

Insulation has been added to manage sound bleed from the adjacent auditorium. There are plans for future projects too including an update to the HVAC system.

"Diane [Hanscom] and I want to protect quiet study and we saw an opportunity to create a quiet study room which is really what we needed," said Davis.

Alumni & Friends **Regional Events**





Husson alumni from all over the country have been having fun getting together. If you would like to host or help host a gathering in your area, please email alumni@husson.edu.

Kristi Bond '20G hosted an alumni reception at her restaurant CherrySTONES in Bar Harbor, Maine, as part of Celebrate Husson Week in June.

Also during Celebrate Husson Week, **Lee Anne Lowe '87** invited Husson Alumni and Friends to her place of employment, Jøtul, in Gorham, Maine. Alumni were given a tour of the production facility to see how these incredible woodstoves are made, and Suzette Furrow, a friend of Husson University, won a free woodstove that was raffled off during the event.

In August, Bangor Savings Bank and Husson University celebrated their longstanding partnership with a special gathering on the Bangor Savings Bank rooftop, overlooking the Penobscot River in Bangor, Maine.

Frank Parillo '67, Deloris Rowell Parillo '66 and **Jim Parillo '71** welcomed President Robert Clark and fellow classmates for a special dinner in their hometown of Saratoga Springs, New York, in September.

After having such a fun time gathering with classmates in Houston, Texas, in June, **George Pusey '12, '13G** hosted a Virtual Happy Hour with Alumni Association Board President **Lisa Sturgeon '11, '15G**, and classmates from around the country in October.

Other regional events in November included a Husson University tailgate at the Annual Lobster Trap Game at University of New England in Biddeford, Maine, and a Women's Basketball Alumni Gathering at Season's Restaurant in Bangor, Maine, as part of the Sports Hall of Fame Induction weekend.

Mark your calendars for the President's Farewell Florida Tour from February 28 to March 6.

Make sure to visit **www.husson.edu/alumni/events**, subscribe to our newsletter at **www.husson.edu/alumni/enewslettersignup**, and follow Husson Alumni and Friends on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn for information about events in your area.







HUSSON UNIVERSITY | 125 YEARS 1898 - 2023

Want to find out what we're up to in 2023?

Follow us on **Facebook**, **LinkedIn** and **Instagram** at **@HussonAlumni** or visit us at **www.husson.edu/alumni/events**

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Bangor, ME
Permit No. 710

OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT
1 COLLEGE CIRCLE
BANGOR ME 04401-2929

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

7523 19076 **********ECRLOT**C 011 315 4 0

[redacted]

Join the Quasquicentennial Circle

QUASQUICENTENNIAL CIRCLE
125 YEARS
1898 – 2023
HUSSON UNIVERSITY

This one-time Giving Society recognizes those who make a minimum gift of $125 to any area of campus.

Visit **www.husson.edu/give** *to make your gift today*

SCAN HERE TO GIVE TODAY