Husson University and NESCom Student News

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News to Your Eyes

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Campaign Staffer Speaks to Public Relations Class

By Roseanna Stewart

Julie Green, Public Relations Director for Husson University and 2nd District Coordinator for the Susan Collins Senatorial campaign, spoke to the New England School of Communications' Intro to Public Relations class recently. Julie began her talk by starting with the campaign staff hierarchy. There is a Campaign Manager, an Assistant Campaign Manager, communications staff, and so on. The communications staff includes a Press secretary, Internet and BLOG staff, Fundraising Director, Coalitions Director and two schedulers. The Coalitions Director works to get groups of people such as teachers, union members, veterans or First Responders—police officers and firefighters to support the campaign. There is a total of 18 full-time staff and the most important—the hundreds of volunteers who work on the campaign.

"If you are interested in getting involved in politics the first thing you should do is find a candidate that you can support."

It is clearly expensive to run a Senate campaign. The campaign has raised $8.2 million, which Julie said is unheard of in Maine. The campaign has spent $1 million on internet ads and is spending $250,000 per week on television advertising. They shot 13 ads previously and now will probably run a new one each week. The Media Buyer, who decides when and on what channel the ads will run, is an important part of the campaign but not on staff. They have made 600,000 phone calls and mailed 80,000 pieces of mail to undecided voters.

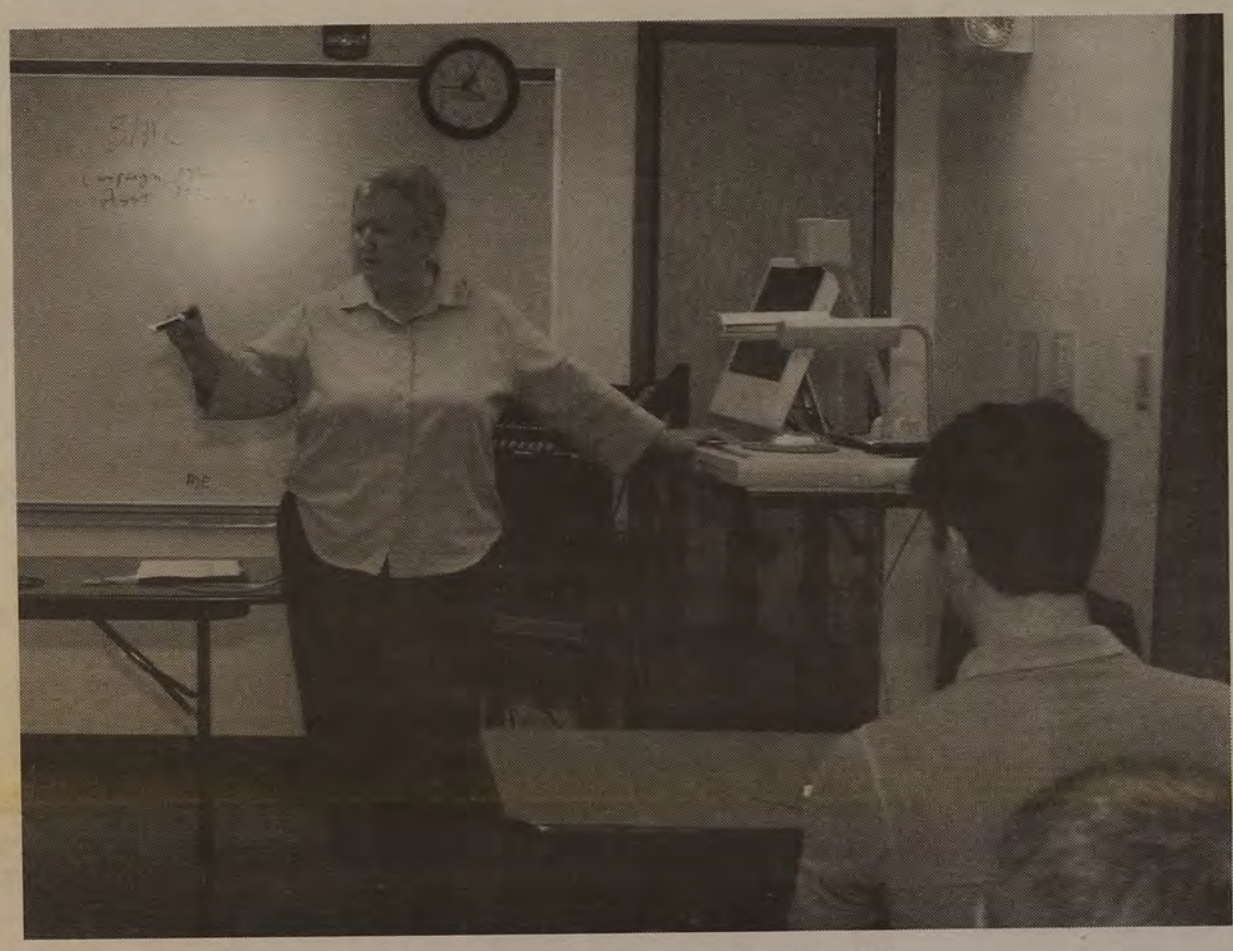
"...the more people that she gets to meet the more people who will vote for her."

Julie suggested that if you are interested in getting involved in politics the first thing you should do is find a candidate that you can support. Someone who has the same views on issues that you do. Then you work to get people to support your candidate. The campaign focuses on planning, polling, and the

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Julie Green speaks to a Public Relations about campaigning. Photo Ben Oakey

Husson University

By Daniel Schweitzer

On Saturday October 11th, 2008 the institute that started in 1898 as the Shaw School of Business took a historic step in its more than hundred year history. After a lengthy period of growth and expansion, Husson College officially became Husson University. This step came after years of preparation by many officials and administrators within the University.

Many factors and conditions led the Board of Trustees here at Husson to decide to officially change the name of Husson "College" to Husson "University." One of the main factors in the "University" decision was academics. Husson started as a business school in 1898. Over the years, a school of Health, Education, Pharmacology and Science and Humanities were also added to suit the demands of a more comprehensive educational offering. Each of these respective schools within Husson has its own Dean. "Husson offers a wide array of programs and degrees," said John Rubino, Dean of Students, " This is one of the main characteristics of a University." Rubino continued, "We didn't just wake up one day and decide to become a University. This institution really does walk and talk like a University."

"This institution really does walk and talk like a University."

Another factor that went into the name change was increasing numbers. "The institution that is now Husson University started as a school of business with about 30 students," said William Beardsley, President of Husson University, "That institute became Husson College in 1947, and had 300 students. Today student enrollment is over 3,000, which calls for another change in name." This number comes as a result of the 2008 enrollment of Husson, the New England

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TEC-Assist

By Michael Donahue

The Occupational Therapy Department of Husson University has developed TEC-Assist, the first statewide assistive technology device reutilization program in the state of Maine, to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to assistive technology. TEC-Assist will become a part of The Technical Exploration Center which is a community based program of Husson University.

The long-standing mission of the Technical Exploration Center is to provide all Maine citizens across the lifespan with access to, knowledge of, education and services regarding Assistive Technology to enhance independence, productivity and quality of life. The Technical Exploration Center serves people of all ages and all abilities throughout Maine. This mission will certainly be carried through in the equipment reutilization project called TEC-Assist.

People with disabilities need and use assistive technology in many different aspects of their lives from school to work to home, and recreation and leisure activities. It is, for many, the difference between doing and not doing and, for some, the difference between independence and dependence. Access to the technology is essential. Unfortunately, ready access is far from a simple matter.

The number of people who are uninsured and underinsured is growing. The need, and therefore the demand, for assistive technology among aging baby boomers and individuals with developmental disabilities or chronic illness are increasing. At the same time the need has been rising, the advent of managed care has lowered insurance caps and made fewer dollars available to individuals for the purchase of assistive technology. Those dollars are, in 40% of all cases today, spent on equipment that will be abandoned because of changes in medical need, growth, death, or simply because the equipment was inappropriate to the needs of the consumer. The changing and challenging health care environment today requires that we look for creative ways to ensure affordable access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities who require its use. The Technical Exploration Center and TEC-Assist are designed to create that access.

TEC-Assist will make additional high quality used equipment available to individuals with disabilities and the professionals that serve them, at a reduced cost. Consumers of restored equipment will save, on an aggregated average, 65% in purchasing through TEC-Assist over purchasing the same item new. The changing and challenging health care environment today requires that we look for creative ways to ensure affordable access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities who require its use.

In November of 2007 the trustees of the Bingham Betterment Fund, created by the late William Bingham II of Bethel, Maine, provided Husson University with a $10,000 grant to be applied solely towards the work of the TEC Equipment Reutilization Project. Husson University and Webber Energy Fuels also proudly support the TEC-Assist center, in part.

The grand opening of Maine's first "TEC-Assist" system center located at 146 Center Street, Bangor, Maine will hold its grand opening from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

For further information contact Colleen Adams, Co-Director, Technical Exploration Center at 207-992-9270 (Toll free: 1-866-274-0029), or visit their website at www.tecmaine.org or TECAssist@tecmaine.org.



Community Candidate Forum at Penobscot Theatre

Bangor, Brewer House and Senate Candidates Slated to Participate

By Tanya Pereira

In conjunction with Penobscot Theatre's production of the 1946 Pulitzer-prize winning play "State of The Union", the theatre will host a Community Candidate Forum on October 29th, featuring local House and Senate races. The forum is designed to educate voters about the candidates on their ballot.

Organized with the assistance of local citizens and supported by the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce and Fusion: Bangor, the forum is a non-partisan event designed to educate locals about the candidates in the House and Senate races in Bangor and Brewer.

On the evening of Wednesday, October 29, from 6 – 9 pm, these candidates will appear live at the Bangor Opera House, 131 Main Street. Host, Dr. Mark Kelley from the New England School of Communications, will facilitate. Candidates in each race will face off answering a set of questions about key issues and concluding with a closing statement.

House races in Districts 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, and 21 are all included. These races represent the two largest communities in the region, Bangor and Brewer. All candidates on the ballot have been invited to participate.

To reach an even larger audience, the organizers have teamed up with the New England School of Communications and the forum will be broadcast live on WHSN, 89.3 FM and streamed online at www.whsn-fm.com,

This Community Candidates Forum is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Seats may be reserved by calling the Penobscot Theatre box office at 942-3333.

As part of Penobscot Theatre's activities surrounding the October 22-November 2 performances of "State of the Union", the theatre is engaging in a number of community activities designed to increase voter registration, turn out and education. For more information about the Candidate Forum, "State of the Union" or Penobscot Theatre, call 207-942-3333 or visit www.penobscottheatre.org.

Are You Prepared for Election Day?

By Monique Peletier

"I don't know anything about the local elections, and I don't really feel bad about that," says Samantha Cobb, a junior here at Husson. "I haven't even heard anything about them, or exposed to anything even dealing with them." Cobb's statement is not uncommon, considering that the national election coverage has dominated the media for months, overshadowing state and local elections. "It's hard since I don't know much about them, I get confused and don't know who to believe" says Cobb. If you find yourself in Cobb's place, then it may be a good idea to tune in to WHSN 89.3 the week before Election Day.

"I find that too many students are apathetic toward politics and voting. Students should be more concerned with the current state of our nation."

While Cobb feels that her "fellow Husson students" are in the same situation that she is in; there are also those who already know a great deal about the upcoming elections. Kylan Smith, also a junior here at Husson says, "there is no need for students not to be informed about upcoming elections. I find that too many students are apathetic toward politics and voting. Students should be more concerned with the current state of our nation. It's a good thing that they [WHSN] is doing something that can help out those who haven't made a decision yet or don't know much about the campaigns."

Journalism students at NESCom have been putting together a series called "Know Before You Go" which will air the week of October 27th. This could be just what you need to listen to before you head to the polls. 'Know Before You Go' will feature profiles on Bangor and Brewer city council candidates as well as candidates for House and Senate seats. It started in September when it was introduced to the students by NESCom professors Susan Patten and Ann O'Reilly. Since then, they have been researching area politicians by conducting interviews. O'Reilly says, "It's a win-win situation...it offers the NESCom students an opportunity to practice what they're really going to be doing…and it's an education tool for those who haven't embraced learning about their candidates."

"...It offers the NESCom students an opportunity to practice what they're really going to be doing... and it's an education tool for those who haven't embraced learning about their candidates."

According to Maine.gov, Secretary of State, Matthew Dunlap says, "The reality is that voting makes a tremendous difference. By casting a ballot, each citizen has a voice in deciding who will serve in office and what positions will be taken on major issues." While Dunlap is right, it's hard to cast a ballot when you're voting on something you know very little about. So inform yourself, listen to WHSN this week, and get out there and vote!

"By casting a ballot, each citizen has a voice in deciding who will serve in office and what positions will be taken on major issues."

NESCom Grads All at Sea

By Len Harlow

Over the years graduation speakers have employed some pet phrases for college seniors and one of the most common is the admonishment to "keep your feet firmly planted in the ground and your eyes on the stars".

"We are all best friends and talk to each other almost every week"

But for four 2007 graduates of the New England School of Communications only part of that advice was pertinent because these four all took jobs with Carnival Cruise Lines and are all at sea as sound technicians for the entertainment productions which are a big part of the cruise experience.

Three of the four are from Saco, Maine, and graduates of Thornton Academy. Craig McDonough, Dane Courtoise and Eric Martel are childhood friends and buddies and, because of their early attachment to music while playing in area bands, decided upon the same career path as audio engineers. The fourth graduate now sailing for Carnival is Kyle Smith, a native of Atko, N.J. Craig is the main lounge sound technician on MS Carnival Pride out of Long Beach, CA., Dane is the main lounge tech for MS Carnival Destiny out of Florida, Eric is the main lounge tech for MS Fantasy out of Alabama and Kyle is a sound technician on the MS Carnival Imagination out of Miami.

"We are all best friends and talk to each other almost every week", says McDonough.

Sound technicians on a cruise ship are responsible for the care and use of sophisticated sound equipment while employing it in such a way that a number of different musical acts blend together perfectly. McDonough, for instance, is usually responsible for a seven piece show band, two production singers, 12 dancers, and seven or eight backing pre-recorded tracks, all of whom perform in the ship's main lounge on three nights of an eight day cruise with two seatings each night.

In addition he is responsible for the sound equipment for five different "fly-on" entertainers every week who have different and unique acts. He is also certified for pyrotechnics handling and loads pyrotechnics for shows on a regular basis. The main lounge production crew includes a sound technician, lighting tech, automation tech and backstage tech.

"I wake up every morning looking forward to the day's activities."

Courtois, Martel and Smith all started together at NESCom while McDonough spent his freshman year studying civil engineering at the University of Maine before transferring to the school on the Husson University campus.

While the job can involve long hours and some stressful moments, there are some very real perks for a life at sea. "I have a maid who brings fresh towels every day, makes the bed and washes my uniform attire. When we make port in such places as Puerto Vallarta, Majatian or Cabo San Lucas in Mexico I get shore leave and the opportunity to do some exploring and see some beautiful and amazing sites", says McDonough.

What was the biggest adjustment for the four in transferring to a life at sea? It wasn't the threat of sea sickness, according to McDonough, but the rigors of learning life boat and life raft operation, fire prevention and control and memorizing all the emergency and safety locations on the ship.

"When we make port... I get shore leave and the opportunity to do some exploring and see some beautiful and amazing sites."

Eventually Craig McDonough would like to be a sound technician for a touring show or group on land but for now he loves what he is doing. "I wake up every morning looking forward to the day's activities. Of course I don't really have a choice. It's not like you can get away from it(your work) because you're on a ship in the middle of the ocean", he says with tongue in cheek.

Husson Proposes Alcohol Policy

By Christina Perez

Right now Husson University residential life officials have proposed a new alcohol policy that will change the amount of alcohol that a student can bring on campus. Currently the official alcohol policy, which is in the student handbook, does not actually state how much alcohol a student can bring on campus. The student handbook does however enforce such, "If you are under 21, you will be judicially processed if you are found drinking alcohol, in the same room as alcohol, transporting alcohol on or off campus including in or out of residence halls and from vehicle to vehicle, intoxicated and/or participating in any social activity involving alcohol… If the resident's age is 21 or older they may responsibly possess, consume, and procure alcohol in a closed residence hall room with only those of the legal drinking age or older… No, kegs, party balls, funnels or other common source containers are allowed… There are no drinking games allowed on college property.

Joshua Strange, a Resident Assistant for the ninth floor Bell, explains what the proposal reads, "It is going to limit the amount of alcohol allowed in a room. It works out being in a room with both students of legal drinking age; 2 six packs of beer and 2 bottles of wine in the room. So one of each of those things per person living in the room." This new does not mention hard liquor at all, which makes the issue of it having it on campus still uncertain."

When asked if the change would be effective, Strange quickly replied, "No, for two reasons. We RAs will have a hard time regulating that because it is in residents' rooms and we don't get in there a lot. Secondly, it still gives a lot of gray area to a policy with enough gray area already. In my personal opinion as a RA, there are going to be people who are breaking the rules and the amount that is being consumed is not the issue. The issue is reinforcing the rules, and the punishments the students are given simply aren't strict enough for their actions." The fate of the student who is caught drinking is that the RAs report the student and then the RD chooses whether to write up a violation and what the punishment should be; this is also a case- by- case basis.

As punishment the students face suspension, which usually means being kicked off campus for the weekends, and community service such as raking leaves and picking up trash on campus. In the state of Maine, if a person under age has been drinking, the person often ends up with fines and sometimes jail time. It is Maine state law that all college campuses must have punishments for alcohol consumption and hold the students accountable for their actions. Yet, is alcohol an issue at Husson University? Strange said, "Alcohol is not as much of an issue as it was in the past. It is just as much here as it is in any other college. Although it is not a terrible problem, yet it is something that should not be brushed off."

Bangor "Comic Con" Welcomes Newcomers

By Jeremiah Rancourt

It could have been launched in someone's basement or wedged into the foyer of a public library. It would not have been the first time. There could have been a cluster of insiders and fanatics but no newcomers or those not "in the know." The organizers could have planted a subtle impression that the curious would not be welcome.

But Gibran Graham did not want Bangor's first comic book convention to be like that. He was looking to attract the uninitiated, the first-timer, and the "casual comic reader" when he launched the idea of "BangPop!" two months ago. The diverse crowd of over 300 men, women, and children who attended the event at the Spectacular Event Center on Saturday, September 13, 2008, were the recipients of Graham's vision.

Graham has been employed for the last five and a half years at the Borders bookstore in Bangor. He has organized local and national events at the store, like book signings by authors or the Harry Potter midnight release parties. Graham admitted he has never done anything on this kind of scale before. A life-long comic reader, he travels in appreciation of his hobby taking him to conventions in New York, Chicago, and the famous one in San Diego called "Comic Con." Graham admitted most people wouldn't go so far to attend a convention. Graham counted on the die-hard collectors coming to "BangPop!", but he knew to entice the newcomer he needed to have "not just tables and dealers but programming."

That programming was spread between three large rooms and a hallway at the Spectacular Event Center. There were panel discussions and presentations, a constant loop of comics-related documentaries, and tables of artists and venders selling their wares. Many people had their wallets open, perhaps buying a mainstream comic from powerhouses Marvel or DC or trying an independent label's new product. Some free materials were available for the curious. A number of participants chose to question the artists and writers personally at their display tables or when part of a panel.

One of the presenters at the event was Joe Hill, a New York Times best-selling author, who worked in the comic industry as a writer. He is also the son of horror author Stephen King, who owns a home in Bangor. Hill believes you can work in comics and still get literary respect. This was not always the case. Hill explained even ten years ago the answer to whether a stigma exists working in the industry would have been very different. There has been a "cultural shift," Hill elaborated since "every film this summer was based on a comic or wished it was."

Have comic books become so engrained in American culture through blockbuster films like this summer's "Iron Man" and "The Dark Knight" that there is no longer a stigma in being a comic book writer, artist, or fan? Frank Applebee and Alicia McConkey attended the "BangPop!" convention together. Applebee has been collecting comics for 20 years, while McConkey was clutching her first comic book purchase. Applebee believes there is less a stigma than when he began collecting. McConkey did not see a stigma against those who read comic books. Richard Paget, a 62-year-old from Stonington, agreed with McConkey that there was no longer a stigma around comics.

Larry Zeitlin, who brought his two young sons Michael and Benjamin to the convention, also didn't think comics were outside the norm any more. Zeitlin was never a fan as a kid, but his son Michael is into both comic books and Japanese anime. Zeitlin expressed that if it gets them to read he doesn't have a problem with his sons enjoying comic books.

Graham took a more historical view in his e-mail response to whether comic books still have a stigma attached. "I think it's unfortunate but they will always have a stigma, dating back to the McCarthy era and Seduction of the Innocent. Seduction of the Innocent was a novel written by Frederick Wertham in 1954 criticizing comic books as being psychologically harmful to children.

Graham met his attendance goal with "BangPop!" and expects to bring it back next year. In the course of making the rounds during the event, Graham met many comic creators in the area who are interested in being included as presenters or having a table to display their work next time. Hill attended the San Diego Comic Con and a smaller convention in Manchester, New Hampshire and believes "BangPop!" is off on the right foot.

Graham admitted that small town comic conventions "don't always prosper and continue." There are 133 North American comic conventions listed between September 2008 and January 2009 at Comic Book Conventions.Com, an internet site dedicated to advertising upcoming conventions. "BangPop!" was listed this year among more established conventions and will have to compete with them to have a future.

Husson and NESCom's New Student Amount Increases

By Emily Nason

The increasing amount of new Husson University and New England School of Communications students is making its mark here on campus. Compared to last year's orientation check-ins, there has been almost one hundred-student increase.

"Because we are getting full...there's probably about sixty percent of new students living on campus."

Louise Grant, Admissions Director of NESCom said that the numbers of new students keep increasing the student population each year.

"But that's a good thing. We hope to increase by ten percent each year."

Out of these new students about seventy-five percent planned on staying here on campus. Carlena Bean, Director of Admissions at Husson University said that while NESCom hopes to increase student population by ten percent, Husson plans to increase only by five percent each year and that's OK, "Because we are getting full… there's probably about sixty percent of new students living on campus."

With such an increase of new students and more than half staying in the dorms, there have been some issues. Josh Gardner, the RD of Bell Hall explains.

"We like to have our RAs avoid having roommates, but they generally do in the beginning of the year because we try to operate at full capacity. When people drop out or move off campus, it frees up space for the RA's to live alone. But the moving out seems a lot slower this year." Gardner doesn't know if it's

"Compared to other college campuses, there have been very few serious incidents... I think the new students this year seem to be a lot more courteous."

completely due to the increase of new students on campus, as he sees that freshmen are the most likely to move out, transfer or drop out because they have less invested into the school, but he said that it is probable.

Space in the dorms has not been the only thing affected by the increase of new students. Robert Kilpeck, Director of Husson Campus Safety and Security, said that the number of incidents have been fairly low so far this year, but there have been some serious ones.

"The most serious has been air soft pellet guns. This usually happens in the first weeks of the first semester, and it's been that way for the last couple of years." Kilpeck said that it usually dies down when the guns are confiscated and students have been suspended. Less serious issues have been parking violations.

"People are parking on the grass and that has to do with that there is enough

"But that's a good thing. We hope to increase by ten percent each year."

parking spots, but not enough convenient parking spots... And for that, we give out citations." Overall, Kilpeck is not too worried about the increase of new students creating an increasing number of issues on campus.

" Compared to other college campuses, there have been very few serious incidents…I think the new students this year seem to be a lot more courteous. It's really nice to see."

University

(continued from cover)

School of Communications, the Bailey boat school, and Husson's campuses in Portland and Presque Isle. The milestone was reached with the assistance of the largest entering class for these institutions, which exceeds the 1,000 student mark. "We now have the numbers, as well as the characteristics of a University, " said Dean Rubino. In addition to a growing institute and an increasingly wide variety of undergraduate programs, Husson is also certified to issue Graduate and Master's degrees in various fields. Husson's first Doctoral students, certified in physical therapy, graduated from the College last May. All of these factors combined to bring what was once Husson College to the doorstep of becoming Husson University.

Once the Husson Board of Trustees approved the name change, a proper ceremony had to be held in order to usher in the new opportunities that come with being a University. The weekend of October 10th-11th 2008 saw the University name switch as well as a celebration that went along with it. The weekend was the first of many recognition ceremonies that will be held throughout the year to celebrate this milestone in Husson's history. The year's celebrations will culminate at graduation this May, when the first diplomas bearing "Husson University" will be issued to students.

Even though many students may have been off-campus for the long break, the campus was still full of activity. The celebration included alumni, administrators, students, and some of the many friends of Husson University. Friday night was a night for alumni athletes. Husson honored accomplishments of certain alumni athletes by inducting the first few members in the Husson athletic hall of fame. Alumni were also inducted into Husson's general Hall of Fame, which honors the accomplishments of Husson's graduates after they leave Husson's halls.

Saturday's events brought many alumni and even some Maine state dignitaries to Husson's campus. Some of the highlights of Saturday's events included the dedication of Cross Lane. This title was given in honor of Woodrow Cross, one among many of Husson's alumni. Cross Lane is the official entrance to the University. Governor Baldacci, Congressman Mike Michaud, and various other dignitaries attended the dedication. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in recognition of the newly dedicated entrance to the University. Saturday's celebrations also included a Gala dinner for alumni and friends, with the weekend ending with fireworks at the bell-tower and a late-night comedy presentation in the Furman Center. Dean of Students John Rubino summed up the weekend, stating: "The weekend's festivities were simply a celebration of who we are, where we've been, and where we're going as an institute. It was a proud time, and it was a lot of fun."

In light of this name change, many students here at Husson may be asking themselves, "What does this mean for me?" In many respects, the quality of education and feel of Husson will stay the same, despite the name change. According to President Beardsley, "Husson's name change really came after we became a University." Universities are really known for three main things, increased public outreach, teaching, and research. "Husson's chief focus will remain teaching our students. As we grow, we are going to maintain the personal touch that makes Husson unique," said Beardsley, "We will also be able to reach out into the community." With the addition of the Meeting House and its performing arts center, Husson University will be able to reach out to the greater community of Bangor and the state of Maine as a whole. Husson may also receive more resources in the form of grants and federal funding. The switch to Husson University also makes our Institute more appealing to international students interested in earning a degree in the United States. Finally, in the words of President Beardsley, the switch "opens the door for further growth;" growth is something that everyone on this campus is getting used to.

New Campus Road

By Aaron Larsen

One of the growing concerns on the campus of Husson University is the flow of traffic. In recent years, as the number of students enrolled at school increases, more and more students drive around the circle and the road becomes congested. The issue is one that may be fixed within the coming months however.

For the better part of the last three months, construction has been ongoing for a new road leading on and off campus for both students and faculty. The road starts on campus, across from the Meeting House, and leads to Griffin Road on the other side of what once was a section of the woods.

President of Husson University, William Beardsley, said that this project has been talked about for a while now, but it hadn't been near the top of their priority list until more and more students enrolled at the school.

"It wasn't the most important thing to us," said Beardsley. "But with the new Meeting House and with more students finding their way on campus, we thought it was something we needed to do."

"It changes the chemistry of the school. It changes people's psyche, opens the forest."

The road doesn't only provide students with another way on and off campus; it also gives the campus a new feel.

"It changes the chemistry of the school," added Beardsley. "It changes people's psyche, opens the forest."

John Rubino, Dean of the University, says the road will help the college in other ways.

"The road will help us grow," said Rubino. "It improves the infrastructure and provides a back up, so to speak."

In addition, the road opens up a whole new avenue of possibilities for the school. 80 acres of land has now opened up for the school and many things could be done with the newly developed space. Such things as a new parking, possible expansion space for the New England School of Communications, or a new sporting facility, could be constructed.

Whatever the results of the new space may be, one thing is clear: the new road will help improve the flow of traffic going in and out of Husson University and give the school a more positive feel.

Campaign Staffer

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messages they are trying to convey. Back in February, they developed a survey and have been using it ever since to determine how the public is viewing their candidate. On a weekly basis they are looking at poll numbers to determine what they need to do to get more voters to support their candidate. Julie noted that Maine's population is approximately 33% Democrats, 28% Republicans and 39% Independents. The focus of the campaign right now is to get people to vote by absentee ballot. Nine thousand absentee ballots have already been completed in Maine.

Julie said it would be difficult to describe a typical day. The second district covers much of Maine so she has a great responsibility. She does have four staff and many volunteer workers that help her to campaign in the district. Her day starts at 7 am and can go late into the night. There is a daily meeting at 9 am to discuss how the campaign is going and what needs to be done that day. They are always talking about their goal, which is to get their candidate re-elected. She might be traveling with the candidate on a tour bus, at community events talking about the candidate, distributing campaign signs, or talking to the media about the candidate. The candidate's time is scheduled for every half hour. The idea is that the more people that she gets to meet the more people who will vote for her. Julie said she has not had a day off since June.

Julie concluded her talk by saying that people age 18-35 typically don't vote. She said they could have a tremendous impact on a campaign if they did vote. She encouraged the class to exercise their influence and vote.

International Students on Campus

By Jackline Rwigamba

Most students in developing countries always dream of studying in the U.S for their university education because of the advanced technology. It's always a long and tedious process to get accepted to a school and to get a visa to come study here. The journey does not end there though. Once international students get here, they are always faced with a lot of other problems like homesickness, different culture, food, and sometimes different styles of dressing. Accents are also one major problem among international students. There are always communication problems between them and their teachers and other students on campus. Most international students find it hard to understand American English because most of them use British English. The teachers also have problems understanding them. The lack of proper communication sometimes leads to students failing exams.

"Life can be hard or easy in a new environment or country; it all depends on the way you take it."

Ines Rwaganje from the Democratic-Republic of Congo, an international student living on campus, faces the same issues. "I have been here for a month and a half and I have experienced a lot of differences; I just realized that people from different parts of the world are different. The first problem I encountered was my accent. I always have to repeat what I am saying a couple of times for other students and teachers to get what I am saying. Homesickness was to a point that I thought I was going to go have to back home."

Jackie Achayo from Sudan said she had problem making friends because people seem to keep to themselves, "Students in my country talk to each other more freely and they tend to notice foreigners and tend to make them comfortable which is so different here." Achayo said she also couldn't understand why students were allowed to wear very short clothes to class. "Some of the colleges in Africa have a dress code for students; there are some clothes that they considered inappropriate."

I talked to other international students on campus and this is what they had to say: Mary Mudagiri from the Democratic-Republic Congo said most students like making fun of her accent. She also said that she had a hard time trying to understand the system here. "Its hard to understand some lessons that require me to use American history knowledge because I know nothing about its history but am expected to perform it as well as others." She also suggested that international students should have a different kind of orientation because they need to know more about the system before they start their classes in a different environment.

Yolanda Malaba from Somalia said she ate turkey for the first time when she got here, "I always had a problem with the difference in the taste of food; everything tasted different from tomatoes to chicken but I'm getting used to it."

Heather Wantin from Korea said she likes the different way of life, "I don't have any problem with weather, culture or food. The difference makes it interesting, change is like rest," she concluded laughing. Wantin was not happy though about international students not being qualified for financial aid. She thinks that they need it as much as others.

"Life can be hard or easy in a new environment or country; it all depends on the way you take it," said Madona Madiba from Egypt. She also suggested that there should be an active international club on campus, as it would help solve some of these issues.