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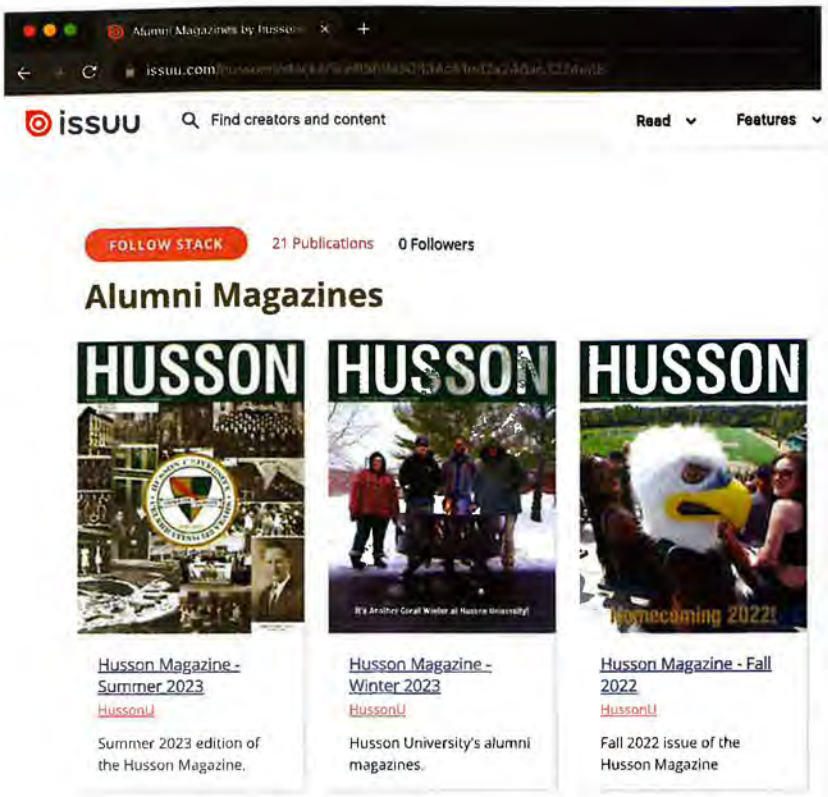
Ledger



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HUSSON UNIVERSITY | 125 YEARS

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Dear Alumni and Friends,



It brings me great joy to share the outstanding progress and achievements of Husson University over the past year. Our steadfast commitment to excellence in education, innovative programs and the overall well-being of our students continues to drive our success.

In the realm of online education, Husson has witnessed remarkable growth. Since July 1, 2023, we have received enrollment applications from all 50 states, demonstrating our expanding national presence. Notably, the surge in interest is evident in the shift of applications, with 81% coming from out-of-state—a significant increase from the same period last year. Online applications have skyrocketed by 71%, totaling 2,769 applications compared to 799 last year, affirming the appeal of our programs.

Our commitment to quality education is reflected in an 84% online retention rate, a testament to the ongoing satisfaction and success of our students.

As we celebrate our 125th year, the Husson community is invited to participate in a series of upcoming events, including annual Florida Alumni & Friends gatherings, the launch of an alumni podcast series, and various department-specific celebrations. Our annual Giving Day will be held Wednesday, April 3, 2024, building on the success of the last five years and the incredible impact of matching and challenge gifts.

In reflection, let's celebrate our recent accomplishments. Athletics has rebounded to pre-pandemic enrollments, and donor investments in student experiences have borne fruit with the grand opening of the Ross Y. Furman '72 Terrace and the dedication of the Fran O'Keefe Hitting Pavilion.

As we continue to grow and evolve, Husson University remains dedicated to providing an exceptional educational experience for our students. The ongoing support of our community, faculty, staff and generous donors plays a vital role in shaping the success of our institution. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

With best regards,

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



Many institutions have come and gone over Husson's 125-year history. Husson has thrived because it has embraced change – particularly technological change. In 1898, the year The Shaw School of Business and Penmanship opened, George Safford Parker released a new fountain pen that prevented leakage. I can imagine our early students' excitement with such an improvement. Typewriters were also gaining popularity around the time of our founding.

From fountain to ballpoint pens, and from manual to electric typewriters, Husson sought, from the beginning, to stay current with the changing needs of students and their future employers. The introduction of computer technology was no different. Husson was an early adopter, adding its first administrative computer along with a class in data-processing in 1962.

Our appetite for embracing new and exciting technologies continues. With the completion of Harold Alfond Hall, we launched our School of Technology and Innovation, including our iEX Center. We offer the only augmented and virtual reality bachelor's degree program in New England. This winter, our health programs are welcoming the most technologically-advanced simulation manikin available. Known as HAL, it is powered by artificial intelligence and is one of only 120 in use nationwide. These advances would not be possible without those who support us philanthropically.

The only constant for Husson has been change, and certainly more is ahead. Nationwide, the number of high school students is declining, compounding the lower percentage of students choosing to continue their education. Rapid technological changes are disrupting and challenging traditional modalities of learning. Husson will soon see a change in leadership. For 125 years, Husson's success has come from asking "what do our students need to be successful" and embracing the change needed to make it happen. It's what we do. Here's to the next 125 years of transforming student lives.

Sarah Cary Robinson
Vice President for Advancement

Around the Circle

Accomplishments, events and items of note happening at Husson

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



Students from Husson University's Women in Business club attended the Harvard Undergraduate Women in Business intercollegiate business conference, one of the world's biggest student-run business conventions for women, last semester. This extraordinary opportunity allowed these students to learn from a variety of industry professionals and attend networking and career fair events. **Lisa Sturgeon, MBA**, an instructor in the School of Hospitality, Sport and Tourism Management, serves as an advisor for the student organization.





Stephanie Shayne, Ed.D., MBA, director of and an instructor in the School of Business and Management, and director of graduate programs, and **Richard Fabri, Ph.D., MS.Ed, NIRSA-CRSS, ACE-CPT**, an assistant professor and program coordinator in the School of Hospitality, Sport and Tourism Management, gave a successful presentation on Leadership, Followership and Team Management at the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association Region I Conference in October 2023 in Rochester, NY. The conference brings together collegiate recreation professionals from across the northeast for networking, learning and connection.



Lisa Sturgeon, MBA, an instructor in the School of Hospitality, Sport and Tourism Management, had the privilege to serve on a panel with Judy Long of Versant Power and Husson University Alumni and Friends member Stephen Speronis '19, '19G, of Northeast Credit Union, at the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce's FUSION:Bangor Summit. FUSION is an organization that promotes networking and community engagement among young professionals in the Bangor area.



Husson University hosted Dajuan Eubanks, a vice president of the



Introducing Husson's Next President: Lynne Coy-Ogan

On Jan. 25, Husson University announced that its next president will be current Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Lynne Coy-Ogan. She was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees during their January meeting.

Among her first priorities when she rises to president on July 1 will be to host a series of listening sessions with students, faculty and other stakeholders to learn what's important to them before she begins the process of revising Husson's strategic plan.

Coy-Ogan received a bachelor's degree in elementary/special education from Boston University, a master's degree in school counseling from Johns Hopkins University and her Ed.D. in educational leadership from Liberty University. She joined Husson University as dean of the School of Education in 2005 and rose to provost in 2009.

Look for a Q&A with the president-elect in the Summer 2024 digital issue of the Husson alumni magazine. And don't forget to sign up for the alert when the issue goes live!

Boston Celtics and president of the Maine Celtics, as a guest speaker of the Distinguished Business Speaker Series in October 2023 in The Gracie Theatre. **Kyle Poissonnier '08**, a native of Smithfield, Maine, and the owner and founder of Catalyst for Change Wear, was the guest speaker for the series during Alumni Appreciation Week in January 2024.



The Magnetize Maine Summit, held at University of Maine at Presque Isle in October 2023, featured Husson's own **Marie Hansen, JD, Ph.D., SHRM-SCP**, dean of the College of Business and NESCom, as its keynote speaker. This event aims to unite stakeholders from across the state to explore innovative ways to attract and retain more young people to Maine.

New England School of Communications (NESCom)

Faculty and students from Husson's Public Relations program welcomed fellow PR professionals from across the industry as the University hosted the Maine Public Relations Council Annual Conference in early December. The conference gave Husson students and staff a great opportunity to network and learn with others in their career field while also experimenting with tech and equipment from the School of Technology and Innovation's Extended Reality (XR) program.



Among the Husson faculty members helping to put the event together were **Nancy Roberts, MBA, APR**, a program coordinator and instructor in NESCom, and **Marie Hansen, JD, Ph.D., SHRM-SCP**, dean of the College of Business and NESCom.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PHARMACY

School of Physical Therapy



Kimberly Steinbarger, PT, MHS, DHSc, an assistant professor in the School of Physical Therapy, gave a talk in San Diego at Convergence 2023, the American College of Rheumatology's (ACR) national conference, last November on the importance of interprofessional education (IPE) and interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) in healthcare. This presentation was in conjunction with the article on the same topic that Steinbarger previously published in "The Rheumatologist," which is a publication of the ACR.

School of Occupational Therapy



Cavenaugh Kelly, Ph.D., MS, OTR/L, an assistant professor in the School of Occupational Therapy, recently had a short story accepted into Harmony, a peer-reviewed medical humanities magazine published by the University of Arizona. The story, which focuses on the struggle of two occupational therapy patients to overcome Guillain-Barre Syndrome, is one of several stories Kelly uses in his classes to foster empathy and client-centered care with his occupational therapy students.

School of Pharmacy



Sam Caito, Ph.D., an associate professor in the School of Pharmacy, recently published a research paper in the journal, "Toxics," that investigates the metabolic effects of methylmercury, a major contaminant in fish and seafood. The paper, entitled "Expression Profiling of Adipogenic and Anti-Adipogenic MicroRNA Sequences Following Methymercury Exposure in Caenorhabditis elegans," reveals a potential connection between methylmercury exposure and altered fat regulation in organisms. Pharmacy students Giancarlo Garofalo and Tyson Nielsen contributed as co-authors to the study.



Shuhua Bai, Ph.D., a professor in the School of Pharmacy, is part of a collaborative research project that aims to enhance the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease by developing a natural nanomedicine using exosomes derived from broccoli sprouts. The project is being funded by a National Institute of Food and Agriculture/USDA grant worth $300,000 for the duration of two years.



Tianzhi Yang, RPh, Ph.D., a professor in the School of Pharmacy, gave a presentation at the 2023 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, in October 2023 that focused on a very Maine-centric topic: blueberries. In the presentation, entitled "Characterization of Blueberry-Derived Exosomes: New Insights into a Potential Nanomedicine," Yang discussed research that aims to evaluate the effectiveness of blueberries as carriers for bioactive molecules, potentially offering neuroprotection for neurodegenerative diseases. **Shuhua Bai, Ph.D.**, a professor in the School of Pharmacy, along with pharmacy students Kaitlyn Dunham, Emilie Palmer and Spencer

Canham, contributed as co-authors to this presentation.



Dan Mickool, RPh, MS, Ed.D, an associate professor in the School of Pharmacy and director for interprofessional education at Husson University, gave presentations both locally and abroad throughout the fall 2023 semester. He first co-presented with Michela Fiori Pharm.D, '15G, at the Maine Pharmacy Association (MPA) Annual Fall Meeting in October. The presentation, "Deprescribing: Tools to Improve Patient Outcomes," provided pharmacists with current strategies to optimize outcomes for patients with a focus on caring for the elderly. Mickool serves as a board member for the MPA and served two terms as president of the organization.

Mickool followed this up with another presentation at the All Together Better Health conference in Doha, Qatar, in November 2023 on the implementation of groundbreaking standards for interprofessional collaboration among health professions. The shaping of these standards, known as The Winterthur/Doha Declaration, was led by a 35-member workgroup (on which Mickool served as the only pharmacist) that was commissioned by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2017. After the standards were shaped, Mickool was asked to assist global networks in the implementation process.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES



In an attempt to explore the impact of artificial intelligence on ethical reasoning, **Clifton Guthrie, Ph.D.**, a professor in the College of Science and Humanities, asked some of his students to compare AI-generated responses to common ethical dilemmas to those of philosopher Kwame Anthony Appiah, author of "The Ethicist," a column in the New York Times. Guthrie found that students overwhelmingly preferred the AI-generated responses, and this outcome remained the same even after they found out which responses came from each source. Part of their reasoning was that the AI responses were simpler and more general than the ethicist's responses, which were more complex and prescriptive.

Guthrie presented the findings of this experiment at the annual meeting of the Society of Ethics Across the Curriculum (SEAC) at James Madison University in October 2023.

School of Education



Adding to his growing list of published articles on the topic of artificial intelligence, **Russell Fulmer, Ph.D., LPC,** a professor and director of graduate counseling programs in the School of Education, published an article entitled, "The Balance of Innovation and Ethics with Artificial Intelligence" last December in Counseling Today, a publication of the American Counseling Association (ACA). Fulmer was also recently named the chair of the AI working group for the ACA.

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Gather Around the Fire

There's a new spot for students to hang out on campus – and it's designed for year round use.

Husson University unveiled the Ross Y. Furman '72 Terrace on Monday, Jan. 22. It is outfitted with two outdoor gas fire pits, Adirondack chairs, tables with additional seating and a pergola that provides some shelter to a portion of the space. The terrace surface is also heated, helping to make the space accessible even during winter weather. The project came to fruition thanks to generous donor support.

Students, faculty, staff, trustees, community members and donors came together for a ribbon cutting and celebratory hot chocolate on the terrace, enjoying the fire pits.

"We are so grateful for the generosity of our donors, which is helping us intentionally plan outdoor space that will encourage engagement between students on campus where they can meet and gather outside in a comfortable environment," said Vice President for Advancement Sarah Cary Robinson.





Making History on the Court

The Husson University men's basketball program has a new all-time wins leader.

Head coach Warren Caruso earned the distinction on Saturday, Jan. 27 in a 91-76 home victory over Thomas College, shattering the record of his mentor and Husson Sports Hall of Fame member Bruce MacGregor.

MacGregor had 554 wins over his 26 years at the helm.

Ranking inside the top 10 in the nation for wins by an active NCAA Division III coach, Caruso said that surpassing the record of his former coach is a surreal feeling that he never could have imagined happening at the start of his coaching journey.

"It's a little bittersweet in a way because Bruce means so much to me," Caruso said. "He's done so much for me, not only as a coach, but as a person. It's something I really cherish because of the time I've spent at Husson and what Husson means to me."

Over the course of 30 seasons as Husson's head basketball coach, Caruso has led the team to 16 conference championships and 14 national tournament appearances.

"Stick around long enough and good things will happen," Caruso said. "We've had tremendous student-athletes, some great assistant coaches and support from the administration all go into creating a culture of success and championships."

This is just another piece of the puzzle that connects him to his long-time friend and former coach.

"As you look at it, I don't think there's another program in the country at any level that's had two coaches in over 56 years and 1,100 wins," Caruso said. "To be a part of that and know that I played a role in that success and the transition from one to the other as an assistant and then as a head coach, it is something that I cherish and honor and I'm very humbled by. But this is the piece of the puzzle that further connects Coach MacGregor and me."

Husson University Online
Now Offering Six New Degree and Certificate Programs



▲ Stacey Coventry '10 is currently in the online animal assisted therapy program at Husson. She and her dog Koda, a therapy dog, also volunteer during Husson's Pause for Paws events during finals each semester.

Husson University Online is expanding its already diverse selection of online degree and certificate offerings with the addition of six new programs: three undergraduate degrees, two graduate degrees and one certificate.

The new programs were unanimously approved by the Husson University Board of Trustees in January.

Four of the new programs will focus on areas in which Husson has demonstrated itself as a leader and innovator — psychology and health sciences. Already offering numerous healthcare-centric degrees in nursing, public health and healthcare administration, Husson University will also now offer a Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Health and Fitness, Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Health and Master of Science in Applied Psychology.

"Our new undergraduate programs in health sciences exemplify Husson's ongoing commitment to providing top-notch educational experiences for online learners," said Erin Owen, Ph.D., who serves as an associate professor of biology and the director of online science for Husson. "We take pride in our role as a leader in preparing students for success in professional health fields, and the addition of new online programs in this area extends our strong reputation to learners across the country and the world."

Both the BS in Applied Health Sciences and MS in Applied Psychology degrees will take a practical, hands-on approach to their respective fields. Students in the BS in Applied Health Sciences program will learn about different aspects of the professional healthcare environment and be able to focus on science, psychology, public health or business. Upon graduating, they'll be prepared for a variety of different healthcare careers. The MS in Applied Psychology program, building on Husson's BS in Psychology degree, will prepare students to apply psychological principles and practices as they work to help organizations resolve issues and meet goals across a variety of industries. Husson's other two new health science degree offerings, the BS in Health and Fitness and BS in Nutrition

and Health, focus on preparing students to help individuals and communities become healthier through an emphasis on exercise, diet, nutrition, etc.

The Master of Science in Applied Animal Behavior and Welfare and Certificate in Captive Wildlife Care, will prepare students to work in an intriguing and growing career field.

"These new degrees are a great extension of successful undergraduate programs, leverage the expertise of faculty, and create a pathway for Husson students to continue their education and advance careers," said Associate Provost for Online and Distance Education Amy Arnett, Ph.D.

The MS in Applied Animal Behavior and Welfare builds on Husson's highly successful BS in Animal Care and Behavior, BS in Animal-Assisted Therapy and Certificate in Animal Training programs. It will provide students with a deep understanding of animal behavior, health, nutrition and training. They'll be well-prepared to take on roles in animal rehab facilities, zoos, wildlife preserves, higher education and more. Husson's Certificate in Captive Wildlife Care, which focuses on how to manage and care for different types of wildlife in enclosed environments, is another great option for students who are interested in animal careers and want to enhance their skill set.

Husson University is one of the only higher-education institutions in the country to offer fully online degree-level programs in these particular animal-centric areas of study. While relatively new, these programs have garnered significant student interest from both in-state and out-of-state students.

Husson will begin accepting applications for these programs later this spring.

How an Endowed Scholarship is Honoring Two Husson Alumni





Christopher Winzler's parents met on a blind date set up by **Bill Pike '70** while attending Husson. **Fred '71 and Martha (Dyer) '72 Winzler** were married for 48 years, before passing in 2021 and 2022, respectively. Both business majors, Martha Winzler was a member of the Epsilon Tau Epsilon sorority and the Husson Players. Fred Winzler played intramural bowling, basketball and softball and also joined the Husson Players.

The Winzlers remembered their time at Husson fondly, appreciating the education they received and for bringing them together. As such, they were regular contributors to the Husson Fund over the years. Given the importance of Husson in the family's history, Chris Winzler reached out to see how he could create a legacy that would honor his parents.

He decided to establish an endowed scholarship that would assist business students in attaining their degree. He felt, however, that he was not in a position to make a significant gift now, given his own childrens' upcoming college educations and his future retirement. Instead, he updated his will to leave Husson $100,000 and worked with Husson's advancement staff to create a Statement of Understanding outlining the terms of the scholarship.

Wanting to help students now, he plans to make an annual gift that will be used to award the ***Fred and Martha Winzler '71/'72 Memorial Scholarship*** to a deserving student each year. Like all of our endowed scholarship donors, he will receive an annual scholarship report with information about the student recipient. He will be able to enjoy the impact of his giving during his lifetime and know exactly how we will steward his generous bequest when received.

Many of our friends and alumni indicate that they are interested in supporting Husson students, but don't feel able to make a significant gift during their lifetime. Others want to maximize their heirs' inheritances. Choosing to make a bequest of even a small percentage of one's estate can make a profound difference for a Husson student with a minimal impact on heirs.

What would be the impact if you left 5% of your estate to Husson? If you'd like to find out, contact **Sarah Cary Robinson**, CTFA, vice president for advancement at **robinsons@husson.edu** or **207.941.7617**.





When NESCom's Building Flooded, the Husson Community Came Together

The building was closed after a water main break caused damage in October.

When a water main broke below the Wildey Communications Center on Oct. 18, 2023, the first signs of trouble came in the form of water rising from the floor. Soon, it was pouring out of windows and doors. For the staff and students of the New England School of Communications, it was unimaginable.

"It was right around 4pm and I had a phone call from Mike Beane, director of IT Infrastructure, who said, 'Chris, water is coming in everywhere from under the slab," recalled Christopher Bennett, director of facilities.

But the Husson University community came together, mobilizing to move classrooms and offices and ensure that the learning went on.

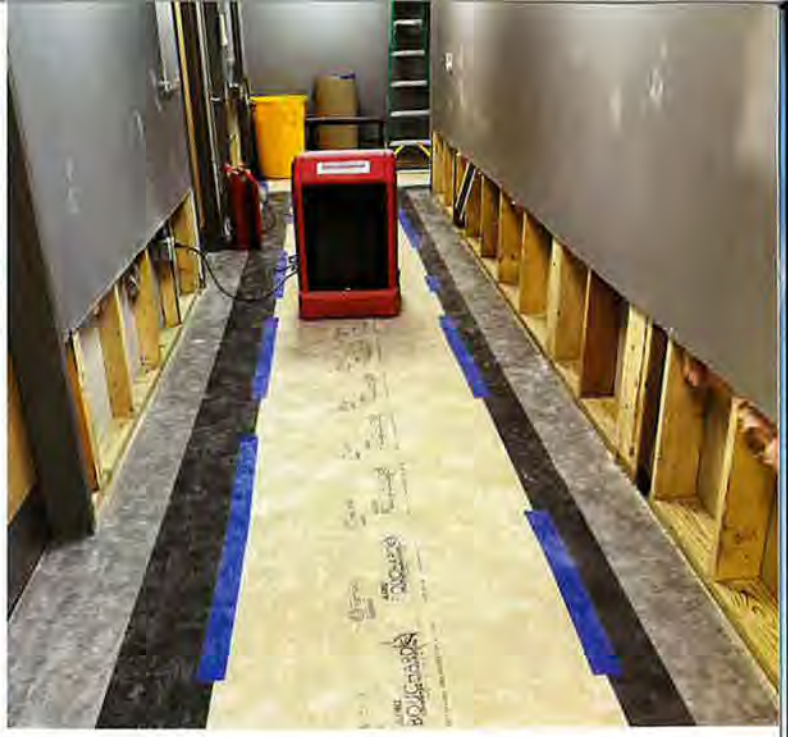
The Bangor Fire Department and Bangor Water District responded to campus that afternoon. Bennett also started calling contractors to find someone who could help locate a shut off valve – it wasn't noted on any of the maps the water district or the university had. In the meantime, water was turned off to three buildings including the NESCom building, the Darling Learning Center and the Newman Gymnasium. Plans were created for an overnight without water in a dorm. Fortunately, the valve was located – and Bennett had made some key contacts that would help the necessary repairs get underway.

Ask anyone involved, and they will tell you about something someone else did to help.

Rodney Verrill, director of operations, remembers how Frank Welch quickly mobilized with others to move the equipment out of the Equipment Distribution Center (EDC) into the mobile editing unit, a nearby heated garage and other locations so it wouldn't be damaged by the water or humidity.

The EDC, which students turn to for borrowing audio-visual equipment for their school work, is essential to the students of NESCom. That's why it was so important to get it up and running as soon as possible, which Welch did with the help of students





by 1pm the next day. The temporary home? The coffee kiosk in Harold Alfond Hall.

"Frank Welch came up with the idea maybe at 2 in the morning," Marie Hansen, dean of the College of Business and the New England School of Communications, said.

It was a moment that showed how strong, capable and thoughtful the Husson community is.

"People immediately stepped up and said 'what can I do,'" said Verrill.

By the next morning, classrooms were reassigned and offices were being temporarily moved. People from other schools at Husson gave up or shared space to help. And the beating drum was to keep things going for the students – to ensure the continuity of their education.

"Everyone was really agile and moved as they needed to," said Hansen.

A computer lab was set up in the Furman Student Center. An editing bay was moved to an open spot in Harold Alfond Hall.

"We were looking at our other resources – using different equipment and different spaces to fill the need," Hansen said.

For the faculty, staff and students of NESCom, the experience could have been jarring – a loss of a sense of place. But it was the attitude and dedication to keep things going that set the tone for the rest of the fall semester.

"These things can happen in the real world and it's about the attitude you approach it with," Hansen said.

The attitude around campus was positive – working together to make it all work, she said.

Still, the Wildey Communications Center is a home away from home for NESCom students and getting them back there as soon as possible was a priority.

"When you have a classroom in a traditional post-secondary setting, it's a classroom. It's a place to visit to gain information," Verrill said. "Here, this building is a home for students. They don't just come in for one class."

For Bennett, the job was to bring the right people to campus as soon as possible. He credits the phenomenal contractors who worked in unusual conditions – such as excavating beneath a classroom – to get the water main repaired and concrete, sheetrock and other materials restored.

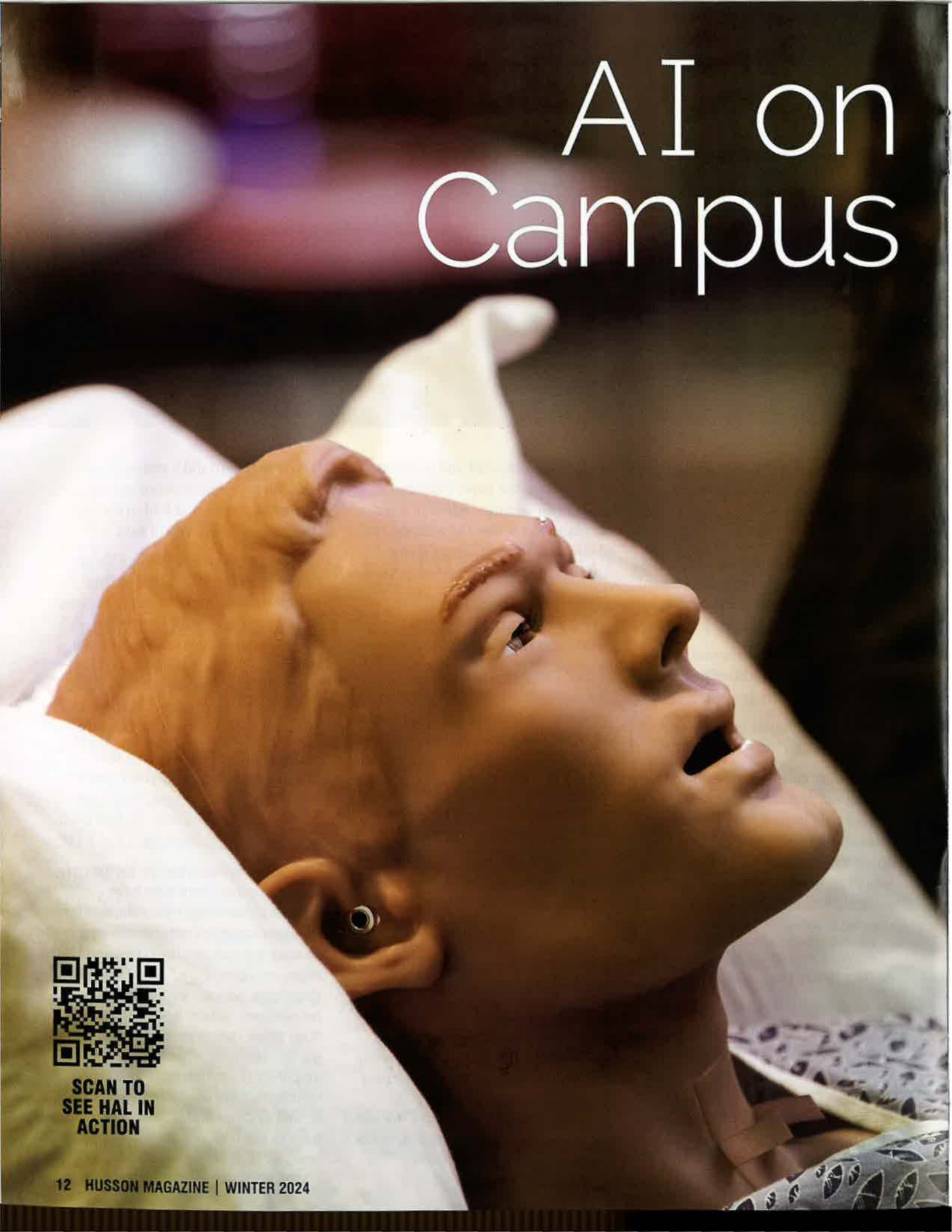
"Chris [Bennett] did a phenomenal job with the project, coordinating dozens of people that had to do the restoration work," Verrill said.

The Wildey Communications Center reopened at the start of the spring semester, welcoming students back to the many spaces with fresh paint and carpet in many areas. New concrete completed floors that had to be removed. And fresh drywall replaced that which was damaged in the flood. The EDC also reopened in its home.

There's still work to be done this summer, including concrete repairs and some finishing work. But, even so, NESCom is back and the heartbeat of the building is restored.

"We are so grateful for the faculty, staff and contractors who have worked tirelessly to repair the Wildey Communications Center building so students can resume classes and other activities there," said Lynne Coy-Ogan, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. "Our focus throughout has been the continuity of education in a safe and healthy environment and we're thrilled to have our New England School of Communications students back in the labs and other spaces they consider their home at school."

AI on Campus



SCAN TO SEE HAL IN ACTION

The future is now as AI helps Husson students prepare for careers

It may feel like the stuff of futuristic science fiction movies, but artificial intelligence, or AI, has become part of everyday life at colleges and universities around the world. An early adopter of the technology, Husson University is no exception and has recognized its potential to transform the way faculty teach students their labs and classes.

One of the more prominent and recent examples of AI on campus is the addition of a HAL S5301 interdisciplinary patient simulator to the Simulation Education Center's collection of high-fidelity manikins.

Like the other manikins, HAL can mimic human movements and verbal responses to act as a patient for students in Husson's nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy and pharmacy programs. However, according to Sim Lab director Ghada Konsowa, MBBCH, MBA, CHSOS, HAL will also feature lifelike motor movement, next generation simulated physiology and conversational speech enhanced by AI.

"With the help of artificial intelligence, HAL can answer medical history and initial assessment-related questions, follow voice commands and learn over time," Konsowa said. "HAL's capabilities make it an excellent tool to fulfill educational objectives across clinical disciplines and blur the lines between simulation and real-life."

Generative AI software is also being used at Husson to teach and tutor students.

School of Physical Therapy assistant professors Jennifer Bochynski, PT, DPT, CLT, and Michelle Slike, PT, DPT, Ed.D, MHA, CLT, have used an AI platform called Character.AI to create hypothetical patients that students can interact with in a chat environment. This allows students to practice developing a diagnosis, creating an exercise plan and enhancing interpersonal communication skills that can be used inside and outside of clinical settings.

The Office of Career Services is also exploring ways in which generative AI can be used to help students with the career-exploration and job-search processes. Career Services staff members James Westhoff, Shane Boyes and Joe McGovern have developed an "AI Tipsheet" that offers advice on how to use AI for things like résumé and cover letter building, job interview preparation and more.

These are just a few examples of AI's potential in the academic world. However, the use of such powerful technology begs a couple of questions: What does the future of AI in the classroom look like? How do we maximize the potential of AI in the classroom while also ensuring that it is being used responsibly and ethically by faculty, staff and students?

To answer these questions, Husson formed an AI Committee in Spring 2023 to help the university respond to developments in AI technology and higher education, evaluate the risks and benefits, and review policies and usage in the classroom. Since its inception, the AI Committee has updated the university's Academic Integrity Policy, developed a Library Guide for Citing ChatGPT (a popular generative AI platform) and held a workshop that introduced faculty to ChatGPT.

"We want to be sure we can support faculty and students in understanding the challenges posed by AI in maintaining academic integrity, such as plagiarism and unauthorized assistance," said AI Committee member Ryan Roderick, Ph.D., who is also an assistant professor and assistant dean in the College of Science and Humanities.

Roderick says they are also hoping to hold a workshop in May 2024 to further discuss with faculty the use of generative AI in classrooms.

Beyond working with faculty to further understand AI, Husson has also begun developing a course that would teach students about the social implications of AI and how to effectively use it in their professions. The hope is for the class, which is being developed by Roderick, Russell Fulmer, Ph.D., LPC, a professor in CoSH and director of graduate counseling programs, and Nicholas Lacasse, Ph.D., an assistant professor in CoSH, to launch as a pilot course in the 2024-25 academic year.



As Dr. Robert A. Clark prepares to step down as president of Husson University, he reflects on his 15 years of service to the school

When Dr. Robert A. Clark interviewed for the presidency position at Husson University, he was asked why he, in particular, should be hired.

"And to my surprise, my wife interjected," said Clark. "She said, 'I can tell you why. It's because he gets things done.'"

Fifteen years after stepping into the leadership role at the school, Clark's list of accomplishments is a testament to that statement. Currently, he is the longest serving president at any four-year college or university in Maine. Clark himself admits he never anticipated being at Husson for such a long period of time.

"For me, the school became a new university just about every three years," said Clark, referring to the physical changes at the school in the last decade and a half. Those include construction of Harold Alfond Hall, the school's signature College of Business building, as well as the Darling Learning Center, student townhouses and the Wellness Learning Center as well as major renovations to the dining and residence halls.

Additionally, Clark established the current academic infrastructure of the College of Science and Humanities, College of Health and Pharmacy, College of Business and the School of Technology and Innovation as well as overseeing the integration of the New England School of Communications into the university.

Goodbye, President Clark

Clark recalls his very first year on campus.

"I never heard so many complaints about the lack of parking," he said, chuckling. "So we added more parking spaces."

When Clark first arrived, there was a large population of Husson students studying at the school's Portland facility. Additionally, there was a boat school in Eastport and there were Husson students on a Northern Maine campus. All have since closed during Clark's tenure as online education grew in popularity and demand.

"Currently we have students in at least 44 states taking part in our online learning programs," he said. "We have employees in at least 35 states."

More than 10,000 students have graduated from Husson University while Clark has been at the helm. "And in about 70 to 75% of the cases, they have stayed in Maine," he said. "Not because they had to but because they wanted to."

Husson University prides itself on preparing students for the professional world and Clark seized the opportunity to expand that mantra from the moment he was hired.

"We were already known for experiential learning and giving students the skill sets they need to immediately step into the professional roles they were preparing for," he said. "That became the entre for [consideration of] how do we expand in the graduate programming area."

The school did that in part by adding doctorate programs to the schools of pharmacy and physical therapy along with changing from a Masters in Science and Business to a MBA.

"That was more explainable to the business world," said Clark.

He also points to Husson's teaching faculty and their practical experience.

"I believe that's something quite unique for a higher education institution," said Clark. "It's not just that they become academia, they also worked or are currently working in their fields of instruction. That allows them to be engaged in what's going on in their profession along the way. In fact, that's what we look for when hiring new faculty to add to our portfolio."

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. Lynne Coy-Ogan has worked with Dr. Clark since the start.

"To have a president and provost in the two top leadership positions at a university for that amount of time is rare," she said.

Coy-Ogan credits Clark's academic background as the catalyst for changes at Husson University under his leadership.

"President Clark brought many examples of best practices and elevated opportunities to the Husson campus for enhanced scholarship, career services, a global scholars program, as well as for innovative initiatives related to facility enhancements in ways that have really expanded our ability to transform student lives," Coy-Ogan said.

Clark credits his own experiences in education as being transformational. His mother was a school teacher. Clark was born and raised on a farm in Albion, Maine. After college, he spent four years as a U.S. Army Officer in Europe. Upon returning to the states, Clark earned his MBA and began working at a bank in Portland, Maine. He also began teaching at Andover College in Portland.

"After about two years of doing both, I commented to my wife that I actually liked my part-time job better than my full-time job," Clark said. "My wife looked at me and said, 'Well if that's the case, you probably ought to think about changing jobs.'"

He did — going back to school to earn his doctorate in finance at Purdue University. Clark went on to work in higher education at various institutions around the country. He returned to Maine in 2010, officially taking on the role of the sixth president of Husson University on Jan. 1.



Dan Hutchins '83 began working with Clark two years later, while serving as the chair of Husson's Board of Visitors.

"I've worked with many CEOs during my career," said Hutchins, now chair of the Husson University Board of Trustees. "Many of them look at the position in terms of what's in it for them. For Bob, it was all about the students. It was never about him or flashy recognition. He did everything with the goal of making the student experience all that much better."

That included building capital for the university.

"One of the things we knew early on is that in order to strengthen the outreach of the university, we needed to strengthen its physical support mechanisms," said Clark. "And that created an environment of what would we do about raising capital and engendering the first, comprehensive capital campaign for the university."

In 2012, the Board of Trustees approved a $21 million capital campaign.

"Up until that point, we hadn't been in the habit, as an institution, of fundraising in general," said Clark. "We'd had previous projects that received donor support, but as a comprehensive campaign, it had not been a part of our history."

"Bob brought a strong commitment to the capital campaign," said Coy-Ogan. "He really has been successful at grant writing and understanding how transformational large gifts can be."

By the time school officials were ready to announce the campaign publicly, they'd already surpassed the $21 million goal. At that point, the Board of Trustees decided to expand the campaign to $30 million.

"In order to make that transition, we knew we needed a project," said Clark. "That's when we decided that the leading college of business in the state really needed a new home."

Craig Hadley was Husson's vice president of finance and administration and treasurer at the time.

"I think Bob was well acquainted with the value of fundraising and the need for it to expand beyond just annual surpluses," he said. "And that was no small task."

Hadley describes Clark as being hands on when it came to propelling the school forward financially.

"We had a very tight budget, but we were also generating a lot of surpluses that we then invested back into the university," said Hadley. "That was a game changer."

In August 2021, Harold Alfond Hall was completed in part thanks to a $4 million matching grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation. It was the largest outright gift ever made to Husson University at the time.

"Our endowment in 2010 was probably around the $5 to $6 million dollar range," said Clark. "Today we stand at more than $30 million. To step back and think about all this support from the community, and how it shows that they saw and continue to see what the value of Husson University has in the community."

In spring 2020, Clark's leadership skills were put to the ultimate test when the entire world was thrust into the pandemic. Husson University swiftly pivoted, transitioning almost 1,000 classes to a completely online program.

"It was a very intense and difficult time," said Hadley. "Bob pulled the cabinet together and we were all assigned major functions. A communication process was set up





to stay on top of everything. Bob was the tiller in the water, making it all happen and happen well."

Clark said he's content in his decision to retire as president of the school, calling it a "good juncture" in Husson's history to transition leadership.

"My goal now is to make sure the university is in the strongest position to move forward. We have some important opportunities and investments to make in programming including expanding our online presence and offering new degree programs in the fall," Clark said.

As for whether he got the job done, as his late wife promised in that interview 15 years ago, he's modest.

"I think my part of the work will be done," he said. "I'm not sure you can ever leave the job behind. I think the university will be in good shape and in good hands. We have talented faculty, talented staff and a great Board of Trustees with a depth of experience."

Clark will officially step down as president of Husson University at the end of June 2024.

"I know that Dr. Clark wakes up every day trying to make a difference for Husson University," said Hutchins. "He certainly transformed both the physical and infrastructure components of the campus. But he also kept the small class sizes and personalized learning experiences, something we pride ourselves on historically. Bob's passion and commitment to the school — it's what I call the 'secret sauce' of Husson University."



Goodbye, President Clark: A Tribute to His Leadership

We're collecting memories and stories from alumni and friends to commemorate President Clark's tenure at Husson. Please share your thoughts, pictures, well wishes and memories with us by emailing them to **alumni@husson.edu.**

From the family

In 2009, Husson University began the search for a new president. With aging parents in Maine, and the next logical career step – the presidential application process for Bob Clark and Husson began. "Bobby," as the Clark family has always called him, was selected as president, the timing was right, and the move to Maine took place in December 2009. Our families were glad to have Bobby and Tricia back in Maine. Together, they worked and supported the students of Husson and became involved in the community. As an alum, I have seen many campus improvements under his guidance. Not only new structures and improvements, but campus beautification – Bobby always loved flowers and plants and wherever he was, there were always new trees, plants, and rock gardens to be made. Hard financial and course program decisions were made under his and the Board of Trustee's guidance, and new programs developed and flourished. The students and what they needed to be successful in their careers were of utmost importance to him. I see as much as Bobby and Tricia gave to Husson – it was during Tricia's unexpected passing that Husson gave back to Bobby and that was an unseen blessing. As for my brother being president of Husson, I tell people – "He's just a regular fella who can talk with anyone. He has worked hard, and made a difference."

—Lynne Clark-Estes, RN '87

From the community

Bob radiates character and humility, Husson's core values. His integrity shows in every decision made from whether to initiate a building project to his dealings with students and faculty. His tenure has been marked by the way he puts students first in all decision making. He is the kind of person who remembers your name. He was always willing to give of himself and his time, spending his own money and energy to beautify the campus whether it meant planting trees or hanging artwork from his private collection in the offices and corridors of the campus. For Bob Clark, Husson was a family and he treated it as such.

— Carol Kanar '19H

I've known Bob Clark and considered him to be a personal friend for many years. The man is an overall pleasure to be around. If you're ever down and need encouragement, Bob is the person you want to have in your corner. I'm really glad he's been in mine.

— Royce Cross

Bob Clark, a treasured friend and excellent University leader, placed quality of programs for student success to be the top priority of his time as president. His legacy and retirement as president presents an enviable future for someone to pursue.

— Mary Ann Haas, Ph.D.

I appreciate how President Clark maintained an open-door policy and always had a moment to listen. I am grateful for the support he provided through professional development opportunities, time, and encouragement as I pursued different academic pursuits.

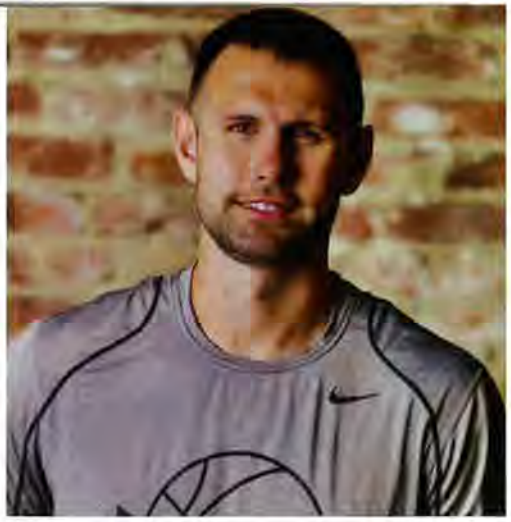
— Thomas Stone, Ph.D.

President Clark leaves Husson with a record of successes. His leadership skills in management, strategy, finance and administration combined with his passion for students and their success have served the university well.

— Arthur Fuller '66, '96H

Bob Clark has always been the educator, architect of solid planning, and consistent leadership, always moving from visionary concepts to the type of thoughtful planning and execution that brings success. These have been extraordinary years at Husson because President Clark has been an extraordinary team builder, teacher and friend. Generations will recall this time at Husson with admiration as "the Clark years."

— James Dicke, II '17H



The Rise of Matt MacKenzie '10

From training #1 NBA draft prospect Cooper Flagg to his growing business

Maine native Cooper Flagg has caught the attention of basketball fans across the country with his skills on the court.

The No. 1 draft prospect from the high school class of 2024, his ascent to the top of the national high school basketball landscape had a little help along the way from a Husson alumnus: **Matt MacKenzie '10**.

MacKenzie, who started Results Basketball with sports performance coach Shawn Demaray, has been training players aged from youth level to college since before the pandemic. And that's how he met Cooper Flagg and his twin brother, Ace Flagg — also a basketball star.

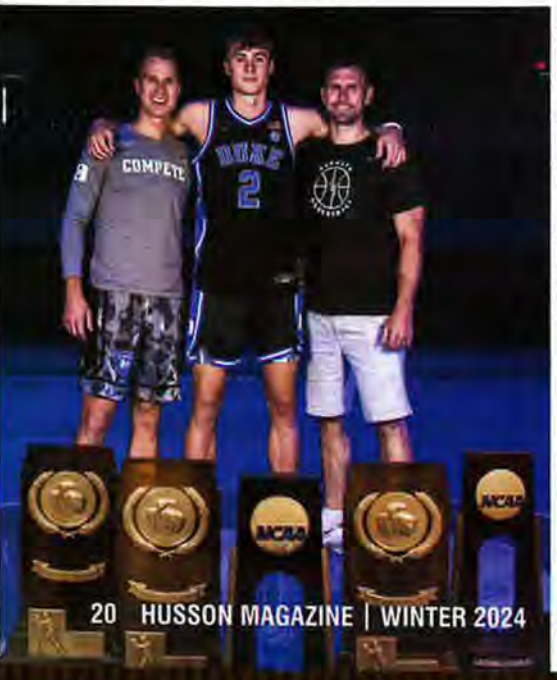
"I met the Flagg family when Cooper and Ace were finishing up their sixth grade basketball season," MacKenzie noted. "Their mom, Kelly, reached out to me and said that she had two boys who had great size and great potential and that they had heard great things about my training. I gave them their initial training and we kind of hit it off. They really appreciated all the feedback that I was able to give them and we have just developed a relationship since then."

Before MacKenzie started training players in one-on-one and small group settings, he was a Husson student studying physical education and a member of the Husson men's basketball team, where he was a 1,300-point scorer and on a North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Championship winning team in 2009. He was also selected to the Maine Men's Basketball Coaches and Writers Association All-State Second Team, the NAC all-conference first team, the NAC all-tournament team and was named the NAC tournament MVP in 2009.

After Husson, MacKenzie went on to work for the Bangor School Department as a physical education teacher for 10 years while also serving as an assistant coach for his aunt, **Kissy Walker, MSB '03**, and the Husson University women's basketball team from 2010-2019. The Eagles won five NAC championships during that stretch. It was during that time that he also began working with kids privately in individual basketball training.

"My teaching background really helped mold me as a player development coach and really gave me the confidence to be able to carry myself and instruct the players that I continue to do today," MacKenzie said.

MacKenzie started individual training with the initial goal of helping local kids get better and having them find their niche from a player development standpoint. As time progressed, MacKenzie started to take on more and more clients from the area and grew his training sessions into what is now known as Results Basketball. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit in 2020, MacKenzie made what he defined as a "career move" and made Results Basketball his full-time job.





"I started off in a small gym in Bangor that was just a little half court setup with one basket and a little three-point line," MacKenzie said. "I partnered with sports performance coach Shawn Demaray, who used to coach at Husson, and we opened up this little spot just to kind of try it out and see if it would work and it stuck and it's a big hit in the community."

The Eastern Maine Sports Academy in Veazie, Maine, which is co-owned by MacKenzie and Demaray, is now a 28,000 square-foot one-of-a-kind facility for athletes in the greater Bangor area that has two full-length basketball courts, a large weight room, extended turf, in addition to a health and wellness wing, which offers chiropractic, physical and occupational therapy, clinical bodywork and performance and wellness services.

Working with Cooper and Ace Flagg, MacKenzie has seen the two players make a steady progression in their game. These days, he doesn't feel like just a trainer to them, but also a mentor ready to help them to the next level.

"Matt's impact on me has been incredible. He has been there with me since a young age, always helping me develop and pushing me to grow my game. I wouldn't be the player I am without him," said Cooper Flagg.

And working with such high-profile athletes has also opened doors for MacKenzie who is hoping to grow his training business.

"I've had the opportunity to work with kids that will go on and ... probably play in the NBA someday because of some of the doors that have been opened up," MacKenzie said. "It's also given me an opportunity to learn and grow as a trainer or coach."

MacKenzie said he's been able to pick the brains of NBA coaches and others working in player development to learn more about the strategies and types of training a potential future NBA player like Cooper Flagg needs. It's also given Results Basketball a boost in brand presence.

MacKenzie wants to grow his business to be a nationally recognized player development program that works with players the same caliber as Cooper Flagg from Maine and beyond. He credits his Husson education with giving him the foundation and skills to start and run his business.

"I can't say enough positive things about the educational department at Husson and how they helped prepare me," MacKenzie said. "The structure that I had playing basketball for Husson really helped me as well. It helps me to this day stay organized, to be a leader and also carry myself in a way that a professional should, day in and day out."



The Show Must Go On

Mimi Foundation Establishes $1 Million Endowment to Support Productions at The Gracie Theatre



A recent gift to The Gracie Theatre at Husson University from the Mimi Foundation will support future productions in the theater, including a signature show presented each season.

The Hilda Hutchins McCollum Family Endowed Fund for The Gracie Theatre was established with $1 million from the Mimi Foundation. Annual distributions from the endowment will support show costs, address capital needs of the theater and ensure the theater's continued reputation as a quality performance venue in the Greater Bangor area. Each year, the fund will also be used to bring a signature show to Bangor, which will publicly honor the Hilda Hutchins McCollum Family for their continued support of The Gracie at Husson.

"The Gracie Theatre at Husson University is a living laboratory for students interested in theater, arts, nonprofit management, video and audio production and other areas. Hilda Hutchins McCollum recognized the potential both for Husson and the Greater Bangor area and generously made the theater possible through her personal philanthropy," said Vice President for Advancement Sarah Cary Robinson.

The new endowment was created to recognize Hilda Hutchins McCollum's love for Husson, the arts and the Bangor community and acknowledges the opportunities she provided as the lead donor in the creation of The Gracie Theatre at Husson University.

The Gracie is a 490-seat performance venue that has a unique niche for the arts in Greater Bangor. An intimate space, it provides patrons and performers with a more personal, up-close experience than is available elsewhere in the region.

"We are honored and excited for this generous gift. Receiving it more firmly secures our place as a thriving venue in Bangor's continually growing cultural scene. We pledge to use the fund to further our aim of bringing high quality performances, and provide our students with opportunities to work at times with an even higher level of touring artists," said Jeri Misler, managing artistic director for The Gracie Theatre.

This endowment from the Mimi Foundation will provide critical stability for The Gracie Theatre's work while allowing for artistic freedom and flexibility to pursue future opportunities.



On September 27, 2007, Husson broke ground on the 55,000 square foot Meeting House which is home to the balconied 490 seat Gracie Theatre, named for Grace "Gracie" McCollum, granddaughter of former Husson Trustee and friend Hilda Hutchins McCollum, both are pictured here. ►

Class News & Notes

Promotions, engagements, weddings, birth announcements and other accomplishments.
Submit your class notes at **husson.edu/alumni**

1990s

Mark Sheldon '96, mayor of Panama City Beach, was recently appointed to serve on the Florida League of Cities 2023-2024 Municipal Administration Committee. In this role, he will help develop the League's Legislative Platform, as well as help League staff understand the real-world implications of proposed legislation.

Joseph Porter '92 has accepted the position of Senior Vice President of Dealer Training & Development with Brightline Dealer Advisors. He will be responsible for creating curriculum and content for the finance and insurance sector of Brightline's business model that will be cutting edge in the areas of industry compliance, profitability and leadership, while helping drive Brightline's ambitions to have the most progressive, requested and impactful industry training nationwide.

Robert Harvey '93G was promoted to Municipal Infrastructure Service Line Director after recently joining Haley Ward, Inc.. Throughout his career, he has held several roles in capital planning, as well as implementation and maintenance in paper mills throughout the US and Canada.

Pen Bay Medical Center (PBMC) has announced that **Evelyn Fuller, RN '98** has been promoted to nurse manager in the hospital's Cancer Care practice. She will take on a leadership position in the oncology department and continue her dedication to excellent patient care while leading a team of nursing staff. Fuller has been with PBMC since 2019.

2000s

Lauren Tomasetti '00 and her wife Rachael Whitney are pleased to announce the birth of their second son, Caleb Whitney-Tomasetti, born in November. Caleb is welcomed by his parents and by big brother Jackson, born in 2019. Lauren works as a Logistical Coordinator for Providence Health Systems in Washington.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announced in early December the appointment of several individuals to the Government Efficiency Task Force, including **Tarren Bragdon '01G**. Bragdon is the Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation for Government Accountability. He founded the organization in 2011 to advance policy solutions that open up the "American Dream" to millions and advance free market principles.

2010s

The MaineBiz Next List has been presented annually since 2013 and aims to celebrate individuals whose efforts have helped change the future of Maine's economy. The MaineBiz NextUp: 40 Under 40 is a newer initiative that specifically highlights Maine's younger members as they rise within their careers. **Stephen Coston '15** made this year's list for his significant accomplishments within Maine's coastal hospitality industry. He's the founder and owner of Stay Bar Harbor Hotel Group/Coston, McIsaac & Shea Investment Advisors, and has contributed to the growth of hotels in Bar Harbor and is currently working on expanding beyond MDI.

Hannah Holtz, JD '19 recently passed the Washington D.C. bar exam. Holtz earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Husson and went on to further her education at the University of Mississippi School of Law. She is currently a Senior Policy Analyst for LMI.

Pride Pediatrics Therapy, a new private practice located in Franklin County and specializing in occupational therapy for children, was opened in early September by **Courtney Pride '18, '19G**. She specializes in feeding therapy, helping kids with a limited diet because of sensory aversion or other factors. Her main goal with the practice is to bring more specialized care to her area, allowing more families to receive treatment without needing to drive to Southern Maine or beyond.

2020s

Kaleb Davis '22 has joined Bar Harbor Bank & Trust in Brunswick as the Branch Relationship Manager. He began his banking career in 2015 as a Banking Specialist at TD Bank, and served most recently as Branch Manager and Mortgage Banker At LeaderOne Financial.

IN MEMORIAM

1940s: Josette Cooper Abba | Norma L. Mascetta '43 | Eleanor L. Jones '46 | Ella L. MacKenzie '48
1950s: Ruth B. Thomas '50 | James H. Russell '50 | Ruth M. Port '53 | Loren H. Ritchie '57 | Arthur L. LaChance '59 |
1960s: Janice E. White '61 | Ralph S. Mahar '61 | Gerard R. St. Jean '62 | Eugene L. Nardi '63 | David J. Crichton '65 | Carroll V. Strout '66 | David L. Campbell '66 | Richard Daughterty '67 | Peter F. Lacrosse '68 | Richard B. Raymond '68 |
1970s: Robert T. Bird '70 | Josephine H. Curran '70 | Alan S. Paine '74 | John A. Lagerquist '76 | Gail M. Williams '76 |
1980s: Donald V. Coston '80 | Brenda A. Crosby '80 | Ronald W. Baron '88 | Melanie M. Brochu '89 |
2000s: Jennifer M. Kenneally '02 | Madeline E. Bassett '03



Front, l-r: Jacob, Julia and Robert Brown. Back l-r: Bob and Tammy Douglass Brown.

All in the Family

For a Hampden family, Husson University is the path to a bright future

For the Browns of Hampden, Husson University is a family tradition.

It dates back 35 years, when **Bob Brown '93** started college and was joined not long afterwards by his sweetheart from Hermon High School, **Tammy Douglass Brown '95**. The public accounting majors now live in Hampden and have three children, all of whom are attending Husson University.

In the next generation, there's Robert Brown, a senior integrated technology major; Jacob Brown, a sophomore integrated technology and accounting double major; and Julia Brown, a freshman currently majoring in business administration who enjoys wearing her dad's old Husson College sweatshirt to her classes.

Husson is a special kind of connection, and one the Brown family shares proudly.

"My favorite days are when I get a text message and all three of them will be together somewhere on campus, and they're all taking a break together and they send me a picture," Tammy Douglass Brown said.

For Bob Brown, it's also been fun to get an inside view of how his school has changed over the decades.

"It's amazing how much that campus has grown since we went there. You wouldn't even recognize it. It's really blooming and blossoming, and so that's awesome," he said. "And we get to watch the kids grow along with it."

Small size, big opportunities

It's true that Husson has changed a lot, even becoming a university in 2008. But some important characteristics remain the same, the Browns said. It's still a friendly, right-sized school where students get individual attention and personalized guidance and support from their teachers and the staff members.

In fact, Dewey Martin, who retired in 2019 after 39 years of teaching accounting to Husson students, was a guest at the Brown's wedding.

"It was that close-knit," Tammy Douglass Brown said. "I loved Husson."

It's also hard to get lost at Husson, something that's been true for the Browns no matter what the decade.

"With the university being so small, I run into people that I know all the time," Robert Brown said. "So I always have somebody to sit down and talk with or have lunch with. This includes both friends in other classes and even professors. Sometimes I just chill with them, and you cannot beat it. It's awesome."

Still, he and his siblings also appreciate the benefits of attending a university that offers many sports and other extracurricular opportunities. Jacob, a swimmer, and Julia, a diver, are both members of the swimming and diving teams.

For Julia, joining the Husson team has allowed her to stretch her wings in her sport.

"I was a swimmer in high school, but I was able to try diving at Husson,

Continued on page 26

Continued from page 25

which I've really enjoyed, and I became really close to the team," she said.

Robert and Jacob both also participate in Husson Esports, through which they compete in video games online against other teams.

"It's all about teamwork," Robert said. "It sounds really nerdy — that's because it is. But it's really fun, and it's really bonding, and that's where I've made most of my friends so far."

From accounting to detecting

Although Bob Brown and Tammy Douglass Brown did not participate in team sports when they were students, they both found that the rigorous academic and practical training they experienced at Husson has served them well in their careers.

Bob Brown is a certified public accountant, certified fraud examiner and assistant professor of accounting at Thomas College in Waterville. He's the founder of The CPA Solution, a Bangor-based firm that specializes in fraud prevention and detection and forensic accounting. In 2023, he was appointed by Gov. Janet Mills to the Maine Board of Accountancy, which regulates and oversees the practice of public accountancy in Maine.

In fact, that new appointment also had a Husson connection for Brown, who was administered the Oath of Office at Husson on Aug. 14, 2023, by Marie Hansen, dean of the College of Business and New England School of Communications.

Tammy Douglass Brown, also a certified public accountant with a background in financial reporting, corporate and individual taxation, works at The CPA Solution, too.



Bob Brown '93 was administered the Oath of Office for his appointment to the Maine Board of Accountancy at Husson on Aug. 14, 2023, by Marie Hansen, dean of the College of Business and New England School of Communications.

It's not the usual type of accounting firm, Bob Brown said of the family business. They get called when someone is suspected of embezzling from a company, or when someone has been accused of malfeasance. They work to find out what really happened, figuring out if it is a question of sloppy bookkeeping or if someone intentionally committed a wrongdoing.

Sometimes the cases end up going to civil or criminal court, where he has appeared as an expert witness.

"I won't name names, but if you read something that makes you go 'Wow,' for example in the Bangor Daily News, chances are that we might have had our hands in it," Bob Brown said. "Basically what you're doing is combining accounting skills with investigation, curiosity, and at the same time operating almost like a detective."

The good grounding the couple received during their time at Husson has helped them do that. In the accounting and auditing classes they took as students, professors emphasized professional skepticism and taught them to not believe everything they might be told, a lesson that has stuck.

"Not only were they very good at instruction, but they also had a lot of practical experience, too," Bob Brown said.

Tammy Douglass Brown agreed.

"The real world stories were much more interesting than reading the books," she said.

For Bob and Tammy Douglass Brown, their Husson experience has been key to a fascinating career. They hope the same for their children, and perhaps, future generations of Browns, too. That sounds just fine to Robert, Jacob and Julia.

"In my opinion, if two generations can make it through, have great memories, have a great time, and meet so many awesome people, I think a third generation can make it through just the same," Robert Brown said.

Alumni & Friends **Regional Events**

Thank you to our alumni and friends from the classes of 1965 to 2023 who have hosted events in the past few months! If you are interested in hosting or helping with an event in your area, please email **alumni@husson.edu**.



Mike Skillin '84 once again hosted our annual Southern Maine Holiday Party in his beautiful Skillins Greenhouses, located in Falmouth, Maine. It's nice to highlight alumni-owned businesses, plus, the greenhouse provided the perfect décor for getting everyone into the holiday spirit!

Husson's Annual Alumni Appreciation Week, held from Jan. 27 to Feb. 3, was packed with events to honor our alumni and educate students on the importance of being a proud Husson alum.



The week kicked off with men's basketball alumni gatherings including a special recognition of the **1999 championship team** at halftime of the men's basketball game. The week continued with local alumni coming onto campus to educate students on the importance of networking and then helping them hone their skills at the Networking 101 event co-hosted by Career Services.

Meanwhile, alumni gathered in the Anderson Alumni Lounge before the performance of Piano Men in the Gracie Theatre, which included **Stephen Hodgkin '94** on the drums!



Kyle Poissonnier '08, owner and founder of Catalyst for Change Wear and an advocate for mental health and suicide prevention and awareness, also spoke on campus as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series sponsored by MMG Insurance. Poissionner partnered with the Husson Alumni Association through the sale of exclusive "Just a Kid from Husson" apparel (**www.cfcwear.com**). The partnership raised money for the Food Insecurity and Emergency Support Fund, which provides critical support to our students, in both 2023 and 2024. Wear your "Just a Kid from Husson" apparel on Giving Day, April 3, 2024, post pictures, and tag Husson Alumni and Friends!

The week continued with a S'mores and More gathering co-hosted by Student Government and Career Services on the new Ross Furman '72 Terrace. Students learned about what it means to be a Husson alum, as well as the services that will continue to be available to them after they graduate. The week ended in Southern Maine with a gathering of alumni to cheer on the Maine Mariners, while supporting Husson's School of Hospitality, Sport and Tourism Management, who managed concessions during the game as a fundraiser for their program. Throughout the entire week, alumni from around the globe were able to connect and share their favorite memories on the Husson Alumni social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

We're also looking forward to alumni events happening in February and March throughout Florida. Thanks to **Betty Floris**, Honorary Alumna '23, **Adam Kohler '01**, **Joe** and **Sue Cyr '20H/'65, '20H**, **Deborah Kobritz '75**, as well as former Men's Basketball and Golf Coach, **Bruce MacGregor** for hosting recent and upcoming events.

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.

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Join us on* Wednesday April 3 *for Husson's 6th annual Giving Day!

Compete to earn additional funds for your favorite area of campus during our 24-hour marathon of giving.

Stay tuned to **husson.edu/givingday** for more information and exciting challenges throughout the day.

#HussonGivingDay @HussonAlumni Husson University Alumni husson-university-alumni-friends