



THE POWER OF USM

USM Foundation Annual Report

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Dear Friends,



Let's talk about bridges. Some are small, like the ones built by trail stewards to help hikers keep their shoes dry. Others are awe-inspiring feats of engineering, built to span miles and stand the test of time. But every bridge has the same purpose: to help us overcome obstacles, keep us moving, and get us where we're meant to go. In other words: bridges sustain the power of our momentum.

The USM Foundation's 2025 fiscal year was a period of building bridges—between the success of the Great University Campaign and the next exciting chapter to come; between initiatives that will support the University **today, tomorrow, and forever**; and most importantly, between the generosity of our community and the opportunities you create for USM students.

Last year, we celebrated milestones that speak to the heart of this University. We completed the \$6 million Promise Scholarship Matching Challenge, opening even more doors for first-generation and low-income students. We secured endowed chairs and scholarships across nursing, business, music, and public policy, helping us prepare graduates to meet the challenges Maine faces today and tomorrow. And

we gathered together in spaces filled with gratitude, reminders that philanthropy is not only about impact, but also about belonging.

This was a year made possible by you. Your generosity, vision, and belief in USM have given us momentum and confidence as we look ahead to what's next. With your partnership, we will continue to build bridges that offer new paths for students, connect our beloved University to Maine's future, and transform our individual gifts into the Power of US.

With gratitude,

Corey Hascall '99, President
Steve deCastro, Chair, Board of Directors

University of Southern Maine Foundation Board of Directors

Stephen deCastro, Chair
President & CEO, Maine
Community Bank

Robert H. Dodge
Community Volunteer

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President & CEO, Broadreach Public
Relations

Dajuan Eubanks
President, Maine Celtics

Todd Chamberlain, Secretary
Director, IT Staffing, ProSearch, Inc.

Eileen Fongemie '98
Chief Financial Officer, MEMIC

Stephen Irish '81, Treasurer
Community Volunteer

Mo Ibourek '03, '05G
Product Quality Manager, Apple

Daniel Crewe '22H, Director
Emeritus
President & Chairman, The Crewe
Foundation

Daniel Kleban '04
Co-Founder, Maine Beer Company

Corey Hascall '99
President & CEO, USM Foundation

Michael J. Marocco '81
Managing Director, Sandler Capital
Management

Jacqueline Edmondson, Ph.D.
President, University of Southern
Maine

Becky McKinnell '06
Founder & CEO, iBec Creative
Founder, Wildwood Oyster Co.

Justin Alfond
Founder, Full Plates Full Potential
Former State Legislator

Dean L. Murray '87
Chief Claims Officer, RiverStone
International Insurance, Inc.

Kelly Barden '07, President,
Alumni Engagement Council
Director of Corporate
Communications, MEMIC

Casey Prentice
Founder and President, The Prentice
Organization

Kenneth A. Blaschke
Portfolio Manager & Partner,
HeadInvest

John Ryan, PE
Chair of the Board, Wright-Ryan
Construction, Inc.

Kelly Brewer '11
CEO, Insurcomm and Fortify
Restoration Holdings

Lois Skillings '91G
Community Volunteer

Gena Canning
Partner, Pine State Trading Co.

Ian Slaymaker '07, Ph.D.
Life Science Consultant and
Entrepreneur

Rebecca Swanson Conrad, Chair,
Board of Visitors
Principal, RSC Consulting

Ray Stevens '86, '08H, Ph.D.
Provost Professor of Biological
Sciences and Chemistry, University of
Southern California; Director, Bridge
Institute & the Stevens Laboratory

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Consistency

Jack Sutton '72G's journey to counseling—and ultimately to USM—began in the Army in 1968, where he served as an officer working with young, drafted troops. Stationed in southern Maine, he toured high schools and met counselors, sparking an interest in guiding others. This led him to take his first counseling course at the University of Maine at Portland (now USM), where he earned his master's in 1972. After completing a doctorate, Jack joined USM's counseling faculty in 1978, eventually shaping the program for nearly three decades until his retirement in 2004.

Today, a scholarship established with his late wife Annie supports future counselors at USM and provides an outlet for Jack's belief in consistent, meaningful giving. Inspired by his father's quiet act of tithing—a single dollar in the church basket each week—Jack learned that giving, no matter the size, builds a habit of generosity and purpose. Jack has made annual gifts to USM for over 15 years. His reward? Connection. He writes a note to each scholarship recipient, inviting them to lunch, sharing stories, and celebrating their successes.

Befitting a lifelong counselor, Jack believes that true generosity means “giving your full self to others,” a concept he traces to the teachings of famed psychologist Alfred Adler. For Jack, philanthropy is not transactional. It's an enduring way to be an integral part of USM's community, and create opportunities that will outlast his own lifetime—proving that steady, heartfelt giving is its own legacy.



Jack Sutton & Ethan Cove '26G, recipient of the John M. & Annie T. Sutton Scholarship

THE POWER OF Place



Above Left to Right: Book artists in residence at InSitu; Mike Marocco '81; aerial view of InSitu; painting the gardens. (Student and Art Photo Credit: Bryan Haeffele)

*Right:
The gardens of InSitu*

Michael J. Marocco '81 has built a distinguished career in finance—but it's his passion for the arts that shaped a remarkable gift to USM. As the founder of InSitu, a 28-acre sculpture garden within 300 protected acres in Connecticut, Marocco has created a place where art and nature engage in quiet, powerful conversation.

In May 2025, he opened InSitu to the Kate Cheney Chappell '83 Center for Book Arts, hosting its inaugural artist retreat. For six USM student artists, the experience offered rare time and space to create, explore, and connect—with their work and with one another.

A longtime USM supporter and Foundation Board member, Marocco sees the arts as transformative. His generosity made that transformation tangible. At InSitu, there were no deadlines, just the hum of the garden and the freedom to make.

By welcoming USM into his creative sanctuary, Marocco helped extend the university's mission beyond the classroom—and offered a lasting reminder that inspiration begins with space to breathe.



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Community

For Paul Kapothanasis '82, choosing the University of Southern Maine came down to finances and family. Staying close to Portland, he used a tight family budget to earn an Accounting degree from USM's School of Business, a decision that proved life-changing. When his father Constantine proposed launching Prompto 10-Minute Oil Change in 1984, Paul was ready to join him. Applying the skills he learned in accounting—internal controls, financial management, and strategy—Paul helped expand the family business. Today he leads the growing company as President, overseeing 26 locations across Maine and New Hampshire.

USM remains at the center of Paul's story. Two of his three children graduated from the University, his company employs one of them (and many other USM alumni), and he continues to recruit interns from the School of Business. He credits the program with giving him the tools to recognize and seize opportunities. "People in Southern Maine sometimes miss the boat and think they need to go out of state," he says. "But right here in your backyard is an accredited, excellent business program."

In 2019, Paul's family lost the man who had urged him to study accounting. To honor him, Paul established the **Constantine Kapothanasis Accounting Scholarship**, supporting students who show promise and perseverance. "Accounting was the best decision I ever made," Paul reflected. "It's served me well my entire life, and I wanted to give other students that same chance." For Paul, the scholarship is more than a gift—it's a legacy that ties family, education, and business together. He has a message for business students who dream of building something that can last as Maine evolves.



"The USM Business School opened my mind for the day opportunity knocked. That's a beautiful thing, because opportunity will knock."

Top: Paul Kapothanasis '82 and family
Right: Paul and his son Gregory at Prompto in 2005.



2024

July 6

Don Nicoll Memorial Lecture Series Fund established to support Muskie School lectures on civic dialogue and public issues.

July 10

Russell L. Glidden Social Justice Music Scholarship, which aids music students advancing social justice through choral work, is elevated from an annual fund to an endowed scholarship, ensuring student support in perpetuity.

July 31

Boyne Professorship in Advanced Practice Nursing created to recruit top nurse practitioner faculty and strengthen Maine's healthcare workforce

August 9

Chip '90 and Laura '87 Foye Promise Endowed Scholarship established to bridge tuition and living costs for Promise Scholars

August 14

Joseph and Betty Stocks '82 Nursing Scholarship established to support nursing students committed to serving rural Maine

September 26

David and Kaye '74 Flanagan Scholarship Endowment created to provide need-based scholarships for USM students.

Kaye Flanagan '73 Promise Endowed Scholarship established to expand Promise scholarships covering tuition and essential support services.

October 4

Major donors to USM are honored at a "*Torchbearer Toast*" held in the McGoldrick Center



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Gratitude

Growing up in Lewiston, Andrew Pelletier '95 got an early glimpse of college life as a member of the Portland Symphony Youth Ensembles. Week after week, he traveled to USM's Gorham campus to rehearse in Corthell Hall, quickly finding himself folded into the close-knit community of musicians. "When it came time to choose a college, the decision was clear," he recalls. "I knew I was meant to continue studying at USM, surrounded by amazing faculty and a supportive environment I had already grown to love."

That choice became the foundation of a remarkable career. At USM, Andrew performed with the Portland Symphony and studied with mentors like Jim Decker and Toshi Shimada, experiences that led him to pursue graduate study at the University of Southern California. Today, he is a Grammy Award-winning chamber musician, an internationally recognized horn soloist, and a professor at Bowling Green State University. Looking back, he credits USM with providing not only professional training but also the space to experiment, grow, and build lifelong friendships and mentors.

Now, Andrew has chosen to honor that legacy through philanthropy. He has named a teaching studio in the new Crewe Center for the Arts in memory of Peter Martin—beloved professor, conductor, and champion of music in Maine. And he has named a seat in the new Performance Hall. For Andrew, these gifts reflect his belief that state universities can be transformed by dedicated philanthropy. "This building is about possibility," he says. "It ensures students will have the same life-changing opportunities USM gave me."



Grammy winner Andrew Pelletier '95

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Enduring Excellence

Endowed chairs are among the most powerful investments in a university's future—ensuring that students learn from top-tier faculty and that academic programs remain responsive to urgent regional needs. Last year, far-sighted gifts opened the door to renewed excellence in three key USM programs:

The Avangrid/David Flanagan Endowed Professorship in Public Policy named nationally recognized scholar Dr. David Oliver Kasdan to the Muskie School of Public Service, where his expertise in behavioral economics and climate policy supports both student learning and public impact.



Left to Right: MEMIC's Eileen Fongemie '98 and Michael Bourque with USM President Jacqueline Edmondson and Professor Dana Kerr.



USM Nursing students

The MEMIC John T. Leonard Endowed Chair in Risk Management & Insurance strengthens a field critical to Maine's economic resilience. Professor Dana Kerr, the inaugural chair, bridges classroom and industry to prepare USM School of Business graduates for high-demand careers.

The newly established ***Boyne Professorship*** in Advanced Practice Nursing will attract and support a clinical leader to guide Maine's future nurse practitioners in the School of Nursing.

Together, these endowed positions represent more than faculty excellence—they are long-term commitments to the health, stability, and prosperity of Maine communities.

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A Name

Last summer, Chip '90 and Laura '87 Foye were so impressed with the continued success of the Promise Scholars program, they decided to put their names on it. Their generous gift established the ***Chip and Laura Foye Promise Endowed Scholarship***, one of the first named Promise endowments, launching a new way to support current and future Maine students at USM with financial assistance and wraparound services.



2024 Promise Scholars

If you'd like to make it possible for Maine students to access a USM education, thrive throughout their experience, and give back once they graduate, we invite you to consider naming your own endowment within this incredible program

2024 Continued

October 10

USM Foundation announces that anonymous donors have issued a ***\$6 million Promise Scholarship Matching Challenge*** toward the \$20 million endowment goal to support 100 Promise Scholars per year.

November 25

USM's ***School of Nursing***, with support from a generous donor, kicks off a series of visioning workshops to define its next era of meeting Maine's health care needs

December 31

USM Foundation celebrates meeting our total FY25 fundraising goal in just six months

2025

January 13

Corey Hascall '99 named President of the USM Foundation

January 16

Annual ***Women in Leadership*** event features a panel discussion on leading in uncertain times, breaking attendance records and inspiring the attendees to name a Women in Leadership seat in the Crewe Center.

February 26

USM Foundation and insurance industry leaders announce the completion of the \$3 million campaign to fund the John T. Leonard MEMIC Endowed Chair in Risk Management and Insurance.

May 1

Eighteen Class of 2025 Promise Scholars are toasted at their ***Grad & Gratitude Gala***, marking the successful completion of their undergraduate careers.

May 6

Martin's Point Health Care announces gift to build a ***sensory deprivation room*** for veterans at USM's Military-Affiliated Student Hub

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Legacy

When Rob and Margie Hillman learned that Rob's aunt, Kathleen "Kaye" Flanagan '73, had left a significant portion of her estate to their discretion, they felt both humbled and determined to honor her legacy. Kaye, the daughter of Irish immigrants and a first-generation college graduate from USM, became an accomplished nurse and nonprofit leader. Along with her husband, David, a Maine business icon and USM's 12th President, she devoted her life to serving others. Rob remembers stepping into the role of estate executor: *"The discretion was ours, but my aunt's charitable footprint was distinctive, and USM was at the top of a long list."*

Through conversations with Corey Hascall '99 and Erin Macey at the Foundation, the Hillmans were drawn to the Promise Scholars program. They saw in its mission the same values Kaye embodied: opportunity for first-generation college students, wraparound support that extends beyond tuition assistance, and a commitment to helping young people not only stay in school but thrive. "It's not just about academics," Margie notes. "It's about helping students find connection to their school, so they continue to excel." Their decision to designate \$1 million from Kaye's estate to Promise, with a priority on nursing students, aligned perfectly with her lifelong calling and passion for health care.

The gift also came at a pivotal moment. It was the final contribution needed to meet the Promise Matching Challenge, issued by a pair of anonymous donors, and it helped unlock millions in support of USM students. The ***Kaye Flanagan '73 Promise Endowed Scholarship*** also helped propel the Promise endowment toward its long-term goal of \$20 million, which will ensure that up to 100 students per year will receive this transformative support for generations to come. "It's meaningful and humbling," Rob said, "but honestly, it was also just great fun to be able to make such an impact on Maine's young people. Kathleen trusted us to make her legacy count, and Promise gave us a way to do just that".



Margie & Rob Hillman



Left to Right: USM President Jacqueline Edmondson and Jane Martin '93; Jill '83G and Robert '78G, '82 Blackwood; Ken '74 and Susan Ross; USM President Jacqueline Edmondson, Denise and Mike Dubyak, and USM Foundation President and CEO Corey Hascall '99.

The 1878 Legacy Society Tea kicked off this June to honor USM's most forward-thinking donors - those whose planned gifts ensure that future generations of students will thrive and lead Maine's future. The gathering was held at the President's House, and was enriched with a presentation and tour about the meaning of 1878 from Libby Bischoff, the university historian and Executive Director of the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education.

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Partnership



Left to Right: USM Foundation Executive Director of Development Erin Macey, Rick '77 and Phyllis '76 Vail, USM Foundation President Corey Hascall '99

Rick '77 and Phyllis '76 Vail have been close to USM since their undergraduate days. Phyllis, a retired teacher, and Rick, the former President of Mechanics Savings Bank, believe deeply in the power of education to transform lives. Rick has served on both the USM Foundation Board of Directors and the USM Board of Visitors. Three years ago the couple established the **Vail Endowed Scholarship** with a generous commitment of \$500,000. The scholarship supports USM juniors and seniors from Cumberland and Androscoggin Counties and has helped seven deserving students - five of whom have successfully graduated from USM and two who are pursuing their undergraduate degrees.

2025 Continued

May 9

The Annual President's Reception honors USM Foundation's giving societies - the President's Circle, Torchbearer Society, and 1878 Legacy Society - along with students, alumni, and USM leaders at a map-themed *Explore Your Impact* event.

May 10

USM holds its **145th Commencement Ceremony** at Cross Insurance Arena - a day that celebrates student achievement and the support that makes it possible.

May 19

Constantine Kapothanasis Accounting Scholarship established to support promising accounting majors with perseverance and a good attitude.

May 27

Wipfli Accounting Scholarship established to provide two annual awards for upper-level accounting majors.

June 3

USM Foundation announces Dan Crewe '22H's "Name Your Steinway" matching challenge to help acquire 26 legendary pianos and become Maine's first higher education All-Steinway Institution. The challenge continues in FY2026.

June 4

First annual 1878 Legacy Society Tea celebrates those who included USM in their estate plans.

June 12

Blackwood Student Emergency Fund established to provide urgent financial aid to students in crisis.

June 16

Dedication of the Richard Pattenau Reception Room in Portland Commons residence hall to honor the transformational leadership of USM's eighth President.



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2024-2025 Annual Report,
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Financial Statements.

[usm.maine.edu/foundation/
2025-annual-report/](https://usm.maine.edu/foundation/2025-annual-report/)

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Pathways

Even before the McGoldrick Center for Career and Student Success opened its doors, our community partners believed in what it would mean for USM students. By becoming Founding Sponsors, they put their names behind USM students and their career success. Two years in, the Career & Employment Hub is honoring their support with great outcomes:



“Internships with the Career Hub aren’t just about gaining experience in a specific field; they’re about learning how to navigate a work environment, build confidence, and get your footing in the real world.”

- Elizabeth Smith '24,
Communications Specialist, Sweetser

Total advising
appointments with students
and alumni annually:

900-1,200

Average number of
students that work in
on-campus positions:

900

Total paid
internships
placed annually:

150

Percentage of the Class of 2025
that gained career experience
through an internship:

60%

