



History of Memorial Union (June 13, 1953)



The Memorial Union opened on June 13, 1952. The building was established as a tribute to the University of Maine's men and women who served in World War II, and a memorial to the 181 men who gave their lives in that war. Within the Union, the Memorial Room serves as a dedicated space to remember those who served our country in World War II. The Memorial Union Governing Board proposed to expand the Memorial Room to serve as a memorial for all those who served for the United States following World War II. This proposal was approved in January of 1972. The University of Maine has been very lucky to have

many dedicated alumni, faculty, staff, and community members who have provided generous donations to the Memorial Union. These donors have been recognized through the naming of rooms and spaces in the Memorial Union. While the purposes for the spaces may have changed, the memory of these donors' contributions lives on.

January 19, 1972

President Winthrop C. Libby
Alumni Hall
Campus

Dear President Libby:

At our January meeting, the Memorial Union Governing Board decided that it was necessary to rededicate the Memorial Room located just off the lobby of the Union Building. Originally, the room was dedicated to University of Maine men and women who lost their lives in the service of their country during World War II. The Governing Board felt that we should change that dedication to include all men from World War II and on who have lost their lives in the service of our country. Presently, as you know, the Memorial Gymnasium is dedicated to those who lost their lives during the Spanish-American War and World War I.

We felt that it would be entirely appropriate to change the Memorial Room in this manner as it would not change the basic philosophy of the Union Building. Our next step is to decide in what manner these men and women should be memorialized. Presently in the Memorial Room there is a "Book of Memory" in which are listed those who lost their lives in World War II. Perhaps it might be best to continue on this line in order that the decorum of the room not be disturbed.

I believe that working with the General Alumni Association and Don Stewart (an ex-officio member of the Governing Board), and the Armory, we will be able to obtain a complete listing of those who have died. Upon completion of this task, we would then plan to have another dedication service for the Memorial Room. We have purposely left this open ended, so that if in the future, the Governing Board feels it is necessary to add more names to the list, they would be able to do so without going through another rededication.

The above was put in the form of a motion and was carried unanimously by the Memorial Union Governing Board on January 13, 1972. Should you have any particular reactions or suggestions on how we could better memorialize these men and women, I would be most happy to hear them.

Sincerely yours,

James Bickford
Chairman
Memorial Union Governing Board

JB/gv

c.c. Dean Rand
Major Ruggerio
Don Stewart

Ground Floor

Game Room (Bowling Lanes Area)

This room was given by the University Store Company and provided billiards, bowling, and table tennis to all members of the University community. Phi Kappa Phi National Honor society was founded in this room. *The Game Room is currently the office for The Maine Campus, student newspaper.*

The Bear's Den

This room was given by undergraduates who were located in Brunswick at the time of the first Union Building Fund Campaign. It provided fountain and cafeteria services. The University Bookstore now occupies this ground floor space. The Bear's Den Pub & Café is currently located on the second floor in the southwest corner of the building.

University Stores Company Room

The University Store Company gave the funds for both the billiard game room and the bowling lanes room. Gifts for these purposes were made over a period of twelve years. *This space is currently used as a computer/technology resource room for students.*

Wade Center for Student Leadership

This space was named after Ormand and Miriam Wade in 2001. After an expansive career, Ormand retired in Southport, ME with his wife and served as a member of the President's Development Council and the Board of Visitors at the University of Maine. Ormand passed away in 2004. *This space serves as resource for student clubs and organizations at the University of Maine, as well as a lounge for commuter and non-traditional student services.*

Second Floor

The Orono Room

This room was a gift of the citizens and business concerns of Orono. It once served as the Director of the Union's Office, and was later used for storage, mimeographing, and sign making. *The Orono Room space currently exists part of the center for Campus Activities and Student Engagement (CASE).*

The Coe Room

Given in memory of former Bangor resident, Dr. Thomas U. Coe, this room was considered to be a Women's Lounge, and was variously used as a lounge for informal meetings and for teas and receptions. *The Coe Room currently exists as a space for meetings, programs, and a casual gathering place for students.*

The Maine Lounge

This room was a gift of the undergraduate students from several classes who were in college at the time of the first Union Building Fund. It was used as a lounge for dances, concerts, lectures, and receptions.

The Sutton Lounge

This room was given in memory of Harry E. Sutton, class of 1909. Sutton was a very dedicated alumnus and former president of the General Alumni Association. Two of his children attended the University, and his wife was also a generous donor. This room was intended to be a Men's Lounge, but was primarily used as a television lounge. *The Sutton Lounge currently serves as office space for the Bear's Den employees.*

The 1912 Room

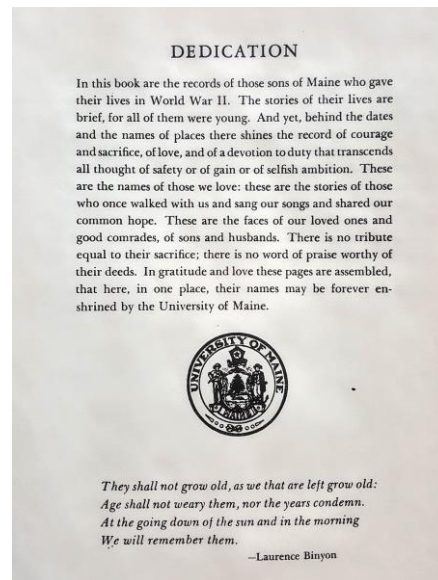
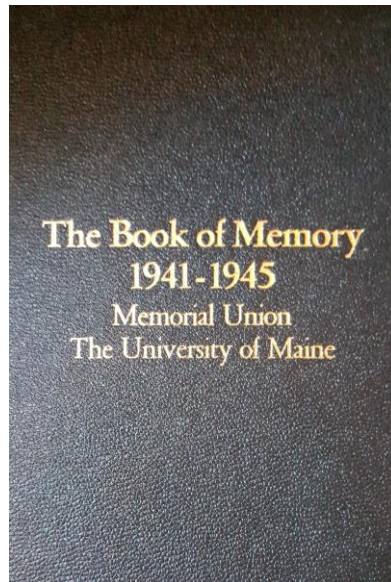
This room was a gift from the Class of 1912, and *currently serves as office space for Bear's Den employees.*

The Memorial Room

This room, especially attractive with its fine paneling, rugs, and furniture, serves as a space to reflect and remember the alumni and Maine residents who lost their lives serving our country. This room contains "The Book of Memory," which holds the pictures of Maine alumni who lost their lives in World War II, 1941-1945. *While the*

multi-purpose use of this room was proposed, it was rejected, and is still carrying out its original purpose today.





The William S. Nutter Room

This room was given by former University of Maine Trustee, Mr. William S. Nutter, Class of 1949. Nutter had a great love of music, and this room housed record playing equipment and was known as "The Music Room." It was used chiefly as a small reading room and for listening to records selected from the Memorial Union Record Library. This space is now known as the UCU lookout.

The Bumps Room

Imogene M. Maybury had this room dedicated to her father Dr. Wilbur Bumps. It once served as a general meeting room and a place for commuter students to eat their lunches. *The Bumps Room has not moved and remains a location that is frequently used for meetings and programs.*

The F.F.A Room

All chapters of the Future Farmers of America in the Maine high schools contributed towards this very useful room, under the representation of Peter Edgecomb, president of the state organization. This room was presented by the State of Maine Future Farmers of America Association in honor of members who died in WWII. *It served as a lounge area, and continues to serve as a common meeting room for university related groups.*

The Totman Room

This room was given by James E. Totman, Class of 1919. Totman was a former chair for the Special Gifts Committee for the Memorial Union. *The Totman Room is another area used for general meetings and gatherings.*



James E. Totman Class of 1919

The W. T. Grant Company Room (SWell)

This room was secured through the interest of Raymond H. Fogler, who was president of the company at the time. It was intended to be used as headquarters for the University Placement Bureau (UBP), but the UBP soon outgrew the space. *The W. T. Grant Company Room is currently occupied by the Student Wellness Resource Center, part of the Division of Student Life.*

The Davis Room

Named in memory of Harry W. Davis, who was an active alumnus of the University of Maine, this room was given by his sons, Manly W. Davis, and Raymond W. Davis, former University Trustee of 20 years. This room was originally used for round table group meetings and conferences. *This space currently serves as office space for CASE student organizations and leadership development.*

The Lown Room

This room was given by Philip W. Lown, Class of 1918. The size permitted larger conferences, occasional game tournaments and has been frequently used for placement interviewing. *The Lown Room was formerly the lounge for Commuter and Non-Traditional Student Programs, but currently serves as space for meetings and programs. Commuter and Non-Traditional Student Programs has moved to the ground floor, in the Wade Leadership Center.*

The Bangor Room

This room was given as a gift of citizens and business concerns of Bangor, and serves *as the largest of the meeting rooms in the Memorial Union.*

Third Floor

Ford Room (Career Center)

This room was made possible by the generous gift of Joseph F. Ford of Boston, Massachusetts. Friend to Raymond H. Fogler, Joseph was never known to have visited the University of Maine. Originally, the room was used as a dining area for faculty, alumni, students, and friends. Table reservations could be made for dinner hours. Alumnae of Southern Penobscot County donated the attractive silver cabinet and much of the display silver. This room also contained murals done by Walter Eitel, class of 1956, from Hartford, Connecticut. *This space is currently part of the Career Center.*

Peabody Lounge (Career Center)

This room was established in memory of Myron F. Peabody, who was killed in action in Italy, on April 4, 1945. This room was given by his brother, Myron C. Peabody and brother-in-law, Raymond H. Fogler. Both of these men were former presidents of the General Alumni Association. The room was designed to serve as an alumni-faculty

lounge for leisure time and the serving of light refreshments, and as an assembly room for groups prior to and after meals. *The Peabody Lounge is currently a part of the Career Center.*



Myron Farnham Peabody

MYRON FARNHAM PEABODY, only son of Myron C. and Ruth Caney Peabody, born in Springfield, Massachusetts, October 28, 1924. Graduated from Technical High School, Springfield, in 1942. Entered the University of Maine in the fall of that year, where he was awarded Freshman Rifle numerals; employed at Men's Infirmary; member of Student Senate and Interfraternity Council; Dean's List student; president of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Withdrew from the University to be inducted into the Army, June 6, 1944. Received basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama. Ordered overseas, November 6, 1944.

In Italy a member of the Tenth Mountain Division, 86th Mountain Infantry. Reached front line in February, 1945. Awarded the Combat Infantryman badge.

Killed in action in Italy, April 4, 1945. Posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal "For heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945, near Mt. Terminale, Italy. . . . Such outstanding courage, personal aggressiveness, and staunch devotion to duty justly deserve the sincere gratitude of all who know of his heroic deeds."

Myron F. Peabody

Rhode Island Alumni Room (Career Center)

This room was given by alumni in Rhode Island, under the leadership of Alfred B. Lingley, Class of 1920. The room served as an office, meeting space and for other Memorial Union Activity Board purposes. *The Rhode Island Alumni Room is now part of the Career Center.*

Ralph R. Day Room (Career Center)

This room was given by Ralph R. Day, Class of 1911, with funds given for equipment by his widow. The furnishings were also given by Mrs.

Ralph R. Day in memory of her husband. It was used for conferences, committee meetings, and other related purposes. It was requested to serve as a Social Director's Office, if and when such a position was established. *It is now a part of the Career Center.*

The Geneva H. Bowerman Room (Career Center)

This room was given by the late Frank P. Bowerman, Class of 1900, in memory of his wife, who graduated from the University of Maine in 1895. It was to be used as an office for the Assistant Director of the Memorial Union, and later served as an office for the President of the Activities Board of the Memorial Union. *This room now serves as an interview room for the Career Center.*

Old Town Room (Career Center)

This room was given by the citizens and business concerns of Old Town as an expression of their appreciation for what the University means to the Old Town community. It was used as a "work room" where class councils, organizations, and committees may prepare decorations, design signs and publicity art work in connection with University events and other activities of certain student organizations. The room was later used as an office space for student organizations. *The Old Town Room is currently part of the Career Center.*

The Miles F. Ham Room (Part of the Multicultural Center)

This room was given by the late Miles F. Ham, Class of 1920, from

Columbus, Ohio. He was the former treasurer of the Central Division of the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company. As a tribute to his memory, Mr. Ham's associates in the company donated the original furnishing and equipment of the room. The room was used for conferences, small meetings, luncheons and dinners. *This room later housed the Barber Shop operated by the University Stores, and now exists as a part of the Multicultural Center.*

C. Max Hilton Room (Multicultural Programs Office & Lounge)

This room was given by the late C. Max Hilton, Class of 1917. It was used primarily for general meetings, and special luncheons. *The C. Max Hilton Room currently serves as part of the Multicultural Center.*

The Ernest T. Walker Room

The Walker Room was given by Plainfield, New Jersey resident, Ernest T. Walker, Class of 1911. Walker was formerly a manufacturer of small home-power machines. *The room is still used for conferences and meetings for university related groups.*

The Robert R. Drummod Chapel

This chapel was given by Mrs. Robert R. Drummond, members of her family, and the family of Mr. Drummond in his memory. Drummond taught at the University and was head of the Department of German. He served the University devotedly and effectively for thirty-seven years. This chapel was used for meditation and small worship services,

as well as weddings. *Drummond Chapel remains a location for individuals of all faiths and religions to reflect, meditate, and pray.*

The Class of 1955 Room

This room was given by the Class of 1955 as their graduation gift. This room had the intended purpose of serving as an office and conference space used jointly by the General Student Senate and Associated Women Students. *The room is currently the office for the Coordinator of Veteran Education and Transition Services (VETS).*

The Reverend Alson H. Robinson Room (Bodwell Center)

This room was made possible in part by a bequest from Reverend Alson H. Robinson, Class of 1901. Reverend Alson achieved a place of leadership in his denomination. This room was designed as an office for all student religious activities and programs. This office later served as the office for the Director of Religious Affairs, and later, the office of Student Activities. *The Reverend Alson H. Robinson Room is currently known as the Bodwell Center for Service and Volunteerism.*

The Robert F. Thurrell

This room was given by Robert F. Thurrell, Class of 1915, of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. Mr. Thurrell was an active member among general alumni, local associations and class affairs. Thurrell was a former president of the General Alumni Association. *This room was used for conferences and small meetings, and is currently part of the Division of Student Life.*

The Worcester Alumni Room

This room was given by University of Maine Alumni in Worcester, Massachusetts. Their campaign succeeded under the leadership of John H. Mahoney, Class of 1927. This room contained two dark rooms that could be used by students and faculty for their photographic work.

Senior Skulls Room

Alumni of the Senior Skulls Honor Society made this room possible with their Skull Tomb Fund, stating "As a tribute to the interest and leadership of those who served the University as Skulls." Serving as a meeting room for many student organizations and the staff. Furniture was later provided by the Class of 1956. This room is currently used as a general meeting space.