

Fall 2017 \$5.00

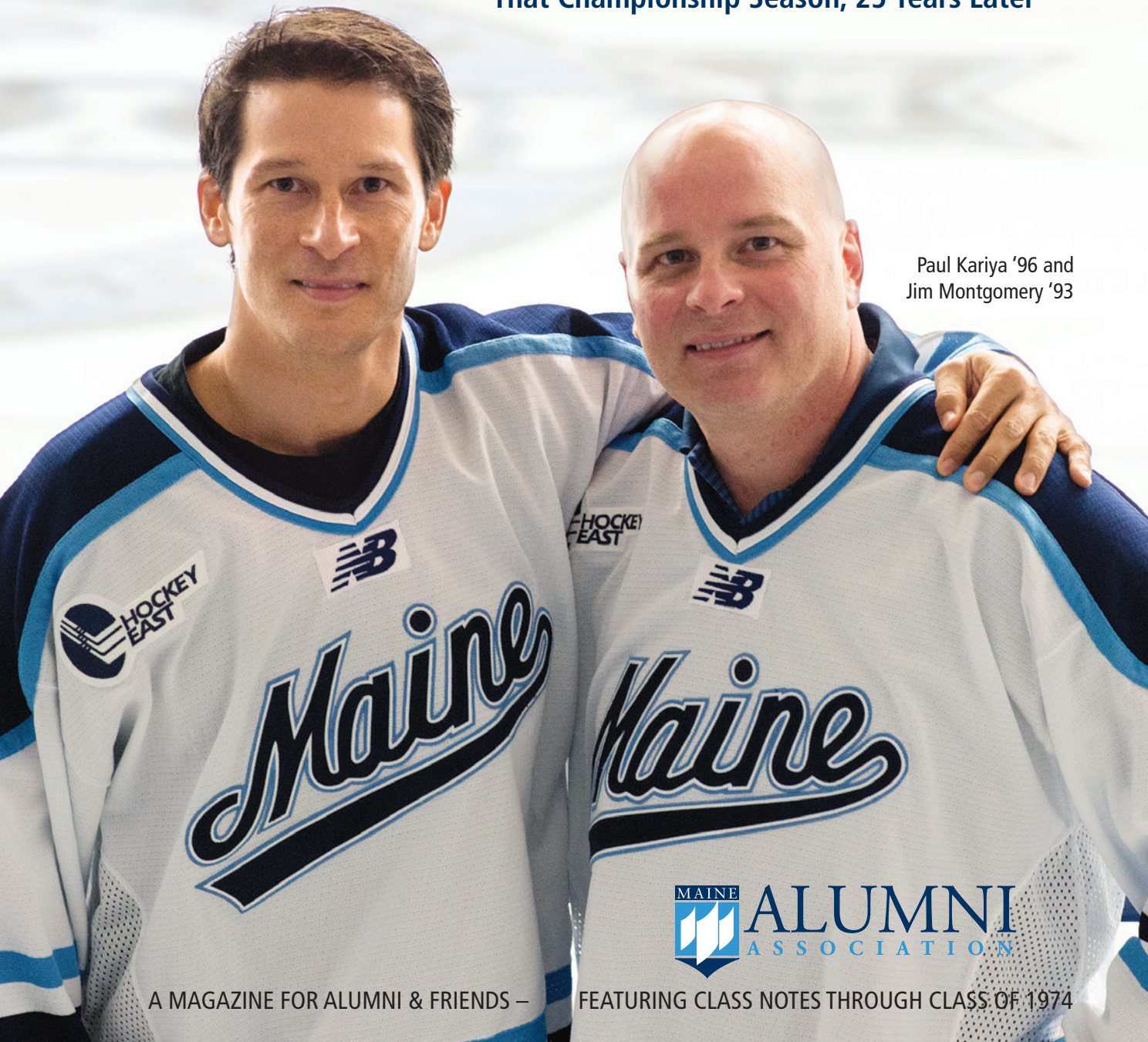
MAINE

Alumni Magazine

The Greatest Ever

That Championship Season, 25 Years Later

Paul Kariya '96 and
Jim Montgomery '93



A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS —

FEATURING CLASS NOTES THROUGH CLASS OF 1974



Marching



The Black Bear Marching Band Keeps on Growing

CHRISTOPHER WHITE '94G points to a black and white photo hanging on his office wall. "That was my first band in 1992," he says. "We had 54 students when I took over."

Today, the number of University of Maine Marching Band members has more than doubled to a record 120 students. "We've had an almost 50 percent growth in the last five years," says White. "The word is getting out about our programs and that's wonderful."

Ninety-one musicians, 21 dancers, five majorettes, and three drum majors make up this year's group. "It makes it a show," explains White. "It's not just music, it's moving, it's visual; everything we do has something for everybody."

"The growth of the marching band has been exciting to see," says Emily Haddad, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "Band members have a special enthusiasm that shows in every performance and makes the marching band a truly unique aspect of campus life."

"I've been doing band my entire life," says Julia Waldron, a drum major and junior from Brattleboro, VT, majoring in early childhood education. "It teaches me so many different life lessons—how to be professional, self-disciplined, and a work ethic that I never would have had before."

Jay Baines '17, a civil engineering major from Hampden, has watched the numbers swell since he joined the marching band five years ago. "We had 88 members then," he says. "We've grown in such a positive way."

"One of the most significant areas

The Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band, led by drum major Jessica Oriente '18, opened the American Folk Festival in August with a parade in Bangor.



of growth is our proportion of in-state to out-of-state kids,” says White. “We have a lot more out-of-state participants in our programs,” he adds, noting that in-state enrollment has stayed solid.

White credits several new initiatives on the University of Maine campus for the marching band’s growth spurt, including the Visual and Performing Arts Scholarship program, which began two years ago.

VAPA awards, as they are known, are \$1,500 per semester for the selected

students. They are renewable for up to four years of undergraduate study. Students must participate every semester in a musical ensemble and maintain at least a 2.5 GPA.

The scholarships were created by Joel Wincowski, the former vice president of enrollment management. “He noticed the marching band during his first weeks on campus two years ago and thought highly of the work ethic in the group,” explains Beth Weimann, chair of the Music Division in the School of Performing Arts. The

awards are available for music and dance performance as well as majors in theatre and art.

“It was definitely a deciding factor for me,” says Katie Spagnolo, a first-year student at UMaine. “Because I participated in All-State and I’m a music education major, I was automatically qualified. When I found out my junior year at Thornton Academy that I was going to be able to get the scholarship, it made UMaine my first choice way back then.”

The marching band is one of six





From left:
Drum major Jay Baines '17 leads the band through a rehearsal.

After leading the Black Bear Marching Band for 25 years, program director Chris White '94G has lots of enthusiastic followers.

The Marching Band rehearses both on Alford Sports Stadium's Morse Field (pictured) and on Lengyel Recreation Fields, located between Aroostook Hall and Buchanan Alumni House.

Lower left: Julia Waldron '19 is one of the Marching Band's three drum majors.

back to Class of 1944 Hall. "It's a full, full day," says White.

Courtney Evans graduated from UMaine in 2004. She played in the marching band for five years while earning her undergraduate degree in psychology. "I remembered going to football games with my grandfather as a child and being mesmerized watching the band march around the field doing their famous kicks and grunts," Evans says. "I knew from that moment on that I wanted to play trombone and I wanted to be a part of the marching band."

Evans is now the president of the UMaine Alumni Band, which boasts about 100 members reaching all the way back to the Class of 1957. Recently, the group purchased a much-needed drum major podium for the band through fundraising and donations. "We have also been working with the Alumni Association on an endowment fund for the Sports Bands, which has been a major project over the last two years," explains Evans.

Each Homecoming, the Alumni Band is invited to join current players on the field for their pregame and halftime shows. "Our UMaine Alumni Band is the largest returning organization each year at Homecoming," Evans says proudly. "We'll show up in rain, sleet, even snow."

"They say once you're in, you're in for good," says Baines, who will complete his undergraduate degree in December. "We're not here because we have to be; we're here because we enjoy it. There's a legacy here—we play a role in that and it's pretty awesome." ■

bands on campus. There are also two jazz ensembles, a symphonic band, concert band, and a pep band with more than 250 students participating in total. "We have a band here for every interest and every ability," says White. "We are the only full-service Division One band program in the state of Maine. We're proud of that."

Students do not have to major or even minor in music to join any of the ensembles. "We have 50 different majors represented in the marching band," says White. "Only 15 percent of

them are music majors."

Marching band members participate in a week of band camp prior to the start of school in the fall. After that, it's 80 minutes, three times a week. Game days start with a two-and-a-half hour rehearsal first thing Saturday morning. The band then performs at the President's House and the tailgate area of the Harold Alford Sports Stadium. That's followed by a pregame and a halftime show on Morse Field. After the game, there's a "Follow the Tuba" traditional march



UMaine Announces Vision for Tomorrow

\$200 Million Comprehensive Campaign



“Vision for Tomorrow stands out as a timely, worthy initiative that will benefit not only Maine’s flagship university, but the entire state.”

DR. JEFFERY N. MILLS '82

THE UNIVERSITY of Maine and the University of Maine Foundation have moved into the final, public phase of the Vision for Tomorrow comprehensive campaign, a \$200 million fundraising drive for UMaine. The campaign has been in its “quiet phase” for the past few years as it developed the effort’s base of support. As a result, funds raised to date now total over \$121 million.

Part of the announcement included the first gift of the campaign’s public phase, an anonymous \$1 million matching gift that will leverage \$4 million to \$5 million in scholarship and endowment support for Maine students to attend UMaine. More details about the match will be announced at a later date.

“Vision for Tomorrow is a bold fundraising campaign that will enable us to make an even greater difference in the lives of students, and to conduct our critical work statewide and beyond,” said UMaine President Susan J. Hunter. “Throughout UMaine’s history, donors have demonstrated the importance of giving to a successful university to make it more successful. We look forward to partnering again in our Vision for Tomorrow.”

Campaign priorities cover four key areas critical to UMaine’s future — Fostering Student Success, Ensuring Access for All of Maine, Catalyzing Maine’s Economy, and Accelerating Discovery to Impact. Each area will focus on student success, including scholarships. Other examples of investments include endowments to support faculty and student learning across all colleges, centralized campuswide initiatives to enhance student engagement, and support for major capital needs to update where learning takes place and how it is delivered,

such as a new Engineering Education and Design Center.

“The success of the campaign celebrates UMaine’s past while paving a way for the brightest possible future,” said University of Maine Foundation President and CEO Jeffery N. Mills ’82. “Central to the Vision for Tomorrow campaign are two major types of gifts — expendable, that can address immediate needs and opportunities; and capital projects and endowed support to benefit UMaine students and faculty in the future. Nothing is more important than making sure students receive the most affordable, highest-quality education we can provide.”

Campaigns mobilize and motivate alumni and friends in support of a university’s mission and values, Mills said.

“Given that UMaine just welcomed its largest class ever, and seeks to expand its reputation for research and community engagement, Vision for Tomorrow stands out as a timely, worthy initiative that will benefit not only Maine’s flagship university, but the entire state.”

The University of Maine Foundation will take the lead in managing the campaign. Honorary Co-Chairs for the Vision for Tomorrow campaign are Paul and Giselaïne Coulombe. Paul, a member of the UMaine class of 1975, earned a B.S. in business administration and went on to become a prominent business leader. He and Giselaïne are generous philanthropists.

Additional information about giving opportunities and campaign updates can be found online at umaine.edu/visionfortomorrow.

