

Maine > Ahead

MAINE'S BUSINESS & EXECUTIVE LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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Top: UNE's blue astroturf field, designed primarily for stick sports like lacrosse and field hockey, is a new landmark for the Biddeford campus. Above: Danielle Ripich gets a pat on the shoulder from former president George H. W. Bush during the dedication of the George and Barbara Bush Center on the Biddeford campus, just a few miles north of the Bushes' summer home on Walker's Point.

Please tell us about your growing-up years and how you became interested in a career in education. Did you have a mentor along the way?

My parents were both teachers. I grew up in a small town in southern Ohio so dinner table conversations were all about how to motivate students, how to move them from A to B. Growing up, I thought these were really interesting problems to solve, and I became intrigued with education. And, as far as mentors, I had a number of them as I look back. I don't think anybody gets to these kinds of jobs, president of a university, without a lot of help along the way.

Where were you born and brought up?

It was a little river town, Portsmouth, Ohio. It's about 20,000 people; it was a mill town. My grandfather worked in the mills, and the steel mill went away, so in a lot of ways Maine connects very deeply with me, the small towns where industry had been, but is gone, and the work ethic of people in Maine. Those things made me feel very much at home here in this state.

Were you a high-performing academic in school? Were you studious? And how long did it take you before you thought you'd want to be in education?

» T R C F

Born:

March 4, 1945, Portsmouth, Ohio

Education:

BA and MA in speech pathology from Cleveland State University, 1977 and 1978; PhD in speech pathology from Kent State University, 1982.

Career Highlights:

President of University of N

about the need for such a school? Where are you in the process?

Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire is the largest geographic area in the U. S. without a dental school. So we've really been at a disadvantage in terms of getting dentists into northern New England, and particularly in Maine. When I was going around talking about our pharmacy school, almost everyone I would talk with would say, "When are you going to start a

bleachers was filled, with 250 students standing around the edges. So if you have the facilities, it really creates an activity, a place for students to gather. I'm positive the same thing's going to happen with the Alford Center.

Your healthcare programs get a lot of attention.

What other standout programs would you like Maine business leaders to know about?

Our marine science, our aquaculture, those are programs that we're very proud of. We have very strong students in them, we have a master's program now, and we're working toward developing a PhD in that area. The other area that I think people don't realize that we have is our business program. That's growing rapidly, and it has a nice communications component. When companies think about taking interns in business, they don't think of UNE naturally, but this is an area where we have seen a doubling each year of our applicant pool.

What's next on the horizon for UNE?

One exciting thing that's happening here is the interprofessional health education model that we're bringing to bear. Health care is going to what is called a medical home model. Now we go to our doctor's office and then we go to the dentist and

then we might go to the pediatrician and we might go to the pharmacy. What's happening is, they're creating these super clinics where you get your prescription filled, where you might have your diabetes monitored, or talk with a physical therapist about exercises for your diabetes, but e-43630pen5(n76 her)2

