

who lived a life guided by her faith and values. Long before recycling became the politically correct thing to do, Mary Keating saved and reused every bread bag, rubber band, piece of tinfoil, and jar she ever brought into the house. Old jelly jars were magically transformed into milk glasses and bread bags were used to store everything from school lunch to sea shells from Rockaway Beach.

Even though Mary has left this world, her legacy will continue through the lives and work of her 8 children, 20 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren. I know this because her granddaughter, Kathleen Keating Strottman, served as my staff for over 7 years and I saw many of these traits in her. In honor of Mary's Irish heritage, I would like to close my remarks with the refrain of an Irish ballad, "The Lovely Rose of Clare":

Oh my lovely rose of Clare, you're the sweetest girl I know, You're the queen of all the roses, the pretty flowers that grow, You are the sunshine of my life, so beautiful and fair, And I will always love you, my lovely rose of Clare.●

HONORING HUSSON COLLEGE

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I honor one of the jewels of Maine higher education, Husson College, in Bangor, ME, which will officially make its much-anticipated transition to Husson University on October 11, 2008.

I know I join with countless Husson students and alumni from practically every town in Maine, as well as from around the country and the world, in expressing my deep-seated pride in what Husson College has accomplished since its founding in 1898 by Chesley Husson, and for what it will achieve in the years ahead as Husson University. Although the name has changed, the longstanding hallmarks of Husson which have served its students so exceptionally well for 110 years will not only remain the same, but will also be strengthened more than ever. A broader-based institution than it was just 20 years ago, Husson—at this watershed moment of becoming a university—secures an even greater presence on the educational landscape, offering multiple degrees through various schools and bolstering its overall capacity to bring to its students a wide range of dynamic and diverse programs, especially at the graduate level.

From the dawn of the 20th century to the beginning of the 21st, Husson has, at its core, strived to prepare its graduates for success in life and in professional careers, by cultivating a learning discipline, regimen, and environment tailored to each student that ultimately facilitates individual growth and progress. Ushering Husson College—now Husson University—into the 21st century is, fittingly, its 21st president, Dr. Bill Beardsley, who, since 1987, has been continually drawing from Husson's rich past, while simultaneously focusing on what lies just over the horizon.

With Bill's unsurpassed vision, Husson is still—and will forever be—an institution focused on teaching rather than research—a place for imparting and acquiring knowledge that both fosters student development and equips its graduates with the educational tools to be valued civic and business leaders. Furthermore, because of Bill's unparalleled reputation and ingenuity as an innovator, Husson has also been at the forefront of developing a cutting-edge curriculum that takes into account marketplace changes, demographic shifts, and economic trends. So, it is little wonder that under Bill's vibrant and effective leadership, Husson has more than tripled its matriculation of freshman students, more than doubled its number of traditional undergraduates—when considering those attending the New England School of Communications—and has undergone a stunning expansion on its campus to accommodate new schools and programs, not to mention more alumni.

Nothing speaks more to Husson's tradition of commitment to the student—and the primacy of a hands-on education that is accessible and affordable—than a student-to-teacher ratio that is an exceptional 19 to 1, 70 faculty members dedicated only to teaching in the classroom, and tuition costs that are purposely kept from skyrocketing, and where nearly 90 percent of Husson students qualify to receive Federal, State, community, or campus-based financial aid.

Additionally, as Husson espouses a teaching emphasis emblematic of a college, it offers curriculum possibilities that integrate liberal arts and sciences, professional and technical studies, and learning outside the classroom that are indicative of its status as a university. Many schools may offer degrees in business, but at Husson, that area of study can be specialized to include not only financial management, but also hospitality management, small/family business management, and sports management—compelling and rigorous pathways of learning that can be significantly attractive to highly-motivated, professionally-centered students.

As Chair and now ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I can tell you firsthand that this approach to business education that creates greater personalization yields benefits in an increasingly competitive marketplace for employers and prospective employees alike. And those rewards extend beyond the boundaries of business classes.

For example, how many schools nationwide have a chemistry major that contains a prepharmacy track or paralegal studies or boatbuilding technology program or graduate programs in nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and a graduate course of study in pharmacy being developed? And how many institutions would have

responded to a medical shortage in underserved, rural areas that could not afford a doctor with the vision of producing nurse practitioners? But that is precisely what Husson did in 1981 when it partnered with Eastern Maine Medical Center to establish the Husson College/Eastern Maine Medical Center Baccalaureate School of Nursing.

Husson is continually assessing and examining ways to be of greater value both to its students and the communities Husson serves. Husson's desire to address real-world challenges by innovatively calibrating fields of discipline is in part what makes Husson stand out—and frankly unique—in the pantheon of small universities.

And just as Husson looks to meet its students more than halfway in developing their academic, individualized pursuits, Husson also endeavors to make receiving a Husson education more achievable for more Maine students with its education centers in South Portland, Presque Isle, and just recently, The Boat School in Eastport, ME, as well as Unobskey College, located in Calais, ME.

And as much as Husson provides to its students, its graduates return the favor with an allegiance and a desire to give back to their alma mater that is awe inspiring. There is a story that Bill Beardsley recounted recently in a Bangor Metro article about a young man, the first of his family to attend college and a Husson student, who is able to attend Husson because of a gift from his grandfather. But the young man came to Bill because that money was running out and to explain his situation. Dr. Beardsley knew he was a good student and a credit to the Husson community.

Between the two of them, they were determined to find a solution. Bill offered, among other items, a small loan. Together, they made it work, which is truly the Husson way, treating every student personally and as an individual, whether it is considering one's major to arriving at a payment plan in order to spur their trajectories as students and as human beings.

It is been a long time since Husson's days of preparing students for careers in commerce, teaching and telegraphy, or since it purchased a dairy farm that it converted beautifully into its present idyllic campus. And bridging the span of those years are Paul Husson, Chesley Husson's grandson, who still works at the university, and Husson graduate and legend, Clara Swan, former Husson coach, athletic director, professor, and Dean for whom the Swan Center is named.

They understand better than anyone that, while Husson may transition from a college to a university, and even though new disciplines may emerge, the Husson experience and outlook on education endures, from—to paraphrase part of the Husson mission statement—its dedication to excellence in teaching, its adherence to forging a personalized collegiate experience with

its students, its development of individual self-worth, and a curriculum which promotes clear thinking and communication skills.

The college that time and again was the defining force behind so many students and graduates in the last century will now be the university that will propel new generations into this age and beyond, and it will do so with the same bedrock foundation that places the individual education of each student first and the forward-looking focus that enables Husson students and graduates to set and reach any goal. Husson University understands, conveys, and puts into action what the English poet, Robert Browning, once so eloquently expressed in words "a man's reach should exceed his grasp or what's a Heaven for?"

FISHMAN REALTY GROUP

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I recognize Fishman Realty Group of Portland, a 12 person real estate firm providing vital assistance to naval personnel transitioning from Brunswick Naval Air Station in my home State of Maine as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure round. In this effort, Fishman Realty Group manages the Army Corps of Engineers' Homeowners' Assistance Program, a crucial initiative that enables departing Navy personnel to sell their homes to the Federal government. In turn, service members and their families are able to purchase homes elsewhere without missing a step in not only their service, but also their livelihood. Given the housing crisis our country is currently facing, fostering a smooth transition for our service members is an absolute necessity.

With the Brunswick Naval air Station slated for closure in 2011, the prospect that our current precarious housing market would hinder naval families from selling their homes is certainly unsettling. For instance, service members reassigned to another base could potentially face large losses on their homes—impeding the ability of these men and women to purchase homes elsewhere and continue their duties.

That is why Fishman Realty Group has proven to be a beacon in combating markets depressed by crumbling housing prices. Through the Homeowners' Assistance Program, Fishman Realty Group is responsible for maintaining and listing the properties that the government has acquired from the departing personnel, preventing financial loss for their families, and protecting an already depressed market from further economic turmoil. As the sailors of Brunswick Naval Air Station depart, they need not fear that their homes will become financial burdens.

The effort of Fishman Realty Group is a shining example of how small businesses can make a tangible and tremendous difference during an economic downturn. Founded by Alan Fishman in 1987, Fishman Realty Group offers

full service real estate brokering and property management throughout the greater Portland area. Additionally, the firm couples these offerings with local appraisers, lenders, and engineers; and facilitates transactions within and around the Portland community. In these challenging times for the housing market, it is a testament to Fishman Realty Group's business integrity that it reaches out to help military families, demonstrating that their business ethic is fundamentally grounded in putting others first.

In 21 years of service to Portland communities, Fishman Realty Group has transformed landscapes and expanded opportunities for hundreds of businesses and families. I wish Fishman Realty Group and its employees continued success, and I thank them for their commitment to the community of Brunswick Naval Air Station.

UNITED RADIO BROADCASTERS

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to briefly discuss some of the amazing efforts broadcasters have made and are currently undertaking not due to government mandates or regulation, but rather as stewards of the public airwaves and as proud members of their local communities.

We all know how my home State and our gulf neighbors were ravaged by the 2005 hurricane season. What many do not realize however is that our local broadcasters performed heroically during this traumatic time. Despite personal losses and risks to their own safety, broadcasters worked feverishly to keep their signals on the air before, during, and after these devastating storms. Their efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina literally proved to be a life line to many victims who were stranded by the storm.

Even when towers did go down during Katrina, the citizens of Louisiana witnessed a rare phenomenon in today's world. Radio broadcasters, who were competitors just the day before, banded together combining resources and personnel to establish the United Radio Broadcasters of New Orleans. By putting aside self interests, the United Radio Broadcasters were able to keep the citizens of Louisiana up to date with vital and even life saving information.

Today, we continue to see similar efforts benefiting communities across the country. For example, in a recent edition of Radio Guide, there is an inspiring article about steps one broadcaster is taking to improve its connection to the local community in times of need. Clear Channel has unveiled a series of emergency response teams that can be deployed to areas hit by natural disasters. Specifically, these teams operate as radio stations on wheels. Armed with mobile towers, generators, satellite/Internet connectivity, and other radio infrastructure needs, they have the ability to keep a

station on the air even if the station's permanent studio or tower is knocked out of commission. Some of these emergency assets were successfully deployed in Baton Rouge during Hurricane Gustav last month. While it is my hope that these capabilities rarely, if ever, have to be used, it is comforting to know they are at the ready.

This endeavor and similar investments being made by broadcasters across the country represent a strong commitment to serving local communities. While many here in Washington want to increase the level of regulation placed upon local broadcasters, I would point out that the examples I spoke of today were not dictated from some federal agency. Rather, these efforts were voluntarily undertaken by the men and women who are committed to serving the needs of their local listeners.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING RECESS ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2008, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 29, 2008, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOYER) had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2162. An act to improve the treatment and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders, and for other purposes.

S. 2840. An act to establish a liaison with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to expedite naturalization applications filed by members of the Armed Forces and to establish a deadline for processing such applications.

S. 2982. An act to amend the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to authorize appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. 3597. An act to provide that funds allocated for community food projects for fiscal year 2008 shall remain available until September 30, 2009.

H.R. 1157. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers