

Midcoast Senior College

25TH ANNIVERSARY FACULTY APPRECIATION

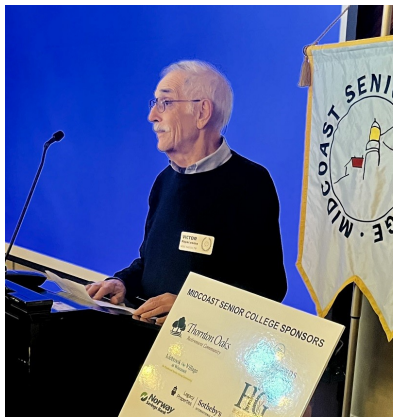


More than 70 faculty and class cohosts were celebrated. The afternoon proceedings opened with a congratulatory video message from Maine Senator Angus King.



Faculty musical contributions from Ross Crolius, singing, and Mort Achter, on piano.

Table decoration by volunteer Bonnie Studdiford.



Welcoming remarks were made by Curriculum Committee Chairpersons (from left): Leona Dufour, current chair with John Haile-not pictured; and former chairs Victor Papacosma and William VanderWolk.



Nancy Wheeler (standing), cofounder of Midcoast Senior College, recalls the early days of MSC. (At right, volunteer and cohost, Nora Bishop.)

Bruce Hauptli, MSC President, closes the afternoon with a toast to the faculty.



Janet Kehl, former Curriculum Committee chairperson and faculty member, makes closing remarks.

This afternoon, we have celebrated 25 years of life-enhancing courses, the invaluable contributions of all those who have made that program possible, and some of your personal experiences along the way. In closing, I am going to steal a passage from E.M. Forster, one I found frequently mentioned in Sarah Bakewell's latest book, *Humanly Possible*. "Only connect," says Forster. Forster then goes on to conclude, "Live in fragments no longer."

Forster's imperative, "Only connect," stretched a bit beyond his context, has led me to think about how our project here at MSC is all about making connections.

In so many ways, your different courses engage, expand, connect and integrate the intellectual, emotional, aesthetic, spiritual, and physical sides of our aging being. They also draw on our memories and accumulated knowledge and, in so doing, connect us with our individual or collective pasts, often with new eyes or deeper understanding. And in every case, they connect us with fellow learners in celebration of the myriad facets of life and our shared humanity.

In our fractious times, when, to quote Yeats, it increasingly seems that, "Things fall apart; the center cannot hold," Midcoast Senior College is a welcome and beloved haven where we make life-sustaining connections through ongoing learning. Here, as in the past 25 years, things fall together; the center holds. And that center now is all of you and all you bring to all of us. For that we are profoundly grateful.