



James and Maureen Gorman  
Emeriti Faculty Brunch

honoring

**Donald A. Grant**

*The Cal Ripken of Academia*

1956 Rookie  
of the Year

**DONALD GRANT** Professor COLLEGE OF  
ENGINEERING

A tribute to the remarkable and dedicated career  
of a true master educator extraordinaire.

Saturday, October 20, 2012

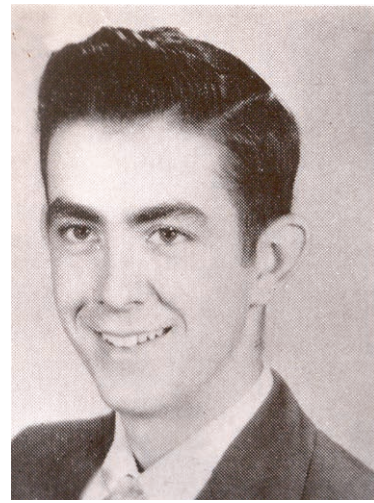
## Classmates

I attended to the University of Maine at Orono as a member of the Mechanical Engineering Class of 1956, and commuted to class from my home in Hampden all four years. In retrospect I realize that going to class was essentially my only social contact at Maine.

Among the other class members was Donald Grant of Deblois, Maine. Over the four years we became good friends. He became acquainted with my parents, Rocky and Amos and several cousins: Bernie and Mo, Audrey and Virgil, Carl and Judy, Denny and Paula, etc. Several times over the years they gathered with my family members at the camp owned by my Aunt Peg and Uncle Gil, on the Old Town Landing side of Pushaw Lake. To this day, I am asked on occasion "How are Don and June?". We both graduated from Maine on schedule, however, I'm sure that our grade point averages were quite different!

Upon becoming graduates we both choose to accept job offers from The Naval Air Test Center (NATC) at Patuxent River, Maryland. I remember driving in tandem from Maine to Southern Maryland; I drove my mother's car and Don drove his 52 Mercury. We made it with no problems. We both started working in the Flight Test Division and living in the Bachelor Officer Quarters on base. Don took a summer job in the Carrier Suitability Branch, while I took a full time job and worked in the Carrier Branch next door. (Note: My full time job lasted initially about 3 months until the draft caught up with me.). Don with his new wife June returned to the NATC in 1957 for a second year of summer employment at Flight Test.

George A. Patterson  
MEE 56



Don Grant 1955  
College Graduation

Don Grant was a Mechanical Engineering classmate of mine in the Class of '56. I remember him as a tall, clean-cut, soft spoken, young man with obvious high intelligence and integrity. Though I have not seen him in person since then, I have been pleased to hear of his great achievements at U-Maine. His continued activity into 2012 is envious, since I semi-retired in 1995! I wish him a pleasant, fulfilling, retirement.

Malcolm "Mac" H. Knapp  
MEE 56

Congratulations Don from your old roommate, Harold Hede, on your long and distinguished career at the U of M. Sorry I could not make the brunch honoring your service since we are leaving for home on the 10th. Amazing that we survived the meals we cooked in the cabin. Actually they seemed quite good. Hardly seems like 56 years since we graduated but I guess a lot has happened since then. I hope you have a good well deserved retirement.

Your old roommate,  
Harold Hede  
MEE 56

Oct 10, 2012

Dear Donald Glen 17 -

From a graduate in Mechanical Engineering class of ME in 1951, I'm very impressed with your leadership for 56 yrs of service at the Ministry of Engineering at <sup>level of</sup> "name".

I worked for the Dupont Co for 38 yrs starting in the fall of 1951 at great cost - my brother Bernie who also graduated from U of M. Also had a 38 yr job at Dupont. My Dad + Mom from Canada in 1928 to Ban Harbor, the "Matchless" boys + a girl! I was 1st born in 1925! I joined the Navy at RPO in 1943 & became a Deep Sea Diver. Univ of ME, 1949-51 - <sup>DuPont</sup> Fall 51 to Fall 1989.

We are so impressed with your dedication of 56 yrs of service - God Bless you and your family - I'm enclosing some write ups you may find of interest - My wife + I Venetas

(also from Ban Harbor MA) celebrated 60 yrs of "wedded bliss" in Feb - WOW! What a great lady - she also stands her "Best Wishes"!

Charles + Venetas  
MEE 1951  
Meyer Kay

October 7, 2012

Dear Don;

I am sorry that I will not be able to attend your Emeriti Faculty Brunch on October 20.

I remember first getting to know you when we were working on our master's degrees in mechanical engineering in 1958. I had joined the faculty as an instructor that September. We attended some classes together.

In 1962, , with a new department head, some of us instructors were told that we would have to get a doctor's degree in order to stay on in the mechanical engineering department. You got your doctor's degree and came back and stayed. You certainly deserve the honor you are receiving at the brunch.

You are the only one of that group of young faculty members whom we have stayed in contact with through the years. Doris and I wish you and June many happy years together in your retirement.

Sincerely,

*Henry + Doris*  
Henry and Doris Laskey

Henry Laskey  
MEE 51, 62G

*Don,*

*Please accept regrets for my absence at your reception on 20th Oct.*

*Although I'm not so sure about the 'Retirement' part of this card, I must congratulate you on the extraordinary achievement of 56 years at the University in the Mechanical Engineering Department.*

*I know Norman would heartily join me without hesitation, He bestows the highest regard for you as the dedicated professional you have always been.*

*Today and always,  
you're wished  
the very best life can bring  
in everything you do.*

*Congratulations*

*and*

*Best Wishes for the future, Please  
Give my regards to June.*

*Rhoda Smith*

Rhoda Smith

## Colleagues

For decades Carroll Terrell and I were good friends. In a jocular way he divided the faculty into three groups. First, the Aristotelians—to make sense out of the world all they did was gather data; then, there were the Platonists, gathering no data, all they did was think clearly about the world. The third group was simply stupid.

After a decade of my association with Dr. Terrell he reminded me of his trifurcation of the faculty and announced an “emendation.” (Only an English Professor, when changing his mind, would refer to it as an “emendation.”) Here is what he said: “Hill, I have known you for many years and you don’t fit any of my three categories—you don’t gather great quantities of data, you don’t think clearly and you are not stupid. So there must be a fourth category of faculty—those that are simply “busy.”

If Dr. Terrell had known Don Grant he would have added a fifth category: those faculty members that are “quiet and competent”—Don Grant would head that list.

Richard C. Hill  
Director Emeritus, Dept. of Industrial Coop.&  
Professor Emeritus Mechanical Engineering



Don as chair of MEE  
in 2006

I first met Don in 1966 in our Mechanical Engineering statics class. Don was a new teacher then but his lectures and beautiful board drawings were always laser sharp and clear. More importantly, Don taught with a wonderful style that helped us remember the material over a lifetime. We felt we could not have received a better engineering education anywhere else in the country.

I returned from industry to teach at Maine in 1980 and am thankful for Don’s friendship and help. However Don is an impossible example to follow. He has won every university teaching award, served ably for many years as the ME Department Chair and currently serves as Chair of the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers. Thanks Don for many years of friendship and service.

Sincerely,  
Herbert Crosby, P.E.  
Professor, Mechanical Engineering Technology

I first met Professor Don Grant in June 2007 as I was joining UMaine Mechanical Engineering (MEE) as a new Chair and Richard C. Hill professor. As I further got to know him more I was so proud to be a colleague of Professor Grant as I found him to be an outstanding individual and academician dedicated to the pedagogy and excellent education of our students. Having realized that he had been teaching for now over 56 years and always receiving almost perfect evaluations from all students, I had to call him a Teaching Prophet at UMaine. It is truly wonderful to have Don Grant still helping our Department of Mechanical Engineering with his outstanding teaching capabilities and wisdom.

Sincerely,  
Mo Shahinpoor  
MEE Richard C. Hill Professor and Chair

OCTOBER 3, 2012

RE: DONALD GRANT MEMORY BOOK

DON'S CAREER AT THE UNIVERSITY BEGAN IN 1952 WHEN HE ENTERED AS A FRESHMAN, ON GRADUATION IN 1956 HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE M.E. DEPT. FACULTY. HIS LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE NEVER WAIVERED FROM ITS VERY EARLY PROMISE AS SUBSEQUENT EVENTS HAVE SHOWN.

DURING THE 1970S I HAD THE PLEASURE AND THE PRIVILEGE OF RECOMMENDING HIS PROMOTION TO PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, AND IN 1989 HAD THE ADDITIONAL PLEASURE OF TURNING THE DEPARTMENT CHAIRMANSHIP OVER TO HIM. HIS LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ARE TOO OBVIOUS TO NEED ELABORATION BY ME.

I SHALL ALWAYS REVERE HIS UNSTINTING HELP AS A COLLEAGUE AND PERSONAL FRIEND. CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS OCCASION TO A REMARKABLE HUMAN BEING.

John Lyman

Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering

## Colleagues

It has been my good fortune to work with Don almost 30 years. Anybody who has worked with Don has heard from of his students, both young and old, who all just hold Don in the highest regard. And that is a major understatement. They just hold him head and shoulders high above a group of very good teachers.

Anybody who knows Don knows that those good feelings the students have is not a result of his humor, he is a very straight forward guy and comes to it with just the best work practices, the highest standards, and the most organized lectures. He is well respected whether he is meeting former students in industry that he has had or even current students that are in the halls now.

Having worked with him as chair of the department for over 20 years, he is kind of a quiet person who never seems to need a pat on the back or looking for glory of any sort. He is just there every day doing the best he can and he did everything he could do to make us the best we could be. Thank you Don for making each of us and our department better for just knowing you.

Mike Boyle  
Associate Professor, MEE

I first met Don in 1976, when I started on the faculty at UMaine. He was a wonderful friend, and mentor over the 31 years that I worked there! It is very mind boggling that Don worked there for 56 years! I wish him the very best in his retirement!

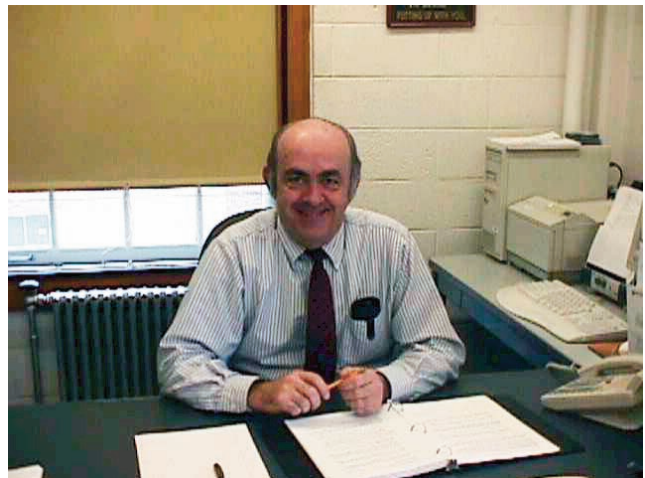
John McDonough  
Assoc. Dean Emeritus of COE & Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering Technology

Dr. Grant was the department chair during my first two years at the University of Maine. He gave me a lot of support, which has been of great help to my career development. He knows the importance of fundamental research and was the chair with a balanced view of high quality publications and external funding.

Dr. Grant has a long term view on research and teaching. Even during the interview, he outlined the teaching needs and described a number of courses that fit my background. He encouraged me to teach some core courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels, which is very important for junior faculty to build a strong teaching portfolio as well as to make contributions to the mission of the department. He always discussed with me and asked my opinion before assigning classes, and provided course syllabi for the classes he taught. As the chair, he was fair and selfless. I really miss my first two years here at UMaine, short but unforgettable.

I hope Dr. Grant will continue to serve the department and I can enjoy talking with him from time to time during the breaks between classes.

Zhihe Jin  
Associate Professor, MEE



Don getting ready for class in his office in Boardman Hall.

After getting my degree and joining the Agricultural Engineering (AE) department, I got to know Don as a colleague and a friend. Later, as my students would take classes from Don, their comments about him were always positive and they had great respect for him and for the knowledge he imparted to them.

I have great respect for Don; for the professionalism he brings to engineering; for his approach to teaching; and for his ability to take difficult material and make it understandable to students. That is a gift and not many have it.

Don, your steady leadership will be missed and you leave a pair of shoes that will be very hard to fill. Thank you for sharing 56 years of your life with generations of students, who are far better off having known you.

Best regards,  
Hayden "Pete" Soule  
AE 60, 68G  
Associate Professor Emeritus of Agricultural and Forest Engineering

I so enjoy Don. My first day here in MEE, he welcomed me and we have had a great friendship every since. We chat every morning either about the students here in the department, gardening, weather, local news and everything in between. He's a gem! We are so fortunate to still have him here in Mechanical Engineering. The students all know it as well, they realize he is retired but chooses to come here every day to continue to contribute to their education. I have never received a bad remark from any student taking a course from Don.

Karen Fogarty, MEE Department

It truly warms my heart to join in the celebration honoring you! I cannot even begin to find the words to adequately express to you the depth of respect I have for you, Dr. Grant. You are a man of deep integrity and possess so many wonderful qualities beyond compare. You are the personification of all that is good. I have always so admired your dedication and your passion for all that you do as such a valued educator. Your leadership along with your exemplary character have guided countless students to become practicing engineers. Your tireless efforts to serve in so many important ways that have influenced the lives of so many makes you the most deserving of anyone I know to be recognized.

May all of the kindness and respect you have shown me over the many years I have had the good fortune to have you in my life come back to you many fold. Please know that Michael joins me in wishing you every happiness in the years ahead.

Love to you,  
Laurie Fullerton  
College of Engineering, Dean's Office

For the past nearly 5 years I have had the pleasure of serving with Dr. Grant on the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers. For the past two years he has served as Chair and his low key and gentlemanly manner makes him extremely effective in this position. His academic expertise in evaluating licensee applicant credentials is invaluable to the Board. As a fellow Board member, I would like to say congratulations on a long and productive academic career; I'm sure that you have many fond memories to reflect upon as you enter your retirement!

Best regards,  
George W. Ames, P.E.



Dr. Grant was appointed by the Governor of Maine to serve on the Maine Professional Engineers Board on August 4th, 2005. From the beginning, his calm intellectual nature brought a sense of comfort and ease for me in my position as Office Manager for the Board office. He has always come into the office before a board meeting to say hello and following the meetings to see how things were going and to bid me adieu. His presence gave me the sense that he trusted and was confident in my position as office manager. I have held a great deal of respect for Dr. Grant over the past seven years that he has served on the Board. Dr. Grant was appointed Chair to the Board in January of 2012. My hope is that he will stay with the board to finish out his term which will end on April 10th, 2014, but if more important duties are calling him, then I will bid him adieu and wish him a fond farewell.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Labbe, Administrative Office Manager  
State of Maine, Professional Engineers

### **Students**

Unfortunately, I am unable to make it to your celebration of 56 years of dedicated service to the University of Maine's Mechanical Engineering Department. I will always be grateful to you with regard to your helping me in various subjects getting ready for Prelims. As a reminder, I was the student in Professor Hopkins' Machine Shop Class, who was called to the front of the class, at which time Professor Hopkins said "Krill, I will pass you under one condition, that you promise never to go into a machine shop for the rest of your life!" Professor Hopkins gave me a passing grade, and so far, I have kept my promise. Also, I was a Proctor on the first floor of Gannett Hall. Don, best wishes for the future as you move on to new adventures.

George Krill  
MEE 60

Congratulations on your 56 years of dedicated service at the University of Maine !! I wish you the best in whatever is next for you.

Thanks to you and your Mechanical Engineering Department associates, I graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1960. I started at U. Maine as an engineering student in 1956, about the same time you started your career there. After successfully completing 35 years of service as an engineer at Texaco's Research Center in the Hudson Valley Area of New York State, I retired and re-located back here to Maine. Again, I send along my congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,  
Richard Jack  
MEE 60

Congratulations and best wishes to Don Grant for his 56 years of service at UMaine. As a UMaine 1962 ME grad, I certainly appreciated the excellent education I received from Professor Grant and others including Dick Hill, Ben Chapman, John Lyman, Irving Pragman, et al.

The education I received served me well in my working career with Allis Chalmers, Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, and 34 years with GE Aircraft Engines

Bruce Bromby  
MEE 62

Please convey my continuing and ever growing appreciation for having Professor Grant so ably taught me engineering skills and, especially, for teaching about being an engineer. It has been a wonderful profession.

Paul Smith  
MEE 65

In the fall of 2011, my wife and I traveled from our Connecticut home to Orono for a weekend at UMaine and had a nice visit with Don in his office at Boardman Hall. Unfortunately we can't get to Orono for Don's special brunch on the 20th.

I was an ME student at Maine from 1961 to 1967 and also taught for a year in the ME Dept. before leaving for Connecticut. As I told Don when we visited last year, he was my favorite professor and I actually tried to model my teaching techniques after his very effective style. He was very popular among my engineering classmates as well.

I would like to congratulate Don on his outstanding career and his strong devotion to his engineering students. Fifty-six years at one institution--or even fifty-six years in a career--is practically unheard of!

Don, thank you for being there for me and many students over the years and for caring enough to stay with it far longer than anyone could possibly expect. You have set an example that likely will never be matched!

Congratulations and thank you!  
All the best,

Bill Riviere  
MEE 65, 67G

With no disrespect to any of my other teachers, instructors or professors, Don Grant was the only one able to present a totally new concept that was crystal clear to me the first time it was recited. I continue to be amazed by that capability.

Roy S. Salisbury, Jr.  
MEE 66

I consider myself fortunate to have known and interacted with Don on several different levels during his 56 year tenure at the University. He has been a constant and valuable asset to his department, the College and the University throughout this long period of dedicated service. I first met Don in 1962 as a sophomore student in Mechanical Engineering. Over the next six years, I took a variety of courses from him and found them to be interesting and stimulating. Don was always very well prepared for his classes. He presented even difficult concepts in a clear understandable fashion. He welcomed questions and answered them without making the questioner feel embarrassed or intimidated. He was without a doubt one of the best Professors that I studied under during my time at the University.

In the spring of 1966, I had the privilege to work as a graduate assistant under Don in laboratory class for seniors in Mechanical Engineering. This course had the potential to be a disaster for me since I had been in class with many of the students in the previous semester. With Don's guidance, I got through the semester quite comfortably and because of his steering, I think the students got everything they were supposed to.

In the fall semester of 1966, I started as an Instructor in General Engineering. From then until my retirement in 2005, I had contact with Don during numerous college committee and faculty meetings. His input at these meetings was always well thought out and resulted in many significant improvements in the department and college offerings. I hope that he will continue to make himself available to consult with the current faculty as they work to make changes and improvements to current course offerings. Don is a person who has certainly "been there and done that" and has much to share.

When I was getting prepared to retire in 2005, I was talking to a faculty member from another

college who was trying to convince me to stay on and establish a record for longevity in the College of Engineering. I asked him if he knew Don. He said he did not and I pointed out to him that Don had already been on the faculty for 5 years before I started as a freshman. If Don had retired then, 2005, I said that I would have to stay on for another 10 years to tie his record. If I had stayed, I would still have to teach for another 10 years to equal Don's time of service. I do not know what the record is for years of service to the University, but I am sure that Don must be near the head of the pack if not in the lead.

Congratulations to Don and may he find enjoyment and fulfillment during his much deserved retirement.

Norman Viger  
MEE 66, 68G  
Assistant Prof. Emeritus - General Engineering



Don and June Grant

Don always enjoyed a good "chuckle". When I was in the M.E. Dept., Don and June spent a fair amount of time with me and my wife Susan. When out for a walk one day Don talked Susan into trying a bite of an acorn because it was such a good and natural food. Her facial expression immediately showed an extremely bitter and astringent taste. That memory still brings out a chuckle in all of us. All the best to Don and June.

John Gross  
MEE 67, 71G

I spent most of my undergraduate career in Boardman Hall as a civil engineering student (class of 69). It was through my father Geo. E. Clifford, professor of mechanical engineering, that I met Don. My father had great respect for Don and considered him a friend. I know Dad would like to be remembered and would wish Don great joy of his illustrious career, as do I.

Roger Clifford  
CIE '69

Graduation in 1972, Chem. E, 5th yr P&P certificate. I was one of 7 in the class of 30-35 chem. e's who had a job at graduation. I landed in Cleveland, OH at one of the GE research labs, working with white coat PhD's in chemistry. And my job was to set up a mechanical press in an oxygen free atmosphere to extrude iodides to dose high output lamps. That was an amazing 2 years. I returned to Maine and worked in the P&P industry for 29 years, research, tech support, tech transfer to production, production, quality control, sales and marketing. As each position came along I used less engineering. Today I am a sales agent for an Italian designer of textures for the decorative laminate industry and an Italian chemical company supplying the same industry with additives for melamine chemistry. It was quite a surprise to receive the card announcing 56 years of service. 56. Absolutely amazing. I had no idea he had been at UM for 16 years prior to my arrival. Did not seem old enough.

I hope this note is consistent with what you expected and that Mr. Grant takes some comfort from my little news. It appears I might only be 1 of 10,000 he has taught in his career. Here are my best wishes for his next activities.

Sincerely,  
Brian C. Jones  
CIE 72



Don in his Boardman Hall office in 1976 shortly after being presented with the first Distinguished Maine Professor award, the highest tribute that a UM faculty member can receive.

Congratulations on 56 years of excellent service at UMO. I must tell you that I thoroughly enjoyed attending your class on Vibrations (1972, I think). What really amazed me, in comparison to other instructors, was your impeccable organization, totally legible printing on the blackboards, and your use of the boards; meaning, you would always start on the left and move to the next board on the right without erasing so everyone had a chance to copy your work. So many others would erase the board before one could get it all down on paper. These may seem like simple things, but they are what I remember as part of your excellence as a college professor.

Best regards,  
John Allanach  
MEE 73

Way back in the 1970's, I had Professor Grant for my undergraduate instructor in his basic statics course and other courses too. He was also a big help to me in graduate school as my advisor. Professor Grant in the classroom was a steady, superb, superior teacher. He clearly presented the material, was well organized and cared for his students. Words fail to express the excellence that he brought to the classroom every day.

Thanks to him [and the other UMO professors] the foundation was laid that I could build my career on.

After obtaining my masters in mechanical engineering at UMO, I went to work at GE aircraft engines. In 1979, I was a structural design engineer there working on various jet engine structural frames and casings. I am attaching a photo of me next to my F414 mid-frame, where I was the design engineer on this part from its inception, making drawings, in house testing, flight testing to production; this part goes on the navy's F18 Superhornet aircraft.

Thank you Professor Grant for helping make my career possible! I am also attaching another photo that's a little more recent of me standing in front of Boardman Hall. I did go to UMO a couple of times a few years ago to do brief presentations of my experiences in the work world in an introductory engineering course. I wish professor grant all the best and a wonderful well deserved day of recognition!

With High Regards,  
Mark Stofan  
EPS 77, 79G

I attended UMO from 1975 thru 1979 and received a BSME degree. Professor Donald Grant was most likely the best professor that I ever had during my 4 years at UMO. He also taught my older brother Larry Johnson from 1969 thru 1973.

Professor Grant's accomplishment of 56 years of service is an astounding achievement, but really not surprising given his true and remarkable dedication to the UMO College of Engineering. Professor Grant's office door was always open for students to review assignment problems and/or to go over tests & quizzes.

He had a genuine interest in making sure engineering students understood their errors and misunderstandings in the learning process. Professor Grant's style of teaching will never be forgotten and I am absolutely certain that current day engineering students are now missing one of the best ever. I have spoken with Don a few times over the years and he is as genuine now as he was back when we were in college. Congratulations Don on 56 Years of Dedicated Service to the UMO College of Engineering and the Mechanical Engineering Department! 1956 to 2012 is remarkable achievement! I wish you the Very Best in your retirement years!

Respectfully yours,  
Mark P. Johnson  
MEE 79

Mechanical Engineering was my third major at U Maine and though I was doing all right, I wasn't really sure I understood things to the level other students seemed to. When I had Donald Grant as my professor for Vibrations I thought he was a really nice guy but I was a little nervous because the subject relied heavily on differential equations, a subject I got through but never "got". I can't claim a crystal clear memory but I do remember that in the course of the class the coherence of his presentation and depth of understanding helped me see how the natural behaviors of materials and structures being discussed were described by the equations better than any words could. The math became less abstract and as much a machine to be manipulated as physical springs and dampers. That realization gave me the sense that I was in the right place. I completed my ME degree which has served me well and I welcome the chance to thank Professor Grant for his part and for being an integral part of U Maine's ME community.

Dana Stairs  
MEE 81

Professor Grant was an excellent teacher and advisor. His guidance and support throughout my college years were greatly appreciated. His calm demeanor was reassuring even when classes became difficult. Over the years I have thought of Professor Grant often and always appreciated his role in helping shape my career. I have continued to work for more than 25 years in the nuclear power industry. Thank you Professor Grant. You made such a difference for me while I was starting into the scary abyss of my future.

Warmly,  
Lori Weisberger Hancock  
MEE 82

This is to convey my deepest gratitude to Prof. Grant. I was a graduate student in MEE at UMaine. His teachings and guidance were most invaluable during my professional carrier in India. His teachings showed me the path forward to engineering design and detailing. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. The least I can say: THANK YOU SIR.

Gautam Chatterjee  
MEE 83G

Congratulations to Dr. Grant on your 56 years of service. I had the honor of taking several classes from Dr. Grant while I was working to achieve my degree. I fondly recall Dynamics and Advanced Dynamics classes. I am not sure I could remember much of the course detail at this point, but I do remember his style and grace. One of my best memories from my time at UMaine.

Warm regards and best of luck,

Tom Wood  
BSME '84

I am so glad to learn that UMO is honoring Dr. Grant. He was one of my best professors, patiently explaining basic mechanical engineering principles to a civil engineering major! His office always seemed open to me, and he never treated a question in class as if it was too simple or irrelevant. It seemed that his goal was to gently and thoroughly teach the principles and help all of us achieve an A grade (which I got). I loved having him as my teacher.

Here's another memory, a little silly: Dr. Grant always dressed and carried himself professionally, yet there was one class where he slipped in his presentation, without knowing it. We were in the room one day and Dr. Grant was facing the chalkboard, writing something on it - formulas, I guess - when he turned around to us and I noticed that there was a chalkmark on his face, at the corner of his mouth. From where I sat it looked like a tooth, a fang. And it was so incongruous on such a serious face that I burst out with a stifled laugh and pointed the mark out to my friend in the next seat who did the same. We never pointed it out and we tried to forge on with the lecture. :-)

Cassandra Koutalidis  
CIE 85

I had Professor Grant for Statics, Strength of Materials, Dynamics, and Vibrations in the early 80's. I've never forgotten him, as he was hands down the best professor in my UMaine experience. What an aptitude he has for explaining concepts logically and clearly to the student. His approach was always very methodical, clear, and, well, engineer-like. He made himself accessible, available, and willing during his office hours or at any time you approached him. There are too many professors who do not know how to teach, or not committed to their students, and in my view, you are not successful in your chosen academic career if you do not have that do

not have that ability or aptitude. I don't think there is enough emphasis placed upon it. Well Professor Grant is clearly a success and the University of Maine has been very, very fortunate to have him for 56 years. He is a credit to the Mechanical Engineering Department and the entire College of Engineering. I think they know that. Congratulations Professor Grant for your achievement and this former student remembers you most fondly.

Mike Leighton  
MEE 85

I was a mechanical engineering student from 1981 through 1986 (B.S.M.E. and also M.B.A. 1997) and was a student of Mr. Grant's for many courses. I hold him in the highest esteem as a professional engineer, educator and mentor. In fact, I attribute my ultimate success as an engineering student to his ability to convey information in a manner that I could grasp and apply - something I found distinguished him from many of his colleagues during the time I attended U Maine. I always found him to be exceptionally patient during times that I struggled to 'get' a particularly challenging concept and he easily adapted his teaching style and approach to aid me in ultimately grasping the content. During my first two years as a student, I struggled academically and was put on academic probation following the first semester of my sophomore year. However, I ultimately was able to graduate with distinction from the program - a fact for which I give considerable credit to Donald Grant. He believed that I could succeed in the program and gave me the confidence that I could ultimately master the material and become a mechanical engineer. I am exceptionally thankful for all he taught me and the opportunity he afforded me to earn my B.S.M.E. at U Maine.

Stephen J. Linnell  
MEE 86

I am a UMO Mechanical Engineering grad from 1987 and I had Professor Grant for Dynamics class in 1984. Since that time, I have completed a Master's in Mechanical Engineering from UNH and an MBA from UNH. During all of that time in classrooms, there have been exactly three professors that stood out as absolutely fantastic instructors. Professor Grant singled himself out due to his classroom presence, class organization, and his remarkable ability to make students understand the course material. He made quite an impression on me 28 years ago, and I would like to extend my appreciation and admiration for his formidable expertise as an education professional. A job well done!

Sincerely,  
Shawn Marsh, P.E.  
MEE 87

He is friendly, unassuming, modest and helpful. I am trying to following his standard, but still no where near him. Please convey my very best regards to him. Bravo Professor Donald Grant!

Best regards,  
Liu Kok Sung  
MEE 87

Congratulations on your 56 years of providing great teaching and outstanding leadership to the University of Maine's College of Engineering. As a struggling freshman engineer, you provided great teaching and encouragement to me to help me stay on track and graduate with my BSME. I wish you all the best in your retirement!

Scott Harrison  
MEE 88

We are sure the UMaine Engineering community is embracing a Who's-Who list of true milestones in Dr. Grant's incredible contributions. However, my comments are offered to ensure recognition of the tremendous quiet impact Dr. Grant made to countless students at the other end of the spectrum. Yes, those of us who crowded into the back of a dusty old Boardman Hall classroom. Those of us who sometimes arrived late and tried to make sense of the chalkboard. And how Dr. Grant treated all of us with respect and didn't ever break stride when having to go back to re-explain things the 3rd or 4th time.

In the mid 1980's I sat in the back of Dr. Grant's crowded Strength of Materials class. Back then, I was a meandering student transitioning from music to engineering—learning the basics and still maturing. One day, Dr. Grant got through to me. And he didn't even know it. He explained how to go from load, to stress, and to strain by integrating the formula (and back again by differentiation) in the most common sense. The beauty of the mechanics and how the numbers worked—combined—was an eye opener. It was one of those defining moments that turn a young engineering student from indifference to focused excitement. In some strange way, I started liking this stuff. I liked Dr. Grant's simple and disarming stance. I liked the fact that Dr. Grant cared about those of us stuffed way in the back of the classroom. I liked how he professionally greeted all of us in the hallways. Decades later, I now realize he was showing us how to be a gentleman by example. In some subliminal way, we all knew that we needed to be like Dr. Grant when we eventually grew up.

Dr. Grant doesn't realize what impact he's had on the masses of students like me. His straightforwardness and calm presence let me know not to be scared of the engineering mindset, but invited me to tackle it head on. Just like when Dr. Greenwood would say to us, "Ok folks, now hold your mouth and jaw just right, and finish

off with the calculations”, Dr. Grant provided countless students like me, in the back of that classroom, the gift of quiet confidence.

Years later, at business school in downtown Boston, a finance professor threw one at us—this time, it was a financial bond-related behavior model. The professor drew the model out in front of us, along with its process snapshots below it. Everyone was glazed over and confused. I recognized it immediately! Aha-- it was Dr. Grant’s beam integration! There it was! Just like on the old dusty chalkboard at Boardman Hall! I was the only student in the class to match the professor’s challenge.

I speak for the countless students of Dr. Grant’s introductory engineering classes whom have been touched by his quiet leadership. Dr. Grant has played a big part of how UMaine Engineers are spread throughout the world doing good things in our profession, our communities, and our families.

Thank you, Dr. Grant  
Karl Dubay  
CIE 88

Although it has been 22 years since I graduated from UMaine in the Mechanical Engineering program, Prof Grant remains one of those people that is firm in my mind. He was by far the best Professor I had in the program and a key influencer in my education while at the University of Maine, his crystal clear approach to the subject matter and ease with which he explained and DIAGRAMED the lessons is still talked about today among my friends that I graduated with – Professor Grant is a true legend, gentleman and real class act!

Phil Harmon  
MEE ‘90

I had Professor Grant for Dynamics. My thoughts are probably similar to most students that had him. He was a class act. He exuded confidence and had respect for the students, even the ones that took the class twice. I was one of them. He always commanded respect.

He helped stoke my confidence that I could do the work and succeed. I hope he has a great retirement. I am sad I can’t tell him in person.

Tom Pike  
MEE 90

Please tell Don Congratulations for me! That is an amazing achievement. Unfortunately I cannot attend; since I reside on the West Coast nowadays. Don was one of my favorite teachers in the ME faculty and appreciated his support while I got my degree. I hope I am making him proud working for SpaceX!!!

Regards,  
Kris Kroc  
MEE 99

Words cannot express my gratitude for your excellent teaching, kindness, patience, commitment and dedication to students over the years. You have been a great example for me during Undergraduate and Graduate study at UMaine. Your continuous encouragement, guidance, inspiration and support allowed me to become a good student. Just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for touching my life and making it better.

Your student,  
Radek Glaser  
MEE 07, 09G



I graduated in 2007, so Dr. Grant was the chair of the ME department during my entire time at UMaine. Despite the fact that the only class that I had him as my professor was senior year, he got to know my classmates and myself years before. In and out of the classroom, he was always supportive of his students. We griped that we didn't have larger budgets for senior projects or ASME, but Dr. Grant was always careful to ensure we had what we needed and leave a little extra to support a new endeavor, such as the Coaster Car, or keep a tradition alive like the Cardboard Canoe.

Dr. Grant liked to schedule his classes for first thing in the morning, and despite it not actually being that early, it resulted in a half asleep room of PJs and coffee. We all suspected teaching at this time gave him a nice break in the morning after a couple hours of solving complicated differential equations by hand. Dr. Grant would enter the room with no books, no notes--just a piece of chalk--and lecture for the better part of an hour. The class was challenging, but Dr. Grant's lectures were always clear, structured and concise.

However, my fondest memory of Dr. Grant technically came after I was student. Just after graduation, I was about to start my first job, out of state, and my now wife and I decided that we would elope before the move. We wanted someone we knew to perform the ceremony, and as we were searching through a listing of notaries online, I saw Dr. Grant's name. I was hesitant to ask at first, because it just seemed like too odd a request, but when I did, Dr. Grant responded quickly and enthusiastically. So on a sunny afternoon, in the corner office of Boardman hall, with a couple of classmates at witnesses, Dr. Grant married us.

David LaPointe  
MEE 07



The LaPointe Family  
David, Gabrille, & Adriana

It is indeed heartening to note that the College of Engineering is felicitating Dr. Donald Grant for his incredible services to UMaine. As a graduate student of Mechanical Engineering, I had the privilege of getting to know Dr. Grant and also having him on the advisory committee of my Master's thesis. He was an embodiment of academic rigor and discipline which had a lasting imprint on all. Personally, I found him as a person with enormous empathy, ever willing to lend a helping hand. I wish the best for him and hope that he continues serving UMaine in the future too.

Rajeev Baskiyar  
MEE 07G

It is very difficult for me to pick one or two memories concerning Prof. Grant--his teaching skills are unparalleled and his willingness to provide a helping hand or insight to me since my graduation never faltered. What a tremendous resource he has been to the university, the state of Maine and to engineering students--he is leaving a very large hole and I doubt it will ever be totally filled. More than any person I know, Prof Grant prepared me for my professional career and, in part, much of my professional success is directly related to Prof. Grant's influence and professionalism.

Stephen McGann  
MEE 09

# History of the James and Maureen Gorman Emeriti Faculty Brunch

Since 2000, the College of Engineering at the University of Maine began what has become one of our most enjoyable traditions where we celebrate the career of a distinguished emeriti faculty member at the James and Maureen Gorman Emeriti Faculty Brunch - thanks to the generous support of James and Maureen Gorman.

So far, we have honored the following emeriti faculty:

2000	Dick Hill (Pajama Party)	Mechanical Engineering
2001	Waldo Mac Libbey (Showtime)	Electrical Engineering
2002	George Greenwood (Cowboy Roadshow)	Civil Engineering
2003	Bill Ceckler (Confessions of an Outdoorsman)	Chemical Engineering
2004	Jerry Harmon (Physics of Subjective Reality)	Engineering Physic
2005	John Lyman(No Jokes Required)	Mechanical Engineering
2006	Carleton Brown (Three Ringed Circus)	Electrical Engineering
2007	Karl Webster (Super Engineer)	Engineering Technology
2008	Wayne Hamilton (First Associate Dean)	College of Engineering
2009	Kim Mumme (The Renaissance Man)	Chemical Engineering
2010	Paul Camp (World of Snow & Ice)	Engineering Physics
2011	Claude Z. Westfall (Professor - Fisherman)	Engineering Technology
2012	Donald A. Grant (The Cal Ripken of Academia)	Mechanical Engineering

As a part of our annual event, we compile a book of memories and stories from each honoree's students, colleagues and friends in their department. We ask people to send us special (especially humorous) memories for the booklet, which becomes a treasured keepsake full of great stories and memories. We then print up the stories in a booklet, which we pass out at the luncheon.

Thank you for attending this year's brunch to honor Donald A. Grant,  
Chair and Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering.

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