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## UMaine Celebration to Honor Popular Athletic Trainer

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# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

## *Selected News Releases*

Media are invited to the Dec. 14 celebration, which runs from 2-4 p.m. in Lengyel Gym.

### **UMaine Celebration to Honor Popular Athletic Trainer**

ORONO, Maine – University of Maine legendary athletic trainer Wes Jordan will be the guest of honor Friday, Dec. 14 at a celebration launching a fund-raising campaign to establish a state-of-the-art training facility in his honor.

The kick-off of the \$1.25 million project for the Wes Jordan Athletic Training Education Complex will be held from 2-4 p.m. at UMaine's Lengyel Gym, where the training room and lab will be built in existing space.

ESPN and NBC broadcaster Gary Thorne will be master of ceremonies during the program, which will also include remarks by fellow UMaine alumnus Mark Letendre, Major League Baseball director of Umpire Medical Services, and Robert Cobb, dean of the UMaine College of Education and Human Development.

Former UMaine athletes and many other friends and fans are expected to turn out for the event and express their appreciation to Jordan for his 32 years of service to UMaine athletics and students and for his commitment to the sports and coaching community statewide. Jordan, who retired in 1997, now lives in Florida.

The goal of the campaign is to raise \$750,000 to fund the renovations for the new training complex and provide scholarships, in tribute to Jordan, for aspiring athletic training students. The remaining \$500,000, at Jordan's request, is targeted to help support the Maine Center for Coaching Education at UMaine, which is the primary provider of nationally certified courses to Maine athletic directors and coaches.

Jordan, a former Black Bear football letterman, graduated from UMaine in 1962 and spent a distinguished career as head athletic trainer at his alma mater. His outstanding reputation and work in the profession brought honors such as serving as athletic trainer for the 1980 Winter Olympics, the Pan Am games and USA baseball. In 1994, he was elected to the National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame. Jordan was also known and respected for his years of service as athletic trainer for the Maine Principals' Association Eastern Maine Basketball Tournament.

The Wes Jordan Athletic Training Education Complex will include two modern classrooms equipped for multimedia presentations, and three well-equipped laboratories – a taping and evaluation lab, a rehabilitation lab and a wet lab. A Student Study Center is proposed to allow students convenient access to computers and audio-visual equipment, as well as library and study space.

UMaine's athletic training education option is offered through the Kinesiology and Physical Education program within the College of Education and Human Development.

"We are delighted that Wes and his family can be on hand for this kick-off celebration," says Dean Cobb. "As head trainer and inspiring teacher, Wes gave the best start possible to students who went on to become athletic trainers at all levels of the profession. He was totally devoted to Maine athletes of all ages, coaches and fans. An athletic training/education complex that will benefit generations of students is a most fitting tribute."

More information about the Dec. 14 celebration and funding opportunities for the training complex is available from the University of Maine Foundation.

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