

Musicology group moves to Bowdoin

Officials see it as part of a resurgence in the arts that may attract more students to the college.

By DENNIS HOEY
Staff Writer

BRUNSWICK — It is only a one-room office occupied by two people. But to Bowdoin College, the work that goes on here could mean a great deal to the future of the school's music studies program.

The American Musicological Society moved to the campus of Bowdoin College in Brunswick last month, after spending more than 50 years on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. The national organization, which is devoted to advancing

music research, learning and scholarship, occupies one room in the Boody-Johnson House at College and Maine streets.

"We are honored to ... support its ongoing work," Bowdoin President Barry Mills said in a prepared statement. "The AMS ... will complement our ongoing efforts to enhance music education and scholarship at the college."

Since 2001, the number of Bowdoin students majoring or minoring in music has fluctuated from a high of 32 in 2001 to a low of 18 in 2003. In the 2005-2006 academic year, Bowdoin enrolled 15 music majors and 10 music minors. Students must declare a major at the end of their sophomore year.

College officials say they expect those numbers to increase.

Spokeswoman Susan Danforth said the college is experiencing a resurgence in the arts.

Recent investments by the college are contributing to that resurgence, according to Danforth. Pickard and Wish theaters were recently renovated and Bowdoin is renovating its museum of art. A new 290-seat recital hall will open next spring.

"We are hoping to attract more students to the arts," Danforth said. "The AMS is an exciting addition to what is happening around here."

Robert Judd, the American Musicological Society's executive director, could not be happier with the move to Maine.

His wife, Cristle Collins Judd, is Bowdoin's new dean for academic affairs. They recently moved to Brunswick from Phila-

delphia.

Judd said his organization's mission is well known to musicians and educators in the field of music history, but is not so well known to the public.

"We get virtually no walk-in traffic here," Judd said. Most of the organization's work is Web-based. Judd has one other full-time person working with him.

Founded in 1934, the American Musicological Society supports authors, who receive aid to research and publish books on musicians and music history.

Judd said he wants to involve the college and community by sponsoring music lectures or public forums.

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