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UMaine News Press Releases from Word Press XML export 2004

Policy, Technology Top Agenda for Small School Coalition

12 Jan 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- A keynote address by the policy director for the Rural Schools and Community Trust will kick off the winter meeting of the Maine Small High School Coalition. Followed by a series of workshops on using technology to improve instruction, the Friday, Jan. 23 meeting takes place at the University of Maine.

mesmallhs@midmaine.com. More information about the Coalition, as well as a registration form, is available on the organization's website: www.sad12.com/coalition.

UMaine Franco American Studies Lecture Series Set

06 Jan 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine Franco American Studies program will present a lecture series on campus, beginning on Friday, Jan. 9. The lectures, which are funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, will feature discussion of various issues related to Franco culture and history. The lectures will be held at 1 p.m. at the Franco American Centre in Crossland Hall at UMaine. A discussion will follow each lecture. For more information, contact the Franco American Studies Department at 581-3791.

"'La Survivance' in New England: A Clerico-conservative French-Canadian Construct of 'race' or a Franco-American Concept of Working-Class Solidarity?"

Jacques Ferland

Friday January 9, 2004

"The Importance of Cultural Identity in Jack Kerouac's *Satori in Paris*"

Susan Pinette

Saturday January 10, 2004

"Where Have the Francophones Gone? Subtractive Bilingualism Revisited"

Barney Berube

Saturday January 17, 2004

"Haut en bas: French from the Top Down"

Jane Smith

Saturday January 17, 2004

"Franco American Family Storytelling in Maine"

Kristin Langellier & Eric Peterson
Saturday January 31, 2004

"Voicing the Unvoiced: Publishing the Writing of Franco-American Women"
Rhea Cote Robbins
Saturday February 14, 2004

"How We Got Here and How We Stay"
Yvon Labbe
Saturday February 14, 2004

Orono Bog Boardwalk's First Year Far Exceeds Expectations

05 Jan 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A total of 15,560 visitors registered at the Orono Bog Boardwalk in 2003, according to Director Ronald Davis, more than double the expectations of the facility's management committee. The board closed for the season on December 1 and will reopen in May.

"The boardwalk has become a major outdoor recreation destination in the Bangor area. It has attracted people from more than 15 other states and 15 foreign countries," says Davis.

Boardwalk success, he adds, is due to the work of many volunteers and the Maine Conservation Corps as well as the diversity of plant life and different environments in the bog. "It is a quiet and beautiful place, and it can be a great learning experience," says Davis who is also a University of Maine biologist.

The mile-long boardwalk starts off the East Trail in the Bangor City Forest and continues on University of Maine land in Orono. To guide visitors through the bog, signs have been placed along the boardwalk, and a 16-page guidebook is available. It features facts about the boardwalk and the bog, as well as colored photographs of plants and flowers.

This past year, many Bangor area organizations arranged for free, expert guided walks at the boardwalk. They included senior citizen clubs, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, garden clubs and students. This program will be continued in 2004, and guided walks can be scheduled by contacting Davis (866-4786 before 8:30 p.m.) at least a month in advance. The boardwalk is wheelchair accessible.

In addition, an expanded series of guided Saturday morning nature walks will be planned. In 2003, they focused on bog ecology, birds and their habitats, wetland destruction and conservation, bog plant life, peat bogs for kids and water flows in the bog and its environmental implications.

The boardwalk is a public service of its sponsors: the University of Maine, Orono Land Trust, and City of Bangor. A fund raising campaign is currently underway to establish an endowment for boardwalk maintenance.

UMaine Responds to Dairy Task Force Recommendations

16 Jan 2004

Contact: John Rebar, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-3238; Gary Anderson, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-3240

ORONO-- The University of Maine Agricultural Center has created a Dairy Task Force Response Team to develop and deliver educational programs in support of Maine dairy farmers. This team will be coordinating educational programming and applied research that will help Maine dairy farmers survive in challenging economic times.

The recent Governor's Task Force on the Sustainability of the Dairy Industry in Maine included members of this team, and the final report highlighted several areas of need to be addressed by UMaine.

The 10 member team will include representatives of UMaine's research and public outreach segments. They will work with the Maine Department of Agriculture and the Maine Dairy Industry Association, which represents the state dairy community, and several agribusinesses to identify high priority issue areas. "The response team is excited about the programming possibilities," says Gary Anderson, Extension professor and team coordinator. The Maine Ag Center has provided a \$10,000 budget to support the team with their work.

The team has members from UMaine Cooperative Extension offices statewide and from departments within the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station. Their expertise includes animal and veterinary science, food science, agronomy and farm business management. They will cover several areas of dairy management including nutrition, reproduction, mastitis and milking management, calf care, business management and the use of records to make business decisions as well as crop production, weed control and development of value added enterprises.

Team members will take advantage of contacts across the country comprising a national resource base for problem solving and program delivery. As a result, a clearinghouse of valuable management information will be available to Maine dairy farmers.

"One of the benefits of our high tech world is the capability to communicate easily with experts across the country. Team members are excited about working with members of the dairy community as they make decisions on their farm and develop business plans for the future," says Anderson.

Examples of programs already planned for this year to support the recommendations of the task force are seminars in estate planning and transfer and the implementation of the dairy farm business summary for management accounting. Team members are working with farmers on alternatives through the Farms for Maine's Future Program, implementing farm biosecurity and disease risk assessment to improve food safety, and supporting the growing organic dairy industry in Maine.

UMaine offers undergraduate degree programs to give students a thorough background in the biology of dairy cows combined with a practical hands on internship running the university dairy farm. These programs prepare students for careers in a variety of dairy related areas.

The UMaine Dairy Task Force Response Team will meet regularly to assess needs and develop program offerings in the areas of on-campus instruction, applied research to address dairy industry needs and outreach programming on high priority issues.

Anderson can be reached at 581-3240 or in state at 1-800-287-7170.

Stroke Risks Associated with Reduced Mental Functioning

15 Jan 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman at 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Personal health factors that contribute to a higher risk of stroke can also lead to reduced cognitive

functioning, according to a study released today by the American Medical Association at a meeting in New York City. A research team led by Merrill "Pete" Elias of the University of Maine and Boston University has found that the more at risk a person is for having a stroke within the next ten years, the lower that person is likely to score on cognitive tests involving abstract reasoning, visual spatial planning, organization and concentration, scanning and tracking.

"Changes in cognitive function can be a very sensitive indicator of changes in the brain," says Elias. "The bottom line is that people at higher risk for stroke perform less well on cognitive tests. The practical outcome is additional support for prevention of stroke risks in the first place and then early intervention when changes in cognitive function are detected."

The study is based on data from 2,175 participants of the Framingham Offspring Study (offspring of the Framingham Heart Study participants) who were free from stroke and dementia and had taken a battery of neuropsychological tests at Examination 7 in a series of longitudinal examinations. The subjects ranged in age from 33 to 88 years old, and 54 percent were women.

The report is due to be published online today in *Stroke: Journal of the American Heart Association*. Co-authors include Lisa M. Sullivan, Ph.D., and Alexa Beiser, Ph.D., of the BU School of Public Health; Ralph B. D'Agostino, Ph.D., and P. K. Elias, Ph.D., of the BU Statistics and Consulting Unit; Rhoda Au, Ph.D., Sudha Seshadri, M.D., and Philip A. Wolf, M.D. of the BU Department of Neurology and Charles DeCarli, M.D. of the University of California-Davis.

The Framingham Heart Studies are supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the National Institute on Aging.

"Using the Framingham Stroke Risk Profile, we assessed the probability of each individual experiencing a stroke within ten years, and we found that the higher the probability of stroke, the lower the level of cognitive function," says Elias.

None of the subjects in the study had ever experienced a stroke. In addition, the data were controlled for other factors that are associated with lower cognitive function such as age, education, high blood pressure and a diagnosis of dementia. The Framingham and other studies have established that factors such as smoking, high systolic blood pressure, diabetes, cardio-vascular disease, atrial fibrillation, and left ventricular hypertrophy increase the chances of having a stroke within ten years. These risk factors are included as weighted predictors of stroke in the Framingham Stroke Risk Profile.

"People don't just wake up one morning and find that they are demented," Elias adds. "They progress over time. It is important to note that there are treatments that can improve cognitive function, including new drugs that are in development as well as diet and exercise."

The study presents a snapshot in time of stroke risk factors and cognitive function for participants in the study. It does not follow individuals over time to determine how mental functioning might change relative to such risk factors. Since 1974, Elias has led the Maine-Syracuse Studies of Hypertension and Cognitive Functioning that are designed to assess changes in mental functioning over time. Elias has been a Framingham Heart Study Investigator since 1990.

11th Annual Maine Garden Day in Auburn

15 Jan 2004

Contact: Frank S. Wertheim, Extension Educator, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-324-2814

ORONO, Maine -- The 11th annual Maine Garden Day will feature 35 dynamic workshops with renowned horticulturists on Saturday, April 10 at the Central Maine Community College in Auburn. In addition there will be educational displays, book signings, and a gardening trade show.

Some of the featured speakers will include Eric Grissell, research entomologist, and Judith Sumner, author of *Insects and Gardens*. who will present Understanding Botanical Names. Barbara Murphy, University of Maine Cooperative Extension educator, will present Ecological Integrity in Your Own Backyard.

The first 550 registrations will be accepted. A brochure with Maine Garden Day details and a registration form is available from Cooperative Extension and can be requested by calling 1-800-287-1482. The cost of this day long gardening extravaganza is \$37 and includes lunch and all workshops. Brochures will be mailed out on February 1.

UMaine School of Performing Arts Announces Semester Schedule

13 Jan 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO - The University of Maine School of Performing Arts' new winter and spring calendar offers a comprehensive lineup of music, theater, dance January through April, all showcasing the talent of students and faculty members. Ticket information is available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755.

The schedule follows:

MUSIC

Faculty Recital Series

Jan. 17 - 7:30 p.m.

Cadenzato - Faculty Ensemble

An inaugural celebration for the School of Performing Arts' new Steinway piano.
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

Jan. 24 - 7:30 p.m.

The Silver Duo - Noreen Silver, cello; Phillip Silver, piano

In this recital of cello-piano music, two exquisite miniatures, by Louis Spohr and Anton Dvorak, balance out two of the greatest sonatas written for this combination, the A major Op.69 by Beethoven and the F major Op.99 by Brahms.
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

Feb. 1 - 2 p.m.

Thwarted Voices - Phillip Silver, piano

An annual event honoring music and musicians suppressed by the Third Reich. This year's program will feature works for solo piano by Paul Ben-Haim, Georg Tintner and Viktor Ullmann, and works for cello and piano by Mendelssohn and James Simon, a German-Jewish composer murdered in Auschwitz. Also performing: Noreen Silver, cello.
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

Feb. 7 - 7:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Downing, flute & Phillip Silver, piano
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

Feb. 8 - 2 p.m.

Massenet Recital
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

Feb. 14 - 7:30 p.m.

Stuart Marrs, percussion
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

Feb. 15 - 7:30 p.m.

Winterreise - Ludlow Hallman, baritone & Phillip Silver, piano
The recital will include one of Franz Schubert's major song cycles and a late work on poems by Wilhelm Mueller.
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

Ensemble Series

Feb. 8 - 2 p.m.

Massenet Recital
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

March 21 - 2 p.m.

University Singers
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

March 30 - 7:30 p.m.

Three Bands Concert
Maine Center for the Arts , Admission \$6

April 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Chamber Music
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

April 10 - 7:30 p.m.

Orchestra Concert
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

April 13 - 7:30 p.m.

Symphonic Band & Concert Band
Maine Center for the Arts, Admission \$6

April 18 - 3:00 p.m.

Classical Concert - Oratorio Society & University Singers join Bangor Symphony Orchestra
Maine Center for the Arts, Admission \$6

April 20 - 7:30 p.m.

Percussion Ensemble
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

April 22 - 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Combo
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

April 24 - 7:30 p.m.

Opera Workshop
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

April 25 - 2:00 p.m.

Athena Consort & Black Bear Men's Chorus
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

April 25 - 7:30 p.m.

Collegiate Chorale
Minsky Recital Hall, Admission \$6

THEATER

Much Ado About Nothing

An impending marriage leads to a battle of the sexes in this timeless tale. A sharp-tongued war of words sets the stage in this romantic comedy featuring fiery wits, confused identities, and relentless plots. A series of complications that only Shakespeare could imagine ensues

Conference on Caregiving and the Workplace

07 Jan 2004

Contact: Anne Littlejohn at (207) 622-7557 x.231

Elder Caregiving in Maine: Where We Are and Where We Need to be Going," a first-of-its-kind conference about elder caregiving and the workplace in Northern New England, will be held on January 29 and 30, 2004, at the Sheraton Hotel, South Portland, Maine.

Governor John Baldacci will speak at the conference to present AARP's latest findings regarding caregivers on the job and how it impacts Maine's businesses. Also speaking will be Dana Connors, president of Maine State Chamber of Commerce. Representatives from the National Administration on Aging will also be in attendance.

New statistics show that nearly four out of 10 people surveyed in Maine have provided unpaid caregiving to an adult family member or other individual. Among these respondents 43 percent said they make or receive phone calls during work hours regarding caregiving issues. Thirty percent said arriving late, leaving work early, and taking extended lunch hours was common.

The ramifications for Maine businesses can be a potential loss of up to \$168 million a year due to caregiving.

The Elder Caregiving Conference will provide resources to help employers and employees with the cost and stresses of caregiving. Unfortunately, many of these individuals are unaware of these services.

The conference is designed for business leaders, human resource and health care professionals concerned about the effects of elder caregiving on Maine's employees.

The conference is being organized by the Maine's Caregiving Alliance, composed of the Maine Primary Partners in

Caregiving Project (MPPC), Eastern Agency on Aging, UMaine Center on Aging, Maine Bureau of Elder and Adult Services, AARP Maine, Maine Alzheimer's Association, Medical Care Development, Inc., Affiliated Healthcare Systems/Employee Assistance Program, Center for Productive Aging, and Maine Health's Partnership for Health Aging. The Alliance is dedicated to educating and mobilizing health and human service providers and corporate and small business employers on the critical issues associated with families caring for their elders.

To register for *Elder Caregiving in Maine: Where we are and where we need to be going* or receive more information about the program, contact Anne Littlejohn, Medical Care Development, Inc., at (207) 622-7557 x.231 or by e-mail at littlejo@mcd.org.

Diplomat's Jan. 14 Presentation to Focus on German-American Trade Opportunities

12 Jan 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3745

ORONO -- Trade opportunities and issues between the United States and Germany will be the focus of a talk by a German diplomat Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the University of Maine's Buchanan Alumni House.

The College of Business, Public Policy and Health, in conjunction with the Portland-based World Affairs Council of Maine, will host Rolf-Dieter Schnelle, the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to the New England States in Boston for a one-day tour of Maine and a meeting with Gov. John Baldacci.

His talk in Orono, beginning at 12:45 p.m., is titled "German-American Trade and Investment Relations -- Common Interests & Concerns."

The talk is free, open to the public and should be of interest to students and faculty involved in international trade studies, in addition to Maine business owners considering business links to Europe, according to Daniel Innis, dean of the College of Business, Public Policy & Health.

"International trade issues are increasingly important to Maine. The governor has shown the importance of overseas connections with his recent trade mission to Ireland, and the King Administration also conducted a trade mission to Germany," Innis says. "In addition, the University of Maine has a faculty and student exchange relationship with a German university."

Hosting the consul general both builds on the university's international studies programming and research, Innis says, and also helps the people of Maine to develop a better understanding of the trade opportunities that exist with Germany.

Innis said he'll be interested to hear Schnelle's view on how Maine and the United States can work not just with Germany as a trade partner, but also with the European Union. "His message on the E.U. and its current and future impact on trade will be very valuable," Innis says.

Schnelle has served as Consul General of Germany in Boston since September of 2002. Previously, he was the director for International Cooperation in Higher Education for the Cultural Affairs Department of the Federal Foreign Office in Bonn and Berlin, Germany, deputy chief of Mission for the German Embassy in Oslo, Norway, and deputy director of the Bureau for Goethe Institute Affairs at the Federal Foreign Office in the Bonn Cultural Affairs Department. He has taught at Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris and Polytechnic of Central London.

Schnelle is to speak later in the day at Bates College in Lewiston, where he will discuss "The New Europe -- Old and New United: A Challenge to the Europeans and the U.S." at 7:30 p.m. in the Muskie Archives building. On Jan. 15, Schnelle is scheduled to deliver a talk, "Germany and the U.S. -- A Troubled Partnership?" at a World Affairs Council breakfast program at the Portland Country Club in Falmouth.

Schnelle's appearances are being sponsored by the University of Maine, Fairchild Semiconductor, Norman Hanson & DeTroy, LLC, Bates College, the Maine International Trade Center, Maine Bank & Trust and Head and Associates Investment Counsel.

UMaine Lunch Series Spring Semester Schedule

26 Jan 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program lunchtime discussion series spring semester schedule begins on Wednesday, Jan. 28 with a presentation by Colby College professor Lyn Mikel Brown. The series will continue through April. 21, with a two-week break during UMaine's Spring Break.

The series features lectures, panels and performances that reflect current scholarship on women's issues, providing visiting scholars, university faculty members, staff, students and community members an opportunity to present their work to a diverse audience.

Brown, who is a member of the education and human development faculty at Colby will discuss "Girlfighting: Betrayal and Rejection Among Girls" at 12:15 p.m. in Memorial Union's Bangor Lounge.

The remainder of the semester schedule follows. Unless otherwise noted, the presentations will take place from 12:15-1:30 p.m. in Bangor Lounge.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

"From Judaism to Christianity: Conversion of Jewish Females in Napoleonic Italy"

*Alexander Grab, UMaine Professor of History

Wednesday, Feb. 11

"History as the Backdrop for Romance: Gender, Race, and Tragedy in Snow Falling on Cedars"

*Kent Ono, Director and Professor of Asian American Studies and Professor of Communication, University of Illinois

Co-sponsored by Project Opportunity, and the UMaine Dept. of Communication and Journalism

Wednesday, Feb. 18

"Ella Baker and the Writing of Black Feminist Biography: A Conversation Between Sisters Living and Dead"

*Barbara Ransby, Associate Professor of African American Studies and History, University of Illinois at Chicago

Part of Black History Month

Tuesday, Feb. 24

"Dressing Up and Doing Gender: Changing Meanings and Practices of Dress Among Bosnian Refugees In Vermont"

*Kim Huisman, UMaine Assistant Professor of Sociology

Wednesday, Feb. 25

7:30 P.M. Minsky Recital Hall

"SPUNK"

A readers theatre performance of a play by George C. Wolfe, based on the life and writings of Zora Neale Hurston

Directed by Tom Mikotowicz, UMaine Associate Professor of Theatre

Part of Black History Month

Tuesday, March 16

"Voting Down the Rose: Florence Brooks Whitehouse and Suffrage in Maine"

*Anne B. Gass, Historian and Independent Consultant

Thursday, March 18

6 p.m. - Special Collections - Fogler Library

"Women of Mystery"

*Kathy Emerson, Julia Spencer-Fleming, and La Wait, Authors

Sponsored by the University of Maine Bookstore

Tuesday, March 23

"Someone's Got to Pick Eggs': Women's Work in Family Storytelling"

(Talk and Book Signing)

*Kristin Langellier, UMaine Professor of Communication and Journalism and Mark and Marcia Bailey Professor

*Eric Peterson, UMaine Associate Professor of Communication and Journalism

Tuesday, March 30

"Still Chilly? Undergraduate Women's Perceptions of Classroom Environments"

*Elizabeth Allan, UMaine Assistant Professor, Higher Education Leadership

*Mary Madden, Assistant Research Professor, UMaine College of Education and Human Development

Wednesday, April 7

"Consent: What's It All About?"

*An interactive panel discussion with members of BEAR (Brothers Against Rape),
Peer Educators, and others.

Co-sponsored by the Safe Campus Project.

Part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Wednesday, April 14

Reflections on the Writing of Saigon Memories: A Cookbook"

*Kay Retzlaff, Assistant Professor of English, University College of Bangor/UMA

*Bich Nga Burrill, owner of Far East Cuisine

Part of Asian Awareness Week

Wednesday, April 21

"Is That Your Mom?": A Qualitative Investigation of White Mothers and Nonwhite Children

*Tracy L. Robinson, Professor of Counseling and Applied Educational Psychology, Northeastern University

More information is available at www.umaine.edu/wic or by contacting the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Office at 581-1228 or by e-mailing: angela_olson@umit.maine.edu.

UMaine Engineering Program Provides Business Skills

26 Jan 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Reuben Caron isn't quite ready to start his own business, but he's getting closer. Before he graduates in May, the University of Maine senior in Electrical Engineering Technology from Portage, Maine, has a few courses and a senior project to complete, and he may enroll in the Maine Business School to pursue a master's in business administration.

In the mean time, Caron's appetite for a business background is being met by a new UMaine program that enables students in the School of Engineering Technology to add business credentials to their resumes. With an Engineering Entrepreneurial Minor, students will know what it's like to run a business, says Jude Pearse, assistant professor in Electrical Engineering Technology (EET) who administers the new program.

"As an entrepreneur, you really have to know the bottom line," adds Pearse who, before coming to UMaine, ran her own engineering consulting firm, Robash Unlimited, in Brewer. Pearse has bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from UMaine.

"We want to prepare our students for what they will encounter when they go to work for a business. They'll understand what it takes to meet a payroll and estimate project costs. In a small business, those skills are important and can make our graduates more valuable to the companies that hire them," she adds.

Standard courses in the program include small business management, macro and microeconomics and principles of accounting. For his degree, Caron added a course in engineering economics.

During his four years at UMaine, Caron has gained technical skills through course work as well as practical experience as a computer network manager. He maintains the EET computer network and works as a technology coordinator for the Ashland school district, MSAD #32, in Maine and the Putney School in Putney, Vermont.

He has also worked for Kannon, Inc., a company based in New Gloucester, Maine that managed the statewide school network for the Maine Laptop Initiative and Apple Computer. Laptop network hardware is located at the University of Maine System Network office on the Orono campus.

The new SET entrepreneurship program reflects work force needs identified by the state agencies as well as industrial advisors for each SET program, says Steve Adam, advancement officer for the College. "The State of Maine has asked us to make sure our students have more entrepreneurial skills when they graduate," says Adam. "This new minor responds to that request and to recommendations from industrial committees for the SET programs."

The School of Engineering Technology offers programs in construction management and surveying, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering technology.

UMaine Career Fair January 29, 2004

26 Jan 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine Career Fair 2004 on Thursday, Jan. 29 could be the first step toward or even into the job market for students exploring career options.

More than 120 businesses, organizations and institutions will send representatives to Alford Arena from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to meet with students, describe employment options, internship opportunities and answer students' career questions.

While the career fair is a University of Maine event for UMaine students and alumni, students from all other colleges and universities in Maine are welcome to attend the event.

Both students and employer representatives have found previous UMaine career fairs educational and productive, according to Patricia Counihan, director of the University of Maine Career Center. Many students have found jobs and internships by attending.

"We generally have about 2,000 students attend, so employers are certainly happy," she says.

"It's so convenient for students. One hundred twenty two employers are going to be here, right on campus."

Employers come from a broad array of fields, including such areas as finance, construction, communications, healthcare, research, recreation, science, technology, marketing, law enforcement and summer camps.

Counihan suggests that students prepare themselves in advance of the career fair by visiting the university's [Career Center website](#). The site includes a list of the companies, organizations and institutions that will be present Jan. 29, nutshell information about them, various disciplines that might be best suited for employment at those places, plus links to company websites.

The listing is a comprehensive collection of potential employers in Maine and New England, with important information about those employers and contact information.

Students who do a little homework before the career fair usually are best positioned to make the most of the day, says Counihan.

"Look at the website, think about questions and identify who you want to talk to most, and make the best use of the time," she says. "We ask students to bring their resumes to have prospective employers critique them."

Counihan notes that the goal of the career fair is to give students a closer look at the types of companies or organizations for whom they might like to work after graduation and to learn about internships that offer both credit and valuable on-the-job exposure to a chosen career field.

While second- and third-year students may have very specific questions about a company or job, first-year students can learn a great deal about career opportunities. The sooner students educate themselves about career decisions, the better, according to Counihan, particularly in Maine's tight job market.

"Generally speaking, if jobs aren't filled right there on the spot, there are lot of follow-up contacts" that result from introductions made at the university career fair, she says.

The Career Fair has grown dramatically in the last five years. In 1999, 22 employers attended the fair. By 2001, the fair was so popular it had to be moved from the Memorial Union to Alford Arena to accommodate the increasing number of participating students and employers.

Complete information about the career fair is available at the Career Center Web bsite, or by calling the center at 581-1359.

In addition to the University of Maine, supporting sponsors, which also will have booths at the fair, include Bath Iron Works, CDM, Central Maine Medical Family, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Irving Woodlands, LLC, Maine Municipal Association, MBNA America, Mercy Hospital, National Grid, Pike Industries, Inc., Rural Cellular Corporation (UNICEL), UMaine Corporate Affiliate Program and Woodard & Curran.

Maine Families Can Host a Japanese Exchange Student

29 Jan 2004

Contact: Jill Coffren, state coordinator, Cooperative Extension 4H Japanese exchange program, 207-645-3248.

ORONO-- Ryota Toda is a 12-year-old boy from Kyoto, Japan, who has a black belt in karate and is an avid stamp collector. This year he hopes to come to the United States and live with a Maine family. He can't wait to attend a county fair and dreams of getting a chance to ride a horse. Ryota is one of 19 Japanese youngsters who will be staying with local families as part of a two-way exchange program sponsored by 4-H. The boys and girls will stay with their American host families from mid-July to mid-August.

This program is open to families in Maine with children close in age to the Japanese participants. Families without children in this age range will be considered as hosts for the adult chaperone from Japan.

"You don't have to be involved with 4-H to host; you just need a willingness to share your home and your world. There is no need to know Japanese; the students have all studied English and are anxious to use it," says Jill Coffren of Jay, state coordinator for the program.

"The program gives host families a chance to share their culture, friendship, and family life with an exchange student and at the same time learn about Japanese life," Coffren adds. "The homestays only last a month during summer vacation, but the effects last a lifetime." Host family applications and brochures about the program are available by contacting your local County Extension Office or Coffren at 207-645-3248.

The 4-H International Exchange Program is one of the largest exchange programs involving North American and Japanese youth in the world. Since it began in 1972, some 39,000 students have stayed with families in 39 states, including Maine, and more than 6,300 American students have made reciprocal visits to Japan. Last year Maine hosted 19 month-long exchange students.

As state program coordinator Coffren was presented with the National 4-H International Coordinator, "Rookie of the Year" award November 16, in Roanoke, VA at the National Coordinators' Conference.

UMaine to Host Alcohol Prevention Meeting Feb. 6

30 Jan 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine has been selected to host a statewide Higher Education Alcohol Prevention Partnership (HEAPP) meeting on Friday Feb. 6. UMaine is one of 17 partner schools working with the state Office of Substance Abuse on a statewide initiative to implement five strategies to reduce alcohol abuse: limiting alcohol availability, restricting marketing and promotion of alcohol, increasing enforcement of laws and policies, offering alcohol-free social and recreational options, and creating healthful environments.

"As a result of this work, we hope to see several positive developments," says Lauri Sidelko, UMaine's director of Substance Abuse Services. "We intend to develop a statewide infrastructure to facilitate cooperative efforts, to engage top-level administrators in addressing alcohol issues, to adopt a comprehensive plan, and to work on allocating sufficient resources to deal with this issue."

The Feb. 6 meeting will focus on the structure and goals for the statewide initiative. This project aims to bring about long-term, systemic change in how college high-risk drinking is addressed at both the state and local level.

"As a founding member of numerous efforts to eliminate abusive college - age drinking UMaine has developed procedures and programs that have successfully engaged students in the discussion related to alcohol abuse prevention and a notable reduction in drinking-related negative consequences on campus," Sidelko says. "Involvement in programs like HEAPP will help us continue that momentum."

The Feb. 6 meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Bangor Room of UMaine's Memorial Union. For more information, contact the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention Services at the University of Maine, 207-581-1423.

"Thwarted Voices" to Debut Holocaust-Era Composers on Sunday

29 Jan 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- "Spitting in the face of Hitler" was how Phillip Silver, an assistant professor of music at the University of Maine, felt last year when he brought life to music of Holocaust-era composers killed or banished in Nazi Germany.

This year, as he prepares for his fourth annual "Thwarted Voices" concert, Sunday, Feb. 1 at Minsky Recital Hall, he wonders how music of the 20th Century might have changed had the hundreds of musical scores banned by the Third Reich been given the exposure they deserved 60 years ago.

"The more I have worked on this, it seems that the Nazis may have altered the course of musical development over the 20th Century," he says.

In murdering or exiling many Jewish composers in Germany, or banning their works, Nazis denied the world "an extraordinary range of music" by "hundreds upon hundreds of composers" just now being recognized by scholars like Silver, he says. Silver also is a member of the International Forum for Suppressed Music, a London-based organization dedicated to rectifying what members call the musical injustice inflicted by the Nazis.

More than a half century after the Holocaust, Silver says he is committed to "denying evil its final victory" by giving voice to music that has been silent for decades.

By performing some of the work in "Thwarted Voices," Silver believes he can contribute to the continuing evolution of the music. The concert will feature the American premiere of at least two works by persecuted Jewish composers, James Simon, who was murdered at the Auschwitz extermination camp, and Georg Tintner, who escaped the Nazi roundup of Jews, and died in the 1990s.

The works of three other composers suppressed by the Third Reich -- Paul Ben-Haim, Viktor Ullmann and the better-known Felix Mendelssohn -- are on the program. Sunday's concert begins at 2 p.m. and primarily features works for solo piano. Cellist Noreen Silver, an instructor in the university music department, will accompany Phillip Silver in several pieces for piano and cello.

What is unique about the Thwarted Voices concert, Silver says, is that much of the music from the Holocaust-era musicians is not generally available to the public. Other than the work of Mendelssohn, most has never been recorded. For instance, Silver obtained a photocopy of a hand-written score by Georg Tintner from Tintner's widow, now living in Canada.

Silver describes composer Paul Ben-Haim as Israel's first major composer, and Viktor Ullmann, who died at the Auschwitz concentration camp, as having become "one of the more intriguing figures over the last decade or so."

Ullmann's works include "20 miraculous pieces," including two symphonies and an opera composed in the Terezin concentration camp near Prague. Silver will play Ullmann's Fourth Piano Sonata on Sunday. It was the last piece he

wrote before being shipped to Terezin, where he spent two years before being sent finally to Auschwitz, Silver says.

While the music of Mendelssohn, whose music was banned by the Third Reich, has charmed modern audiences for decades, the music of many of the Holocaust composers is equally inspiring, Silver says. Other than a musical lament to an ill and dying sister, by James Simon, the music set for Sunday's performance is far from melancholy, Silver says.

"The other pieces are, I would say, quite extroverted, even sensual," he says. "I won't present anything that isn't worth hearing. It doesn't help the reputations of the composers if it's not good. This is exceptional music."

Tickets for Sunday's performance are \$6 and are available at the door or through the Maine Center for the Performing Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or (800) MCA-TIXX.

UMaine Admissions Open House Feb. 16

28 Jan 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Prospective University of Maine students and their families are invited to UMaine's next admissions open house on Monday, Feb. 16. Activities include workshops on financial aid, admissions and student life; the opportunity to interact with current UMaine students; college displays; tours and consultations with staff from academic departments (by appointment).

To register and to get contact information for scheduling departmental appointments, call 1-877-4UM-ADMIT, fax (207) 581-1213, or visit the open house program [website](#).

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The next open house after February is on April 19.

14th Annual Hudson Museum Games Day Feb. 19

28 Jan 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Games Day is a February school vacation tradition at the University of Maine's Hudson Museum. This year's event, the 14th annual Games Day, is scheduled for 10 a.m.-noon on Thursday, Feb. 19.

Children will have an opportunity to play games of skill and chance from around the world, while visiting the galleries of the Hudson Museum. Games stations, located throughout the museum, will include feather races,, a Northeastern Native American bowl game and seal races. The event is open to families and groups, including scout groups, and may be used to fulfill badge and Heritage belt loop and pin requirements.

The event is open to children ages 6 and up and there is a \$3 per child registration fee. Please call 581-1904 to register or for more information.

Upcoming Concerts to Highlight New Piano

28 Jan 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Don't tell University of Maine Assistant Professor of Music Phillip Silver the department's new Steinway grand piano is just another instrument.

It does not live and breathe; but it has life, personality and a soul, he says.

It also is highly sensitive to temperature, humidity and its behavior will change as it ages. At less than a year old and on campus only a few weeks, the personality of this new resident of Minsky Recital Hall at the University of Maine is still developing.

Silver says the new piano, which "dropped into our lap" as a result of a large donation last year from a former student, responds differently to the different people who play it.

"It's friendly," Silver says. "I would say that to me, the personality of that instrument is copasetic

UMaine Researchers Reaffirm Link Between Religion and Emotional Well-Being

28 Jan 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756 ORONO - Two University of Maine sociologists have reaffirmed a connection between religion and emotional well-being in older people. Steven Barkan, a professor of sociology and chair of the university sociology department, and Susan Greenwood, a lecturer in the department, found that people 65 and older tend to be happier and more satisfied with their lives if they attend religious services more frequently. The results of their study appeared in the December issue of "Review of Religious Research," an academic journal published by the Religious Research Association. Their article solidifies previous but less reliable conclusions drawn from other studies going back decades. Most of the previous studies were based on either limited research or survey participants who were not randomly selected, according to Barkan and Greenwood. They may have been, for example, residents in "convenience settings," such as nursing homes, lunch programs or outpatient clinics, the article says. The Barkan and Greenwood paper is based on a "more generalizable" random sample of seniors from throughout the United States, the results of which can be applied to all seniors nationwide, according to Barkan. Their study uses information on several hundred seniors interviewed as part of the national General Social Survey, a reputable survey done either annually or biannually since 1972. They also took into account their seniors' physical health to rule out the possibility that more physically healthy seniors are attending religious services in the first place. Many prior studies had failed to do that, they say. Barkan and Greenwood hope the results of their study come to the attention of social workers, psychologists, religious leaders, doctors, and those who work with or care for older people in an effort to improve the quality of life for that population. "If these people read this kind of research, we hope it will have a positive effect," Greenwood says. Older people, Barkan and Greenwood note in their paper, tend to have more issues with health, well-being, loneliness, bereavement or mental illness than younger people. For these reasons, it is especially important to uncover the factors that may improve older people's well-being. "For physical health, religious involvement has been linked to lower rates of a myriad of problems, including cardiovascular disease, hypertension, certain types of cancer, and even mortality," the professors' report says. "For mental health, religious activity involvement has been linked to higher levels of psychological well-being such as life satisfaction and happiness and to lower rates of mental health problems such as depression and anxiety." Barkan, who is Jewish, and Greenwood, who is a practicing Methodist and active member of her church in Orono, say they did not attempt to define religion. "In the article, we don't advise people to be religious," Barkan says. But a "reasonable conclusion from the research," he says, is for institutions and individuals who work with elderly people to try and make religious activity available to seniors who would be interested in it. Several reasons may account for the presumed link between religious activity and improved mental or physical health, say Barkan and Greenwood. Regular attendance at religious services increases social ties, which can provide emotional and practical support in the face of personal problems. It also encourages physical activity, and the values generally endorsed in church, they say, promote healthy lifestyles and discourage risky behavior. More generally, the report says, in times of personal crises, people who can turn to their religious faith may be better able to weather bad times. "Their faith can

promote feelings of hope, forgiveness, joy and other positive emotions that, in turn, enhance well-being," Barkan and Greenwood wrote. Barkan says there are no guarantees that people who attend religious services regularly will always be happier and healthier, and, he adds, "I can't say we're talking about huge effects, that your life is going to be wonderful" (but) there does seem to be something about religious activity, per se." For more information, Barkan can be reached at (207) 581-2383; Greenwood can be reached at (207) 581-2394. They expect the paper eventually to be published in its entirety on the website for the Review of Religious Research at <http://tra.hartsem.edu/reviewof.htm>.

UMaine Scholar Award Recipients Recognized

28 Jan 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Twelve University of Maine students preparing to be science and mathematics teachers in grades 6-12 have each received \$3,500 awards as 2003-04 Robert Noyce Scholars. The scholarships were awarded through the Maine Mathematics and Science Teaching Excellence Collaborative (MMSTEC), a National Science Foundation-funded program to address the shortage of math and science teachers at the secondary school level.

The Robert Noyce Scholarship Program, named for a pioneer of semiconductor development and founder of the semiconductor industry, funds scholarships and stipends to encourage talented mathematics, science or engineering students and professionals to pursue careers in teaching.

Heather R. Kent of Westbrook, the only undergraduate receiving the award, is pursuing a double major in geological sciences and secondary sciences education with a concentration in earth science.

Award recipients pursuing the Master of Arts in Teaching degree with a concentration in secondary science are: Kristi E. Carver, Beal's Island; Michelle L. Gates, Orrington; Rhonda M. Houston, Brewer; and Joanna D. Lisker, Orono

Award recipients pursuing the Master of Education in Secondary Science Education degree are: Jean M. Barry, Bangor; Christine L. Bertolaccini, Winslow; Teresa H. Dennison, Stockton Springs; Lynn M.J. Estabrooke, Stetson; Kelley P. Greene, Bangor; Jessica W. Henson, Orono; and Katie M. Thompson, Lisbon.

MMSTEC is collaboration between math and science educators at UMaine, the University of Southern Maine, the University of Maine at Farmington, and the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance. In addition to the original and principal entities in the \$4 million, five-year NSF grant, the project now involves participation from University of Maine System campuses in Machias, Fort Kent, Presque Isle and Augusta. From its inception in 2000 through its termination in 2005, the MMSTEC project will have awarded \$1 million in scholarship funds for future math and science teachers at participating institutions.

This year's recipients of scholarships from all campuses were recognized at the recent MMSTEC mid-year conference in Augusta.

New Environmental Sustainability Course in Orono

28 Jan 2004

Contact: John Jemison, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-3241
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine

Sports Summit to Tap Best Thinking

09 Feb 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761 ORONO, Maine -- Student-athletes and administrators from 128 Maine high schools and 37 middle schools have been asked to participate in a March 9 summit to help identify essential qualities of positive, beneficial interscholastic sports programs. Taking place at the University of Maine, the summit is sponsored by the UMaine *Coaching Maine Youth to Success* initiative, a federally funded project to develop a national model for quality sports programs that complement academic standards and overall school objectives. A statewide select panel of educational and sports leaders, and policy makers began work in October to define and articulate the characteristics of healthy athletic programs. Since then, panel members have been brainstorming, researching and gathering various perspective about the purpose, potential and realities of interscholastic sports at Maine middle schools and high schools. The summit will provide another opportunity to tap the views and suggestions of students, coaches, athletic directors and principals to build a working philosophical base and mechanism for improving interscholastic athletics and supporting effective coaching education. Participants will work in targeted sessions to inform and advise the panel in shaping its recommendations for strengthening the educational and developmental contributions of athletics.. The panel's final product -- a common set of guidelines for preventing and working out problems under a broadly agreed-upon doctrine, and core principles and practices for providing and sustaining quality interscholastic programs -- should be available by the start of the 2004-05 school year. Project co-directors are Robert Cobb, dean of the UMaine College of Education and Human Development, and former Education Commissioner J. Duke Albanese, lead policy advisor for the Great Maine School Project at the Sen. George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute. More information about the initiative is available by calling (207) 581-2492 or on the Web at www.umaine.edu/coachingtosuccess.

Public Invited to Seminar Series Celebrating 100th Anniversary of UMaine Forestry Programs

05 Feb 2004

Contact: Judy Round, College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture, (207) 581-3229

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to attend seminars on forest resources planned in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the University of Maine's forestry programs. Speakers from universities around the country will address issues ranging from tourism and timber supply to forest biology.

The seminar series will highlight the work supported by the McIntire-Stennis program which provides federal funds for forest resources research at universities in the United States. The series will begin on Tuesday February 17 and culminate this summer with a dinner recognizing Maine's role in the creation of this landmark federal legislation.

Five seminars have been scheduled with a sixth to be announced. All seminars will be held in 100 Nutting Hall at 3 p.m. on the UMaine campus and are open to the public.

Schedule of Seminars

Tuesday, February 17

- Dr. Richard Brinker, Dean and Professor of Forest Engineering, Auburn University
"McIntire-Stennis forestry research funding" An investment in scientific discovery: An A-TR's perspective"

Monday, February 23

- Dr. Craig G. Lorimer
Professor of Forest Ecology and Management, University of Wisconsin-Madison
"Learning from natural disturbance regimes: prospects for a multi-cohort forest management"

Thursday, April 8

- Dr. Stephen McCool, Professor of Wildland Recreation Management, University of Montana
"Devils, details and dilemmas in the search for sustainable tourism"

Thursday, April 15

- Dr. Karen Potter-Witter, Professor of Forest Economics, Michigan State University
"From poplar to parcelization: twenty years of timber supply research"

Thursday, April 29

- Dr. Jeffrey Dean, Associate Professor of Forest Biotechnology, University of Georgia
"Forest biology, biotechnology and forest products production"

More information is available at <http://www.forest-resources.umaine.edu> or by contacting Dr. William Livingston (207) 581-2990.

UMaine Student Affairs Leader Announces Resignation

05 Feb 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Richard D. Chapman, University of Maine Vice President for Student Affairs since August 1999, has announced his plans to resign from that post effective July 31.

"Richard's contributions to our progress in recent years have been very significant," says UMaine President Peter S. Hoff. "He has overseen a real transformation in the student experience at UMaine and has been the driving force behind a number of initiatives that have made life better for our students. Richard personifies the student-centered approach that we advocate so strongly."

Perhaps the most visible accomplishment of Chapman's tenure is the renovation and expansion of UMaine's student union. The Memorial Union project, the largest completed construction project in the university's history, transformed an outdated and inadequate facility into a top-notch modern student union and resource center. He has also overseen improvements in several program areas, including those related to recreation. He has worked extensively on the development of a plan to secure funding and begin work on a \$25 million student recreation center. That facility was approved last year and is expected to open in the fall of 2006.

"Thanks to the efforts of a strong and dedicated staff, we have accomplished a great deal in the past five years," Chapman says, "and I am most pleased to have been a part of that progress. We have worked hard to improve the sense of community that exists at UMaine and I believe that the results of those efforts have had a positive effect on everybody who studies, works or lives on campus."

"Richard Chapman has dramatically affected the Black Bear Experience," says Matthew Rodrigue, a UMaine senior and former student government president. "His leadership has brought UMaine's student life to a new level of strength and vitality. For me personally, he has been a good mentor and friend. Our students will surely miss him."

Chapman says he expects the next few months at UMaine to be productive and enjoyable.

"I sincerely enjoy being around our students and others in this community, and I look forward to spending the rest of this semester and the early part of the summer at UMaine," he says.

Hoff says that he will evaluate the situation over the next several weeks before announcing how he will proceed with

regard to a replacement.

UMaine Course Based on Camden Conference

04 Feb 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3751

ORONO -- University of Maine students considering a career in foreign policy or international affairs, or those who just want a better understanding of the changing politics of the world, will have a chance to meet and rub elbows with some nationally respected authorities in world affairs through a unique course that will be offered on the Orono campus and in Camden.

The course is designed around the agenda of the 17th Annual Camden Conference, Feb. 27-29, and explores United States' foreign policy directions. This year's Camden Conference title is "U.S. Foreign Policy for the 21st Century: Seeking a Balance?"

"The future of American foreign policy is very relevant for students of foreign affairs," says Bahman Baktiari, a UMaine professor and director of the university's International Affairs Program who is one of six faculty members co-teaching the university course. Students, he says, "need to be aware of how policy makers view the world around them. It's very important for them to get a feel for how policy is formulated and who makes foreign policy."

In a world of changing economies and shifting political and economic alliances, in addition to new health, military, economic and terrorist challenges, the conference will delve into who makes foreign policy, and how.

"Finding our way and pressing our case was easier when we had only other governments to deal with," a description of the conference that is posted on the Camden Conference Website says. "But now there are terrorist organizations and a range of other actors, including corporations and non-governmental organizations all putting pressure on policy makers. How will we balance conflicting demands in the 21st century?"

The UMaine course will re-examine the foundations and implications of U.S. foreign policy in the post-Cold War, post-9/11 world.

The class material is important, says Robert White, dean of the Division of Lifelong Learning -- which is offering the course and issuing class credits for it -- in that it takes a good look at many of the same foreign policy issues now being studied by the Bush Administration and debated by Democratic presidential candidates.

Students in the class will attend the Camden Conference and can meet and interact with a prestigious group of expert writers, scholars and former foreign policymakers invited to share their expertise in a series of lectures and discussions that examine how the United States perceives and protects foreign interests.

Three day-long Saturday classes will be held Feb. 14, March 20 and April 3 in Orono.

The course is potentially one of the most unique and relevant courses offered anywhere, according to White, who also is a member of the Camden Conference advisory board.

"This (university) probably is the first one in the United States that has offered a course around a conference of this type," he says.

People interested in the course are welcome to register, regardless of whether they are regular students enrolled in the university, according to White. "We'll continue to register students right up until February 14. One does not have to be a degree student."

The class also represents an opportunity for the university to extend itself into the community, he says.

Keynote conference speaker Robert Kaplan, writer and correspondent for the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine, is scheduled to discuss "How the United States Should Operate to Manage an Unruly World."

Other conference speakers include: U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley of the Institute for National Strategic Studies and National Defense University; Debora Spar of Harvard Business School; Frederick Barton, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Charles Kupchan, of Georgetown University and the Council on Foreign Relations; Gianni Riotta, a U.S. correspondent for *Corriere della Sera*; Judith Yaphe of the Institute for National Strategic Studies and National Defense University; Murhaf Jouejati, originally from Syria and now at George Washington University; and Don Oberdorfer of the School of International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

"It really is a unique opportunity," adds Prof. Timothy Cole, chair of the UMaine Political Science Department and one of the professors teaching the course. "It is an opportunity for students to get to interact with a first-rate slate of speakers. A lot of our undergraduates don't get to a conference of this type.

Other UMaine faculty co-teaching the class include Alex Grab, professor of history, Ngo-Vin Long, professor of Asian history, Howard Cody, associate professor of political science, and Seth Singleton, adjunct professor of political science.

Students interested in registering for the course, may call the Continuing Education Division at 581-3143 or the Hutchinson Center in Belfast at 338-8000.~ Students can also register online at www.dll.umaine.edu/cd. For more information about the Camden Conference, call 236-1034 or visit its website at www.camdenconference.org.

UMaine Students to Present Shakespeare's

04 Feb 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- William Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" has much to do with everything in life that's important: friends, family, trust and love.

The University of Maine's School of Performing Arts will produce the romantic comedy in February at Hauck Auditorium.

The play is considered by some to be "the original sit-com." University of Maine Assistant Professor of Theatre Marcia Douglas, who directs the play, sees it as a timeless tale revolving around a battle of the sexes, a war of wits and words and the characteristic Shakespearean mischief resulting from confused identities, a faked death and relentless plotting by bad guys.

It is about "the stuff that's insignificant, which we take too seriously," Douglas says.

In spite of the poetic Elizabethan dialog, "Much Ado About Nothing" is remarkably easy to follow, Douglas says, as it examines relationships and the trouble that results from rushing to judgment.

"It's fun. It's about love," Douglas says. "Love is always interesting to people. We get tripped up by it. We jump to conclusions when we shouldn't."

The actors' job, she says, involves more than just learning lines. They also must create their characters' "personal journeys" in order to present a convincing story that the audience will follow and enjoy.

The play is set in Messina, Italy, and revolves around two relationships, that of main characters Claudio, a visiting soldier, and Hero, the daughter of Messina's governor Leonato, who are about to be married. A companion plot involves the cantankerous but humorous bantering between Benedick, Claudio's friend, and Beatrice, Hero's cousin and her best friend.

But Shakespeare would not be Shakespeare without villains, and antagonists Don John and his pals Borachio and Conrad, also soldiers visiting Messina, are up to the challenge. They try to derail Hero and Claudio's marriage by convincing Claudio that his betrothed Hero is unfaithful.

In the end, the local friar sorts things out and gets the relationships back on track.

"Much Ado About Nothing" should be entertaining for audiences of all ages, Douglas says, because it deals expertly with the fallibility of human nature and themes that are as real today as they were in Shakespeare's time.

Douglas also has chosen an innovative presentation format, with cast members interacting with the audience before the production begins.

She has recruited some experienced and talented people to bring exceptional lighting and set design to the production, she says.

The set is being designed by Chez Cherry, an award-winning set designer from HBO television's "Tracey Takes On." Most recently, he created the set design for "Guys and Dolls" at Maine Center for the Arts and "Escape from Happiness" at Hauck Auditorium. The lighting design is being created by Greg Mitchell of Washington, DC, who designed the set and lights for last season's production of "Rimers of Eldritch" and for many Penobscot Theatre productions.

Jane Snider, associate professor of theatre and dance, resumes a traditional role designing costumes, which were being sewn specifically for this production by Costume Director Lucia Williams-Young and students.

UMaine student Adam Smith is sound designer and Beth Wiemann, associate professor of music at UMaine, is composing music specifically for the production. Twenty-two people, including English Department professor and Shakespeare scholar Richard Brucher, comprise the cast.

Douglas said the theatre department tries to do a Shakespeare play at least once every four years, so students have a chance to experience Shakespeare in the time they are at UMaine, and the community has the opportunity to see it.

"We serve our students, but we also serve the community," she says.

"Much Ado About Nothing" runs Feb. 13-14, 19-21 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 15 & 22 at 2 p.m.; Admission is \$8, but free for UMaine students with a MaineCard. Information is available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts box office at 581-1755 or 1-800-MCA-TIXX.

UMaine Accounting Students Offer Help with Tax Returns

10 Feb 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- With the advance of the April 15 tax-return deadline, accounting students from the University of Maine Business School once again are ready with pencils and calculators, offering free help to people filing basic federal and state tax returns.

The university's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), sponsored by the IRS, is available Wednesday

afternoons through April 14 to anyone on the Orono campus or in surrounding communities who have basic tax assistance needs, says Steven Colburn, the associate professor of accounting who has overseen the program since its inception in 1996.

"The purpose of this program is to help people with basic tax returns," Colburn says. "This gives students the opportunity to practice what they have learned in tax class."

About a dozen students work with taxpayers on a first-come, first-served basis from 1-4 p.m. on Wednesdays through April 14 in Room 217 D.P. Corbett Business Building on the Orono campus, next to the Maine Center for the Arts building. Taxpayers should bring their W-2s, 1099 forms or any other forms or information regarding income, deductions or credits. VITA volunteers can download tax forms from the IRS website, if needed, according to Colburn.

The quality of the assistance is very good, Colburn says. All the volunteers have taken tax preparation courses and are up to date on the latest tax law changes. Plus, he adds, "I'm there every day, and I check all the returns before they go out the door."

The program has helped hundreds of area residents secure thousands of dollars in tax refunds in the last eight years, according to Colburn. It is sponsored by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, which provides assistance to the student program. This year, the IRS also provided a laptop computer to assist with electronic filing, Colburn says.

Last year, students helped more than 100 people file returns; he expects at least that many this year.

Colburn says that while the program is aimed at helping prepare basic tax returns for people with disabilities, the elderly, students or low-income people, student volunteers are capable, willing and qualified to help small businesses with straightforward returns, he says.

The free campus program is a bargain, Colburn emphasizes, as most people pay to have their tax returns prepared by a tax professional.

"Studies show that the majority of Americans pay somebody to do their taxes for them," he says. "It's not cheap."

Students, he adds, do not receive credit or compensation for their time.

"It's fun for them," he says. "It's a volunteer activity. They enjoy doing it and helping other people."

More information is available by calling Colburn at 581-1982 or [e-mailing](#).

Percussion and Violin Duo Creates New Musical Language Through "Percussion Continents"; Concerts Scheduled

09 Feb 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Students at three coastal Maine high schools will have a chance to follow the beat of a different drummer this week, as University of Maine Music Department Professor Stuart Marrs and a long time musical collaborator introduce them to new music for violin and percussion.

Marrs, a percussionist, and friend Jan Dobrzelewski of Switzerland, a conductor and violinist currently residing in Costa Rica, will perform "Percussion Continents," selected works from six composers, including another UMaine music faculty member, Beth Wiemann.

"We are calling it an 'informance,' " Marrs says. "It is more than music. What we're going to play for them will be

something they have never heard before in their lives, but we hope they will hear again in the future. This is music that has been composed for us."

In concert with the music, Marrs and Dobrzelewski have added an educational component to their presentation. They will present and discuss the music with students, but they also suggested that music teachers at George Stevens Academy and The Liberty School in Blue Hill and Searsport District High School talk with students about the geography of the countries of origin of the composers and of the percussion instruments, or perhaps examine the paintings of Georgia O'Keefe, whose artwork inspired the composition of one of the pieces.

Marrs and Dobrzelewski, who first began working together in 1972, when both worked with the National Symphony of Costa Rica, also have recorded together, most recently on a CD titled Percussion Continents 1. They hope to produce Percussion Continents 2 in 2005.

They hope the high school students, who will hear an abbreviated version of a more comprehensive faculty concert planned for Feb. 14 at Minsky Recital Hall at the University of Maine, experience their new music with open minds.

"I'll be playing dozens of instruments set up all around me," Marrs says. "There is a visual impact. We want our audience to experience something new and for them to develop their artistic sensibilities in an expansive way."

While Dobrzelewski extends the sound possibilities of his violin, Marrs will play an array of percussion instruments, including timpani, cymbals, a triangle, xylophone, tom-toms and snare drums.

Marrs and Dobrzelewski will appear at George Stevens Academy at 8 a.m. on Feb. 11, at the Liberty School at 10:55 a.m. on Feb. 12 and in Searsport at the high school, at 12:45 p.m. on Feb. 12.

Marrs can be reached with questions at 581-1247.

President Abram W. Harris Award Established

21 Apr 2004

Contact: Amos Orcutt, University of Maine Foundation, 207-581-5100

ORONO -- A \$5,000 prize will be awarded to an individual whose impact on the University of Maine reflects the level of advancements made by former President Abram W. Harris, who served the University from 1893 -- 1901. According to President Emeritus Frederick E. Hutchinson '53, chair of the selection committee: "President Harris served the University at a time of major change. He led the transformation from the original Maine State College established by the Morrill Act to The University of Maine; he greatly expanded the curriculum; and increased enrollment, particularly of women."

Nominations are sought for the President Abram W. Harris Award, established in memory of Dr. Abram Winegardner Harris, with an endowed gift to the University of Maine Foundation from his grandson A. W. "Pete" Harris, III '50 and family friends. The first award will be presented and celebrated at the University of Maine Foundation's Annual Meeting, scheduled for October 6, 2005 at Wells Commons on the University of Maine campus.

A.W. "Pete" Harris, III, UMaine Class of 1950 says his motivation for establishing the award was out of respect for his ancestor, who died when Pete was twelve, and to draw attention to President Harris' impact on the history of the institution. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual during his or her lifetime whose actions have left the institution "stronger and in every respect better fitted to do its work" as was said of Dr. Harris in a Board of Trustees report of the era. The person may be, but is not limited to, a current or emeriti member of faculty, staff, administration, alumni, student body, community, the legislature or other individual whose work has affected the University.

A.W. "Pete" Harris, III put no limitations on who may be considered for the award. "It's the quality of the work that counts." He hopes that nominations will spur vigorous debate within the committee: "There's something to be said for controversy to develop quality results."

The committee requests that letters of nomination list in concrete detail the nature of the individual's accomplishments, justifying recognition. Members of the selection committee include volunteers appointed by the University of Maine Foundation who have a long affiliation and knowledge of the institution. Nominations should be mailed to: Amos E. Orcutt, President & CEO, University of Maine Foundation, Buchanan Alumni House, Two Alumni Place, Orono, ME 04469-5792 and must be received by 5 p.m. on June 30.

Further background from The History of the University of Maine, by M.C. Fernald and the files of A.W. "Pete" Harris III:

President Harris is remembered in the Board of Trustee reports for eight years of service during which the University made rapid, constant and satisfactory progress. During his tenure enrollment increased from 139 to 400 and the faculty doubled from 25 to more than 50. New departments of Pharmacy and Law were established, the courses of study were broadened and increased in number and the standard of scholarship was raised. While Dr. Harris was President most of the older buildings were remodeled and several new buildings were erected including Alumni Hall and Mt. Vernon, the first women's dormitory and he established the alpha chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

The most significant element of his presidency was the long and ultimately successful fight to broaden the scope of the institution. He faced a great deal of opposition, both from influential members of the statewide community and from the legislature to his program, but won over both to his vision, resulting in the renaming of the institution from the Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts established by the original Morrill Act to "the University of Maine." In a letter, George W. Atherton, then President of Pennsylvania State College said, "Your victory is a notable one, and must have important results for the future, not only in Maine, but as part of the general movement (national) for the better education of the people."

Dr. Abram Winegardner Harris (1858 - 1935) a graduate of Wesleyan University, Class of 1880, served as the Chief of the Office of Experiment Stations in the Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C. before becoming President of the Maine State College. Dr. Harris went on to become the President of Northwestern University, Evanston campus from 1906 --1916 where a building is named in his honor.

UMaine Cooperative Extension Program Cited for Award

12 Feb 2004

Contact: Richard Kersbergen, Cooperative Extension (207) 581-3188
Joe Carr, UMaine Public Affairs (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine Comprehensive Nutrient Management Education Program has been honored as one of three programs to receive the 2003 Award of Excellence from the Northeast Cooperative Extension Directors. The award was announced in Washington D.C. at the annual meeting of that group on Jan. 29. Sixteen programs were nominated in the region, which includes states from Maine to West Virginia, including Washington D.C.

Under the leadership of Extension Educator Richard Kersbergen, a team of educators, regulators, agency personnel and farmers worked to develop a comprehensive strategy for nutrient management on Maine farms. As regulatory agencies shifted their focus from point sources of pollution to nonpoint sources, Maine agricultural producers realized that they need to learn how to manage manure in a more environmentally sound manner. Cooperative Extension developed competency requirements for Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, certified planners, training materials for

farmers, planners and agency staff, and software and record-keeping materials. Educational programs were delivered to farmers, certified crop advisors and regulators.

In the program's most recent legislative report, 411 certified nutrient management plans had been prepared, representing 92,005 acres of crop land and 61,736 animal units. Fifty-nine of Maine's dairy farmers have written and certified their own plans by passing an exam that demonstrated their competency in nutrient management planning. Additionally, \$2.5 million have been appropriated by the Maine Legislature and a \$3 million bond issue approved by Maine voters to support the construction of manure facilities for Maine farmers.

Goat Meat Directory to Promote Maine Producers

13 Feb 2004

Contact: Richard Brzozowski, Cooperative Extension Educator, 1-800-287-1471 ORONO, Maine -- Goat meat is in high demand across the country, and Maine farmers who raise goats can reach new markets through a new University of Maine Cooperative Extension directory. Extension is compiling a list of all Maine goat producers including contact information, the types and ages of goats they have for sale and the time of year the goats are typically available. Only producers who ask to be listed will be included. Listings are free. Much of the demand for goat meat comes from numerous ethnic communities including African, Middle-Eastern, Caribbean, European, and Hispanic consumers, says Richard Brzozowski, Extension educator. Extension will print the directory and distribute it to community leaders, mosques, churches, social clubs, livestock dealers and others in Maine. The directory is expected to be available by April 1. For more information or to be listed in the statewide directory, contact the Cumberland County Extension Office at 1-800-287-1471 or see the website www.umext.maine.edu.

Conference Targets Aspiring Math, Science Teachers

11 Feb 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Phytoplankton, probability and patterns are a few of the topics to be explored at the annual Math and Science Future Teachers conference, taking place Saturday, Feb. 21 at the University of Maine. The event is open to Maine colleges and university students and to people considering changing careers to enter the math and science teaching profession.

The conference begins with a keynote address titled "Those That Can!" by Betsy Ann Wandishin, 2003 Maine Teacher of the Year and an educator at Crooked River Elementary School in Casco. Throughout the day, participants can learn engaging classroom lessons and strategies from experienced educators from public and private schools, UMaine, the state Department of Education, and the National Aeronautics Space Administration. Workshop sessions range from Teaching Math while Managing Your Classroom to New Views of the Sun.

The conference is sponsored Maine Mathematics-Science Teacher Excellence Collaborative (MMSTEC), funded by the National Science Foundation. The project's goal is to help boost the number of grade K-12 math and science teachers by improving the recruitment, preparation and support of students with strong interests in math, science and technology.

Breakfast and lunch are included, and registration is required by Feb. 17. The \$10 registration will be returned to participants during the conference. To register, call UMaine math educator Amie Gellen at (207) 581-3905. More information about the MMSTEC is available on the Web.

Tanglewood 4-H Camp Elderhostel Celebrates Life Long Learning

10 Feb 2004

Contact: Karen Meisenheimer, Tanglewood 4-H Camp Elderhostel Coordinator, (207) 589-4263 Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center, One Tanglewood Rd., Lincolnville, ME 04849, (207) 789-5868

LINCOLNVILLE-- Can you picture yourself on board a 42 foot-long wooden sail boat skimming the water of Penobscot Bay, taking a quiet naturalist-led walk along the pristine Duck Trap river or spending time sampling some of Maine's unique and delicious foods? These are some of the experiences to be had over the course of 12 weeks, between May and October, during the Tanglewood 4-H Camp Elderhostel program in Lincolnville.

Topics range from birding, exploring the Maine coast, geology, marine biology, sailing, history of mid-coast Maine, sampling hand-crafted products and much more. The 2004 program schedule is available from Karen Meisenheimer at (207) 589-4263 or [e-mail](#). If you leave a message, clearly state your full name and mailing address.

Discovering the Maine Woods and Coast, the intergenerational class, supports Tanglewood's philosophy of teaching children and adults about the environment and responsible stewardship. Also in accordance with Tanglewood's mission, the fee set for the children is kept below cost, enabling some to participate who might not otherwise be able.

Both Elderhostel and Tanglewood believe that learning should be a lifelong pursuit that opens minds and enriches lives, says Meisenheimer. Both organizations have worked together for over nine years, sharing the belief that new ideas, challenges, and experiences are rewarding in every season of life. Elderhostel participants come from every walk of life to learn together, to exchange ideas, and to explore the world. Tanglewood is operated by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

The Tanglewood 4-H Camp Elderhostel 2003 season hosted a total of almost 300 people from at least 41 of our 50 states. Their ages ranged from the youngest at 8 years (intergenerational), to 46 years (only one adult of a pair needs to be 55) and 88 years. Maine residents also signed up for Tanglewood Elderhostel programs, with 16 taking advantage of living nearby and some opting to stay overnight. Others elected, for reduced tuition, to spend their sleeping hours in the comfort of their own beds.

Elderhostel, Inc. is dedicated to providing extraordinary learning adventures for people 55 and over. From New Hampshire to New Zealand, South Africa to South Dakota, Elderhostel offers a world of educational opportunities at exceptional values. Elderhostel provides the world's most diverse and affordable selection of learning adventures. Elderhostel programs excite one's imagination, sharpen intelligence, create new experiences, and put participants in touch with interesting people in stimulating places. Elderhostel promises a rewarding educational adventure opening up new ideas and taking you places you've never been and will never forget. Explore the Elderhostel web-site: www.elderhostel.org for details.

Tanglewood 4-H Camp's mission is to teach Maine youth and adults to be effective and caring citizens of the earth through affordable environmental education and nature-based experiences. Tanglewood is a place where people learn to live responsibly and in balance with the earth. It encourages reflection and respect, while inspiring change within ourselves and our communities. Tanglewood 4-H Camp Elderhostel programs are exciting learning experiences that also provide participants the opportunity for meeting other intelligent people.

Public Invited to UMaine Franco American Centre Mardi Gras Celebration of Traditional Food, Culture

18 Feb 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Mouth-watering aromas of North American French cuisine -- including succulent tourti

University of Maine Foundation President Receives National Award

17 Feb 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Amos Orcutt, president and CEO of the University of Maine Foundation, will be honored in August as one of fraternity Alpha Gamma Rho's "Brothers of the Century." Orcutt will receive the award at AGR's Centennial Convention in Columbus, Ohio. He is one of 700 winners of the award, which recognizes distinguished service to the fraternity, which has had over 58,000 members during its 100 years of existence.

"It is an honor to receive national recognition from AGR," Orcutt says. "AGR's goal is to teach young men seeking an education how to live and work together, and make themselves productive members of society. Today young men are looking for and accept fraternal influence for personal development as well as guidance for basic values."

Orcutt was selected by a committee that included representatives from every AGR chapter, as well as national volunteer leaders of the AGR Centennial Planning team.

AGR, the national agricultural fraternity, will celebrate its 80th anniversary at UMaine in April. One of 14 UMaine fraternities, AGR boasts former U.S. Rep. Clifford G. McIntire of Perham as one of its most prominent alumni. A room in UMaine's Buchanan Alumni House is named for McIntire, who served in Congress from 1951-65. A 1930 UMaine graduate, McIntire died in 1974.

Orcutt serves as alumni treasurer on Alpha Gamma Rho's Psi Chapter Board of Directors; he previously served as AGR's North East Regional Vice President.

New Exhibit Opens Friday at UMaine Museum

17 Feb 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- "Meditations," a new exhibit featuring four Maine artists, will open on Friday, Feb. 20 in Carnegie Hall on the University of Maine campus. The works of MaJo Keleshian, Lydia Cassatt, Deborah Jellison and Larry Corbett will be featured in the exhibit, which will run through March 26.

Three of the artists have direct ties to UMaine. Keleshian teaches part-time in the art department, Jellison is a Bangor art teacher who has done graduate work with UMaine Prof. Michael Lewis, and Corbett works in UMaine's Fogler Library.

The show is set for the UMaine Dept. of Art's Carnegie Galleries. An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 20 from 5-7 p.m.

More than 100 UMaine Student Volunteers Going to Work Over Spring Break

17 Feb 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- University of Maine students have a growing reputation for volunteering their time during vacations to help others in need, and Spring Break 2004 is no exception.

In addition to nearly 40 UMaine students heading to Honduras for two weeks of volunteerism, 68 other volunteers are spending a week or more doing things like tutoring schoolchildren in Nashville, cleaning up the Appalachian Trail in Tennessee, delivering meals to AIDS patients in New York City and building homes with Habitat for Humanity in Pennsylvania.

The university's Alternative Spring Break Program (ASB), now in its seventh year and an affiliate of the national BreakAway program, is coordinating plans for 52 students and staff advisors to do social or physical work in a variety of locations out of state. ASB has grown substantially since its inception because more students these days are interested in helping others, meeting people in different places and traveling, according to Moira Reilly, a senior psychology major from Bucksport and treasurer of UMaine's Alternative Spring Break Program.

"We definitely have had a lot of interest in ASB," she says. "There is a growing interest among students in the needs of other communities."

Instead of vacationing in Florida, Cancun or Bermuda, where many college students seek refuge from busy pressure-cooker study schedules, Reilly and others just prefer a change, she says.

"For me, it's a change of pace, being part of this group," Reilly says. "It's a great way to meet people and expand your horizons. At the university, we don't usually get to see the poverty out there, so this is a chance to take the blinders off, at least for a week."

The Maine students join a contingent of more than 7,000 college students across the nation signing up for similar volunteer work during spring break this year as part of BreakAway, according to Dan McCabe, executive director of the Florida-based organization. BreakAway has 104 member colleges or universities, including UMaine. He estimates as many as 40,000 students will do volunteer work in the next few weeks, if non-affiliated programs and projects are counted.

Moira Reilly, meanwhile, will spend a week with eight other UMaine students at the Southern Appalachian Labor School in West Virginia helping to build homes for low income people and tutoring students studying for high school equivalency diplomas.

Another group is heading to the Martha O'Brien Center in Nashville to tutor students after school and help senior citizens with home projects.

Nine more students will travel to Chattanooga, Tenn., to help clean up and maintain the Cumberland Trail section of the Appalachian Trail, Reilly says. And eight students will work with Habitat for Humanity building a home in rural Washington, Pa.

Ten students are planning to spend the first week of their spring break in New York City, preparing and delivering meals to AIDS patients at the Gay Men's Health Crisis Center there, and eight women are planning to work with teen sexual abuse survivors at Crossroads Group Home in Greensboro, S.C.

In addition, 14 students and two staff advisors, members of the UMaine Interservice Christian Fellowship, are heading off Feb. 29 to spend a week in rural Coatesville and Phoenixville, Pa. to build homes with habitat for Humanity.

Staff advisor Rose Milani agrees with Reilly, and says students find that traveling and volunteering helps them grow as individuals, and gives them a rewarding sense of community involvement.

Reilly says that spring break isn't the only time students from UMaine leave campus for volunteer work in other communities. UMaine also offers ASB service weekends, through which students volunteer time to work throughout Maine. Last fall, for instance, students volunteered to help with the Common Ground Fair in Unity and on Feb 13-14,

another group painted walls at a Portland social service and community outreach center.

The work is all extracurricular, Reilly says. Travel arrangements primarily are paid for through membership dues and fundraising, including bottle drives, raffles and "coupon nights" at local restaurants, including Governors and Uno's. Student government and some travel scholarships also help pay expenses.

"We apply for everything we can possibly get our hands on," Reilly says.

The ASB Program currently is holding a silent auction through Feb. 21 at various locations on and off campus to raise money for the ASB trips. Information about tickets and participation is available by calling the ASB office at 581-1349.

Additionally, the UMaine Bookstore will continue selling commemorative holiday ornaments to help fund the Alternative Spring Break Program. Bookstore director Bill Hockensmith says all of the proceeds from ornament sales between last July and July 2004 will benefit the ASB.

Hockensmith says the ASB program and its volunteers do tremendous work helping others, demonstrating the altruism of young people and helping the University of Maine shine.

UMaine Students to Spend Spring Break

17 Feb 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Thousands of college students are flocking to Florida beaches for spring break, but nearly 30 University of Maine students heading south won't be relaxing in the sun.

Two groups of UMaine students are leaving for Honduras Feb. 27 to do social work or manual labor as part of a service learning project planned as a segment of Spanish Professor Kathleen March's MLC 496 Field Work in Modern Languages course.

Some of the students will spend two weeks laying adobe bricks to build an educational center at a demonstration farm near San Pedro Sula, to introduce rural Hondurans to more efficient sustainable farming methods. Others will visit schools, orphanages, hospitals and nursing homes in the small city of Santa Rosa de Cop

Award Nominees Sought for 2003-2004 Vincent A. Hartgen Award

19 Feb 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine Patrons of the Arts organization is seeking nominations for the 2003-2004 Vincent A. Hartgen Award, an honor bestowed annually since 1999 on individuals who have distinguished themselves in advancing the community of the arts on campus.

The deadline for letters of nomination is March 1.

The award is named for the former UMaine art professor who founded the University of Maine Art Department in 1946. Hartgen earned respect and recognition for extending the visual arts beyond the UMaine campus and into Maine schools through the traveling art exhibits, which continue today, reaching nearly 15,000 people every year. He was the first award recipient in 1999.

Longtime arts patrons and University of Maine benefactors Renee and Leonard Minsky of Bangor received the fourth Hartgen Award last year. Other recipients include UMaine Professor Dennis Cox, director of UMaine's Choral Music Program, and UMaine arts supporters Ted and Sandra Leonard.

Submissions of nominations should be addressed to Ann Leffler, dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Maine, 5774 Stevens Hall, Orono, ME 04469-5774.

Criteria on which a decision will be based includes any of the following accomplishments: the successful encouragement of greater student participation in the arts beyond normal course requirements; fostering a heightened appreciation for the arts by the university community; or creating a program or programs that are clearly innovative and substantially raise the level of arts on campus.

Hartgen's early philosophy of sharing art with schools throughout the state is synonymous with the university's continued interest in sharing the talent, research and expertise of its faculty, staff and students with all facets of Maine communities.

Lake Stewardship Program for Forest Lake

05 Mar 2004

Contact: Laura Wilson, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-870-7270, 581-2971

ORONO, Maine -- Cumberland County's Forest Lake will come under scrutiny by citizens and water quality specialists participating in the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's Watershed Stewards Program this spring. Citizens can register for the program which will begin March 31 and meet from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on seven Wednesday evenings at the West Cumberland United Methodist Church.

Working with the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection, Extension Educator Laura Wilson will focus discussions on threats to lake water quality and strategies to address them. "Through the Watershed Stewards Program, we are training Maine residents to identify pollution sources and help get them corrected," says Wilson.

The program provides 20 hours of training, and in turn volunteers give at least 20 hours of service to their watershed.

More information and registration materials are available from the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District at (207) 839-7839, or Wilson at 581-2971, 1-800-870-7270. The registration deadline is March 24th.

Down East Salmon Study Provides Experience for UMaine Undergraduate

04 Mar 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Few migrating juvenile Atlantic salmon make it out of Down East Maine's Shorey Brook these days without getting noticed. University of Maine researchers are placing tiny transmitters inside each fish and picking up the signals with antennae downstream. Before the young salmon begin their migration to the sea, researchers are also analyzing their diets and growth rates. For Chris Holbrook, a senior in zoology from Norway, Maine, the chance to participate in this research is preparing him for a career in fisheries biology and conservation.

As part of a science team in the lab of UMaine biologist Michael Kinnison, Holbrook has been helping to capture stocked Atlantic salmon and other native fishes in Shorey Brook, a tributary of the Narraguagus River. His particular specialty is collecting information about what the fish are eating to determine how successful stocked salmon are in competing for food. Funded by a grant from the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, researchers aim to understand the factors affecting salmon survival in Down East rivers.

"My goal is to find information about the diets of the salmon, which were stocked as tiny fry, and the fish that were already there. Is the food source limited? No one really knows. If it is, overstocking juvenile salmon may not be the best thing to do," Holbrook says.

After graduating from Oxford Hills High School, the young landlocked salmon and brook trout fisherman attended Northland College in Wisconsin and worked on a Chinook salmon project for the U.S. Geological Survey on the West Coast. He transferred to UMaine in the fall of 2001. With salmon research experience already under his belt, he also got a part time job with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in Orono working on Atlantic salmon. The federal government listed sea-run Atlantic salmon in eight Maine rivers as endangered in 2000.

To see what sorts of fish food are available, Holbrook sets up drift nets that collect insects living in the pool and riffle stream habitats. With Ph.D. student Michael Bailey and other researchers, he also assists an electrofishing effort in which temporarily stunned fish are captured and fitted with transmitter tags. The researchers take a small piece of fin tissue for genetic analysis, clip a scale sample for age determination, and record the weight and length of each fish.

Holbrook collects stomach contents using a harmless technique known as "gastric flushing" and stores his samples in small bottles, one for each fish. Back in the lab, by studying what salmon, brook trout, black nosed dace and other fish are eating, Holbrook is contributing to a better understanding of how successfully salmon are competing for food with other native fishes.

The prevailing hypothesis, he explains, is that there is lots of overlap in what different species eat. Moreover, young fish tend to be opportunistic eaters. For example, they do not normally eat slugs, but during one sampling run after a particularly heavy rain last fall, says Holbrook, researchers found that the fish were eating slugs that had apparently washed into the stream.

Holbrook knows that major questions about how stocked salmon fare after being placed in a river will not be fully answered before he graduates in December, 2004. Nevertheless, he intends to pursue them further in graduate school, and hopes his efforts will contribute to salmon restoration. River restoration projects, such as the one that has been proposed for the Penobscot River, will provide researchers with exciting opportunities to learn about how fish are affected by changes in the streams they inhabit.

Support for Holbrook's research has come from the NMFS; Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society; and the UMaine Dept. of Biological Sciences.

UMaine Course Based on the Works of Sherman Alexie

02 Mar 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- As a companion to a the much-anticipated University of Maine visit by Native American author, poet and screenwriter Sherman Alexie, UMaine will offer a one-credit, five-week course based on Alexie's work. The course, "Building the Fire: Novels, Short Stories, Poetry and Films of Sherman Alexie," will be taught by UMaine professors Maureen Smith and Margo Lukens. It is scheduled for Tuesdays, 4:20-6:30 p.m., March 16-April 13.

One need not be a degree-seeking UMaine student to register for the course. For registration information, call 581-

3143.

Alexie is a Spokane Coeur d'Alene who lives in Wellpinit, Washington. He is an internationally known creative force who has written seven books of poetry, several collections of short stories, and two novels. He also produced and wrote the screenplay for the film "Smoke Signals," which is based on Alexie's book "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven."

Alexie will be at UMaine on April 19 for an 8 p.m. presentation, "Without Reservations...an Urban Indian's Comic, Poetic, and Highly Irreverent Look at the World." Admission to the April 19 Maine Center for the Arts event will be open to the public free of charge.

Maine 4-H Flag and Flower Project Set;

03 Mar 2004

Contact: Lisa Phelps, UMaine Cooperative Extension at 1-800-287-1471

ORONO -- In an effort intended to provide educational and community service experiences for young people around the state, Maine 4-H plans to renew its Flag and Flower Project, which links veterans groups with youth organizations.

The program began in 2003, with the intention of connecting veterans organizations with 4-H groups and other youth organizations, such as scouting units and school groups to place flags and plant flowers at cemeteries on Memorial Day.

"The young people and the veterans will both benefit from their association through this program," says Richard Brzozowski, a UMaine Cooperative Extension professor based in Cumberland County.

"It's an important connection between the past and present, and an important contribution to the community," says Lisa Phelps, a UMaine Cooperative Extension assistant professor based in Cumberland County. "The responses from youth group leaders that participated last year indicated it was an extremely powerful learning experience for the youth."

Cooperative Extension provides the staffing for 4-H programs statewide. More than 16,000 Maine children, ages 5-18, participate in 4-H programs each year.

Members of veterans or youth groups that would like to participate in the project may register by visiting the [4-H Web page](#) or by calling 1-800-287-1471.

UMaine Grad Student Using Canadian Research Grant to Study Legal Building Blocks of North Atlantic Fishing Boundaries

03 Mar 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- By studying the early creation of international laws that divide up what once were the world's most lucrative fishing waters, off the Canadian Maritimes and New England, University of Maine Ph.D. student Brian Payne hopes to help prevent overfishing elsewhere.

Such is the basis of research Payne is doing in preparation for a doctorate in history. His proposal is considered so relevant that the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. recently awarded him a \$5,800 research fellowship grant. In

the next year, the Orono resident will spend time in Halifax, Nova Scotia and Ottawa studying the creation between 1871 and 1910 of legal boundaries and fishing rights in the North Atlantic. He hopes to complete his dissertation the following year.

Whether fish stocks on the Grand Banks off Newfoundland and Georges Bank off Maine and Massachusetts are too depleted for successful restoration is for scientists to determine, Payne says, but he believes his research is applicable to future policies in the Northeast and to fisheries elsewhere in the world, including the Pacific Northwest. The historical perspective on the original laws governing fisheries in the Northeast can help policy-makers create more successful management policies, he says.

"I think these legal debates from 1871 to 1910 were the building blocks for understanding fisheries from an international perspective," he says. That knowledge can allow further understanding of how to take a more international view of management and governance, according to Payne.

Fierce debates over questions of policy and law governing who can fish when, where and how continue today, both in government and in the fishing industry. Governments have sought to lay claim to and protect their stake in international waters and the fishing fleets dragging the ocean floor and setting gill nets seek to preserve jobs and salvage a critically threatened fishing industry.

Starting from the beginning, much of Payne's work will examine the ways in which national authorities imposed themselves on an international resource economy.

"The study will examine diplomatic and legal records to uncover how authority in the North Atlantic was negotiated between competing international factions, and between those who orchestrated law enforcement and those who had legal authority imposed upon them," is how the Canadian Embassy website describes Payne's research.

Winning the Canadian Embassy fellowship was a rigorous and competitive process. To be selected from a field of other grant applicants, Payne needed to submit to the Canadian government letters of reference, a synopsis of his research plans and a detailed, 40-page research plan and prospectus.

"They're extremely selective about granting these awards," says Scott See, chair of the UMaine History Department, and Payne's advisor. "I'm sure that one of the reasons why he was selected was because he's doing a borderlands study."

See acknowledges the many legal and social implications of Payne's work, and believes the Canadian Embassy recognizes that Payne's research will advance the legal, environmental and practical research that already has been done in the field.

Payne intends to spend five months working in the provincial archives and Saint Mary's University and the Gorsebrook Institute in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and also the National Archives in Ottawa.

During his stay in Halifax, Payne wants to work with people who work in fishing and members of the public about fishing boundaries and regulation. "I hope to be part of the debate over fisheries restoration," he says, and show through the history of international maritime law the underlying philosophy that led to today's rules.

The Canadian government traditionally awards a limited number of research grants to students and researchers outside Canada in cases where the work will largely involve and benefit Canada.

According to See, UMaine students have an excellent record when it comes to winning research grants from the Canadian Embassy.

"We've been extremely successful in getting these awards," he says. "That's certainly a sign of the quality of our students and the strength of our program."

Payne is a native of Youngstown, N.Y., near the Canadian border. He earned a bachelor's degree in history at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, N.Y., and a master's in history at the University of Maine, Orono in 2001. He currently is a

teaching assistant in the history department at UMaine.

UMaine Places Third at Regional Animal Science Competition

02 Mar 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine's entry finished third in the Feb. 27-29 competition for teams in the Northeast Student Affiliate of the National Block and Bridle Club and the American Dairy Sciences Association. UMaine served as the host for the competition, which was held at the Pineland Center in New Gloucester, Me.

The UMaine team is made up of members of the Maine Animal Club, a group of 25 undergraduate students, most of whom are animal science or pre-veterinary students. The competition involved livestock judging, a quiz bowl contest that tested general animal science knowledge, and paper presentations concerning agricultural topics.

UMaine had first place judging team with students Christian Boegel, Tanya Farrington, Seth McGee and Meredith Spiller. McGee and Boegel placed sixth and eighth in individual judging and Spiller also had third place paper presentation. Jessica M. Walker placed fourth in individual judging; Philip Ferenczy and Trudy Robinson placed eighth and ninth in paper presentations, and Martha Hart, event coordinator, was a finalist for outstanding senior. A total of ten schools and over 150 competitors participated.

Penn State finished first, followed by the University of Massachusetts.

Intensive English Immersion Course Hosts Japanese Students, Looks to Expand

27 Feb 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3751

ORONO -- An intensive English language immersion course at the University of Maine has proven so successful with visiting Japanese students that the program's director is considering expanding it to other cultures.

Through the program, which is now in its fourth year, about 20 Japanese students from Hirosaki University, UMaine's sister university in Japan, visit the Orono campus each year to study English, visit surrounding communities and also learn about culture in Maine.

Some of the students are so inspired by their visit that they return to matriculate as full time students, according to Christopher Mares, director of the university's Intensive English Institute, which operates through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

"This is a model that we think has been very successful and we're interested in developing relationships with other countries," Mares says.

Seventeen Japanese students from Hirosaki arrived at the Orono campus Feb. 21 to begin the three-week language immersion course, which includes living with university staff and faculty, and with families in surrounding communities. The students are assigned "conversational partners" to further assist their studies.

The program is considered so novel and innovative that it has been nominated by university administrators at Hirosaki

to the Japanese Ministry of Education in a competition involving Japanese National Universities. In spite of obstacles created by recently changing Immigration Naturalization Services regulations, which put pressure on Hirosaki University to shift the program to Otago University in New Zealand, Hirosaki stuck with the UMaine program, according to Mares, who also is a lecturer in English as a Second Language.

"It's been a growing program," Mares says.

In addition to learning English, the students also learn about American culture through living with host American families.

"They get a lot more in terms of language on one hand and they get a lot in terms of cultural influence, a real massive experience," Mares says. "We get a lot of mail back from Japan, saying the experience has really changed their lives in a good way."

Mares says that with the program's growth has come increased interest from faculty, staff and families in the communities who would like to host a Japanese student.

"Because they are coming to Maine, we give them information about Maine and this area," he says. The visitors will learn, for instance, about basket-making from the Penobscot Nation, New England story telling and even about native birds and owls.

"We're trying to give them a true and rich experience," Mares says, adding that sponsors will take the students for a visit to Quebec.

The program is separate from the university's International Student Exchange program, but the English language immersion course fuels the exchange program, Mares says, and also assists in achieving the university's goal of promoting increased cultural diversity and understanding on campus and in the community.

As part of the program, UMaine students may choose to study in Japan, and, in fact, two UMaine students have already studied Japanese language and culture at Hirosaki University. Hirosaki University is looking actively for UMaine students to continue that tradition, according to Mares. The program includes provisions for tuition waivers and scholarships, in some cases.

UMaine has relationships and exchanges with universities all over the world, Mares says, and administrators will explore opening the door to many of those other countries and cultures.

"I think we'd be looking at other universities in Japan and other East Asian cultures," he says. "We see it as an opportunity to expand on the international front and expand in that sense of providing an international mission and provide an opportunity for UMaine students to study in other countries."

Mares can be reached at 581-3895 for more information. The Japanese students are scheduled to return to Japan on March 12.

UMaine Professors Tell the Story of Storytelling in New Book

27 Feb 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- "Did you tell her the story about how we met?" "And to be truthful, you gotta cook with onions." "How was your day?"

Sound familiar? Such questions or declarations are all a part of storytelling, a significant -- and sometimes underappreciated -- part of daily life, according to two University of Maine communication professors who recently published a book on the subject.

Kristin M. Langellier, a professor of communication and women's studies, and Eric E. Peterson, an associate professor of communication, believe we can learn as much from informal storytelling as we can from major milestones in life like birth, marriage or death.

Family storytelling, particularly in Maine, helps define personal and family identities, according to Peterson. The book he and Langellier co-authored is titled "Storytelling in Daily Life: Performing Narrative."

It looks at four different types of storytelling or narration, and illustrates how meaningful storytelling is, not just as a part of daily life, but in fleshing out the historical framework created by dates, events and facts. Storytelling is part of a communication genre that seems to be growing in popularity, says Langellier, and can range broadly from a parent asking a child about the day at school or the swapping of fish stories around a campfire to the passing along of genealogical histories or kitchen recipes.

Since storytelling often is framed around historic events or times, it is another way to enhance the cultural understanding of events. It's also much more interesting than the mere regurgitation of facts, she says.

"It gives you a sense of the everyday, as well as the remarkable life, as it is unfolding, as well as the big events that happen to people," Langellier says.

She and Peterson, who have long shared an interest in narration and the art of storytelling, saw collaborating on a book as a way to work together and explore storytelling in a broad sense, Peterson says.

The four types of storytelling are: family stories in Maine's Franco-American communities; women's storytelling as a way to confront issues including breast cancer; the autobiographical storyteller who takes a message to a stage venue through a narrative; and Internet or web-based storytelling, as chronicled in weblogs.

Langellier adds that a person can develop a better understanding of himself or herself through the telling his or her personal story.

"I think it has new manifestations today, to 'get a life,'" she says. "If I can tell my story, I have a life. It's pertinent right now, in hearing people's stories and there are all kinds of dimensions to that."

Langellier and Peterson chose storytelling by Maine's Franco-American population because, Langellier says, there were so many stories that remain untold "and quite invisible," yet, they are a big part of Maine history and culture.

"It is a topic I think people are interested in," Langellier says. "It's the way we have put our experiences into words. Most of the work in our book is in a conversational or performance mode."

Critics who have reviewed advance copies of "Storytelling in Daily Life: Performing Narrative" praise the book as being an articulate assessment of the value and impact of stories and narratives on daily life.

"Readers are left with a clear understanding of how and why the performance of narrative is the primary communicative practice shaping our lives today," is one observation of the book offered by its publishers at Temple University Press in Philadelphia.

The book is available at the University of Maine Bookstore and on Amazon.com.

Center on Aging Offers "Spectacular" Professional Development Seminars

27 Feb 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (20) 581-3756

ORONO -- Maine's elderly population continues to grow a rate that is among the fastest in the nation, and that has increased demands on caregivers and geriatric specialists striving to keep up with ever-evolving treatment methods.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Maine had the third highest median age in 2000.

The University of Maine's Center on Aging says it is staying ahead of the curve by tailoring this year's Professional Excellence in Geriatrics Series to address the most critical issues facing people over age 65, and, as importantly, their caregivers.

Center Coordinator Leah Ruffin says the series, which takes place throughout the state in 12 sessions between March 18 and April 29, is an unusually valuable opportunity for anyone with an interest in geriatric care to learn about a multitude of new theories and treatments to improve quality of life issues and care for the aging.

"There is more customized information in this series than they would get at any other program," Ruffin says.

This third annual Professional Excellence in Geriatrics Series (PEGS) -- described by Prof. Lenard Kaye, director of the Center on Aging, as a "spectacular" learning opportunity for health care and service providers, will be held in Bangor, Belfast, Hallowell and Gorham.

"The aging field is growing and the need for training is growing," Ruffin says. "From paraprofessionals to professionals, the need is growing as our population ages. As families find themselves dealing with aging, they are looking for support so people can age where they want to age, and that is in their homes."

The program planning committee designed this year's curriculum as a continuation of earlier programs. It is a continuing education program that incorporates suggestions from last year's participants, and includes sessions on the need for more training in recognizing caregiver needs, treating geriatric mental health conditions, understanding the consequences of dementia, assessing elder abuse risk, promoting healthy aging and coordinating services for older adults.

Also, the Center on Aging has accommodated requests for continuing education programming in the past year and has addressed a variety of topics, including quality assurance, care management, diversity, and sexuality and aging.

"By including these topics in the 2004 program and by advocating an interdisciplinary approach, we aimed to meet the diverse clinical needs of those working in geriatrics in Maine," Kaye says.

Recognized leaders in geriatric medicine, psychiatry, nursing, social work, communication sciences, law, hospice, cultural diversity, nutrition, elder abuse and pharmacy are scheduled to present separate 2.5 hour sessions in their fields of expertise during the seminars. Sessions employ a variety of educational methods including lecture, group discussion, panel presentation and analysis of case studies.

Participants receive a certificate of attendance for each individual session. Applications for continuing education credits in a variety of professional disciplines that provide services to older adults and their families have been applied for, including nursing home administration, medicine, nursing, psychology, and speech pathology and audiology.

The Continuing Medical Education board has approved the program for professional credit for attendees and American Nursing Association is expected to also approve it for credit for nurses, Ruffin says.

She expects as many as 300 people will sign up. Ruffin notes that the program is not exclusively for professionals. Anyone with an interest in the elderly will find it educational, she says.

Registration information is available by calling the Center on Aging at (207) 581-3444, or at the center's UMaine

website.

Early registration -- by March 3 -- fees are \$30 per day or \$175 for all 12 sessions. Registration after March 3 is \$35 per session, \$60 per day or \$225 for the entire series. The student rate is \$15 per session, and walk-in registration is welcome. Fees, which are non-refundable, cover the costs of materials, certificate of attendance or continuing education contact hours and refreshments.

The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, March 18, UMaine Hutchinson Center, Belfast, Session 1: The Diversity of Maine's Aging Population: Cultural Sensitivity, 9-11:30 a.m. Speakers Roxie M. Black, Ph.D., O.T.R./L., F.A.O.T.A., Sandra S. Butler, Ph.D., M.S.W. and Kenneth J. Kindya, Ph.D., will take up: the components of cultural competence; race issues faced by elders; class issues; religious and spiritual issues; and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues faced by elders.

Session 2: Geriatric Care Management: Skills and Resources, 1-3:30 p.m. Mary Toppi-Beane, L.S.W., C.M.C., and Pauline T. Juneau, R.N., C.M.C., will discuss: what a professional geriatric care manager does, care-giving situations that may be of particular use to an individual or family and the components of a professional geriatric care management assessment. Speakers will identify possible community resources to help follow through on recommendations.

Monday, March 29, Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor, Session 3: Natural Alternative/Complimentary Therapies for Healthy Aging, 9-11:30 a.m. Moshe Myerowitz, D.C., C.C.Ac., C.C.N., D.Sc (Hon), is scheduled to: identify and describe five modalities within the chiropractic discipline; discuss the effectiveness and results achieved by natural alternative or complimentary therapies; and applying newly learned information to professional practice.

Session 4: Quality Management in Geriatric Health Care, 1-3:30 p.m. Elizabeth White, M.D., will discuss: three unique behaviors of seniors in accessing health care; four dimensions of quality assessment; current monitoring systems for quality in various elder-care settings; quality improvement plan using a five-step process; and how leadership style influences the success of a quality project.

Thursday, April 1, William S. Cohen Community Center, Hallowell, Session 5: Hospice and Palliative Care, 9-11:30 a.m. Laurel Coleman, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.M.D., will discuss: the need for quality end-of-life care; five important features of quality end-of-life care; new tools to provide quality care; and newly learned information to cases related to hospice and palliative care.

Session 6: The Eden Alternative, 1-3:30 p.m. Debra G. Fournier, R.N., and Dayna J. Larson, R.N., will take up: the Eden philosophy; three plagues facing elders in long-term care; antidotes to eliminate the three plagues faced by elders in long-term care; and resources to pursue Eden Alternative site registration.

Thursday, April 8, Bangor Public Library, Bangor, Session 7: Aging and Mental Illness -- Symptoms and Treatment, 9:30 a.m.-noon.* Niamh M. Holohan, M.D., will discuss: how to identify mental illness in older adults; the course of mental illness in older adults; treatment options available to older adults; and availability of resources for older adults with mental illness in local areas.

**Session 7 starts and runs 30 minutes later than other morning sessions.*

Session 8: Keeping Elderly Minds Healthy, 1-3:30 p.m. Henry H. Atkins, M.D., will discuss: current knowledge and understanding of preventing mental health issues later in life; skills used to stimulate the minds of elders; and skills to interact effectively with elders, including those with dementia.

Thursday, April 22, University of Southern Maine Campus, Gorham, (Co-sponsor: USM College of Nursing and Health Professions), Session 9: Nutrition for Older Adults: Eating Healthy on a Fixed Income, 9-11:30 a.m. Nellie G. Hedstrom, M.S., R.D., will describe the recommended eating patterns for older adults; current nutritional status and needs of older adults; information about the importance of healthy shopping and healthy eating for elders; and information elders can use on how to eat healthy when dining out.

Session 10: Renewing Energy Activity and Life: Keeping Maine's Elders Active, 1-3:30 p.m. Marilyn R. Gugliucci, Ph.D., Kevin Guidi and Heath R. Pierce, will discuss: the general benefits and limitations of elder fitness; what functional fitness is and how it is applied to working with elders or people with other limiting physical or cognitive function; research outcomes from participation in R.E.A.L. Fitness classes; hands-on use of R.E.A.L. Fitness class; and how R.E.A.L. Fitness programs can be adapted for older people in various environments of their choice (community, residential setting, adult day care, etc.).

Thursday, April 29, University of Southern Maine Campus, Gorham, (Co-sponsor: USM College of Nursing and Health Professions), Session 11: Care-giving Issues -- Caring for Caregivers; 9-11:30 a.m. Ann O'Sullivan, O.T.R./L., L.S.W., and Romaine M. Turyn, M.A., will take up: three factors influencing family caregivers' stress and their ability to participate in a care plan; five strategies to enhance family caregiver participation; two sources for ongoing caregiver support; and Maine caregiver characteristics data.

Session 12: The Hidden Problem of Elder Abuse, 1-3:30 p.m. A. Ricker Hamilton, L.M.S.W., will discuss risk factors contributing to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation; characteristics and indicators of elder abuse, neglect, and domestic violence for older persons; responsibilities of professionals to report suspected abuse and neglect; and developing community partnerships that address the needs of older victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

UMaine Researchers Measuring Economic Effects of New Border Security Regulations

15 Mar 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Tens of thousands of trucks cross the borders between the United States and Canada annually as international commerce worth more than \$1 billion a day moves everything from food, electronics and petroleum to paper and other forest products back and forth.

With 40 percent of Maine's total exports going to Canada, and 60 percent of the state's imports coming from Canada, companies engaged in international trade seek to minimize shipping delays and other factors that can affect product costs.

Newly tightened security at the borders, as a result of increasing threats of terrorism, have had a variety of effects on businesses, and two University of Maine professors want to know how much of an effect. They are conducting a survey to find out how much time and money border security regulations are costing U.S. and Canadian companies dependent upon those border crossings.

"Many people say it's a headache, and everyone says it's a real concern," says Marie-Christine Therrien, an assistant professor of management in the UMaine Business School and Canadian Studies.

To their knowledge, no one has studied the increased costs of doing business under a blanket of new regulations adopted in the interest of better national security.

Therrien and co-researcher Georges Tanguay, an assistant professor of economics and Canadian Studies, want to find out what that cost is. So does the Canadian Embassy, which in January awarded Therrien and Tanguay a competitive \$7,500 research grant -- seed money that Therrien hopes will lead to more grants later to expand their research.

The result of their work will be a report by January, 2005 outlining those effects, plus recommendations on border regulations.

Therrien and Tanguay, with help from an economics graduate student, will survey 150 companies, half in Eastern Canada and half in New England, to find out how changes in border security regulations have affected business. Their

research will provide for the first time hard data, which should be of particular interest to both business and policy-making government sectors in the United States and Canada.

The implications of increased security at border crossings are more obvious in terms of lines of cars and trucks taking longer to cross, but there also are less obvious effects that businesses now encounter.

For instance, to allow border inspectors better access to cargo trailers being hauled back and forth between the two countries, transportation companies must leave more open space in the trailers -- aisles to allow inspector movement -- and no longer can they load the trucks to the roof, Therrien says. That adds up to extra trips with reduced volume, in addition to the extra paperwork necessary to better document what's being shipped.

They'll survey a variety of 75 New England companies and 75 Eastern Canadian companies to quantify the effects of new security regulations. It is important research as policy-makers in this country seek to improve the flow of trade between the United States and Canada and still meet current security goals of both countries.

"Not many scholars have looked at the economic implications of tightened security," Therrien says. "We haven't found anything that says, yes, it usually costs X percent to the firm.

With 150 companies represented in the survey, she and Tanguay expect their findings will be a credible, useful benchmark.

Considering the lack of documented research on the subject, Therrien and Tanguay are ahead of the game in getting an early start on research that many business interests have even yet to fully appreciate.

"There's a lot of business going on between the two sides," observes Wade Merritt, director of the Bangor-based regional office of the Maine International Trade Center. "Any kind of a change is going to have an effect. I think this will be really good for them to be working on. It almost seems to be a bigger thing for the Canadian side."

Canadians, he notes, economically are more reliant upon exports to the United States, since 87 percent of Canada's exports go to the U.S. Meanwhile, only 27 percent of American exports go to Canada.

Merritt says he hasn't heard many complaints about the effects of, say, the Bioterrorism Act (which affects food and pharmaceuticals) or of border security measures hindering trade or transportation, but it's a new consideration. No one has added up the costs, so far as Merritt knows.

It's critical to understand if these policies are hindering business at a time when both the United States and Canada want to increase trade, Merritt says.

"If this turns out some interesting results, we'll push it further and apply for more money from someone else and try to push it along," Therrien says. "Maybe the results will be different in different business sectors."

The Canadian Embassy annually awards research grants for studies that are expected to benefit Canadian or Canadian-American interests.

UMaine Official Makes Case to Congress for Increased Funding for College Preparation Programs and Student Financial Aid

12 Mar 2004

Contact: Kimberly Johnston at (207) 581-1570; Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Kimberly Johnston , interim co-director of admissions at the University of Maine and president of the New

England Association for College Admission Counseling, traveled to Washington, DC, March 1-2, 2004, to urge Congress to support federal funds for student access to higher education. She was one of 110 elected and appointed leaders of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) who attended the association's annual legislative conference, designed to leverage citizen participation on behalf of programs intended to ensure equal access to college for all students.

Johnston met with Congressman Thomas Allen and staff members for Senator Susan Collins and Congressman Michael Michaud to urge the Maine delegation to support increased funding for student financial aid and college preparation programs under the Higher Education Act, which is set to be reauthorized in 2004. High on NACAC's agenda were increased funding for need-based student aid grants (like the Pell grant), increased funding for early college awareness programs (like GEAR UP and TRIO), and continued enforcement of the federal law prohibiting incentive-based compensation in college admission and recruiting, where recruiters are paid based on the number of students who enroll.

Speakers at the conference included Representatives Ric Keller of Florida's 8th Congressional District and Chris Van Hollen of Maryland's 8th Congressional District, both of whom serve on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. For more information about NACAC or its positions on the Higher Education Act, contact David Hawkins, director of public policy, 1631 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2818, (703) 299-6809.

About NACAC: NACAC is an Alexandria, VA-based education association of more than 8,000 primary and secondary school counselors, independent counselors, college admission and financial aid officers, enrollment managers, and organizations that work with students as they make the transition from high school to postsecondary education. The association is committed to maintaining high standards that foster ethical and social responsibility among those involved in the transition process, as outlined in the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice. For more information about NACAC, visit www.nacac.com.

UMaine Police Chief Participates in National Discussions

12 Mar 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- While University of Maine students were away on Spring Break last week, UMaine's police chief was representing UMaine and college law enforcement at three national programs.

"It is exciting that UMaine is being recognized as a school with the experience and results to be invited to national-level discussions about community policing and homeland security," says Noel March, UMaine's director of Public Safety. "I was pleased to be able to contribute to the discussion and also to learn about the current thinking and most effective practices in law enforcement."

March traveled to Washington, D.C. on March 1 to participate in a two-day meeting of the Police Executive Research Forum. He was one of 35 criminal justice administrators involved in a session entitled "Community Policing in a Security Conscious World." March was the only college or university public safety professional invited to participate in the forum, which also involved the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security.

Also in Washington, on March 4 and 5, March was involved in the University of Pennsylvania's Jerry Lee Center of Criminology Forum on Crime and Justice. There, he met with Legislative and Executive Branch staff to address specific topics related to criminal justice policy and practice, with the intent of exploring ways the federal government can support specialized law enforcement roles dealing with homeland security. March also represented higher education law enforcement on a panel discussing "Specialized Police: College Campuses, Indian Nations and the Private Sector."

On March 6 and 7, March was in Chicago to participate in a weekend-long demonstration disaster drill, in the form of a computer-simulated tabletop exercise, sponsored by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. The drill was based on a simulated college campus incident involving weapons of mass destruction.

March says that the subjects of homeland security and community policing need to be considered together, especially as they relate to police work at a place like UMaine.

"To preserve the atmosphere of openness that we cherish and to encourage students, faculty and staff as key players in our shared responsibility for keeping this university safe, homeland security concerns can be incorporated into our posture of protection, while still protecting the rights and interests of our community," he says.

Cleaner, Fuel-Efficient Snowmobile is Goal for UMaine Engineers

11 Mar 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Note: Student engineers will be available from 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, March 12 to discuss the competition and show their work on the snowmobile in Crosby Lab on the UMaine campus.

ORONO, Maine -- A team of University of Maine mechanical engineering students is finishing last minute adjustments to an Arctic Cat snowmobile that they will take next week to a national competition in Michigan. It's not speed that they're after, although fast is good. Their goal is a cleaner, quieter, more fuel efficient machine that will take top honors in the Society of Automotive Engineers' Clean Snowmobile Challenge.

The competition has attracted 15 teams from across North America and will take place at Michigan Technological University's Keweenaw Research Center in Houghton, March 15-20. The UMaine team will leave Sunday morning for the estimated 23-hour drive to Houghton.

Michael "Mick" Peterson, associate professor of mechanical engineering, advises the 12-member UMaine team that has been working on the project since last fall. The target of students' attention is a 2003 Arctic 660 4-stroke snowmobile purchased by the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

"The focus of this competition is on reducing noise and emissions and creating a reliable machine," says Peterson. "The team has also created computer models to maximize the chance of good performance. These models predict the noise level of the snowmobile based on measurements made in the laboratory. It's also the beginning of a large scale effort to determine optimal clutching of the continuously variable transmission for improved fuel economy."

Members of the UMaine team include: Adam Caldwell, Kittery; Michael Wallace, Hodgdon; Christian Bushnell, Old Town; Daniel Bennis, Pownal; Jason Byrd, Penobscot; Joshua Higgins, Kittery; Aaron DeJardins, St. Agatha; Shawn Rossignol, Frenchville; Steve Schaub, Belfast; Matt Allard, Kingfield; William Hotchkiss, Harborside; Mike DeMaio, Farmington, Connecticut.

"We've been building and designing based on the rules (for the competition)," says Hotchkiss. "Fuel efficiency, emissions and noise are the most important things. A lot of the teams have been working on their engines to increase speed, but that's worth only a small number of points."

The team's modeling efforts are useful preparation for working in automotive and recreational vehicle industries, adds Allard. "Modeling allows us to change things and see the effects before we actually do the work on the engine. It's the direction that industry is going in the future."

During the competition, students will be putting their snowmobile through a 100-mile endurance run for which fuel use

will be the deciding factor. Other parts of the competition include a sound test, public display and presentation before a panel of judges.

Teams registered include Clarkson University, Colorado State University, Ecole de Technologie Superieure, Idaho State University, Kettering University, McGill University, Michigan Tech, Minnesota State University-Mankato, Montana Tech, SUNY-Buffalo, the University of Alberta, the University of Idaho, the University of Maine, the University of Waterloo, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Local sponsors of the UMaine team include Applied ThermalSystems of Sanford, Z. F. Lemforder of Brewer, Cat Trax of Lagrange and Bangor Neon.

Students Rally for Fair, Positive Sports Experiences

09 Mar 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- A statewide panel charged with shaping core principles and practices to guide interscholastic sports turned to the experts today to glean information about the athletic experience in Maine's high schools and middle schools.

Approximately 300 athletes and the adults responsible for their sports programs poured onto the University of Maine campus this morning to participate in the Maine Sports Summit and have a voice in defining characteristics of healthy interscholastic sports programs. By the concluding session this afternoon the students and many of the adults had identified promising practices that the panel should encourage, as well as some existing practices to eliminate. The students represented 87 high schools and 24 middle schools in every area of the state.

Carrying signs bearing their messages, students called for: stronger communication between athletes, coaches, and parents; positive sports learning environments; quality coaching education, including the importance of teaching life skills; more fun in sports, with winning kept in perspective; and consistent and fair treatment of athletes of all abilities.

Among practices identified as detrimental to a healthy sports experience were: bad attitudes; lack of respect; parental politics; coaches favoring the best players; negative comments and inappropriate behavior by parents and fans; win at all cost attitudes; and the media's role in glorifying negative behavior at sporting events.

The Summit was sponsored by the UMaine Sport and Coaching Education Initiative, *Coaching Maine Youth to Success*, a federally funded project to develop a national model for quality sports programs that complement state academic learning standards and overall school objectives.

Today's Summit was part of a comprehensive approach to tap the perspective of students and the adults involved in school athletics about the characteristics that make -- or prevent -- positive, beneficial interscholastic sports programs. Their input will be used by the Select Panel in crafting a working philosophical base for improving interscholastic athletics and supporting effective coaching education.

Since October, the 18-member Panel has been working to identify major themes and concerns in interscholastic sports, which Summit participants further explored and articulated in a series of workshops throughout the day. Those themes include: Sportsmanship, Academics, Opportunity to Play, Quality of Coaching, Role of Parents, and Health and Fitness.

The students and adult participants also completed surveys, further tapping their views on the characteristics of quality sports experience. The Select Panel will analyze those responses at its spring meetings, then begin writing recommendations to be released early this fall.

During a news conference, Richard Durost, executive director of the Maine Principals' Association, noted some concerns of the MPA, which oversees high school athletics in Maine. Among these concerns are coaching preparation and the increase of non-teacher coaches; undue expectations and pressures from parents and communities on students and coaches; sportsmanship and civility; and peer pressure involving unhealthy practices, such as drug abuse. These issues, he said, are now sliding down into middle school and youth sports. The *Coaching Maine Youth to Success* initiative could provide a blueprint to help keep the sports experience enjoyable and in perspective, he said.

The interaction and input of student-athletes from all over the state was a tremendous experience, according to Falmouth High School senior Trevor Paul. "We're all pretty much in agreement about what's good and not so good," he said.

Four UMaine varsity coaches were also on the same page during a presentation to participating high school and middle school coaches, athletic directors and other school administrators. Scott Atherley (women's soccer), Jack Cosgrove (football), Terry Kix (field hockey), and Tim Whitehead (men's ice hockey) were unanimously against early specialization in one sport.

"Specialization in one sport is one dimensional," said Kix. "We want creativity, which comes from learning multiple sports.

"Athletes need a balanced life," said Whitehead. "Specializing too early can take away the passion of the sport."

They were also in agreement about the pressure and negative influence of some parents, even at the college level, who can't distinguish between being supportive or intrusive.

In describing the qualities of a great coach, they all emphasized the importance of the coach as teacher.

"Training coaches more like we train teachers could have a huge impact," said Atherley.

Unfortunately, said Cosgrove, "we measure the value of a coach by wins and losses, not by being a mentoring teacher and leader."

"When you consider the different roles and schools represented at the Summit, the amount of agreement and concurrence was striking," said initiative co-director Robert Cobb. "There were different perspectives, but the people directly involved in sports all seem to know what the issues are." The information gathered at the Summit represents a major step toward resolving some of those issues whether it's working with individual schools or developing model policy, he said.

"The perspective of the student-athletes is invaluable to the process of creating credible, realistic core principles and practices," said co-director J. Duke Albanese, lead policy advisor for the Great Maine School Project at the Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute in Portland and former State Education Commissioner. The process of involving students in shaping education reform has become a respected tradition and efficient model in Maine, he pointed out.

Ruth Fitzpatrick, director of the Maine Center for Sport and Coaching at UMaine, and other Summit leaders complimented the students on their difficult and important work. "You had the courage to tell your truth," Fitzpatrick told the students at the end of the day.

Keynote speaker John Jenkins of PepTalk.com, former Lewiston mayor and state senator, got the students off to an eager start on tackling the issues. "A great program, he said, recognizes everyone and is infused with respect. Your praise is in your work."

Interscholastic Sports Summit Kicks Off at UMaine

09 Mar 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- More than 300 student-athletes, coaches, principals, athletic directors and other schools officials are at the University of Maine today, adding their ideas to a growing compilation of information to guide healthy interscholastic sports programs in Maine. Participants at the Maine Sports Summit represent 85 high schools and 22 middle schools of all sizes and from every area of the state.

The Summit is sponsored by the UMaine Sport and Coaching Education Initiative, *Coaching Maine Youth to Success*, a federally funded project to develop a national model for quality sports programs that complement state academic learning standards and overall school objectives. The initiative is co-directed by Robert A. Cobb, dean of the UMaine College of Education and Human Development, and J. Duke Albanese, lead policy advisor for the Great Maine Schools Project at the Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute in Portland, and former Maine Commissioner of Education.

Today's Summit is part of a comprehensive approach to tap the perspective of students and the adults involved in school athletics about the characteristics that make -- or prevent -- positive, beneficial interscholastic sports programs. Their input will be used by a statewide Select Panel charged with shaping a working philosophical base of core principles and practices for improving interscholastic athletics and supporting effective coaching education.

"We are very happy to have the student turnout and the richness of their input," said Albanese. "It's their insight that will help the panel shape its recommendations to the people of Maine."

Since October, the Select Panel has been working to identify major themes and concerns in interscholastic sports. These themes and issues, which Summit participants will further explore and define throughout the day, include: Sportsmanship, Academics, Opportunity to Play, Quality of Coaching, Role of Parents, and Health and Fitness. During the final session of the Summit, participants will identify promising practices to create a healthier sports environment, as well as practices that are detrimental and should be eliminated.

The initiative co-directors acknowledge the commitment and hard work of the Select Panel over the past six months and the skills of facilitator Richard H. Card in coalescing around the issues and in their systematic approach to the process -- shifting through exiting data, examining new knowledge, and gaining various views -- to inform their recommendations.

"We know how important sports are to Maine schools and communities," Albanese says. "This work complements efforts of the state Department of Education and the Mitchell Institute to strengthen the high school experience for students, and we hope it will generate conversations on sports in every community."

Coaching Maine Youth to Success builds on the pioneering work of the Maine Center for Sport and Coaching in linking interscholastic sports programs to their schools' educational mission and the Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results. That program -- Sports, Schools and Learning Results -- was piloted at a dozen Maine high schools from 1996-2000 and provided one of the first program assessment models grounded in Maine's performance-based standards.

Cobb and Albanese, both former scholar-athletes, emphasize that the intent of the summit is not to point fingers at perceived negative practices. Rather, they say, it is about finding out what's working and having the courage to say that some things aren't working in the best interest of students and should change.

"What is unique to this process is that it will represent a consensus from across a broad spectrum of individuals who are convinced of the potential value sports hold for young people," says Cobb. Sports Summit

In earlier interviews with student-athletes and in related UMaine research, young people highlighted the essential role of the coach in making sports all they should be as an important and lasting teaching and learning experience. The initiative is also working to improve the quality of coaching education through the Maine Center for Sport and Coaching at UMaine and to address the growing shortage and high turnover of qualified coaches in the secondary schools. Information from the Summit will be combined with the perspective of coaches regarding the incentives and

disincentives to enter and continue coaching.

"Having the full engagement of the UMaine head coaches and Department of Athletics, through Athletics Director Patrick Nero, will add important expertise to our effort, says Cobb. "Combining their insights with other sources should garner broad-based support for the core principles and practices of sports done the right way."

The Select Panel's final product, expected this fall, will be a seminal document -- broadly disseminated -- to help guide healthy sports programs in Maine and around the country, according to Albanese, who spearheads the daily activities of the initiative. "We are confident that their work will be a national model," he says.

Former Lewiston mayor and state senator John Jenkins, national director of "Inspired 2 B Great" motivational skills training organization, opens the Summit with a keynote address. Following a noon news conference, UMaine varsity coaches Scott Atherley (women's soccer), Jack Cosgrove (football), Terry Kix (field hockey), and Tim Whitehead (men's ice hockey) will present a session and field questions on issues such as key lessons coaches should be teaching, early specialization, and professional development for Maine middle school and high school coaches.

UMaine Alumni Association Announces 2004 Alumni Award Recipients

09 Mar 2004

Contact: Bob Potts, Alumni Programs & Marketing, (207) 581-1149 / 1 (800) 934-2586

ORONO, ME ~ The University of Maine Alumni Association is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2004 Alumni Awards. They are as follows:

Alumni Career Award (*UMAA's highest honor*): Senator Olympia J. Snowe '69, Falmouth, ME

Bernard Lown '42 Humanitarian Award (*in recognition of graduates who distinguish themselves in humanitarian service*): Dr. John S. McMichael '71, Delanson, NY

Fogler Legacy Award: (*presented to families with multi-generation graduates of The University of Maine*): Chandler Cushman Harvey Family. Submitted by Elizabeth Harvey Ruff '56, Freeport, ME

Pine Tree Emblem Alumni Service Award: (*alumni service award given in recognition and appreciation of outstanding service in promoting alumni work*): William E. Bodwell '50, Brunswick, ME

Black Bear Award (*presented in appreciation of outstanding service to the University*):

- Stuart P. Haskell '56, Old Town, ME
- Jean G. Hufnagel '44 (posthumously), Belfast, ME

Public Invited to Presentation on Space Shuttle Columbia Accident Investigation

18 Mar 2004

Contact: Darrell Donahue, Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering, 207-581-2728

ORONO, Maine -- Lieutenant Colonel Larry Butkus of the U.S. Air Force Academy will give a public presentation at

the University of Maine on March 29 about the investigation into the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy. Butkus was a member of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) that examined causes of the accident.

The UMaine College of Engineering is sponsoring the presentation at 3:30 p.m. in room 100 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building.

Butkus is an officer in the Department of Engineering Mechanics at the Air Force Academy. He worked as an engineering investigator with the CAIB for four months and, after returning to the Academy, continued to participate in the investigation for another six months.

During the presentation at UMaine, Butkus will review the cause of the accident and the role of the CAIB in the subsequent investigation. He will focus attention on the technical aspects of the CAIB's efforts.

During his visit to UMaine, Butkus will also meet with faculty and students in the College of Engineering.

UMaine Student Academic Travel Award Winners Announced

17 Mar 2004

Contact: Shannon Coiley, Travel Awards Coordinator, (207) 581-1143 / (800) 934-2586

ORONO--The University of Maine Alumni Association is pleased to announce the spring 2004 recipients for the Nancy Morse Dysart '60 Academic Travel Awards. Limited financial support is available to students who wish to participate in professional conferences, organized meetings, club competitions, research and other events of an academic nature. The selection committee of alumni representatives reviews applications for professional appearance and award funds based on the persuasiveness of the applicants' essays in illustrating the potential benefits to the University of Maine and the State of Maine.

The spring semester recipients include the following individuals and groups:

Alternative Spring Break

American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)

Maine Animal Club

Orono Student Nurses Association

Tutor Program Area Coordinators

UMaine Energy Challenge Team

UMaine Solar Vehicle Team

UMaine Woodsmen Team

Suzanne Arnold

Peter P. Bosse

Rebecca Chalmers

Cecilia Clavet

Shannon Corr

Melinda Diehl

Megan Gahl

Betsy Grannis

Droozong Hon

Emily Knight

Arthur McCollum

Konstatino Nedas

Kimberlee Perez

Boyan Peshlov

Jessica Shaw

Anne Simpson

Elizabeth Stephenson

Barbara Stewart

Kari Wells

The Nancy Morse Dysart '60 Academic Travel Awards are awarded each semester. The Fall 2004 competition will be for travel during July 1, 2004 - December 31, 2004. Applications will be posted on First Class and paper copies available at Buchanan Alumni House beginning in September of 2004.

UMaine to Host Next Generation Internet Event

17 Mar 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- For a glimpse of what the future may hold for online networking, the University of Maine will host Internet2 Day on March 18 at Fogler Library. The public is welcome to the event that will include demonstrations of new Internet2 technology and access to a national conference with speakers located across the country.

"Internet2 is still in its infancy, and what it means to Maine will vary from one institution to another," says John Gregory, director of information technology at UMaine. Nevertheless, with the ability to share more information at a higher speed than most Internet connections allow, scientists and educators will find that they can collaborate on research and present online courses in new ways.

Public schools, libraries, colleges, universities and research institutions can now gain access to the new Internet system through the UMaine connection, according to Gerry Dube, director of UNET Technology Services.

Internet2 is a national consortium of universities, industry and government agencies working to develop new

networking technologies. The consortium depends on existing high speed networks with restricted access through about 150 nodes located around the country. UMaine and other New England institutions connect to the high speed system through what is known as a Giga Pop in Boston.

UMaine and the University of Maine System succeeded last month in gaining authorization for schools, libraries and research institutions in Maine to hook up to the Internet2 system through UMaine. Already connected to the network are schools and libraries in the Maine Schools and Library Network, The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor and the Mt. Desert Island Biological Laboratory in Hulls Cove.

Connection costs for schools and other organizations will vary depending on how they currently connect to the UMaine network. In many cases, new fiber optic lines may need to be installed, and access fees are yet to be determined.

Internet2 Day activities at UMaine will take place between 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the Collaborative Media Center in Fogler Library. UMaine's technology purchasing unit, The Computer Connection, will demonstrate new information technologies for classroom and research use. A national program of presentations and music will be provided via a videoconference facility in the media center.

Hudson Museum Basketmakers Exhibit is Window to Maine Native Culture

17 Mar 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Jennifer Neptune has been weaving Maine Indian baskets for nearly 12 years and began learning Maine's oldest indigenous art form from mentor Theresa Secord.

Neptune, a member of the Penobscot Nation, is now teaching her stepson the craft.

Neptune, 34, is the the manager of the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance office and Wabanaki Arts Center gallery in Old Town; Secord is the director of the alliance. Through the exhibit at the University of Maine's Hudson Museum which displays their craft, the historical tradition of passing the craft down from generation to generation is highlighted. The exhibit opened Feb. 24 and ends July 20.

The special exhibit -- "Basketmakers of the Dawn: Carrying on the Tradition" -- showcases different baskets, the ways they are made, the people who make them and the "perpetuation and evolution of the tradition," according to Hudson Museum Director Gretchen Faulkner.

"The exhibit focuses on four families who are passing basketmaking along," Faulkner says. "This is a tradition for Maine Indian people that has evolved over time. We're looking at that evolution."

Featured in the exhibit are the Shay family of the Penobscots, Sylvia Gabriel and the Frey family of Passamaquoddies, the Sanipass family, which includes three generations of Micmac basketmakers, and the Neptune family of Passamaquoddy artists.

It also includes historic basketmaking tools, such as molds and gauges, and samples of the brown ash that are pounded until the layers separate into thin strips, or splints, used to weave baskets.

Hands-on activities allowing students to learn basic weaving techniques and other interactive components of the exhibit focus on the different decorative treatments used to make the baskets on display. Documentary videos, such as the "Gabriel Family of Basketmakers," "Our Lives in Our Hands" and "Penobscot Basket Maker" are available for gallery use.

The exhibit represents a window into Maine's tribal culture, according to Neptune and Faulkner.

Maine Indian basketmaking was the chief source of the tribes' income from the 18th Century through the early 20th Century, Neptune says. They crafted basic utilitarian baskets for personal use and fancier, colorful baskets for gifts and a reliable tourist trade along the Maine coast.

"Indians traveled extensively to sell their baskets," Neptune says, "to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, all over. They took trains and boats to sell their baskets in the late 1700s and throughout the 1800s."

It was an important form of economic survival for the tribes, she says. "They would make baskets all winter and went to the coast in the summer to make their money. That's when the fancy baskets just took off, the colors, the fancy, fancy weaves."

The basket market, however, sagged during the Great Depression and World War II, and many Native American basketmakers took jobs in mills and factories for more dependable wages, Neptune says. "People just had to find other jobs."

The coalescing in 1993 of basketmakers from Maine's four principle tribes originally united under the Wabanaki Confederacy (Penobscots, Passamaquoddy, Micmac and Maliseet), with the formation of the non-profit Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance in 1993, stimulated a renaissance.

Young people began basket-weaving, and today the now-celebrated craft continues in schools, museums and at special events like the Native American Festival at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, the Common Ground Fair in Unity, the National Folk Festival in Bangor and the Maine Indian Basketmakers Sales and Demonstration at UMaine's Hudson Museum in Orono each December.

The Maine Arts Commission and the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance has awarded 85 Maine Indian basketry apprenticeships since 1990 to support the perpetuation of basketmaking.

Faulkner and Neptune say people come from all over the country to visit the shows and fairs and to buy hand-made baskets for their own collections, for home use or for hunting and fishing.

The basket collections now on display at the Hudson Museum include pack baskets, laundry baskets, potato baskets, knitting baskets and what have become antiquated baskets designed for storing handkerchiefs, detachable men's shirt collars and tatting baskets and sandwich trays, according to Faulkner.

Some are made with a supple but sturdy splint, says Neptune, and some finer works are shaved paper thin to create curly decorative treatments.

The university has supported the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance since its inception and has on campus the Wabanaki Center, which provides academic and career counseling for Native American students. UMaine also has the largest population of Native American students pursuing higher education and has the largest number of Native American alumni in Maine.

The exhibit also is part of the State of Fiber 2004 a year-long state-wide celebration that includes fiber arts exhibitions and educational programs and special events.

The Hudson Museum is open Tuesday through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. The museum can be reached by telephone at (207) 581-1901. Its website is at www.maine.edu/hudsonmuseum. Information about the craft also is available at www.umaine.edu/hudsonmuseum/tree. Related digital images are available upon request.

UMaine Museum Offers Maple Syrup Field Trips

17 Mar 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO --The University of Maine Page Farm and Home Museum will sponsor several events to help celebrate spring, plus provide an enjoyable, entertaining and educational look at an age-old tradition in Maine -- making rich, sweet maple syrup.

With Maine being one of the biggest producers of pure maple syrup in the world, Page Farm and Home Museum Director Patricia Henner says the museum events and two field trips to authentic Maine sugaring operations March 25 and 28 are great ways to learn about the process of making maple syrup.

"Sugaring," as the process is called, is one of New England's oldest agricultural enterprises and is traditionally the first harvest of the year following winter, Henner says. Hence, the maple syrup season is one of the first cheerful harbingers of warm spring weather.

Sugaring also was first practiced by Native Americans, and learned by colonists and settlers in New England, who referred to maple syrup as Indian sugar or Indian molasses, according to Henner.

On March 25, at 9 a.m., a UMaine van will load up at the Page Farm museum on the Orono campus and head off for Bob's Sugarhouse, a 50-year-old family-run operation in Dover-Foxcroft -- a scenic trip of about 40 miles. A \$12 per person fee includes transportation and all tour fees. The tour will also include a visit to Sebec.

On March 28 -- officially Maine Maple Sunday -- the Page Farm and museum is hosting an afternoon of fun and games for children and a field trip to the University of Maine's sugaring operation closer to home. The program has a shared mission: a celebration of Maine maple sugaring and historic preservation.

Henner says the non-profit Page Farm and Home Museum celebrates and teaches about sugaring as a historic agricultural activity. The Northeast is the only place in the world where maple syrup and other maple-sugar products are produced commercially, she says.

The trip to Bob's Sugarhouse includes a close look at a real commercial sugaring operation, from the collection of sap from sugar maple trees and rendered through a series of boiling troughs to the finished product. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of amber syrup, which is used to make dozens of maple-flavored products and sweets popular throughout the world.

"Bob will take our group out to the sugar bush to show us the beginning of the process, and our tour will end in the sugarhouse with a sample of their delicious syrup fresh from the evaporator," says Henner.

Bob's is a family-run sugaring business that provides Mainers with a wonderful collection of Maine Maple Syrup and maple products as well as recipes, equipment and related events, Henner says.

The sugarhouse features all grades of pure Maine maple syrup in a wide variety of containers. Bob and his wife Barb Moore specialize in a large assortment of maple products, including creamy maple butter, old-fashioned maple sugar candy, maple granulated sugar, rich maple cream, as well as tasty maple popcorn and rich maple walnut chocolates.

"We'll lunch at Sebec Village Cafe, which boasts 'the best cup of coffee by a dam site,' " Henner says. "They have daily specials and wonderful desserts. Their standard menu includes sandwiches, soups, salads and much more."

Lunch is scheduled for Sebec Village Cafe, with prices, ranging from \$6 to \$8.

After lunch, the group will take a tour of the Sebec Historical Society Museum in a charming one-room schoolhouse not

far from the old dam.

The day ends with a guided tour of the Blacksmith Shop Museum, housed in an 1863 blacksmith shop and one of only three original blacksmith shops left in the state. When in operation, it was used to shoe horses, repair farm machinery and make wagon wheels for the farms in the area.

The tour will return to the Page Farm and Home Museum about 4 p.m. Since the tour involves some limited hiking during New England's traditional mud season, Henner advises people to dress appropriately. Because space is limited pre-registration by March 23 is required. Additional information can be obtained and reservations made by calling the farm and museum at (207) 581-4100.

A video, The Maple Sugaring Story, starting at 1 p.m. on March 28 at the museum on the Orono campus kicks off a slate of activities specifically geared for children.

After the film on sugaring, three groups of children, grouped by grade levels K-6, will play games and hear stories as part of a learning exercise. Henner says the program also will explore some of the Indian legends about maple syrup.

"At 2:30 p.m. we will drive out to the University of Maine maple sugaring operation on College Avenue Extension," Henner says, where participants will take a guided walking tour of the university's sugar bush -- or maple tree stands, where the maple sugaring story begins -- and then tour the sugarhouse and enjoy a sample of fresh maple syrup straight from the evaporator and poured warm over vanilla ice cream.

To cover the costs of materials, the Page Farm, a non-profit educational museum featuring a broad range of household items and farm implements from a bygone era, is asking for a \$3 per child reimbursement. Registration information is available by calling the museum at 581-4100. Information about the Page Farm and Home Museum exhibits and purpose can be found on the [website](#).

The museum, one of its kind in the area, reflects the many varied aspects of farming and farm life from 1865 to 1940. Equipment and vehicles having to do with everything from clearing land to harvesting and storing crops are displayed.

Some of the many exhibits include poultry, dairy, 4-H and ice harvesting, in addition to a blacksmith shop, an exhibit by the Orono Historical Society and a novel gift shop located in an old general store setting.

A one-room schoolhouse moved from Holden, Maine, and the Heritage Gardens also are a part of the site.

UMaine Receives Patent for Stronger Building Panel

16 Mar 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The home of the future may stand up better to earthquakes, hurricanes and other stresses as a result of a newly patented invention at the University of Maine. Engineers in the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center (AEWCC) have developed a reinforced building panel that substantially increases the structural strength of a typical house.

On March 2, the U.S. Patent Office granted patent 6,699,575 to Habib Dagher and William Davids, AEWCC director and assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering respectively. The patent is assigned to the University of Maine System, meaning that UMaine has the right to license the technology for commercial development.

The panel increases the sheer strength and ductility of wall, roof and floor systems, says Dagher.

"The panel itself is expected to be useful in southeastern and western regions of the country at risk for high wind and seismic events, where more stringent construction measures apply," adds Davids. "Other potential uses that could impact the construction industry are currently being investigated at the AEWCC Center, including applications in modular panelized construction and specially engineered narrow walls."

Research by AEWCC graduate students Aaron Bremer and Eric Cassidy evaluated potential applications and optimum design of the patented technology. Keith Martin, a master's degree student at AEWCC, is continuing to explore new potential uses.

At the heart of the technology is the addition of tough fiber reinforced polymer material to the perimeter and other nailing surfaces of building panels including oriented strand board and plywood. When storms and earthquakes cause homes and other structures to collapse, structural failure can often be traced to weaknesses where panels are nailed to framing members such as wall studs or roof rafters. Reinforcing those areas will reduce the likelihood that panel edges can be splintered or pulled away from the framing.

In typical house construction with nails and 2x4 framing, the reinforced panel improves wall strength up to 20 percent, says Davids. "In an engineered wall we can achieve 100% or better," he adds.

The patent also notes that by reducing the potential for structural damage, disaster resistant panels can reduce expenses related to insurance and reconstruction. In 2003, windstorms in the South and Midwest cost insurers about \$5 billion, according to Insurance Journal. The most expensive U.S. natural disaster for the insurance industry, the 1994 Northridge earthquake in California, was estimated to have cost about \$44 billion, according to the National Academy of Sciences.

The patent is the sixth approved on the basis of AEWCC research since the 33,000-square foot center opened in 2000.

Wild Blueberry Supplements and Brain Function

16 Mar 2004

Contact: Dr. Mary Ellen Camire, Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition, 207-581-1733
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine scientists are seeking about 50 volunteers for a study of the effect of consuming wild blueberries on memory and other cognitive skills. Researchers Mary Ellen Camire, professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, and Michael Robbins, associate research professor of psychology, are testing healthy adults to determine whether wild blueberry supplements can improve brain function.

Animal research at Tufts University has demonstrated the benefits of wild blueberries on brain function in rats. Collaborating on the UMaine project are Eastern Maine Medical Center; Indian Meadows Herbals, a dietary supplement manufacturer in Eastbrook, Maine; and the British software firm Cognition Drug Research. The Maine Technology Institute funded the study.

The researchers are seeking healthy persons between the ages of 25 and 50 who will be available to participate in the 17-week long study that involves six visits to campus for training and testing. Volunteers who complete the entire study will be paid \$50.

During the visits to the Orono campus, volunteers will take a variety of tests to measure whether consuming capsules of blueberry powder can affect brain function. Volunteers who are currently taking dietary supplements may continue to do so as long as no major changes are made in dietary supplement or food consumption habits during the study.

More information is available from Camire at 581-1733 or Mary.Camire@umit.maine.edu.

UMaine Center on Aging Co-Sponsor of Public Forum on Grandparents, Guardianship, Finances

15 Mar 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207)581-3756

ORONO -- Grandparents who provide homes for grandchildren who are at risk in their parents' homes face a patchwork of confounding financial issues if they accept those children before state human services agencies intervene.

And if children are removed from homes by the Maine Department of Human Services, grandparents may be denied guardianship entirely.

"What do we want the state to be doing in these situations?" asks Barbara Kates of Families & Children Together, Family Connections in Bangor. "We don't want the state to get involved unless it's necessary -- but then the relatives can't get the resources to help care for the children. We want the relatives to get the resources without the state's involvement."

Kates' organization and the University of Maine's Center on Aging in Orono hope to help reverse that inequity for grandparents. In conjunction with about a dozen agencies or organizations involved with children, senior citizens or foster care programs, they are cosponsoring a public forum March 26 in Augusta. Its theme and title is "The Grandkids Come to Stay: How Maine Supports Families."

The public forum, being held at the University of Maine at Augusta's Jewett Hall, is free and runs from 8:30 to 11 a.m. From 11 a.m. to noon, the program offers a "resource fair," to provide resources information for families in a more casual setting.

Members of the public and others involved with the foster care system -- advocates, service providers, social workers, policy-makers and relative parents -- are encouraged to attend to both find out about available social resources and to express their recommendations on how the system might be improved.

"The ultimate goal is to write a policy paper that will lead to revisions within the system," says Sandra Butler, an associate professor of social work at the University of Maine and a co-organizer of the forum. "We're hoping the discussion that comes out of this forum will help us in this regard."

A panel of five grandmothers will start the discussions at 9 a.m., telling poignant stories about their personal experiences with the system. The forum is part of the ongoing "Relatives as Parents Project," a statewide initiative to improve the circumstances for relatives caring for children throughout the state.

The forum comes at a time when the Maine Department of Human Services wants to reduce the number of children sent into foster homes, and keep children with relatives if possible. The state places a higher premium on kinship now than previously, according to Butler.

"When the children are at risk with the parent, most families resolve that issue before the Department of Human Services takes custody," Kates adds. "They work things out themselves. It's usually a pretty tragic situation when parents are no longer able to care for their children."

But when children are taken care of by relatives instead of being placed in state care, they do not qualify for the financial aid offered to foster parents.

The forum is about getting better access to financial resources and not about human services placement decisions, Kates says, adding that the distinction is important.

She says grandparents face "an incredibly complex" patchwork of state and federal rules and regulations governing the

availability of financial resources.

Guardians seeking financial help face shifting eligibility issues that change with such factors as income or mental or physical illness, for instance. If a child has a condition that makes him or her eligible for assistance from one program, it can make them ineligible for another, says Kates.

Butler says one of the first improvements she would like to see come from the forum is the modification of rules covering subsidies and resources to make it easier for grandparents to access financial aid. That could be done through a waiver program like those in other states, she says.

U.S. Rep. Michael Michaud is scheduled to attend the sessions, as are representatives for Congressman Tom Allen and U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins.

The keynote speaker for the program is Mary Bissell, a Senior Fellow with the New America Foundation and a former senior staff attorney with the Children's Defense Fund, Child Welfare and Mental Health Division.

"Mary Bissell is a wonderful speaker and quite a national expert in this area," Butler says.

Discussions also will address the need for federal funding and the Maine Kinship Caregiver Needs Assessment program.

Butler and Kates hope an open audience discussion period during the forum will lead to some solid recommendations that can be passed along to legislative and congressional representatives, in addition to state agency policy-makers.

The forum and resource fair "are open to everybody," Butler says. "The resource fair is an opportunity for people to mingle and chat."

In addition to the UMaine Center on Aging in Orono and the Families & Children Together, Family Connections, an advocacy group for parents and children, the forum is being cosponsored by and will provide information about the following agencies and organizations: the Department of Human Services' Bureau of Health, Bureau of Child and Family Services and Bureau of Elder and Adult Services; Maine Children's Alliance; Eastern Area Agency on Aging; Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine; Maine Equal Justice Partners; Maine Association of Independent Neighborhoods; National Association of Social Workers -- Maine Chapter; Community Health & Counseling Services -- Children's and Crisis Services; Pine Tree Legal Assistance; Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence; Community Counseling Center; and the PenQuis Community Action Program.

More information is available by calling the Center on Aging at (207) 581-2382 or Barbara Kates at (207) 941-2347. The UMaine Center on Aging website, www.umaine.edu/mainecenteronaging, also has details in the UMCoA scrolling news box.

UMaine Study Seeks to Track and Treat Shyness in Children

26 Mar 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- University of Maine doctoral candidate Bethany Sallinen is looking for children to volunteer for a research project. She also is looking for a group of children who are not shy.

Sallinen wants to compare about 70 shy and non-shy children, ages eight to 12 years old, to see how they differ in their symptoms of anxiety, social interactions and interactions with parents.

The research for her dissertation will break new ground in identifying how to help extremely shy children by teaching

parents new ways to interact with their children, she says. It also will make available free treatment therapy for children diagnosed as suffering from severe shyness, or social anxiety.

"It seems to be that children who are extremely shy or 'socially anxious' have difficulty in school going to the board, speaking in class, participating in gym class, and making friends," Sallinen says. "Those children are at risk to develop more serious consequences of social anxiety."

Most people remember being shy at some point in their lives. Shyness is a tendency to withdraw from unfamiliar people. Social anxiety, on the other hand, usually presents itself as a much more uncomfortable feeling during, or even thinking about, social situations. Some people grow to be shy or socially anxious adults and accommodate their fear simply by steering clear of situations that put them in front of groups.

But chronically shy people with extreme anxiety can develop a condition called social phobia that not only makes life miserable, out of fear of social or performance situations, but it can cripple a person's self-esteem and self-confidence, according to Sallinen. That can negatively influence life-altering education or career decisions, and it can prevent children from reaching important developmental milestones as they age, she says.

Sallinen, under the guidance of Marie Hayes, associate professor of psychology, hopes to do the research that will enable parents and counselors to identify and treat chronic shyness in a child's formative years.

Parents, she says, can be the best helpers in the process, since they probably notice their shy children avoid social situations, birthday parties or even have difficulty going to school in the morning.

"It's the shyness that interferes with their everyday functioning," Sallinen says. "They're less likely to achieve if they are untreated. Some of these children fail to complete their education. Some of them don't finish high school and don't go to college."

They look for jobs, she says, where they can avoid speaking or expressing themselves. Over time, a lack of achievement and self-confidence can lead to depression because of loneliness and low self-esteem, she says.

Early recognition and counseling -- which Sallinen and the psychology department at the University of Maine are offering free for children who participate in the study -- can turn a child's life around, she says.

Shyness is an underreported affliction, according to Sallinen, since shy children usually are not the ones acting out at school. About five percent of children suffer from social phobia, which could and should be treated, according to Sallinen. She says that studies also have shown that as many as 15 percent of adolescents suffer from social anxiety.

"I think extremely socially anxious people are unhappy," she says. "They usually want to do the things that make them afraid. They want to be happy, but the social anxiety is keeping them from doing that."

Some people, regardless of age, who suffer from severe social anxiety also spend too much time worrying about potential social situations, real or imagined. That can trigger uncomfortable physical symptoms -- blushing, butterflies, stomach aches, heart palpitations, sweating or dizziness -- according to Sallinen. Children often tell their parents about physical symptoms, but not the source of what's troubling them.

The testing Sallinen proposes to do with 35 shy children and 35 children who are not shy involves less than two hours of time, during a one-time video-taped interview. She and Hayes or Sallinen and another graduate student will come to a child's home, or the child can come to the university's Child Studies Laboratory on the Orono campus for some questions and answers, snacks, games and little treats.

The few children she has interviewed so far "have had a good experience," she says. "They come in with their parents, play some games and have fun. We also ask them some questions about their anxiety. It's not something that's too stressful for children or their parents."

Sallinen notes that because of the difficulty in finding shy children willing to participate in the study, and an even bigger

challenge in finding non-shy children to participate in the study, she is willing to travel anywhere in the state.

The incentive for participating, she said, is chiefly having a role in helping with valuable research that can lead to less shyness and fewer children's lives being compromised by a treatable anxiety problem.

Secondary benefits, though, include a small financial stipend for parents who bring their children in, a small gift for the child and for children who qualify for therapy, free treatment under the supervision of a licensed, clinical psychologist at the university.

The interviews can be any time that's convenient for the child or parent, Sallinen says.

Sallinen, who holds a bachelor of science degree in neuroscience from Bates College and has been doing post-graduate work in psychology and internships through UMaine for nearly five years, can be contacted at (207) 581-2071 or by email at bethany.sallinen@umit.maine.edu.

Her plans after completing her research and doctorate include becoming a licensed clinical psychologist, with a focus on children and adolescents.

Student Performances Highlight April 6 Chamber Concert

26 Mar 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The UMaine School of Performing Arts' April 6 chamber music concert at Minsky Recital Hall in the Class of 1944 Building on the Orono campus promises a wide array of chamber music, ranging from jazz to the more serious music of Handel, and even a somber selection from Donald McCullough's Holocaust Cantata.

Most of the performers are music majors who intend to pursue music teaching jobs after graduation, according to UMaine music instructor and pianist Ginger Yang Hwalek. Hwalek, assisted by UMaine music instructor and cellist Noreen Silver, organized the program and coordinated the student ensembles.

Students have been rehearsing since January for the concert, which constitutes a public final exam, according to Hwalek.

Eleven groups performing as duos, trios, quartets or other small ensembles -- more than 50 people altogether -- will perform a chamber concert program that brings to the audience music not commonly heard.

"After any chamber concert I've put together I get people who comment to me that it was fun to hear music they've never heard before," she says.

Most of the performing groups have fewer than eight players, and for some of the student performers who have played in larger groups like bands or orchestras, this is a new experience. Now, says, Hwalek, they will be responsible for one instrument in many cases. In others, like the clarinet choir or brass choir, they will blend as a common voice.

The Black Bear Men's Chorus will open the concert. Other ensembles include a baroque string quartet, an organ and soprano duo, a string quartet and baritone group, a clarinet, piano and cello trio, a tenor, cello and piano trio, a woodwind quartet, an organ with two flutes, a jazz combo and the brass and clarinets choirs.

In addition to Handel, the program includes works by Brahms, Gabrieli, Samuel Barber, Tchaikovsky, among others.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$6.

Acid Rain Study Confirms Soil Nutrient Depletion

26 Mar 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Researchers studying the environmental consequences of acid rain have reached an important milestone, adding evidence for a theory that has been the focus of much scientific debate. Publishing in the December, 2003 issue of the Soil Science Society of America Journal, a team at the University of Maine reported that a modest addition of acid in a paired watershed experiment resulted in a decrease of crucial nutrients in forest soils.

For more than 30 years, scientists in Europe and North America have recognized that acid rain could spur the loss of nutrients that are important for growing trees. Nutrients moving out of the soil into lakes and streams could also affect water quality. Nevertheless, observations that such losses have occurred have often been dismissed as extreme cases or as a result of natural changes in forested landscapes.

At the Bear Brook Watershed in Hancock County, Maine, a research team led by University of Maine scientists has now documented that under carefully controlled conditions, treating a watershed with additional acids accelerates the loss of two critical nutrients, calcium and magnesium.

"No one else has shown this at an ecosystem scale in this region," says Ivan Fernandez, UMaine professor of soil science and lead author of the paper. "It shows that we can experimentally induce (nutrient) depletion in a Maine forest with modest treatment."

Co-authors were Lindsey Rustad of the USDA Forest Service; Stephen A. Norton and Steve Kahl, both of UMaine; and Bernard J. Cosby of the University of Virginia.

The Bear Brook Watershed Manipulation project began in the mid-1980s on land now owned by International Paper with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Located on Lead Mountain in Down East Maine, the site includes two side-by-side forested watersheds. Scientists constructed concrete weirs on each stream at the base of each watershed in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey. They installed continuous monitoring equipment to track changes in hydrology and water quality. In 1989, they began a bi-monthly routine of spreading ammonium sulfate, a commercial fertilizer, on the West Bear watershed to mimic high levels of acid rain. Subsequent studies have focused on changes to soil, water and vegetation on both the treated and untreated reference watersheds.

What the Bear Brook research does not yet conclusively show, Fernandez adds, is whether the loss of soil nutrients is being balanced by gains from other processes in the untreated watershed. "It seems clear that the treatments have exceeded the natural supplies of nutrients in the treated watershed," says Fernandez. "Because there are no historical data on soils for comparisons, conclusions about the untreated watershed will require more time." Understanding the full nutrient picture in the untreated East Bear watershed would provide information that is representative of actual conditions in Maine and the Northeast.

"We can infer what is occurring from stream chemistry, and indeed, there appears to be a slow loss of base cations (nutrients) that may or may not be balanced by soil weathering processes," adds Fernandez. "Our treatment watershed suggests that whether it is happening or not across the Maine landscape, it will definitely happen with a little push."

An ongoing synthesis of data from acid rain research sites in North America and Europe includes the Maine research group and the Bear Brook site. Almost none of the watersheds show evidence of increasing nutrient concentrations in soils and surface waters, but many show evidence of a decreasing trend, says Fernandez. Results from the synthesis are still being developed.

The loss of nutrients due to acid rain is likely a regional phenomenon, although consequences for New England's

forests, lakes and streams vary across the landscape. These effects may become increasingly important to forest health if predicted climate warming occurs, Fernandez adds. Acidic inputs of nitrogen and sulfur are likely to interact with temperature and moisture changes in forested ecosystems.

School Students, University Musicians to Share Stage for Three Bands Concert

25 Mar 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Three bands, 150 musicians and four conductors will take the stage March 30 at the Maine Center for the Arts in Orono for an annual event that draws public school musicians together in an upbeat performance with the University of Maine Concert Band.

The Three Bands Concert, hosted again by the University of Maine, is an annual fundraising event for Acadia Hospital and an opportunity this year for young musicians from Orono High School and the Reeds Brook Middle School in Hampden to share the stage with university Concert Band members.

This year's concert, the eighth annual, features internationally known band conductor, prolific composer and clinician Robert Sheldon of Indiana.

Sheldon will work with the Orono and Hampden students at their respective schools and university musicians prior to the concert. He'll conduct the UMaine Concert Band as it performs Sheldon's composition, "Moravian Folk Rhapsody."

The concert format calls for each of the three bands to play short individual concerts, with each 20-minute performance to include one of Sheldon's other compositions, in addition to traditional band music.

All three bands will assemble on stage for a grand finale, performing a march, "Trumpets and Drums" by James Barnes, according to Christopher White, UMaine's director of sports bands.

The annual Three Bands Concert, which begins at 7:30 p.m., "is one of our biggest events," White says.

"Our students look forward to it," he says. "It's good for college students to sit with the middle and high school students. And the middle school students get to sit with college students. It lets them know that playing in the UMaine band is a fun experience."

The combined concert is an illustration of the University of Maine sharing resources and helping to enrich the cultural experiences of members of surrounding communities.

Sponsors for the concert and Sheldon's visits to the schools include a variety of local businesses, a grant from UMaine Cultural Affairs, individual school fees and ticket sales. Concert tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for students with student identification cards and for people under age 17 and over 62.

Acadia Hospital calls the concert "an evening of fine family entertainment." The Bangor-based non-profit psychiatric and chemical dependency facility will apply money raised through the concert to promote its youth programs.

Last year, nearly 700 people attended, according to Alan Comeau, director of community relations and development at Acadia. "It's an extremely well-attended show," he says.

White says the area is fortunate to have someone of Sheldon's caliber sharing his musical expertise with young musicians.

Sheldon is one of the most performed composers of wind band music today, according to the FJH Company, a national

band music publication company in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Sheldon has received many awards from the American School Band Director's Association, Phi Beta Mu and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

"His compositions embody a level of expression that resonates with ensembles and audiences alike," the FJH website says. "His music is performed around the world and appears on many international concert and contest lists. Mr. Sheldon regularly accepts commissions for new works, and produces numerous publications for concert band each year."

Sheldon is the conductor of the Prairie Wind Ensemble at Illinois Central College, but he maintains a rigorous year-round schedule serving as guest conductor for all-state and regional honor bands, and as a music education clinician at colleges and universities throughout the country and in Japan, Canada and The Republic of China. Sheldon also is concert band editor for the Alfred Publishing Company in Illinois.

White says performances of the three levels of musical performance groups will be a chance for youngsters in the audience, and adults, to see and hear the performance progressions of students of different ages and different skill levels.

He also hopes young people in the audience will like the music and decide to take up music lessons.

Aside from being entertaining and enjoyable, White says, music "is a way of expressing ourselves creatively. It also is a discipline. It teaches us how to develop skills, and that translates into other skills.

"Studies show students who participate in music tend to do better in other things," he adds. "But, it's nice to appreciate music. It's nice to participate and it's nice to make music come alive off the page."

Without musicians, music would not be possible to hear, he says.

The UMaine concert band is composed of woodwinds, brass and percussion instruments. About 65 students from various academic fields are members. The Orono and Hampden bands have 50-70 members each, according to White.

The concert program includes a range of music from sprightly traditional marches and folks songs to more reflective, contemplative music.

"The styles of each of the pieces are very wide-ranging," White says.

Tickets can be purchased online through the Acadia Hospital website -- www.acadahospital.org -- at the door or by calling Eastern Maine Charities at (207) 973-5055.

Major event sponsors include: WVII-TV 7, Affiliated Healthcare Systems, Bangor Daily News, WZON/WKIT/WDME, Bangor Savings Bank, Georgia-Pacific, Oakhurst Dairy, Town & Country Realtors.

Other sponsors include: The Advertising Specialists, Bangor Letter Shop & Color Copy Center, Best Western Black Bear Inn, Best Western White House Inn, Brewer Automotive Components, Canteen Service Company, Creative Print Services, Curtis & Miller Law Office, Foster Imaging, Guinness & Porcelli's, H.E. Sargent, Inc., Sargent & Sargent, Inc., Snowman Printing and Tapley Pools.

Women's History Celebration Continues at UMaine

25 Mar 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756 ORONO -- Women as patriots, women of the civil rights movement, women as authors, artists, musicians, film producers, revolutionaries, women as survivors.

The University of Maine's celebration of women's history continues this week with a series of lectures, films and

presentations around the Orono campus and with a special women's art exhibit at the Bodwell Lounge area at the Maine Center for the Arts.

Titled "Women Freedom Fighters: The True Patriots," the University of Maine Women's History Celebration 2004 is sponsored by the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program. All events are public and free, unless otherwise noted.

"The theme is particularly relevant in times of rising militarism," according to Mazie Hough, associate director Women in the Curriculum, "when women's roles are often obscured. We think throughout history, throughout the world, women have spoken very articulately about how human rights need to be preserved."

In choosing the presenters and presentations, organizers looked for a wide variety of ways to explore and express that concept.

The program -- drawing from the expertise of many Maine scholars and writers, and of other national authorities -- is an opportunity for the university to use its resources to help assemble, identify and articulate the contributions women have made and continue to make.

Women have expressed their values and ideas through a variety of media, not merely words, Hough says, which is why the month-long celebration includes film, artwork, books and music, in addition to scholarly analysis of women's issues.

"This covers a variety of ways in which women can speak out," she says.

Hough is pleased that this year's program includes so many Maine authors.

"We love to draw from the expertise from within our own campus, particularly among the women's studies faculty," she says.

The program began March 15 and coincided with the opening of a special exhibit, "Activism Through Art: Feminist Posters Past and Present," at Bodwell Lounge. The posters will be up until May 1, according to curator Gretchen Faulkner, director of the UMaine Hudson Museum.

Films included in the program are, on March 25, "Fidel: The Untold Story," a Cuban film directed by Estela Bravo, who examines Fidel Castro's life through historic events and interviews with people including Angela Davis and Alice Walker. Another, on March 29, is "Ma Vie En Rose," a movie about a young French boy who thinks he was mistakenly born a girl instead of a boy. The film examines gender roles.

On April 5, the film "Antonia's Line" depicts the story of a strong-willed, nonconforming Dutch woman and her descendants.

On April 1, award-winning journalist Jean Hay Bright will discuss the writing of her most recent book, which provides a fascinating look at both homesteading and the lives and work of Helen and Scott Nearing. This year was the 100th anniversary of the late author-activist Helen Nearing's birth.

The schedule for the remainder of the program follows:

March 25

Feminist Activism Through Art

This panel explores the numerous and varied ways feminist artists pursue social change. Included on the panel will be Assistant Professors of Art Constant Albertson and Andy Mauery, and Kris Sader, an independent artist, 3:30 p.m., Hudson Museum, Maine Center for the Arts

"Fidel: the Untold Story"

A Cuban film directed by Estela Bravo, recently recognized as "witness of her time," offers a close look at Fidel Castro through historical footage and interviews with Alice Walker, Angela Davis and others. 7 p.m., 110 Little Hall. (MPAC's Peace and Justice Film Series)

March 27

Spruce Run Chocolate Buffet Benefit

This annual event features musical entertainment by the Athena Consort and a delicious chocolate buffet. Proceeds benefit Spruce Run Association. For tickets (\$15/person, \$5 for children under 12) and information, call Spruce Run, 945-5102, or Ann Schonberger 581-1229 (days), 942-4055 (nights) 7 p.m., University College Center, Bangor Campus, 201 Texas Ave., Bangor

March 29

"Ma Vie En Rose"

In this French film (1997) Ludovic, a young boy, believes that he has mistakenly been made a girl instead of a boy. The film questions the roles of gender, and what it means to be a male or a female. 3:10 p.m. Lecture by Laura Lindenfeld Sher, 4 p.m. Screening 115 Donald P. Corbett Business Building

March 30

Still Chilly? Undergraduate Women's Perceptions of Classroom Environments

Elizabeth Allan, assistant professor, Higher Education Leadership, and Mary Madden, assistant research professor, College of Education and Human Development, share the results of their research on the academic climate for women students. 12:15 p.m., Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union

March 31

Tina Modotti: Between Art and Revolution

In this, her latest book, Letizia Argentero, professor of history at San Diego Mesa College, analyzes the life of the Italian actress, seamstress, photographer and communist revolutionary Tina Modotti, who took part in the Spanish Civil War and social upheavals in early 20th Century Mexico. 3:15 p.m., Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, (a History Department Symposium)

April 1

....Meanwhile Next Door to the Good Life (talk and book signing)

Jean Hay Bright, award-winning journalist, will discuss the writing of her most recent book which provides a fascinating insider's view of both homesteading and of Maine's Scott and Helen Nearing, who promoted rural self sufficiency in their books and to thousands of drop-in visitors. 4 p.m., Coe Room, Memorial Union

April 5

"Antonia's Line"

Marleen Gorris's Oscar-winning film (Holland, 1995) offers a magical exploration of the life of a strong-minded, nonconforming Dutch woman and her descendants as she carved out a life for herself. 3:10 p.m. Lecture by Laura Lindenfeld Sher, 4 p.m. Screening 115 Donald P. Corbett Business Building

All events are physically accessible. For more information or to request accommodation, please call 581-1228. The program schedule and the women's studies program at UMaine are available at the Women in the Curriculum website

at: www.umaine.edu/wic.

Additional sponsors of the program include the UMaine Cultural Affairs Committee, the Distinguished Lecture Series, the Arthur R. Lord Fund, the Class of 1934 Fund, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Office of the Vice President for Research, Ann Margaret Johnstone Memorial Lecture Fund, The Student Entertainment and Student Government, Inc., UMaine's Multicultural Programs, Department of Communication and Journalism and the Maine Peace

UMaine Students Design Paper Snowboard for Engineering Competition

25 Mar 2004

Contact: University of Maine, Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
John Hwalek, Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering, 207-581-2302, U.S. Department of Energy
John Horst, 303-434-2817 or 303-868-9145 (cell)

ORONO, Maine -- When UMaine engineering students hit the slopes at the Winter Park Resort in Colorado on April 3, they'll be aiming for more than a thrilling run on a fast course. The 12 members of UMaine's 2004 Energy Challenge team are hoping that their custom designed paper snowboard will carry them to another first place finish in a national engineering competition.

"We're getting excited," says team captain Mike Byrd of Bangor. "We've been paying attention to the questions that some of the other teams are asking the judges, and no one else seems to be doing what we've done."

"At first we felt kind of lost trying to figure out how to build the board. What we were trying wasn't giving us the results we wanted. The turning point for us came when we toured the wood composites center here (at UMaine) and saw the machine they use to make boards out of sawdust and plastics."

Byrd and team member Joe Ramos of New Sweden, Maine work part time at the Georgia Pacific (GP) mill in Old Town and had access to paper dust, a waste product generated by the tissue manufacturing process. GP normally disposes of the dust in a landfill. It turned out to be the perfect ingredient to mix with plastic and run through an extrusion machine at the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center.

The annual Energy Challenge is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Institute of Paper Science and Technology at Georgia Tech. Its purpose is to encourage students to develop engineering designs that save energy and consider waste recycling and reuse. According to DOE, the pulp and paper manufacturing is the second most intensive energy industry in the nation.

"This project has given us the opportunity to think about alternatives," says Byrd. "We've gotten to apply some of the techniques that we've been learning about in our engineering courses. There's a lot of satisfaction in going from the beginning, when we had no idea of how we were going to make it, to seeing a final product."

In addition to Byrd and Ramos, members of the UMaine team include: Janelle Lavoie, Glen Cove; Jennifer Saucier, Millinocket; Kristy Palmer, Rumford; Stephanie Fisher, Winslow; Andrew Sawyer, Holden; Timothy Davis, Glenburn; Ryan Wadsworth, Cornish; Jay Mitchell, Dryden; Joshua Higgins, Kittery; and Lara Smart, Airdrie, Alberta, Canada. Professor John Hwalek of the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering is the advisor.

During the competition, students will subject their snowboards to stress tests and race them down a short course. Students also must present information before a panel of judges and submit written materials that demonstrate how their products meet technical criteria for energy use, recycling and composition.

UMaine took first place in the Energy Challenge in 1999 with an innovative paper kayak. In other years, students have built a paper windsurfing board, a paper sailboat sail and a packaging container.

This year's competition features 13 teams from the United States and Canada. Other teams include the Georgia Institute of Technology, Lamar University, Miami University (Ohio), Mississippi State, North Carolina State, Pasadena City College, Savannah College of Art and Design, Spartan School of Aeronautics (Tulsa, Okla.), State University of New York -- College of Environmental Science and Forestry (Syracuse, N.Y.), Temple University, University of Colorado-Denver and University of Central Florida.

Local sponsors for the UMaine team include: Cianbro Corporation, Pittsfield, Maine; D&S Engineering, Millinocket, Maine; Georgia Pacific, Old Town, Maine; SAPPI, Somerset Operations, Skowhegan, Maine; SD Warren Services Co., Westbrook, Maine; Castine Energy Services, Inc., Waterville, Maine; University of Maine Student Government; Peter Duncan, director of the University of Maine Pulp and Paper Foundation; Faye Woodcock-Murray, Manager of Business & Special Programs, University of Maine Pulp and Paper Foundation; Sugarloaf/USA -- Carrabassett Valley, Maine; and International Paper, Bucksport, Maine.

So, You Want to Start a Business?

23 Mar 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine students will get the inside scoop about what it takes to start their own business during an Entrepreneurship Fair on March 25. Panel presentations will include students who have started business as well as UMaine business faculty members and business owners.

In addition, business development organizations will provide information about their services, including advice on how to apply for business assistance funds and get advice on patent protection, marketing, accounting and other business activities.

"We want to give students the flavor of what it's like to start a business," says Debbie Neuman, fair organizer and director of UMaine's Target Technology Incubator in Orono.

UMaine students and recent graduates who have started businesses will be present to talk about their experiences. They include Chad Callan and Soren Hanson of Sea and Reef Aquaculture, Jacob Pelletier of Pell Innovations, Chris Franks of Intelligent Spatial Technologies and Nathan Hankla of versionZero.

The event will be held in Wells Commons on the UMaine campus from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Panel presentations will begin on the half hour at 10:30, 11:30, 12:30 and 1:30. Students are being encouraged to stop in as their class and work schedules permit.

Other organizations that will be present include the Maine Technology Institute, the Small Business Development Center, the Maine International Trade Center, the Market Development Center, the Fogler Library Patent and Trademark Center, Eastern Maine Development Corporation and the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

Youth Sports Camp Sign-Up Begins

23 Mar 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Registration is underway for the National Youth Sports Program's 12th season at the University of

Maine. Beginning June 28, the free day camp offers six weeks of fun, teamwork and skill development for area boys and girls.

The camp features swimming, plus other skill-building and educational opportunities for children ages 10-16. Soccer, softball, track and field, an outdoor adventure component and math-science lab activities are on the schedule, and other ideas are in the works to offer an even greater variety of activities, according to Stephen Butterfield, UMaine professor of education who has spearheaded the award-winning program since its establishment.

A partnership between the U.S. government and participating universities and communities, with oversight by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the camp represents a \$1,000 value at no cost to participants. Under the federal grant, the majority of campers must come from families who meet Department of Health and Human Services income guidelines. Some slots for youngsters of families above the income guidelines are usually available, also at no cost, and those names are placed on a waiting list.

In addition to the activities, the program includes a comprehensive sports physical examination, breakfast snack and lunch. Transportation is provided from designated, major pick-up points in every direction within an hour's distance of Orono. The camp runs Monday through Thursday from 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The last day is Aug. 5.

Conducted in a highly structured, friendly, non-competitive learning environment, the program and staff are committed to helping campers achieve the goals of believing in themselves, getting along with others and experiencing success through individual and team achievement.

For registration information, call the UMaine NYSP office, (207) 581-2466.

UMaine Museum of Art Exhibition Opens April 2

05 Mar 2004

Contact: Wally Mason at 561-3350

ART EXHIBITION April 2 -- June 19, 2004

The University of Maine Museum of Art is pleased to present the work of three New England artists at Norumbega Hall in downtown Bangor.

Marguerite Robichaux

Over Yonder

Marguerite Robichaux's recent paintings and drawings, on view at The University of Maine Museum of Art in Bangor from April 2 through June 19, 2004, are poetically evocative works that capture the rural and woodland landscapes of Western Maine. Robichaux displays a sensitivity to complex patterns of light and texture while applying thin translucent layers of oil paints that she gradually moves into representations of trees, mountains, sky, and space. Her images set a scene of tranquil repose and soft moments of quietude interrupted only by the contrasting lines of the trees and their branches.

Robichaux travels throughout the mountains and woods, often sitting at the edge of a roadway to sketch or paint tiny watercolor studies. In these she captures the values and textures of light that play on the surfaces of the land. Back in the studio, the sketches unfold and expand as they are combined to form complete graphite studies on linen which then lead into the large-scale oil paintings. She transposes the landscapes onto canvas panels using thinned oil paint as fluid as watercolor, often so thin it drips and runs down the surface. Utilizing quick, confident brushstrokes, her final paintings echo the looseness of her original sketches. However, her technique is meaningful and deliberate, "Some

people look at these marks and ask if I intend to fix the flaw, but what I am trying to show is that what they are looking at is not a tree, but a painting of a tree."

Originally from Louisiana, Marguerite Robichaux first came to Maine in the early 70s and now lives near the Bigelow Mountain Range. She received her M.F.A. from Louisiana State University. Her paintings are included in the collections of the State House in Augusta, the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Portland Museum of Art, the Farnsworth Museum, Colby and Bates Colleges, as well as many private and corporate collections.

Jim Dow

American and National League Baseball Stadiums

Jim Dow's panoramic photographs of our country's baseball stadiums, on view at the University of Maine Museum of Art in Bangor from April 2 through June 19, 2004, invite close inspection of miniscule, but precise, details of their architectural personalities. Dow describes his interest in photography as "centering on its capacity for exact description. " "

U.S. Army's "Musical Ambassadors" Horn Quartet to Perform at UMaine

22 Mar 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The United States Army Field Band is sending its special Horn Quartet to the University of Maine March 26 to help a group of UMaine horn players be all they can be.

While the public and other students are invited to the free recital and masterclass, at least six UMaine music students -- two French horn players and members of a brass quintet -- will get a little extra coaching afterwards, according to Richard Roper, assistant professor of trumpet.

The Army Horn Quartet is scheduled to play a free 30-40-minute concert, starting at 10:30 a.m. at Minsky Recital Hall on the Orono campus, and then students take to the stage to perform and be critiqued by the fulltime professional army musicians.

"It's a great thing," Roper says. "It's a great chance for our students to make contact with people who are successful at what they are doing."

The army horn quartet, which will use French horns on Friday, are part of the army's official field band -- "the musical ambassadors of the army," as they are called -- which travels throughout the nation and abroad performing concerts and working at no charge with school students.

The musicians are in the Bangor area next week to perform a full concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Herman High School, according to Roper, who went to college with one of the musicians.

The four musicians coming to the campus all have either bachelor's or master's degrees in music. One is a doctoral candidate in musical arts. They have played extensively around the world and, collectively, have been affiliated with organizations including the American Wind Symphony, La Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Mexico, the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra in Cape Town, South Africa, the Tulsa Philharmonic Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Shanghai Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra, the Monarch Brass, the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.

Several have served as faculty or adjunct faculty members at American universities and have performed professionally.

They are appearing at UMaine at the invitation of Roper and UMaine French horn instructor Wanda Whitener, who has

invited other French horn players from the community to participate on Friday.

The first part of the class will be a concert format, Roper says, "but I think it's going to be pretty informal."

Roper says the army quartet will play selections from its wide-ranging repertoire, a spectrum of music representing different styles and periods.

Students, staff, faculty and the public will be treated to some excellent entertainment, Roper says. "It will be a chance to hear some really good chamber music that's played at this professional level," he says.

Some of the music played by the full field band ranges from the eclectic jazz compositions of Chick Corea to the more contemplative classical themes of Handel, with Mozart, Henry Purcell and more modern composers in the mix.

If anyone thinks a French horn quartet might be a little confining, musically, with such a wide range of material, consider, says Roper, that the French horn is one of the more versatile instruments, able to handle a full-scale range of music.

"Why it works as a group," he explains, "is the French horn has the highest range of all the brass instruments -- soprano, tenor, alto and bass."

Minsky Recital Hall is in the Class of 1944 Building.

Maine Masque to Produce Musical "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

17 Mar 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Some seasoned University of Maine student actors are getting together as the Maine Masque tackles a hugely popular musical play that proves that romance still sells.

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," opening April 7 at Hauck Auditorium on the UMaine campus in Orono, is about dating, relationships and personalities. It also is the longest running Off-Broadway musical since "The Fantasticks," according to Chicago theater critic Joseph Bowen.

From pick-up lines to proposals, from intimacy to in-laws, the musical celebrates modern mating rituals for young and old. The Maine Masque student production takes on the truths and myths behind that contemporary conundrum known as "the relationship."

Bowen calls "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" is the perfect date show. "It doesn't matter what stage your relationship is at, or whether you're in a relationship at all. This show will speak to you regardless," Bowen says.

Director Dominick Varney, a UMaine Higher Education graduate student who teaches the fundamentals of acting, says he picked a musical, a rare genre for Maine Masquers, because of the fun and relevance of the subject matter in this play.

"It's very funny," Varney promises. "There are two serious ballads in the show and the rest of it's all comedy, how people meet, the first date, to getting married and being married for 40 years. Also, what happens when you've lost a loved one and are getting back into the dating game."

The shows run April 7-10, starting at 7:30 p.m., and April 11, starting at 2 p.m. Admission is \$8 and free to students with a MaineCard.

Audiences will see some familiar faces in the eight-member cast. Some have appeared in recent UMaine student productions, including "Charlie Brown," "The Rocky Horror Show" and "Much Ado About Nothing."

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" was written by Joe DiPietro and Jimmy Roberts. DiPietro is known for another popular play, "Over the River and Through the Woods," still a regional theatre favorite, and Roberts composed "A...My Name is Still Alice," according to James Bowen.

An engaging and hilarious production, the musical is currently playing in many professional and amateur theaters around the country. Originally it had only four actors portraying a dozen or more characters, which change from scene to scene. Varney says he expanded the cast to eight because the play can support the expansion, and it also offers more exposure for UMaine student actors.

"There are no constant characters," Varney says. "They all change in exciting ways for the cast to create multiple and entertaining characters."

Cast members are Alan Bailey of Bucksport, Elizabeth Braman of Hebron, Hans-Stefan Ducharme of Kennebunk, Amanda Eaton of Dexter, Janis Greim of Auburn, Kristin Johnson of Blue Hill, Domenic Mascis of North Berwick and Joshua Schmursal of Bangor.

Musical scores for the show, directed by Amy Maier of Bath, is being performed by a piano and bass. Varney calls it lively, upbeat and truly enjoyable.

Working not far behind the scenes throughout the production will be stage manager Hillary Roberts of Atkinson, sound designer Adam Smith of Farmington, and lighting and set designer Shannon Dougherty of Bowdoinham. Kristin Johnson also doubles as costume designer and Janis Greim as make-up designer. Erin Couturier of Winslow is properties designer and Dale Knapp of Newport is technical director.

Schmursal, a senior performing arts voice major and veteran of five UMaine musicals, says this play has been the most fun for him to perform.

"Based on a comparison of other performances, this is one I can't wait to come to the rehearsal for," he says. "Part of it is because of eight wonderful people in the cast. It's also easy to access, because it's something that we, as an ensemble, as college-age kids, can identify with."

"There are certain situations within the show that we have either been in or can foresee ourselves being in," he says.

Schmursal says the production will be "incredible" and the play itself "is very smartly written. It's very realistic, and told in a very comical way. It strikes home for just about everyone."

Other critical reviews also give the musical high marks.

In 1996, when the production opened at the Westside Theatre in New York, for instance, the Newark Star Ledger called likened the production to "Seinfeld set to pop music."

The show is structured like a relationship: dating in Act 1; marriage, parenthood and the death of a spouse in Act 2. The characters are cut from both comedic and touching slices of life.

One poignantly records a dating video after being dumped by her husband. Another is a bridesmaid happy to have escaped the bad marriages that resulted from some of the weddings she has participated in. A third, a husband, sings "Shouldn't I Be Less in Love With You?" to his wife of 30 years.

Others skits include an ensemble in which a meek father becomes aggressive when he gets behind the wheel of a car, and in another, a fairly plain couple imagine themselves as a stud and a babe. And then there is the "man's man," whose sensitive side emerges at the movies.

Information is available at the Maine Center for the Arts box office, (207) 581-1755.

Washington County Business Conference and Marketplace Set for Calais

02 Apr 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman at (207) 581-3777

ORONO- Tuning up an economic engine means getting under the hood and taking a look at everything from marketing to cash flow management. Business owners and economic development experts will do exactly that during the second annual Washington County Business Conference and Marketplace April 30 and May 1 at the Washington County Community College in Calais.

The two-day event will include workshops on a wide variety of business practices as well as exhibits featuring locally made products and services. It is free and open to the public with workshops scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. A marketplace of exhibits and product demonstrations is open on April 30 from 1 to 5 p.m. and on May 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In addition to workshops offering business advice, the conference will include information about how well the Washington County economic engine is running.

Small businesses are at the heart the region's economy, says James C. McConnon, Business and Economics Specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Orono, who has studied small business performance in Maine and New England. "In Washington County small businesses generate employment for about 30% of our workforce. It's clear that a lot of the Down East economy depends on small businesses," he says.

"With this in mind, the conference planning committee has chosen as the conference theme, Building Washington County's Entrepreneurial Spirit," says Louis V. Bassano, Extension professor in Whitneyville. "The overall goal of the conference is to bring together resources to create new businesses and help existing businesses to expand, become more profitable and create jobs in Washington County".

Marc Edwards will lead a Friday morning session on how the new Downeast Heritage Center will benefit local businesses. Edwards received his Master's Degree from the University of Maine in 2002 after conducting research on ecotourism. He served on the committee responsible for the sustainable tourism portion of the Governor's Conference on Tourism in 2003. In addition to his duties at the Downeast Heritage Center, Edwards teaches a course at Washington County Community College for certification as a Certified Interpretive Guide.

Also offered on Friday are sessions on writing news releases, marketing, managing cash flow and applying for grants.

On Saturday, sessions will focus on pricing strategies, the new Dirigo Health Care plan, business insurance and balancing business with family life. In the afternoon, presentations will be made on business marketing and planning, the Washington County economy, energy conservation and export opportunities.

Throughout the event, business owners and managers will have the chance to meet with representatives of economic development agencies and financial institutions to discuss concerns. Among participants in the Business Assistance Center will be the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Sunrise County Economic Council, the University of Maine and the Maine Small Business Development Center.

Conference sponsors include more than 35 businesses and organizations in eastern Maine. Additional information about the event is available from Bassano, 255-3345 or 800-287-1542. More information is available online at www.wbcm.com. The Washington County Business Conference and Marketplace are funded, in part, by a grant from the Maine Community Foundation.

Rededication of Speech, Language and Hearing Center Honors UMaine Benefactors Madelyn and Albert Conley; UMaine Assistant Dean was Among First Clients

02 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- In 1959, the parents of a little boy from Orono with severe hearing loss were told their son could not learn to speak because he was diagnosed with "expressive aphasia," or brain damage.

Doctors at a prestigious Massachusetts hospital said the four-year-old child would never succeed, being both deaf and "brain-damaged," unless he was institutionalized in a special school for the deaf in Massachusetts.

Unwilling to accept such a catastrophic prognosis, the mother, an Orono school nurse, and the father, a traveling coffee salesman, believed, correctly as it turned out, that their son had been misdiagnosed.

They sought out a full time speech therapist in Maine. There were only two -- one in Portland and one in Waterville -- but no Interstate 95 to make travel easier, and no financial assistance to help with therapy for a boy who could barely pronounce 20 words, at an age when most children know 1,500. The changes of finding vital, accessible year-round speech therapy for their son looked bleak.

"I'd always felt the Bangor area needed a therapist and it should be at the university," the mother recalls today. If they had such difficulty finding a full time speech therapist closer to Bangor, then "we needed to start a course at the university to train them," she remembers telling both her husband and then University of Maine President Lloyd H. Elliott.

That impetus, combined with the generosity of 1911 University of Maine graduate Albert Conley, led to the initial funding of what is today a comprehensive teaching, research and clinical center serving more than 1,000 clients a year, contributing significantly to advancements in the field of communication disorders and producing much-needed speech, language and hearing clinicians for the state.

In recognition of Albert Conley's generosity and that of his late wife Madelyn Conley, university officials, staff, faculty and others gathered April 1 at Bodwell Lounge at the Maine Center for the Arts to rededicate what is now called the Madelyn E. and Albert D. Conley Speech, Language and Hearing Center.

Madelyn Conley, a 1939 UMaine graduate who became the state's first woman optometrist, continued her husband's support for the speech and hearing center after his death in 1974 with a \$1.2 million gift in 2001. Born in Harmony, Maine, raised in Guilford and Winter Harbor, she practiced in Portland and later Brunswick and Winthrop, before she died at age 87 in Cumberland.

Among the speakers at the rededication ceremonies was the now-grown little boy from Orono, whose mother lobbied tirelessly for a program at the university that would help her son and others with speech, hearing or other communication disorders.

O.J. Logue, the 48-year-old Assistant Dean of Academic Services in the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development, told the gathering how grateful he was for the treatment that turned his life around, beginning with that first summer session.

Now in its 41st year, the Conley Center hosts the only university program in Maine to offer bachelor's and master's degrees in Communication Sciences and Disorders. The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has graduated more than 200 speech, language and hearing professionals in the last decade alone. The university estimates

that 80 percent of those graduates still work in Maine.

The center provides speech, language and audiological services to the university and surrounding communities. It also maintains a family treatment, stuttering and audiology clinics and offers educational outreach services at public and private schools in Maine.

Madelyn Conley's bequest in 2001 has allowed the center to introduce graduate fellowships to promising students, undertake facility renovations and continue providing state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment services, in addition to helping faculty members in the department stay abreast of the latest educational advancements, according to Conley Center Clinical Director Susan K. Riley.

"I think what we can do that is unique is to be a center for excellence and a resource for the both the public and the professional community," Riley says. "An important part of our mission is to offer the expertise of well-recognized, experienced faculty and the resources of an educational setting where clinical research is ongoing."

In the early 1960s, however, starting a speech and hearing clinic and a new university degree program to train speech, language and hearing therapists was complex, potentially expensive and delved into a field still in its infancy.

But Joan Logue made her case persuasively with university president Elliott, who contacted Albert Conley, a Portland native and successful chemical engineer and physicist who spent his post-retirement years in Freeport, about funding a speech and hearing clinic. Conley struggled with stuttering for much of his life, and previously had contributed to the university and established the Albert D. Conley Scholarship Fund in 1961 for students with disabilities -- specifically speech disorders -- agreed to help.

"Conley called and said (to Elliott) you find the people and we'll find you the money and we'll start a summer program and see how it goes," Joan Logue explains today.

The rest is history.

In 1963, the University of Maine Speech and Hearing Clinic opened in the Maples building. OJ Logue was among the first group of young clients, coming from areas as close as residential housing on the University of Maine campus to as far away as Aroostook County.

The child who couldn't hear properly, and who "didn't know, for the longest time, that music had words" because of his inability to properly separate sounds, Logue says today, succeeded with his therapy and went on to earn bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees.

After 25 years in a variety of public and private jobs, teaching, counseling and working with students with disabilities and special needs, Logue returned to Orono in 2000 to become an assistant dean.

"I considered Fred Wolf the greatest influence in my life, after my parents," Logue says, reflecting back to the campus clinic's first summer speech and hearing therapist who'd come from Nyack, N.Y. "The greatest challenge of my life was going to college and getting my doctorate."

Riley was heartened by the recent realization that Logue was one of the first clients in the summer session clinic.

"It's such a wonderful example of how this center can make a difference in a person's life," she says.

Logue agrees. And as he recently upgraded to a set of new digital hearing aids, he discovers new sounds, almost daily, he says.

"I don't know how to put it in words, but I never take for granted what I have in life," Logue says now. "I just feel very blessed to be back here in Orono and to be on this campus."

UMaine to Host North Atlantic Food Science College Bowl

01 Apr 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman at (207) 581-3777

ORONO-- Food will be on the minds of college students attending a competition at the University of Maine on April 17, but this Jeopardy style event is no pie eating contest. The North Atlantic Area Food Science College Bowl, sponsored by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), will test students' knowledge of topics ranging from microbiology and food chemistry to sensory evaluation and food product engineering. The public is welcome to watch the competition.

Participating teams consist of two graduate and two undergraduate students and include UMaine, Cornell, University of Delaware, Rutgers University, University of Massachusetts Amherst and Penn State. The winning team will compete in a national IFT competition in Las Vegas, Nevada in July.

On April 16, activities will get underway at UMaine with a banquet for participants and coaches at the Buchanan Alumni House. Competition begins at 1:30 p.m. April 17 in room 100 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building. Two teams at a time will square off in a series of opening rounds.

As in the popular TV game show, Jeopardy, team members will sound a buzzer when they know the answer to a question. Teams with the most points move to the next round.

Scientists and researchers in the food industry will serve as judges for the competition. Business sponsors include World Harbors, Inc.; Bake-n-Joy, Inc.; Hans Kissele; Old Mother Hubbard; the Northeast Section of the Institute of Food Technologists; and a local favorite, The Store Ampersand in Orono.

"For many of these students, it will be their first look and impression of UMaine," says Caitlin Jamison, a UMaine undergraduate and team member from Hampden. "Some students will look around and may consider UMaine as a place to attend graduate school." Jamison entered UMaine to study microbiology and was attracted by the diversity and applications in food science.

The UMaine team consists of Jamison, Bethany Bernier, Garland, Maine; Kristi Crowe, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Mark Correy, Wilton, New Hampshire; Sarah Reiner, Lompoc, California; and Natasha D'Souza, India. They are also members of the Food Science Club whose advisor is associate professor and team coach Denise Skonberg.

UMaine Study of Attitudes Explores Domestic

01 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- A researcher and lecturer in the University of Maine's School of Social Work wonders if people are less affected by reports of domestic violence if they believe in social "myths" that tend to excuse violent behavior.

Will a person, for instance, be more inclined to excuse domestic violence if he or she thinks a slap in the face isn't such a crime against a spouse who continues to nag after being asked to stop?

John "Jay" Peters, a child welfare specialist studying attitudes toward domestic violence, suspects people who are willing to excuse domestic violence are more likely to become batterers themselves. His research should help establish an assessment method that can be used in prevention or treatment programs, to determine a person's propensity toward assaulting a loved one, Peters says. The information also might help prevent abuse before it happens.

While it may seem obvious that people who blame the victim for domestic abuse might be more likely to engage in violent behavior themselves, it has never been studied and established, so far as Peters knows.

"When you talk with people who work with domestic violence," Peters says, "everybody talks about domestic violence myths. The reason people think the myths are important is because the myths really say 'This is not really a problem. She deserved it. She asked for it, and it's no big deal.'"

Peters, along with other authorities in the field of abuse, call those excuses "myths." They say that there is no excuse for domestic violence.

When violence at home is trivialized or excused for any number of reasons, it "makes it an individual problem, not a social problem," he says. "The endorsement of these myths makes it harder to raise money for battered women's programs and to raise money to help battered women."

Peters, who also consults for the Maine Department of Human Services Bureau of Child and Family Services, says some of the most common myths include: "Women ask for it," or "he was set up," "it was a one-time thing," or "he was abused as a child, so it's no big deal."

Relying on statistics about serious assaults, Peters assumes men batter women more often than the other way around.

"Women may slap or push their partners as often as men, but domestic violence is really about a pattern of coercive control," says Peters, "and that is most often done by men."

Furthermore, he says, "We assume that men who believe these myths are more likely to batter women. We need to find that out right away."

Peters began his research in January, sending out 4,000 requests to faculty, staff and students connected through the University of Maine's FirstClass email network, seeking participants who would fill out a web page attitude survey.

Peters will extrapolate the questions and answers in an attempt to draw objective conclusions that can be considered scientifically reliable.

The survey asked for responders' feelings of self-confidence, self-worth, trust of others and sexual stereotyping after they read one of three short newspaper articles about crime, violence or assault. The survey also probed responders for attitudes about their relationships, aggressive behavior, fear, personal security, domestic violence and what people consider appropriate or inappropriate behavior for a single man or single woman.

He wants to explore the connection between belief in domestic violence myths and responders' degree of abhorrence, acceptance or even participation in domestic assault. That connection, he hopes, will provide new insights into treatment programs for batterers.

"The hypothesis is that women who do not endorse these myths are going to be more negatively affected by the news report related to domestic violence than women who endorse the myths," he says. Similarly, he believes, men who reject domestic violence myths are more likely to be affected negatively than men who believe women can "ask for it."

In fact, he adds, a British study on rape already has shown that men with a proclivity toward rape or a sense of sexual superiority over women, likely will feel empowered or affirmed in their beliefs when they read about a rape case.

Such feelings, Peters suspects, allow men to be "protected" from feeling bad about harboring such thoughts or about what other men are doing, and they can give women a false sense of security by adopting an "It can't happen to me" approach.

Fueling such beliefs, Peters says, is the fact that domestic violence cuts across social and financial strata, and often victims and abusers love one another. They can tend to blame themselves for an outbreak of violence, or they can hold to the hope that it will not become a pattern.

Peters hopes his survey also will help tell whether women who subscribe to domestic violence myths have low self-esteem, as is the frequently the case with victims of crime.

The time frame for completing the study depends upon the time needed to interpret the information he is receiving, Peters says. He can be reached for more information at (207) 581-2355 or by email at jpeters@maine.edu.

Hockey Rally Set for Monday

01 Apr 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- A rally to honor the UMaine Black Bear hockey team is scheduled for Monday, April 5 at 12:15 p.m. in the Maine Marketplace, Memorial Union. Scheduled speakers include UMaine President Peter Hoff, Coach Tim Whitehead and Todd Jackson, the team's senior captain. Music will be provided by the UMaine band.

The Hockey East and NCAA East Regional champions, the Black Bears will take a 32-7-3 record into the NCAA semifinals. UMaine will take on Hockey East rival Boston College in the Frozen Four at Boston's Fleet Center on Thursday, April 8 at 6 p.m. The winner will play the Denver vs. Minnesota-Duluth winner on Saturday April 10 for the national championship.

The public is invited.

Need for Volunteer Host Families Continues

26 Mar 2004

Contact: Jill Coffren, state coordinator, Cooperative Extension 4H Japanese exchange program, 207-645-3248.

ORONO-- Ryota Toda is a 12-year-old boy from Kyoto, Japan, who has a black belt in karate and is an avid stamp collector. This year he hopes to come to the United States and live with a Maine family. He can't wait to attend a county fair and dreams of getting a chance to ride a horse. Ryota is one of 19 Japanese youngsters who will be staying with local families as part of a two-way exchange program sponsored by 4-H. The boys and girls will stay with their American host families from mid-July to mid-August. Organizers are looking for families to become involved as hosts, and the deadline for registering those families is approaching fast.

This program is open to families in Maine with children close in age to the Japanese participants. Families without children in this age range will be considered as hosts for the adult chaperone from Japan.

"You don't have to be involved with 4-H to host; you just need a willingness to share your home and your world. There is no need to know Japanese; the students have all studied English and are anxious to use it," says Jill Coffren of Jay, state coordinator for the program.

"The program gives host families a chance to share their culture, friendship, and family life with an exchange student and at the same time learn about Japanese life," Coffren adds. "The homestays only last a month during summer vacation, but the effects last a lifetime." Host family applications and brochures about the program are available by contacting your local County Extension Office or Coffren at 207-645-3248.

The 4-H International Exchange Program is one of the largest exchange programs involving North American and

Japanese youth in the world. Since it began in 1972, some 39,000 students have stayed with families in 39 states, including Maine, and more than 6,300 American students have made reciprocal visits to Japan. Last year Maine hosted 19 month-long exchange students.

As state program coordinator Coffren was presented with the National 4-H International Coordinator, "Rookie of the Year" award November 16, in Roanoke, VA at the National Coordinators' Conference.

UMaine Symphonic Band on the Run for 2004 Maine School Tour

09 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Nearly 60 musicians in the University of Maine Symphonic Band are on the road again April 14, as they begin their annual Maine public school tour.

Their tour bus will make stops at public schools in Oxford Hills, Durham, Freeport, Brunswick, York and Bath. Musicians will work with the school students, perform at least four concerts and appear at assemblies at the schools.

"I'm thrilled they're coming," says Will Pidden, principal of the Durham Elementary School, where the university musicians will be in the afternoon on April 15. "The children be exposed to hearing live what a large band sounds like, and also that the University of Maine -- their local university -- has this type of performing arts program."

For some of the school students, a live performance by such a large group "will be the first time they've ever heard a band like this," says Pidden.

The tour will take three UMaine students back to their home schools, according to director Curvin Farnham, an associate professor of music at UMaine and director of bands.

Katherine Eshleman, who plays bass clarinet, comes from Norway, whose high school is Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School. Trumpet player Ryan Adair from Phippsburg and Leah Tondreau, a French horn player from Freeport, both played in the Bath Municipal Band. Christel Kendzia and Amy Maier, both from Bath, play clarinet and piano, respectively.

Though a particularly busy time on campus, with final exams in the offing and at least two concerts in April, Farnham, who is conducting the tour, says he looks forward to sharing music and his student musicians with youngsters and adolescents throughout the state.

"I think we really feel a mission to play for the students and musicians in the state of Maine," he says.

Kyle Jordan, director of band and orchestra at Oxford Hills, says his students are excited about the visit.

"It gives us a chance to perform for them (the university musicians) and they're also excited about playing a piece with the University of Maine band," he adds. "It's good for the students in the music program to see what's available when and if they go there."

Dan Sovestky, band director in York, also is looking forward to the tour.

"It's great to get them down here," says the 1997 UMaine graduate, UMaine band member and a student at Farnham's annual summer music camp. His students, also are anxious to perform with and for the UMaine band.

The symphonic band has a reputation extending beyond Maine. It was the featured band at a festival in Halifax, Nova Scotia last spring.

The week's schedule for the university's largest musical performance group is as follows:

Wednesday, April 14

- 2 p.m., depart UMaine
- 5 p.m., arrive at Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School (743-8914)
- 7 p.m., concert

Thursday, April 15

- 9:30 a.m., school assembly at Oxford Hills
- 1:45 p.m., K-1 assembly at Durham Elementary School (353-9333)
- 2:05 p.m., grades 2-8 assembly in Durham
- 7 p.m., concert at Brunswick High School (798-5500)

Friday, April 16

- 9:30 a.m., assembly at Brunswick High
- 1 p.m., assembly at York Middle School (603-363-8352)
- 3 p.m. rehearsal and clinic at York (tentative)
- 7 p.m., concert at York HS with York High School Band (207-363-3621)

Saturday, April 17

- 7 p.m., concert at Morse High School in Bath (443-8250)
- 9 p.m., return to UMaine.

UMaine Phi Beta Kappa Ceremony April 15

09 Apr 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Alan Charles Kors of the University of Pennsylvania history faculty, who teaches European intellectual history and has served as editor-in-chief of the "Oxford Encyclopedia of Enlightenment," will be the guest speaker at the 2004 University of Maine Phi Beta Kappa initiation. The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 15. at 3:15 p.m. in the Buchanan Alumni House.

The title of Kors' talk will be "The Betrayal of Liberty on America's Campuses."

Kors was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Princeton and earned his doctorate from Harvard University. He has been at Penn since 1968. A member of the Council of the National Endowment of the Humanities from 1992-1998, Kors has received awards for distinguished teaching and for the defense of academic freedom.

UMaine is home to one of only four Phi Beta Kappa chapters in Maine. The others are at Bowdoin, Bates, and Colby. Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest and best known academic honor society in the country.

Kors' talk is free and is open to the public.

Page Farm and Home Museum to Host Brown Bag Lunch on Women Farmers

09 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3751

ORONO -- The UMaine Page Farm and Home Museum on the Orono campus is hosting a brown bag lunch discussion at noon Tuesday, April 13, on the increasing number of women in agriculture in Maine. The public is invited to the free event.

Vivianne Holmes of the Maine chapter of the National Women's Agriculture Network, or WagN, who has worked with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension as an associate extension educator since 1981, will lead the discussion. She has worn the hats of professor, coach, mentor, writer, advocate, volunteer, garden guide for low-income families and has offered guidance to women in agriculture and lesbian farmers.

Holmes observes that across the country, women are the largest and fastest-growing group of people buying small farms, with 10 percent of farms now solely owned by a woman. Some statistics indicate that in 10 years, more than half of all American farmland will be owned by women.

People can bring a bag lunch from home or order one -- a large sub (chicken salad, roast beef, tuna, ham, or vegetarian), chips, fruit, beverage and dessert -- from the Page Farm Museum for \$4.50. To order or for more information call 581-4100.

Teach-In to Explore Myths, Realities About Cuba

09 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- To many Americans, Fidel Castro is a Cuban dictator. To Cubans, he is president, elected by a general assembly.

Such is the difference in perceptions of Cuba, says Barbara Blazej of the University of Maine, whose students in a special travel-study class are inviting the public to a presentation and discussion April 13 to learn about the real Cuba.

Blazej took a dozen of her students to Cuba over spring break to visit people, politicians, schools, farms, churches and hospitals in an effort to get a closer look at the nation the United States regards as a political adversary. The US has both a travel and trade boycott against Cuba, now in place more than 40 years.

Blazej and her students have a different view of Cuba, Blazej says, and they want to share it with the public.

"Cuba: Myths and Realities," starts at 7 p.m. April 13 at 101 Neville Hall on the UMaine Orono campus. It is a "teach-in" on U.S.-Cuba relations and the effects of U.S. foreign policy on Cuban life, says Blazej. A panel of student speakers will share their first hand experiences in their specific areas of interest as a part of the course, PAX495, offered through

the university Peace Studies Program.

The event is free.

After forming opinions about Cuba from reports by American news media, which Blazej says often has a bias against the small socialist country 90 miles south of Florida, students returned to Orono with a different point of view.

"It was a phenomenal trip. The students had a wonderful time. They came back different people," says Blazej, who, in addition to being an instructor in the Peace Studies Program also is Youth Violence Prevention Project director at the university. She has been teaching a class this semester on Cuba, which she has personally visited three times.

Students "are very passionate about the whole situation of the U.S. and Cuba," she says. "The public will get a different view, one that most of us don't get in this country. We want to share what we saw and bring a little bit of balance to the conversation."

The group spent nine days in Cuba, mostly in Havana with a three-day excursion to the countryside. "They met with government officials, they met with religious people, and every day regular Cuban people," Blazej says.

Travel arrangements were made through the Witness for Peace organization.

Blazej says the group was able to travel freely in Cuba. "There's absolutely nothing you can't do or see," she adds. "There are no restrictions."

Another of the myths Blazej would like to dispel, she says, is the view that Cuba is a police state. "I think that's a common perception we have in this country. It's not at all true."

"Part of what is so interesting about Cuba is you have this group of people who have been struggling to survive in the face of what they see as continued US aggression," she says. And "they are so passionate about their country."

Questions about the forum April 13 can be directed to the Peace Studies Program office, at 581-2625.

UMaine Readers' Theater Presents "Necessary Targets" April 14

09 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- University of Maine graduate student Jovana Davidovic will play the part in the next University of Maine School of Performing Arts "Readers' Theater" of Seada, one of five Bosnian women in a refugee camp struggling with the aftermath of war.

Not surprisingly, she's very sensitive about the part. "The reason I decided to do the play is it is very touching. I am from Serbia," she says.

Another character in the play "Necessary Targets," written by Eve Ensler of "The Vagina Monologues" fame and directed by Marcia Douglas, assistant UMaine professor of theater, is Nuna.

Nuna is a conflicted biracial teenager whose mother is Bosnian and her father is from Sarajevo. Kimberlee Perez, a graduate student here, reads Nuna's part.

"She's maturing, but at the same time. She's got this conflict over her racial identity, as well as the influence of the United States," says Perez, who understands the character's dilemma because she has experienced it. "I myself am biracial. My dad is Mexican and my mom is Anglo, so I very much identify with this character."

The play is being presented April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Minsky Recital Hall in the Class of 1944 Building on the Orono campus. It is the university's School of Performing Arts' fourth foray into a genre new to UMaine, the "readers' theater," in which actors read parts on a stage, with minimal costume, scenery or props.

Douglas says the productions feature actors who are not necessarily theater majors, or university students. The readers' theater is an opportunity for the university to open itself up to faculty, staff, and community involvement and provide others a place to pursue theater.

Douglas's next play, "Necessary Targets," once again assembles a cast that promises moving performances with more than a touch of reality.

The play is about women coping with themselves and their conflicts, all with the backdrop of the effects of the Serb-Bosnian civil war. It is the story of two American women, a New York psychiatrist and a human rights worker and journalist, who go to Bosnia to help women confront the memories of war.

Melissa, played by UMaine graduate student Julie-Ann Scott, is the ambitious young human rights worker and writer. The successful but unsatisfied middle-aged psychiatrist, J.S., is played by Alison Cox, a staff member on campus.

The characters, whose values are opposite, coexist awkwardly from the very beginning. As the pampered Park Avenue psychiatrist begins to feel compassion for the women as she hears of their personal tragedies, she and Melissa collide. Ultimately, J.S. and the women she was sent to treat find common ground, and everyone emerges deeply changed.

"Necessary Targets," according to the Random House publishers website, "is a groundbreaking play about women and war -- about the violence of dark memories and the enduring resilience of the human spirit. It has been read in New York by Meryl Streep, Angelica Huston and Calista Flockhart, and was performed in Sarajevo with Glenn Close and Melissa Tomei."

Enslar's own comments about the book include the observation that, "When we think of war, we think of it as something that happens to men in fields or jungles. We think of hand grenades and Scud missiles.

"We think of the moment of violence -- the blast, the explosion. But war is also a consequence -- the effects of which are not known or felt for months, years, generations," Enslar says on the Random House site. "And because consequences are usually not televised, by then the war is no longer sexy -- the ratings are gone, consequences remain invisible."

Other actors in the play include Baycka Voronietsky, an assistant professor of music at UMaine who emigrated from Poland to the United States in 1969. She reads the part of Zlata.

Another graduate student, Alma Delic-Ibukic, is from Bosnia and plays the role of Jelena, one of the five Bosnian women. Sofia Wilder reads the part of Azra, and Jane Snider, associate professor of theater and dance, is narrator.

Douglas says she had approached another student with an eastern European background to audition for "Necessary Targets," "but when she read the play, she decided it was just too close and too difficult to do."

While the play doesn't require an elaborate set, Douglas says she has arranged for a slide show depicting scenes of war, including some from Vietnam and Iraq.

The characters in the play -- as happened historically with many of the men and women in Bosnia -- experienced terrible situations involving rape, torture and the murder of loved ones, Douglas says, which is why the use of slides depicting war will help the audience understand the tension of the play and the stories the women tell.

"It's not easy to just block that stuff out," Douglas says. "One woman in the play says, 'You Americans, you don't think it can happen here, but we didn't think it could happen *here*.'"

On the other hand, says Douglas, the play also is a lesson in perspective. "You have to keep it in perspective," she says, and the Bosnian characters do.

Adds Davidovic, in spite of the tragedy of war, "people go on with their lives," in the play and in life. Like many European movies, she says, this play "has that make you laugh and make you cry kind of thing."

Both Davidovic and Douglas point out that the play is apolitical. "It's not about who did what to whom," Davidovic says.

"It's about women and about war," she adds. "I would never have done a play that I thought was propaganda."

Information about tickets can be obtained by calling the Maine Center for the Arts box office at 581-1755. Admission is \$6.

April 13 Event Features Concert and Symphonic Bands

09 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine Symphonic Band and the University of Maine Concert Band will share the Hutchins Hall stage at the Maine Center for the Arts on April 13 to each present a short concert.

The Concert Band will start the performances at 7:30 p.m.; the larger 50-60-member Symphonic Band follows after a brief intermission.

Sports bands director Christopher White has selected a varied program of band music for the Concert Band, including "Night Dances" by Bruce Yurko and "Haven Dance" by David Holsinger.

"I know the composer of 'Night Dances' and really enjoy the music of Bruce Yurko," White says. "It has good scoring and quite a bit of percussion in it."

The piece opens softly and slowly, with chimes and vibraphones prevalent, he says. "It sets a mood of night in the beginning, kind of slow, dark and mysterious, then moves into the dance part, which is very explosive and features a lot of percussion and brass."

"Haven Dance" was composed to capture the spontaneous dancing of the composer's two-year-old daughter "doing what two-year-olds do," according to White. "You can hear a child dancing, complete with the odd stops and spins that kids might do when dancing."

Not all music is thematic, according to White, but when it is and the audience knows the theme, it helps in appreciating the score.

The Concert Band also will perform "Moravian Folk Song Rhapsody" by composer Robert Sheldon, which the band played for the first time in Maine on March 30, when Sheldon visited the university and several area schools.

Curvin Farnham, director of bands at UMaine, has planned an uplifting selection of music for the Symphonic Band that includes Tchaikovsky, Aron Copland, some entertaining work by John Philip Sousa that was written after Sousa's military marching band days, and three movements of "Concerto for Tuba" by Edward Gregson.

The Symphonic Band program includes music to be played during its 2004 Maine schools tour, which begins the day after the concert.

Farnham says he chose music for the April 13 concert that represents what students have studied or played, and in the case of "American Overture For Band" by Joseph Wilcox Jenkins, it is music many of the students have heard performed. The piece was commissioned for and recently performed at a concert in the Bangor area by the U.S. Army Field Band, Farnham says.

The program also includes "The Promise of Living," from the opera "The Tender Land" by Aron Copland, and the first three movements of "Concerto for Tuba," by Gregson, with Scott Vaillancourt of Lewiston, an applied lower brass teacher at UMaine, as tuba soloist.

"He's a wonderful soloist," Farnham says. "The students had a chance to perform the first movement of this piece with him last fall."

Vaillancourt earned a B.A. in music from Bowdoin College, and a masters in music in composition and a masters in tuba performance from the University of Michigan. The music director at Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston, he also is a free-lance composer, arranger, performer and teacher in Maine. He routinely performs in many of Maine's premiere instrumental ensembles.

Another piece on the program, "Rendezvous with the Other Side," composed last fall by Richard Saucedo, a high school band director from Indiana, depicts "what happens when we pass away and go to a new realm," says Farnham.

The Sousa march, "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine March," offers a different side of the 19th Century composer and band leader. Sousa's style became less militaristic and "more entertaining" later in his life, according to Farnham.

Dean Paquette, music supervisor at the Hancock Elementary School, is assistant conductor of the Symphonic Band.

Admission for the April 13 concert is \$6.

Student Art Exhibit Reflects Different Media, Different Views

09 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Through materials as diverse as wood, paint, steel, paper, yarn and clay, the University of Maine's new 2004 Annual Student Exhibition reflects students' varied views of themselves and the world around them.

The show opened April 9 at the Carnegie Hall galleries on the Orono campus and runs a thematic gamut of "straightforward representation of place in space to more politicized imagery," says Laurie Hicks, associate professor of art who is overseeing the exhibit, and "from very serious to very playful and celebratory."

Take, for instance, the glued-together clay plant pot with a living plant and a sculpted earthen foot coming out the bottom. Sara Hanscome, the artist, says it symbolizes a young person's transition out of the home and into the world.

Or Andrew Hurtt's tunnel-shaped mask, "Pacifier," that allows the person wearing it to see only serene and soothing interior images of home and blue sky, while from the outside, others see only digitally merged photos of war, violence and poverty.

For art patrons who enjoy speculating on the meaning of artistic statement, Carnegie Hall is the place to visit until the end of the semester, May 7, when the exhibit comes down.

The annual exhibition "includes work by studio art, art education and art history students, and reflects the diversity of media and forms taught in the department," Hicks says

Out of more than 300 pieces submitted for consideration, only 90 were selected by a jury of artists for the exhibit. To be eligible, the work had to be created or completed since last year's spring art exhibit.

From a giant wooden chair to a collage of framed tobacco warning labels, from a huge ball of yarn to a ball of steel strips, and from a sculpted steel tree branch to paintings, drawings, photographs, and etchings, the exhibit features 90 works of art created by 53 student artists.

Conceptual motivation for the work came from class assignments and others from the students' daily life experiences and influences, according to Hicks. They range from "a reflection of self to a more externalized reflection on the world," she adds.

The exhibit offers traditional artwork, including photographs, drawings, paintings and sculpture. It also includes several "performance pieces," such as Stephanie Raddish and Kate Hinson's, "For Dougie Huebler: Site/Object Relocation," displayed through photographs and maps of the UMaine campus. Raddish collected items -- rocks, sticks, leaves -- at UMaine and sent them to Hinson, a student at Texas Women's University, where she then distributed the objects on the Texas campus and documented the repositioning through photographs.

Department of Art faculty and students worked together to install the exhibition. The lighting was designed and placed by art student Jeff Snyder.

Carnegie Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is free.

UMaine Orchestra Offering Rich, Classical Works

05 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Anatole Wieck, University of Maine associate professor of music and UMaine Orchestra conductor, is looking forward to a magnetic concert April 10 at Minsky Recital Hall for several reasons.

First, the concert will present a melodious, passionate and powerful repertoire by three quintessentially classical composers -- the Russian Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, the Austrian Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and American Aaron Copland.

Second, it provides Wieck, who was born and raised in the former Soviet Union before emigrating to the United States, an opportunity to defy the former Russian government's attempt to censor religious music.

And third, it will be a good concert for young people and others who are unsure whether they like classical music.

"This is a good concert for people who may not be familiar with classical music," says Wieck.

Wieck has selected three major pieces to perform, the "Russian Easter Overture" by Rimsky-Korsakov, Mozart's "Jupiter" Symphony 41 and Copland's "John Henry."

Being performed the evening before Easter Sunday, "Russian Easter Overture," which Wieck describes as "lyrical but very passionate in a spiritual sense," involves the musical exchange between a priest and his congregation, and builds to a triumphant ending to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"To me, it's very special," Wieck says, "because I grew up in Russia and I had never heard this music. I didn't know it existed. The government was trying to stamp out anything religious."

The work, which is rarely performed, according to Wieck, "is one of Rimsky-Korsakov's greatest pieces. To me it is something the communists didn't manage to stamp out, the spirituality."

Rimsky-Korsakov also is known for his orchestral suite "Scheherazade" and "Flight of the Bumble Bee."

Mozart's Symphony 41, or "Jupiter," named after the mythological king of the Roman gods, is significant because it represents the shifting of Mozart's elegant style toward the more heroic, assertive style of the younger German composer, Ludwig von Beethoven, according to Wieck and the orchestra concertmaster, grad student William Bell.

"Traditionally, we think of Beethoven as being associated with heroic expression and we think of Mozart as elegant," Wieck says. "This Mozart is both elegant and heroic."

He calls it a "very luminous, optimistic work," and potentially one of Mozart's greatest. Wieck particularly likes the polyphonic genius, he says, of Mozart's simultaneous weaving more than one melody into the piece, and still keeping the music "transparent and graceful."

"That's very difficult to do, and an expression of Mozart's genius," he adds.

The third piece, Copland's John Henry, is another lyrical composition based on the folk song and legend of American railroad man John Henry, who fought to save jobs by pitting his "steel-driving" skills with a sledge hammer against the new steam-powered machines that threatened to replace men. The story is that John Henry beat the machine, but died of exhaustion after the contest.

It is a melodic piece that relies on the heavy influence of percussion instruments, says Bell, a graduate student from Presque Isle studying for a master's in grand violin performance.

"Everyone knows "Rodeo" and "Appalachian Spring," but nobody really knows "John Henry,"" says Bell, who noted that in addition to using the university's timpani, bells, triangle, bass drum, cymbals and tam tam drums, he needs to find a real hammer and anvil for the performance.

Understanding the stories behind music helps the listener appreciate the melodies and harmonies of the different instruments of the 65-member UMaine orchestra, Wieck and Bell agree, and Wieck says he will give a brief explanation of the April 10 concert pieces before each one is played.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Class of 1944 Building. Admission is \$6.

UMaine Business Students Offer Public Brand Development Seminar

06 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- This is a quiz. Think soft drinks.

Did a bright red label with "*Coca-Cola*" in white script come to mind?

Coca-Cola is just one of thousands of corporations that spend billions creating, protecting and promoting their brands, hoping to ensure that their names and logos will come to mind when consumers decide they want what that the business sells.

Nantucket Nectars, "the juice guys," are a much smaller company from Massachusetts that proves "you don't have to have the budget of IBM" to come up with a catchy line to make people remember you, according to marketing students from the University of Maine School of Business.

The UMaine student chapter of the American Marketing Association will host a marketing and branding seminar for the public on April 19.

From a house-painter to a lawyer, a restaurant to a hospital, almost every business that sells a service or product needs a "brand" or image to distinguish it from other businesses and to create a meaningful "promise" to consumers, according to the students and their faculty advisor Harold Daniel, associate professor of marketing.

The students are inviting more than 100 local business and non-profit managers, in addition to all students with an interest in business marketing, to hear four experts speak about success through effective brand development and management.

The forum, titled "Strategic Brand Management -- Practical Perspectives," is from 7-10 p.m. at the Donald P. Corbett Business Building on the Orono campus. It also will provide an opportunity for managers of local businesses and non-profits to meet with business majors to get marketing advice and possibly assistance in promoting their products or services.

"The intent here is to provide a service to the business community and to the students, to provide an educational experience that people will learn from," Daniel says. "This will be something that they can take back to their businesses or their dorm rooms, and say, 'Hey, this really applies.'"

The investment of time and the \$5 fee for businesses is negligible, considering the value of the information being presented, says Tim Lough, a marketing major from Winthrop and a member of the student marketing organization. The fee for students is \$1. Fees offset expenses and will help with future seminars.

"The ideal person to come to this is the person who doesn't have a marketing background," says Daniel, noting that a third of Maine's economy is supported by small businesses and independent sole proprietors, often operating alone or even working from home.

Every business with something to sell needs to manage its brand or reputation to do two basic things: To let people know what is available, and to leave a clear, consistent impression about the quality of the business or the product, according to Daniel and Lough.

Even one-person businesses that live or die by the owners' reputations engage in branding, whether they realize it or not. Daniel suggests that brand identification, creation and promotion are important to all businesses since they need to be recognized and remembered.

"Branding is the shorthand, I tell my students," Daniel says. A logo or image that represents a business is like its identification. "It's a signature," he says, "that stands for a whole raft of other important information for a person."

The slate of speakers includes:

Tony McKim (UMaine, 1988), president of First National Bank of Bar Harbor, who will speak about how principles of brand management guide his company's operations;

Paul Golding, communications director for Day One, a non-profit adolescent substance abuse rehabilitation center in Cape Elizabeth, which achieved significant success through re-evaluating and revising its brand image;

Nathaniel Bowditch, assistant director of the Maine Office of Tourism, who will speak about the importance of branding for the state and the research that has led to the development of the "It Must Be Maine" advertisements;

And Kim McKeage, UMaine associate professor of marketing, who will discuss retail branding and branding transcendental places, a valuable topic for retailers and other businesses in the tourist industry.

Also participating in the seminar will be Stefa Normantas of Giraffe Marketing and Leigh Fulda (UMaine, 1997) of NAI

The Dunham Group, both members of the Portland Marketing Association, a professional chapter of the American Marketing Association.

Students in Daniel's marketing management classes in the past have undertaken several effective service-learning projects -- helping a California technology company with its marketing strategies, doing a study for the creators and distributors of the former Fresh Samantha juice company, which started in Maine, and currently helping the Bangor Symphony Orchestra with marketing and business planning.

Further information about the seminar can be obtained by calling Daniel at (207) 581-1933 or emailing another student organizer, Elizabeth Duran at Elizabeth.duran@umit.maine.edu. The seminar is being held in the large lecture hall, Room 100, in the DP Corbett Business Building, next to the Maine Center for the Arts.

UMaine Celebrates Student Research and Creative Achievement Week

06 Apr 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Turn up the stage lights and gather around the displays. The University of Maine will celebrate student achievements in science, engineering, humanities and the arts with a series of performances, exhibits, lectures and awards presentations April 9-18.

UMaine's annual Student Research and Creative Achievement Week provides students with opportunities to highlight their work to other students, faculty and the public.

Each year, more than 3,000 students participate in research projects at UMaine, according to Deirdre Mageean, associate vice-president for research and dean of the graduate school. "By participating in research, these students learn valuable skills, such as the ability to analyze data, find solutions to problems, and clearly communicate their findings.

"The goal of Student Research and Creative Achievement Week is to promote understanding and communication about research among disciplines and to the public. It promotes a positive environment for university research and scholarship," she adds.

Among the week's highlights are:

- Student art exhibition in Carnegie Hall April 9 and 12.
- Graduate Student Research Expo April 12-13 in Buchanan Alumni House.
- Gala reception 6 to 8 p.m., April 12 at the Buchanan Alumni House, sponsored by the Association of Graduate Students and TIAA-CREF, a retirement financial services company.
- College of Natural Sciences, Agriculture and Forestry undergraduate posters, April 12-13.
- Distinguished Honors Graduate Lecture by Charles Stanhope (class of 1971) of the Library of Congress, 4:30 p.m. April 12, Minsky Recital Hall.
- College of Business, Public Policy and Health student research and project exposition, D.P. Corbett Business Building, 3 to 6 p.m., April 15.
- Honors College Thesis Symposium, Thomson Honors Center, Colvin Hall, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., April 16.
- Maine Honors Weekend keynote lecture, 7 p.m. April 16 in Minsky Recital Hall, by Jennifer Gosetti, Dept. of Philosophy.

A full calendar is available [here](#).

UMaine Conference Focuses on the Business of Homeland Security

06 Apr 2004

Contact: Muriel Mosher, Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, 207-623-0680 Nick Houtman, UMaine Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Maine businesses will join local, state and federal officials in a conference at the University of Maine on May 14 to discuss programs and business practices in the homeland security market. Maine Governor John E. Baldacci and U.S. Senator Susan Collins will co-chair the event that will feature keynote speaker Asa Hutchinson, undersecretary for border security and transportation in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The purpose of the conference is to provide Maine businesses, researchers and local officials with information about federal procurement policies and grant opportunities.

"Too often, small businesses find it difficult to navigate the federal contracting process. This conference will help them to understand where to turn first for the information they need," said Collins, who chairs the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee that oversees the DHS.

Governor Baldacci noted that the conference will provide small businesses and first responders throughout Maine with direct access to key personnel from the DHS and various state resources. Seminars will focus on federal and state procurement policies, supply chain management, emergency response and research and development.

Conference sessions will be held in the Donald P. Corbett Business Building, the Wells Conference Center, Jenness Hall and Neville Hall on the UMaine campus. In addition, federal and state programs and Maine businesses will set up exhibits to demonstrate products and share information.

Pre-conference activities get underway in the Alford Arena the afternoon of May 13 with homeland security product demonstrations, laboratory tours and remarks by Jack Cashman, commissioner of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development in the Alford Arena. At the conference opening on May 14, Governor Baldacci will deliver the welcoming address followed by a keynote address by Major General John "Bill" Libby, Maine's adjutant general and commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. Subsequent breakout sessions will address specific topics for participants.

Remarks by Collins and Hutchinson are scheduled during the luncheon in Wells Commons. The conference will conclude at 5 p.m.

Producing the conference are UMaine and the Maine Small Business Development Centers in association with the Maine Emergency Management Agency, the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Maine Market Development Center and the UMaine Office of the Vice President for Research.

Sponsors include the Maine Space Grant Consortium; Bushmaster Firearms of Windham, Maine; Applied Thermal Sciences of Sanford, Maine; ADT Federal Systems of Boca Raton, Florida; Sandia National Laboratories of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Central Maine Power of Augusta, Maine; the Maine Department of Transportation; Duke Energy of Veazie, Maine; Elm Construction Management of Portland, Maine; Sensor Research and Development Corporation of Orono, Maine; and Eastern Maine Development Corporation of Bangor, Maine. The Biotechnology Association of Maine is sponsoring pre-conference activities.

More information on the conference, including descriptions of seminars and an updated schedule, can be found [here](#).

U.S. Navy Grants to UMaine Focus on Ship Technologies

06 Apr 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- With two new federal grants totaling \$2.36 million, engineers in the University of Maine's Advanced Engineered Wood Composites (AEWC) Center will be working with the U.S. Navy and Maine businesses to improve ship building technologies. The grants from the Office of Naval Research (ONR) focus on redesign of the high-speed Mark V Patrol Craft and the reliability of fiber-reinforced composite ship components.

Researchers will focus on improving the Mark V's seaworthiness. "The Mark V has developed a reputation for a very rough ride. It affects the performance of the SEAL teams and boat crews," says Robert Lindyberg, manager of technical services for AEW. Working with Hodgdon Yachts of East Boothbay, Maine, Lindyberg and other UMaine engineers will design and build a prototype that meets the Navy's needs with improved handling characteristics.

In the second project, engineers will study composite material manufacturing processes. Navy tests have revealed significant differences among similar composites produced by different manufacturers. The research goal is to determine why such differences occur and how manufacturers can consistently produce reliable materials for ship construction, says Habib Dagher, AEW director.

Collaborating on the composites research is Applied Thermal Sciences of Sanford.

May Festival is Fundraiser for Local Agencies on Aging

15 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine Center on Aging on the Orono campus and Eastern Agency on Aging in Bangor are partnering up for a gala swing dance fundraiser -- "A Celebration of Generations" -- on May 8.

The third annual event features local musicians The Moon Puppies playing dance music and performances by McKay's Back Door Dance Studio's premier dance team Zoot Suit Review between band breaks.

"The dance should be a wonderful way to spend the evening," says Leah Ruffin, senior research associate with the Center on Aging and event co-organizer. The event will be great fun for all ages, Ruffin says: "Children, grandparents, parentsâ€ You don't have to be an expert swing dancer."

The annual event raises money for the respective agencies' programs for older adults, Ruffin said. Also, it corresponds with May being Older Americans Month. This year's theme is "Aging Well, Living Well."

The dance and show is from 8-11:30 p.m. at the Bangor Elks' Club on Odlin Road in Bangor.

The dance and show celebrates "the affirmation that Maine's older adults are living active, healthy, productive lives," according to Lenard W. Kaye, director of the Center on Aging.

"An event like this brings our community together in so many ways," Kaye says.

Ruffin says the May Festival was one of the first events sponsored by the Center on Aging, and "it's let the community know we are interested in being a part of our neighborhood. It's been a popular thing over the years and we'd like to keep it going as a tradition."

Tickets will be available at the door. Prices are \$15 per couple and \$10 for an individual. Information is available by

calling (207) 581-3444 or (207) 941-2865.

The website for the UMaine Center on Aging is at www.umaine.edu/mainecenteronaging. The website for Eastern Agency on Aging is www.eaaa.org.

UMaine Holds Phi Kappa Phi Induction

15 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- More than 90 outstanding students and faculty members at the University of Maine were honored for scholarship and outstanding character April 14 at the UMaine chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi's spring initiation and awards ceremony.

Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and largest multidisciplinary collegiate honor society, and was founded at the University of Maine more than a century ago.

Officers of Phi Kappa Phi's Chapter One, of Orono, initiated outstanding junior, senior and graduate students into the society, in addition to welcoming four members of the UMaine faculty and staff. Ceremonies were held at the Buchanan Alumni House.

Phi Kappa Phi national president Wendell H. McKenzie, a professor of genetics at North Carolina State University, was keynote speaker.

Award winners and inductees were chosen on the basis of outstanding scholarship and excellent character. Candidates for initiation into Phi Kappa Phi may represent all academic fields, and also may include exceptional staff members, according to Kim McKeage, associate professor of marketing in the UMaine School of Business and president of the campus Phi Kappa Phi chapter.

The four faculty inductees are: Daniel Innis, dean of the UMaine College of Business, Public Policy and Health; Alfred Bushway, professor of food science, cooperating professor of entomology and professor at the Maine Lobster Institute; Janice Kristo, professor of education, language arts and reading; and Laurie Osher, assistant professor of soil and water quality.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 at the University of Maine by 10 seniors led by Marcus Urann, founder of Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., who created the Marcus Urann Foundation, which continues to provide funding for many of the Phi Kappa Phi scholarships today.

Phi Kappa Phi was first called the Lambda Sigma Eta Society, an academic honor society open to superior college students regardless of academic discipline. In 1900, the presidents of the universities of Maine, Tennessee and what is now Pennsylvania State, pledged their support for an expanded, national honor society.

With a chapter at each of those institutions, the society was renamed Phi Kappa Phi from the initials of the three Greek words of its motto, "filosofia crateito fot

Ten Maine Girls Receive Awards for "Turn Beauty Inside Out" Posters

15 Apr 2004

Contact: Christine Burgess, York County Cooperative Extension, 41 Shaw's Ridge Road, Sanford, ME 04073, (207) 324-2814, 1-800-287-1535, FAX: (207)324-0817

SANFORD, Maine -- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension announces awards to ten girls for their entries into the first annual Turn Beauty Inside Out Maine Poster Contest. Winners are:

Category A, Ages 9-11

- First Place: \$75 prize, Marjorie Lee and Kaitlyn Toothaker, E. Waterboro
- Second Place: \$25 prize, Lucy Knowlton, Turner
- Honorable Mention: Jessica Nelson, Waterford

Category B, Ages 12-14

- First Place: \$75 prize, Dakota Day, Saco
- Second Place: \$25 prize, Eve Miller, Freeport
- Honorable Mention: Courtney McNabb, Portland

Category C, Age 15 -- 18

- First Place: \$75 prize, Laura Girard, Acton
- Second Place: \$25 prize, Danielle Nelson, Cornish
- Honorable Mention: Jenn Carlson, Sanford

Girls from all over the state responded to a call for poster entries to motivate and support girls to feel strong and confident in their bodies and their lives. Girls used their artistic voices to redefine beauty as good hearts, great works and activism.

Posters were judged for originality, design, artwork, creativity and overall effectiveness of the message.

"These posters illustrate a new and visible story about what it means to be female and truly beautiful in the world today," says Christine Burgess, Cooperative Extension educator in York County.

The Maine Women's Fund co sponsored this contest and will use parts of the posters to illustrate the program for their annual *Evening to Honor Women and Girls* on October 12.

More information about the Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine project is available on the Internet at:
www.umaine.edu/umext/genderproject

Native American Speaker Alexie Set for UMaine Appearance

14 Apr 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- He's called controversial, irreverent, even angry, but writer and public speaker Sherman Alexie, a Spokane Indian from Wellpinit, Wash. most of all wants people to better understand the dilemmas facing Native Americans today.

Alexie, an internationally known poet, author and screenwriter will deliver a frank and provocative talk at the University of Maine April 19. He is scheduled to speak at 8 p.m. at the Maine Center for the Arts. The program is free and open to the public.

In spite of the many ways that Alexie, a member of the northwest Spokane Coeur d'Alene tribe, is described, two words -- provocative and inspirational -- often arise.

"I think using the word 'provocative' is the unique word. I think he sort of prides himself on that," says Associate History Prof. Maureen Smith, who also is director of Native American Studies at UMaine.

"Stimulating" is a word used by Margo Lukens, an associate professor of English at UMaine who co-taught with Smith a five-week course based on Alexie's work in anticipation of his appearance on campus.

Alexie has written seven books of poetry, several collections of short stories and two novels. He also produced and wrote the screenplay for the film "Smoke Signals," based on his book "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven."

Bringing Alexie to the Orono campus was a collaborative effort by nearly ten university offices or departments, and is viewed as a significant way the university can provide an entertaining and educational event for the public, particularly Maine's Native American communities.

With several hundred Native Americans planning to see Alexie, "this is definitely a big numbers gathering for us," John Bear Mitchell, interim director of the Wabanaki Center on the Orono campus, says of the Maine-based American Indian population. "This will probably be our biggest audience for a single speaker."

In addition to a majority of the 152 American Indian students at the University of Maine, the busloads of area school children and adults coming from northern, eastern and southern Maine tribal communities, plus hundreds of non-Native Americans from within the college community and around the state, event coordinators expect a full house April 19.

What is so interesting about Sherman Alexie is that he is, among other things, motivational. He also is a colorful humorist who speaks plainly about issues even many Native Americans don't often raise in public. He is known for his bare-knuckles lectures on what it is like to be an American Indian in the 21st Century.

"He is using a voice that is really unique," Mitchell says. "He speaks his mind and he doesn't care if anybody's offended by it. But he does it in very humorous way. A lot of people find they can relate to his experiences with reservation life."

Bob White, assistant provost and dean of Lifelong Learning at UMaine, has met Alexie, and understands the enthusiasm.

In his writing and in his public appearances, Alexie "takes an irreverent look at the world," says White. "I think Sherman Alexie can articulate the circumstances in which Native Americans find themselves today in terms of their own reservation life experience, and the issues they are dealing with juxtaposed with the Anglo-American experience. He does this in a very self-deprecating, yet inspirational way.

"It's a provocative way that addresses the plight of Native American Indians in this country and implores other Americans to help improve their lives," White says.

Lukens, who is "delighted" Alexie is coming, says it speaks well for the university to invest so substantially in the cost of bringing Alexie here.

Both Native Americans and other ethnically diverse populations sometimes feel "invisible" in a world of Anglo-Americans, according to Smith.

"The Native people of Maine for a long time have felt very alienated from campus," Lukens adds, "because there was nothing to reflect their experience."

But Alexie's upfront message may be a catharsis for Native Americans in want of a voice that will be heard.

"He's willing to address issues many Native American people are not willing to address," says Maureen Smith, who also is a member of the Oneida tribe, part of the Iroquois Confederacy. "He kind of lays bare issues of the Native community. I think it's a very challenging role to be in. I think that's what makes him so important."

Both Smith and Lukens note that Alexie is a respected creative force educationally.

"He's such a high profile Native writer," says Lukens. "Everybody knows who he is and they know him from his books and his movies."

"Certainly the fact that he is the first person who wrote a movie that was nationally distributed, that was produced and directed entirely by Native American people and so successful it went in to the mainstream market

State and Future of Pulp and Paper Industry on the Agenda at UMaine this Week

13 Apr 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- High-level speakers representing the pulp and paper industry and large consumers of its products will be at the University of Maine on Thursday April 15 and Friday April 16 for the UMaine Pulp and Paper Foundation's annual open house. UMaine chemical engineering and civil engineering students will also be very involved in the program, serving as discussion panelists and presenting information about their research.

Highlights of the open house include the following:

"Achieving the Forest, Wood and Paper Industry Technology Agenda in the United States," a student/industry panel discussion scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday in Neville Hall. The discussion will be moderated by Louis J. Boos, president of Nordic Engineering. The guest speaker will be Delmar R. Raymond, director of strategic energy alternatives for the Wyerhauser company. UMaine students Michael Chasse, Matthew Kilbourn, Marilyn Nichols, Cari Powers, Kathleen Trinward and Ryan Wadsworth will serve as panelists.

"Publishing Business Trends," a talk by Soma Coulibaly, vice president of Houghton Mifflin Procurement at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, also in Neville Hall.

A dinner and series of presentations is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday at Wells Conference Center. Speakers will include Lee M. Bingham, senior vice president of SCA North America LLC and John A. Luke, Jr., the chair and chief executive officer of Mead/Westvaco, who will discuss "The Future of Forest and Paper Products." The 2005 Honor Award and Endowed Scholarship Funds will also be presented during the dinner event.

On Friday, from 10 a.m.-noon, an open house breakfast seminar is scheduled for Neville Hall, featuring a talk, "Reflections on the Diversification of Stock Market Risk in 2004" by Prof. Robert Strong of the Maine Business School at UMaine. At the same time, in the Jenness Hall Laboratory, UMaine chemical engineering graduate students will make poster presentations on their research.

Piscataquis County Households Targeted in Tourism Survey

12 Apr 2004

Contact: Roger Merchant, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1491 (in Maine)
Todd Gabe, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3307

Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Just over 1,000 households in Piscataquis County will receive a survey the week of April 12 on the subject of tourism development. With support from a \$45,000 rural business opportunity grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Maine is conducting the survey to determine public attitudes toward future tourism related activities.

Questions on the survey will focus on outdoor recreation, local natural resource and cultural heritage assets and preferences for future tourism development.

"There is renewed interest in tourism in this county," says Roger Merchant, Cooperative Extension educator in Dover-Foxcroft and a partner in the survey project. "The tourism industry in Maine is enormous. It contributes revenue to a lot of small businesses, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, shops and others. We want to make sure that future development is done in a planned and thoughtful way. To do that, we need to know where people stand."

Merchant has studied how rural communities in the eastern United States are responding to the loss of manufacturing jobs, including the promotion of tourism opportunities. In recent years, Piscataquis County has seen an expansion of conservation lands owned by organizations such as the Maine Bureau of Public Lands, The Nature Conservancy and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Participating on the survey project are the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council and UMaine's Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy, Department of Resource Economics and Policy (REP) and Cooperative Extension. Households receiving the survey were randomly selected from lists of registered voters.

A second survey of business owners is planned for later this spring, according to Todd Gabe, assistant professor in REP.

Bar Harbor Conference Focuses on Wood-Plastic Composites

23 Apr 2004

Contact: Lech Muszynski, AEWC, 207-581-2102, lech_muszynski@umit.maine.edu
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO-- From road bridges and cars to outdoor decks at home, composite products made of wood and plastic are becoming more common in every day life. Scientists and engineers doing research in this industry will present their latest results in a conference at the Regency Hotel in Bar Harbor on May 14.

The conference is sponsored by the Northeast Section of the Forest Products Society and the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites (AEWC) Center at the University of Maine. Speakers will address the economic and technical aspects of wood composite product development.

AEWC Director Habib Dagher will open the meeting. Among the speakers will be representatives of Correct Building Products, Inc. of Biddeford, Maine; Kadant Composites, Inc. of Bedford, Massachusetts; and the Ford Motor Company.

Demand for wood and other natural fiber polymer composites materials increased from less than 100,000 tons in 1995 to more than 600,000 tons in 2001.

Four companies "Crompton/Davis-Standard, K-Tron America, Correct Building Products and Farrel Corporation" provided financial support. Continuing education credits are available for members of the American Institute of Architects, American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Society of American Foresters.

More information about the meeting is available on the Internet at www.aewc.maine.edu/fpsc or from AEWC assistant scientist Lech Muszynski, 207-581-2102.

UMaine Senior Skull Honor Society Names Class of 2005

26 Apr 2004

Contact: Bob Potts, Advisor, Senior Skull Honor Society, (207) 581-1149 or 1-800-934-2586

Orono-- The Senior Skull Honor Society at The University of Maine in Orono is pleased to announce its newest inductees, Class of 2005.

The Senior Skull Honor Society was founded in 1906 to publicly recognize, formally reward, and continually promote outstanding leadership and scholarship, and exemplary citizenship within the University of Maine community.

Today, the Society consists of a group of seniors who have shown outstanding leadership abilities, academic achievement, community and campus involvement, responsibility, and integrity while an undergraduate at The University of Maine. Membership in the Society is the highest all-inclusive honor to which a male student at The University of Maine can aspire.

The University of Maine Senior Skull Class of 2005 consists of the following men:

- Ross Bartlett, Auburn, ME
Major: Financial Economics
Son of: Pamela Bartlett & Ross Bartlett

- Kyle Cyr, Glenburn, ME
Major: Political Science
Son of: Linda Cyr & Gary Cyr

- Charles Fogg, Biddeford, ME
Major: Food Science & Human Nutrition
Son of: Judith & Charles Fogg

- Jesse Krist, Chelsea, ME
Major: Business Management/German
Son of: Diane Gray & Fred Krist

- William Gove Jr., Auburn, ME
Major: Information Systems Engineering
Son of: Bill & Denise Gove

- Collin Grady, Bucksport, ME
Major: History
Son of: William & Debra Kirk-Grady

- Jason Hook, Brunswick, VT
Major: Political Science/English
Son of: Laurie Crawford & Robert Hook

- Benjamin Martin, Presque Isle, ME
Major: Electrical Engineering

Son of: Stephen & Cheryl Martin

- Joshua Schoolcraft, Dixfield, ME
Major: Electrical/Computer Engineering
Son of: Bill & Sheila Schoolcraft
- Jeremy Sells, St. John, Virgin Islands
Major: Electrical Engineering
Son of: Robert Sells & Jeanie Williamson
- Adam Turner, West Boylston, MA
Major: Civil Engineering/Business Administration
Son of: Susan Chambers & Larry Turner
- Eric Tweedie, Manchester, ME
Major: Biochemistry
Son of: Marcella Tweedie & Robert Tweedie

Study Finds Young Men Also Sexually Harassed

22 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Society has long been aware that women most often are the victims of sexual harassment in the workplace, but a new study by Amy Blackstone, a UMaine assistant professor of sociology, and a research colleague shows that young men are sexually harassed more than people think.

After surveys or interviews with more than 700 young men and women, Blackstone and Associate Professor Christopher Uggen of the University of Minnesota Sociology Department found surprising results from a population not often queried about sexual harassment in the workplace.

"We found that a large number of young workers, a combination of male and female workers, had experience with some sort of sexual harassment" by their mid-20s, she says. "We were surprised by the number of males who said they had experienced something that resembled sexual harassment."

Blackstone and Uggen recently published the results of their research in an article last month in the "American Sociological Review," a prestigious sociology journal.

Traditionally, sexual harassment has been considered something men do to exert power over women. But while women continue to be targets for harassment, the researchers also found that young men who challenge traditional male stereotypes also are more likely to be subjected to sexual harassment, primarily by other men.

One of every three women who participated in the survey said she had experienced sexual harassment, but many had not discussed it with anyone prior to being asked in the Blackstone-Uggen study. In addition, the researchers were surprised to find that one in seven young men who participated in the survey said he had experienced sexual harassment at work, and also hadn't reported it.

"We agree that it's still about gender, even though it happens to men," Blackstone says. "Males who are heterosexual and who adhere to dominant masculinity norms have more power in society than other males."

If a man, for instance, wears an earring, shares housework responsibilities or otherwise "doesn't necessarily fit the mainstream ideals of masculinity," he is more likely to be targeted for sexual harassment, according to Blackstone and Uggen's study.

"Every worker has a varying amount of power," she says. "Younger workers can be susceptible by virtue of their age and when you throw gender into the mix, then you have another aspect of power. Another observation is how underreported it is."

Finances or a person new to a job can be a factor in whether a person is susceptible to harassment, she notes. "We did find that men who are more financially vulnerable also are more vulnerable to sexual harassment."

Blackstone interviewed a young man, an insurance agent, who was propositioned by an older female client, who then insulted and ridiculed him when he resisted her advances. In another case, a volunteer in the survey said he once quit a job where other males consistently told sexual jokes in his presence, knowing he didn't like them.

"We're not trying to say men's experiences are equally as damaging as women's," she says. "But we should be aware that it happens more often than we realize. It's a careful line we have to walk."

Blackstone emphasizes that in conducting the research, "one thing we tried to be really sensitive about in the interviews and in the surveys was that our goal was not to tell people that they had been harassed. You can look at a situation and say it depends on the context of the situation. We were more interested in having people tell us whether they thought they were harassed, rather than us telling them we thought they were."

The questions asked volunteers about possible sexual harassment in the workplace both during high school and after high school. Six indicators considered unacceptable behavior included: "Offensive jokes, remarks or gossip directed at you? Direct questioning about your private life? Staring or invading your personal space? Unwanted touching? Pictures, posters or other materials you found offensive? Or physical assault by a co-worker, boss or supervisor?"

If just one condition applied, it did not necessarily qualify as sexual harassment, but with several being present, researchers could conclude sexual harassment probably occurred, according to Blackstone.

More information about the study, titled "Sexual Harassment as a Gendered Expression of Power," can be read on the Internet at www.asanet.org/journals/asr/2004/pruggen.pdf.

The American Sociological Review is the flagship journal of the American Sociological Association, a non-profit associated dedicated to serving sociologists and their work. Last year it published fewer than 10 percent of the articles submitted.

Limited Seating Available for Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Video Conference

22 Apr 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

The College of Education and Human Development has a limited number of seats available for the April 27 video conference on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with students from An-Najah National University in Nablus, Palestine. The goals of the conference are to develop a clearer understanding of the forces and factors affecting the conflict and to discuss perspectives regarding its resolution. The video conference begins at 9 a.m. in Soderberg Auditorium, Jenness Hall, University of Maine. Interested participants should contact Ed Jadallah, associate professor of social studies

education, as soon as possible. Participation will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Jadallah can be reached at 581-2488 or through First Class e-mail.

The video conference runs from 9-10 a.m., followed by a half-hour question session and a debriefing of UMaine participants from 10:30-11 a.m. The conference will begin with an introduction to An-Najah National University, and the Zajel Youth Exchange Program, followed by a brief summary of the current situation presented by the An-Najah director of the public relations, Sami Al-Kilani. An-Najah students will speak about issues affecting Palestinian citizens on a daily basis, such as siege, occupation, invasion, assassination, settlements, apartheid wall, roadblocks and curfew..

Dr. Patrick Daly, an American instructor in the An-Najah Department of History, will serve as discussion facilitator for participants there. He will also provide a summary on the impacts of the conflict on university students, stressing the financial, psychological and social problems that accompany the constant threat of detention, injury, humiliation and loss of life.

Dr. Jadallah will serve as facilitator for the UMaine participants and will discuss the importance of understanding how historical context, cultural dynamics, perspective consciousness and social action can affect conflict resolution.

In-service teachers currently taking a seminar on Global Education, pre-service teachers enrolled in a Social Studies Education course, and selected students from Skowhegan High School and a Lincoln middle school are also expected to the conference.

UMaine Psychologist Finds Minimal Therapist Contact Effective

22 Apr 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- If a handful of face-to-face contacts with a psychologist are as beneficial to some clients with panic disorder as weekly psychotherapy sessions, perhaps even fewer face-to-face consultations would be better still.

That's the theory and basis of a new study on "self-directed" therapy being conducted by University of Maine psychologist Jeffrey Hecker. It is the third study conducted by Hecker, who also chairs the UMaine Psychology Department, and several graduate students in the department, to explore new ways that people with panic disorder can be treated more efficiently, effectively and less expensively.

"This type of research continues to indicate that there may not have to be a lot of contact to be effective," Hecker says. "If we can teach a person to understand the problem so it's no so mysterious, and give them some small measure of success" they'll be more likely to succeed with their therapy.

Hecker also seeks in his current research ways to identify the personality types of people with panic disorder or agoraphobia -- fear of crowds or places from which escape would be difficult -- who are most likely to succeed with self-directed therapy.

With 56 volunteers in the study now, he's actively looking for another couple dozen volunteers diagnosed with panic disorder to participate.

Benefits for participants include free therapy, according to Hecker, a licensed clinical psychologist with a small private practice in Orono.

Already knowing from previous studies that some people can do well with a self-directed therapy program, Hecker is certain his research can benefit many people living in rural areas in Maine, particularly those for whom getting to a therapist's office may not be convenient.

"The reality of people living in a rural state is they have limited access to health care," he says. If people can be treated for panic disorder with a workbook and occasional telephone contact with a therapist, that could reduce the cost and inconvenience of psychological therapy.

In the first study, conducted in the early 1990s, half of a group of volunteers suffering from anxiety and panic disorder were given an initial consultation with a research therapist, a workbook and four face-to-face visits with the therapist. The meetings occurred about once every three weeks. The second half of the group had weekly scheduled therapy sessions with an individual therapist.

At the end of the 12-week experiment, Hecker found that both treatment methods were effective.

"Then we launched into this second study to look at whether we could make the treatment as effective with even less contact, so we assigned people into groups of four, five or six to meet in group sessions four times with a therapist," he says.

Members of the other half of the study group had just one individual face-to-face meeting with a psychotherapist and three follow-up telephone consultations. The latter group also had workbooks to read and homework exercises to complete.

Hecker says the telephone calls from the therapists in effect, coached the volunteers, and helped them keep up with their assignments.

In comparing the results for the clients getting more traditional face-to-face therapy in an office environment with clients working at home with a self-directed therapy program, "they seemed to be equally effective," Hecker reports. "Both conditions led to significant improvement and they seemed to be equally effective. In post-treatment, more people we'd reached by telephone had reached what we call the high end-state functioning status, which is close to normal."

Six months later, it appeared that both sets of volunteers were at the same levels of functioning, a sign of significant success, according to Hecker and his colleagues.

"It's not clear if the telephone was better, but it's at least as good as having the contact with the therapist," he says.

Results of the second study recently were published in the February 2004 edition of "Journal of Anxiety Disorders," an academic journal read by leading authorities in psychology.

The next study Hecker wants to do is to isolate different personality types, to see if there are ways to determine who is best suited, and who might not be, for self-directed therapy.

For instance, he says, people with panic disorder who also experience significant depression may be less successful at sticking to their self-directed program, a hypothesis he wants to clarify through more research.

For the current study, however, measuring the success of self-directed therapy as opposed to more frequent, traditional office visits, Hecker asks that prospective volunteers call the UMaine Psychological Services Center at 330 Corbett Hall on the Orono campus at (207) 581-2034.

Volunteers will be interviewed over the telephone briefly to determine their eligibility. The second step would be to meet with a university researcher for a diagnostic interview.

UMaine Musicians in Tune with Jazz Appreciation Month

22 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The UMaine Jazz Ensemble and UMaine Jazz Ensemble will appear in concert in Minsky Recital Hall at the University of Maine Thursday, April 22, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The concert is part of a busy month of many local performances by the UMaine Jazz musicians and their director Karel A. Lidral, an accomplished professional musician, associate professor of music and director of jazz studies in the UMaine School of Performing Arts.

Also, for the ninth consecutive year, the 20-member UMaine Jazz Ensemble will play live on "Friday Night Jazz," a show hosted by Rich Tozier on Maine Public Radio, 90.9 FM.

April is Jazz Appreciation Month.

Among the pieces to be performed by the Jazz Ensemble April 22 at Minsky Recital Hall on the Orono campus are Duke Ellington's arrangement of "Perdido," by Lengsfelder, Drake and Tizol. The piece, transcribed from the original 1942 recording by David Berger for "Jazz at Lincoln Center," is completely authentic, Lidral says.

UMaine trombonist John Maclaine transcribed the introduction that opens the piece from a different recording of the same work.

Herbie Hancock's "Eye of the Hurricane," arranged by international jazz artist and composer Bob Mintzer, is a wonderful setting of this piece, which was originally recorded by much smaller groups, and features solos from Justin Obie on the trumpet, Jennifer Snowman on baritone sax and Steve Barter on tenor sax.

The spectacular "Ahunk, Ahunk," composed by Thad Jones and recorded by the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra on the album "Consummation," is a contemporary chart in 5/4 time, featuring solos from Justin Drew on trumpet, John Maclaine on trombone and Ethan Brush on alto sax.

The remainder of the Ensemble's "book" includes contemporary and classic compositions from Oliver Nelson, Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, John Fedchock and Mintzer.

The four pieces to be performed by the eight-member Jazz Combo are chosen from eight works the group has worked on this semester. They include "Blue Train," "Come Rain or Come Shine," "Doxy," "Nutville," "Our Day Will Come," "So Nice (Summer Samba)," "Speak Low" and "Sister Sadie," all arranged by Frank Mantooth, a wonderful jazz composer, arranger and pianist who died earlier this year, according to Lidral.

Admission to the concert is \$6. Minsky Hall is in Class of 1944 Hall. Ticket information is available by calling 581-1755 or 1-800-MCA-TIXX.

The Ensemble's spring performance season ends April 23 with a concert on Maine Public Radio's "Friday Night Jazz" from 9-10:30 pm (90.9 FM), which reaches an estimated broadcast audience of 400,000. The concert will be streamed live on the Internet.

Earlier in the day on April 23, from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m., The Lidral (jazz) Duo will present its ninth chamber jazz lunch performance of the semester in the Bangor Lounges of the Memorial Union.

Also, in recognition of Jazz Appreciation Month, Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma music fraternity and sorority will sponsor Jazz Movie Night #5 -- featuring "The Cotton Club" on April 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bangor Lounges in the Memorial Union.

On April 30 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Lidral Duo (Karel Lidral and Terry Ann Lidral on piano) presents its tenth Chamber Jazz Lunch performance of the semester in the Bangor Lounges of the Memorial Union.

Prior to his coming to UMaine, Karel Lidral taught at Augustana College in Illinois and at Plymouth State College in New Hampshire, and also maintained a distinguished performance and recording schedule.

He has shared the stage with such jazz greats as Red Rodney, Jon Faddis, Ronald Shannon Jackson, Dennis Wilson, Laurence Hobgood and Chuck Israels. He also was a regular member of the Jack McDuff quintet during the two-year period he lived in New York, and has performed with the bands of a number of major recording artists, including Vicki Carr, Kate Smith, The Temptations, The Fifth Dimension, Manhattan Transfer, Wayne Newton and Englebert Humperdinck.

Membership in the UMaine Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo is by audition and its members are both graduate and under-graduate students.

UMaine Students Debate Politics with Arab Counterparts in Egypt

22 Apr 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The first of several live videoconference debates between a group of UMaine students and a group of Arab students at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, took on a tone of diplomacy as they discussed different views on the United States' Middle East policies.

The April 21 videoconference, arranged by Prof. Bahman Baktiari, director of the UMaine International Affairs Program, was the inaugural teleconference for the new Collaborative Media Lab at the University of Maine's Fogler Library.

Students in Orono and in Cairo faced off in real time on two large screens, one bearing the images of the Orono students, the other showing the classroom in Cairo.

Students were polite, but divided in their political views, which symbolized traditional disagreements over world politics and middle-east conflicts. Participants also argued within their own ranks about American interests in the Middle East, specifically Israel and Palestine and Iraq.

A common immediate Arab reaction on the street to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center towers, according to several Cairo students, was that many Arabs were pleased that the event represented a piercing of the perception that the United States is invulnerable. The American reaction of defiance after the Sept. 11 intensified "massive" Middle East anger toward the west, one Egyptian woman said.

Americans seem preoccupied with money and tax cuts, instead of the killing that happens on a daily basis in the Middle East, the woman said. The Sept. 11 attacks, another Arab woman said, was "just another (group of) people who are dying," but when Americans die, "it's such a big deal" compared with the death of someone in the Middle East.

Several Arab students, who expressed displeasure with unilateral U.S. support of Israel in the Israel-Palestine conflict, also said they did not trust the motives of the United States' commitment to democracy to Iraq, even though establishing a democracy there would be positive, one acknowledged. "It's impossible for us to really buy it, that they want democracy," she told the UMaine students.

A UMaine student noted that there is great division among Americans over the nation's foreign policy in the Middle East, and wondered if the Arab world differentiates between American people and American government.

An Egyptian student said that regardless of how the American people feel about the foreign policies of their government, "at the end of the day, it is this coming from the west to the east," she said, referring to the turmoil for which many Arabs blame the United States.

Although there was little agreement in points of view, the discussion was productive, according to UMaine graduate

student Nathan Burns, who served as a debate moderator.

"The cultural dialogue is good for both sides," he says. "It's good for both sides to actually sit across from each other and talk with real people."

He hopes the dialogue will continue by email between the first session and the next, scheduled on April 28.

Baktiari says the students at American University in Cairo regularly videoconference with American students in any one of three universities here, University of Washington in Seattle, Washington University in St. Louis and the University of California at Los Angeles. He hopes to make the University of Maine a member of the educational consortium, which he says "provides a unique opportunity for our students to participate in international student policy debates."

UMaine Sets May 8 Commencement; Distinguished Graduate to Deliver Commencement Address

21 Apr 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Michele Montas, a 1968 University of Maine graduate who has risked her life and seen her husband assassinated in the name of liberty for the people of Haiti, will deliver the featured address at UMaine's May 8 commencement ceremony. The event is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Morse Field at Harold Alfond Sports Stadium, weather permitting.

Montas, who lives in exile in New York City, is a Haitian native and highly respected broadcast journalist. With her late husband, Jean Dominique, she brought hope and the truth to the people of that country through Radio Haiti International. After Dominique was assassinated in 2000, Montas tried to keep the broadcasts, which provided objective and fair news coverage, on the air. After an attempt on her life, and recognizing the danger to her staff, she left Haiti to return to the U.S., where she works as a spokesperson for the United Nations General Assembly president. She also devotes much of her energy to finding justice for Dominuque, who is the subject of the just-released Jonathan Demme documentary, "The Agronomist."

"We are delighted that Michele Montas will join us to share her remarkable story," says UMaine President Peter Hoff. "She is an exemplary person and a credit to this university. She has inspired many in Haiti and the U.S., and I am sure that her participation in this event will make it even more memorable for our graduates and our guests."

Montas will receive an honorary UMaine doctor of humane letters degree. Also set to receive honorary doctorates are Walter Anderson, retired Maine State Geologist; Robert Kates, a pioneer in the study of the relationship between humans and the environment; and Brian Naylor, a 1979 UMaine graduate who has distinguished himself as a National Public Radio correspondent for the past 22 years. All will be present at the May 8 event.

President Hoff will preside over the ceremony, which will be the 202nd in UMaine history. Some 1,867 people are expected to graduate, including 462 graduate students, 25 of them at the doctoral level.

Brittney Lee Astbury of Orland is the Class of 2004 valedictorian. She will graduate with degrees in Communication Sciences and Disorders and in Elementary Education, along with an interdisciplinary concentration in disability studies. Amy Elizabeth Mickel of Sorrento, a Kinesiology and Physical Education major, is the class salutatorian.

In the case of inclement weather, two separate commencement ceremonies will be held, both inside Harold Alfond Arena. Graduates from the College of Business, Public Policy and Health; the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and the Division of Lifelong Learning would receive their degrees at a 10:30 a.m. ceremony. Those graduating from the College of Education and Human Development; the College of Engineering; and the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture would participate in a 2:30 p.m. commencement.

An irrevocable decision on whether to have the event inside or outside will be made by 7 p.m. Friday May 7.

Some 12,000 people attended UMaine's 2003 commencement, making it the single largest event in the university's history. A similar crowd is expected on May 8, if the ceremony is held outside. Those traveling to UMaine, especially from the south, are advised to allow for significant traffic delays. There will be continuous shuttle service from UMaine's Steam Plant Lot, Belgrade Lot, Maine Center for the Arts Lot and Orchard Lot. One viable option to consider is to use Exit 197 (formerly Exit 52) and drive through Old Town to the Park St. campus entrance.

Camps Sharpen Young Writers' Skills

20 Apr 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Some of the state's top writing teachers will help students develop composition skills and polish their prose during the University of Maine's annual Young Authors' day camps, held in three locations.

Camps will be offered July 12-16 at UMaine, Orono, and at Benton Elementary School; and Aug. 9-13 at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor. The UMaine and Bar Harbor are open to students in grades 3-12, and the Benton camp welcomes students in grades 1-12. Daily sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

In addition to working on skills, camp participants explore different genres of writing, compose for creativity and to inform, experiment with electronic texts, and publish and share their writing.

Young Authors camps are led by exemplary teachers who have completed the rigorous requirements of the Maine Writing Project at UMaine, the state's National Writing Project affiliate. The National Writing Project is a federally funded professional development program dedicated to the teaching and learning of writing across the curriculum.

The \$100 camp fee includes workshops, materials and snacks. For more information and registration, contact the UMaine College of Education and Human Development at (207) 581-2438; e-mail bonny.harris@umit.maine.edu.

UMaine Music Students to Perform in Spring Percussion Ensemble April 20

16 Apr 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Big drums, little drums, kettle drums and ceramic drums, not to mention metal chimes, triangles and cymbals, are a few of the more than 50 instruments University of Maine music students will use for a percussion ensemble concert April 20 at Minsky Recital Hall.

Approximately 10 students in UMaine music professor Stuart Marris' Percussion Ensemble will put on a performance that demonstrates use and sounds of the many percussive instruments, but also one that is an energetic and highly visual event.

"It's always very visual," says Marris. "The stage is just crowded with instruments in every concert we do, and you have people sometimes running back and forth from instrument to instrument. You're looking at a person surrounded by instruments."

The concert is the culmination of the percussion ensemble class and usually is a popular event, according to Marrs.

"We've been doing this for nearly 20 years and we've built up a following," he says.

The audience, Marrs says, can expect to experience a broad spectrum of percussion instruments from all over the world. "Everyone who goes to these concerts is intrigued by the variety we have," he adds.

Marrs will conduct the concert. Performers include student Ryan Parker, a senior who is returning next year to pursue postgraduate work in the music department. He'll be soloist in a marimba piece, "Uneven Souls," by Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic. The piece involves the soloist and three accompanying multiple-percussion players, with some of the musicians performing with nine different sets of instruments, according to Marrs, in addition to male voices.

The work can be characterized as a joyous celebration of Macedonian rhythm and melody. Many of the rhythmic motives are based folk dance of the Balkans, according to Marrs.

Some of the other instruments being used in the concert include the Peking opera gong, the Middle-Eastern darabukka, various multi-tongued slit drums, bass drum, cymbals, snare drum, timpani, chimes, glockenspiel, xylophone, triangle, tam-tams, wood-block, castanets and temple blocks.

The program begins with "Spanish Dance" by Enrique Granados, a late 19th Century composer, which Marrs calls one of Granados' most famous works which has been transcribed for marimba quartet.

"This medium is gaining increasing favor among performing percussion ensembles due to its ability to exploit the vast repertoire of melodic and harmonic music composition -- an area that percussion instruments of indefinite pitch can only imagine," Marrs says in his website about the piece.

"Blue Rhythm Quintet" by Anthony Korf is an energetic work utilizing 10 tom-toms, four timpani, bongos, bass drum, suspended cymbal, cowbells and three gongs.

Other pieces include "Pulsations," by Max Lifchitz and "Theme and Variations" by William Kraft.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$6. Ticket information is available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts box office at (207) 581-1755 or toll-free 1-800-MCA-TIXX.

UMaine Faculty Members Receive Awards for Teaching, Research, Public Service

16 Apr 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Six faculty members in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture were recognized on April 13 for their outstanding contributions to the college and the University of Maine.

Award winners were Aram Calhoun of Milford, assistant professor of wetland ecology; Ivan Fernandez of Orono, professor of soil science and cooperating professor of forest resources; Michael Vayda of Old Town, professor of molecular biology and assistant director of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station; Eric Gallandt of Orono, assistant professor of weed ecology and management; Steven Sader of Orono, professor of forest resources; and Louis Morin of Orrington, instructor in forest resources.

Calhoun was cited for her contributions to teaching programs involving wetlands, ecology, and environmental science as well as her work on identifying and protecting vernal pools.

Fernandez received the college research award. He was recognized as a prolific researcher, a leading expert on the

effects of acid rain on the environment.

Vayda was recipient of the College Outstanding Public Service Award. He has made enormous contributions to UMaine in teaching, research and public service and led the university's response to the potato moptop virus problem, which threatened the Maine potato industry in 2002.

Gallandt received the Sustainable Agriculture Faculty Award. His research program in weed ecology at UMaine's Rogers Farm has focused on sustainable farming practices and has introduced many undergraduates to agricultural research.

Sader was honored with the G. Peirce and Florence Pitts Webber Outstanding Research in Forest Resources Award. He is director of a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) designated Center of Excellence at the University of Maine and the Maine Image Analysis Laboratory. He has led the effort to develop satellite remote sensing and geographic information systems in forest resource management for the university.

Morin received the G. Peirce and Florence Pitts Webber Outstanding Forestry Teacher Award. He was cited for his commitment to high standards in the classroom, tireless involvement with student activities, and active promotion of academic programs.

Baldacci, Mitchell at Maine Water Conference April 21

19 Apr 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu Sarah Nelson, Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research, 207-581-3454, sarah.nelson@umit.maine.edu

RIVER RESTORATION, CLEAN AIR ACT, SALMON AND SLUDGE ARE PRIME TOPICS AT MAINE WATER CONFERENCE IN AUGUSTA

ORONO, Maine -- The politics and science of Maine's water resources will come under discussion at the tenth annual Maine Water Conference at the Augusta Civic Center on April 21. This year's meeting will feature presentations by Governor John Baldacci, former U.S. Senator George Mitchell and University of Maine President Peter Hoff.

Organized by the Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Management at UMaine, the meeting is expected to attract more than 300 scientists, citizen volunteers, municipal officials and state and federal agency representatives.

Activities will begin at 8:30 a.m. Morning presentations will focus on restoration efforts in Lewiston and on the Penobscot River. Lincoln Jeffers, deputy director of economic and community development in Lewiston, will discuss that city's program to redevelop its Androscoggin River waterfront, including the Bates Mills complex, a federally designated brownfield site.

Addressing plans to remove dams on the Penobscot River and restore habitat for salmon, shad and other fish will be Scott Hall of Pennsylvania Power and Light, Butch Phillips of the Penobscot Indian Nation and Laura Rose Day of the Penobscot Partners.

The federal Clean Air Act will be the focus with presentations later in the morning by Steve Kahl, director of the UMaine Mitchell Center, and Senator Mitchell. The latest amendments to the Clean Air Act were developed under Mitchell's leadership in the late 1980s. Kahl has worked closely with the U.S. Environmental protection Agency to understand how reductions in air pollution have affected the nation's lakes and streams.

Hoff and Baldacci are scheduled to speak just prior to or during the lunch.

Six concurrent afternoon sessions will focus on topics such as lake management, salmon rivers, riverfront redevelopment, sludge and water related issues in the Maine State Legislature. A schedule with speaker information is available on the [Mitchell Center website](#).

UMaine Valedictorian, Salutatorian both from Hancock County

30 Apr 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Two women from Hancock County will cap exceptional performances as University of Maine students when they are honored as the Class of 2004 valedictorian and salutatorian at UMaine's May 8 commencement ceremony.

Brittney Lee Astbury of East Orland is the Class of 2004 valedictorian. She will graduate with degrees in Communication Sciences and Disorders and in Elementary Education, along with an interdisciplinary concentration in disability studies. Amy Elizabeth Mickel of Sorrento, a Kinesiology and Physical Education major, is the class salutatorian.

"Brittney and Amy are truly deserving of this special recognition," says UMaine President Peter Hoff. "They have been outstanding students and outstanding members of our community. They represent the very best in UMaine students, and we look forward to honoring them on Saturday."

Before enrolling at UMaine, Astbury graduated from Evangel Baptist Academy in Bucksport. She is a member of three honor societies: Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Lambda Theta and the Golden Key Honor Society. Her interests include reading, gardening, cooking, writing and music. She recently completed a children's book, "Ty the Turtle," about traumatic brain injury. A project for a disability studies course, the book was written and produced in a universally accessible format.

Astbury plans to attend graduate school at UMaine beginning in the fall, to pursue a master's degree in the Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Her professional goal is to become a speech-language pathologist practicing in Maine.

"I desire to work with individuals or with small groups to enhance the communication abilities of children and adults," she says. "My ultimate goal in life is to help others."

She says that her UMaine professors have been a positive force in her development, as a student and as a person.

"My teachers have really motivated me to learn all I can while in school, then put that knowledge to work when I enter the workforce," Astbury says. "I am sure that many of these individuals are unaware of the influence they have had upon my learning experiences and my future aspirations. I am very thankful for the role each professor has played in my life."

Astbury is the daughter of Rozina Astubry and the late Bradley Astbury of East Orland.

Mickel graduated as valedictorian of the Sumner Memorial High School Class of 2000. In addition to her classroom work at UMaine, she has been involved in the Student Alumni Association and the UMaine Tennis Club. She is a member of four honor societies: Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Lambda Delta and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Mickel's interests include working with children, sailing, kayaking, gardening and being active in the outdoors. She aspires to become a physical education teacher somewhere near Sorrento. After a few years of teaching, she would like to get a master's degree.

Like Astbury, Mickel says that her UMaine professors have been "terrific and very helpful." She singles out her

adviser, Prof. Glenn Reif.

"He has been an outstanding mentor, and has spent countless hours helping me to become the very best physical education teacher that I can be," she says. "Prof. Reif took the time to make a connection with me right from day one, helping me to feel very at home in the Kinesiology and Physical Education Department."

Mickel's father and stepmother, John and Sandra Mickel, and her mother, Diane Kovacs, all live in Sorrento.

UMaine's May 8 graduation will be the 202nd in the institution's history. With approximately 1,900 members, the Class of 2004 will be the largest graduating class UMaine has ever had. The featured speaker will be Michele Montas, a highly respected broadcast journalist and Haitian human rights activist who graduated from UMaine in 1968. The event is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Morse Field at Harold Alfond Sports Stadium, weather permitting. In the event of rain, two separate ceremonies will be held in Alfond Sports Arena. Astbury and Mickel will sit on the stage during commencement, and will be recognized for their achievements.

UMaine College Honors Outstanding Faculty Members, Students

29 Apr 2004

Contact: Kathryn Olmstead, 581-3844

ORONO -- The University of Maine College of Liberal Arts and Sciences honored faculty members and students for dedication and accomplishments April 28, giving the award for outstanding teaching and advising posthumously to the husband of a popular psychology professor who died in an auto accident last fall.

Carrying his young son Camden in his arms, Steve Alexander, husband of Professor Michele Alexander, accepted the framed citation for teaching and advising excellence in his late wife's behalf from Kathryn Olmstead, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Michele Alexander "was known to her students as an enthusiastic and creative instructor who constantly strove to innovate and improve her already highly rated classes," wrote her department chair, Jeffrey Hecker, in nominating her for the honor.

History Professor Richard Judd received the college's award for research and creative activity. Known for his scholarship in environmental history, Judd has written five books on topics such as logging in Maine, conservationism and environmentalism in the United States and the socialist dynamic in American municipal politics. He currently is co-editing an innovative Historical Atlas of Maine.

"His impact on historiography extends well beyond the borders of the University of Maine and the state," department chair Scott See says in his nomination letter, calling Judd's reputation as a scholar "meticulous, imaginative and productive."

The college also gave awards to three outstanding students, recognized six faculty members who recently won tenure, and 30 students who received department awards.

Students receiving the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Student Awards were: Lauren A. Marshall of Fairfield, Maine, the Graduating Senior Award; Doctoral candidate Margaret Killinger Pandiscio of Orono and a history major, the Outstanding Graduate Student Award; and Yukiko Miura of Nukata, Japan, the Outstanding International Student Award.

The six faculty members recognized for earning tenure and promotion to associate professor are: Sandra Berkowitz, communication and journalism; David Bradley, mathematics and statistics; Adrienne Kearney, economics; Shannon

Martin, communication and journalism; Philip Silver, music; and Judy Perkins Walker, communication sciences and disorders.

Winners of individual department Outstanding Graduate Student awards went to: Lori Sawlivich, communication sciences and disorders; Richard Brooke Morrill, Jr. of Waretown, N.J., English; Margaret "Mimi" Killinger Pandiscio, history; Jan Fiala of Prague, Czeck Republic, physics and astronomy; and Jennifer Pells of Bangor, psychology.

Since some departments withhold the names of award winners until commencement, departmental awards for graduating seniors made public so far are as follows:

Anthropology: Dianna Schindler of Berwick and Alisha Welt of Brunswick; Service and Leadership Award, Jennifer Malpiedi of Marshfield, Mass.; Communication Sciences and Disorders, Michelle M. Bourque of Topsham; Economics, Ross Bartlett of Auburn; English, Lauren A. Marshall of Fairfield; Philosophy, Aaron Hanson of Livermore; Physics and Astronomy, Adrienne Traxler of Sharpville, Ind.; and Political Science, Eric Black of Orient, Maine.

In psychology, Dickinson Awards went to Greg Dore of Milford, Dawn Norris of Hampden, Jenna Pitula of Winterport, Moira Reilly of Bucksport and Aaron T. Thomas of Garland.

The Nichols Award from the psychology department went to James Strout of Eddington; the Ryckman Award to James W. Clark, 3rd of Orono.

Psychology Faculty Awards went to Stacy Alexander of Brunswick, Jessica Fales of Winslow, Rachel Goetze of Exeter, Meghan Hannington of Glenburn, Leah Pendergast of Berwick and Gina Veits of Orrington.

Amy Maier of Bath received the School of Performing Arts Music Award and Amanda Eaton of Dexter received the department's Theatre and Dance Award.

In sociology, Brandon Archibald of Mexico, Maine, Heather Taylor of Minneapolis, Minn. and Kelly Thibodeau of South China received an Outstanding Graduating Senior Award, and Jessica Joy of Westbrook, Aubrey Russell of Minot and Kelly Thibodeau won Alpha Delta Kappa awards.

Commencement to be UMaine's Largest

30 Apr 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The Class of 2004, which will graduate at the University of Maine's May 8 commencement ceremony, will be the largest in the university's history. Some 1,901 students will receive a UMaine degree; 320 of them are graduate students, 26 at the doctoral level. Of that group, 1,608 are expected to attend the ceremony, which will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Morse Field, weather permitting.

The featured speaker will be Michele Montas, a highly respected broadcast journalist and Haitian human rights activist who graduated from UMaine in 1968.

Approximately 12,000 people attended UMaine's commencement last year, making it the single largest event in the university's history. A similar crowd is expected on May 8, if the ceremony is held outside. Those traveling to UMaine, especially from the south, are advised to allow for significant traffic delays. There will be continuous shuttle service from UMaine's Steam Plant Lot, Belgrade Lot, Maine Center for the Arts Lot and Orchard Lot. One viable option to consider is to use Exit 197 (formerly Exit 52) and drive through Old Town to the Park St. campus entrance.

In the case of inclement weather, two separate commencement ceremonies will be held, both inside Harold Alfond

Arena. Graduates from the College of Business, Public Policy and Health; the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and the Division of Lifelong Learning would receive their degrees at a 10:30 a.m. ceremony. Those graduating from the College of Education and Human Development; the College of Engineering; and the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture would participate in a 2:30 p.m. commencement.

An irrevocable decision on whether to have the event inside or outside will be made by 7 p.m. Friday May 7.

Mitchell Center Hires Watershed Data Research Assistant

26 Apr 2004

Contact: Andrea Grygo, Mitchell Center, 207-581-3233

ORONO-- The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental & Watershed Research at the University of Maine has appointed Andrea Grygo as research assistant. Grygo will be developing SPARC (Searchable Park Access to Research Catchments), an interactive online consortium of watershed research sites located in the nation's national parks, including Acadia National Park.

She will serve as coordinator for the project, which is funded by the National Park Service. SPARC is intended for use by research scientists and park managers. Grygo will also work with Mitchell Center staff and students to manage research data for watershed studies and lake monitoring projects.

Grygo brings extensive scientific database and geographic information system (GIS) experience to the Mitchell Center. She received a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin-Superior, where she collected and analyzed spatial data as a staff member at the Caribbean Coral Reef Studies project.

Grygo has research experience with Minnesota Sea Grant and the Environmental Protection Agency, and most recently was a junior scientist at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, where she managed analytical chemistry data and GIS production for a variety of water quality research and monitoring projects.

Grygo is pursuing a master of science degree in water resources at UMaine. Her research will analyze the effects of climate change on long-term trends in water quality at national parks, using dissolved organic carbon as an indicator.

Four Prominent Alums Set for Stillwater Society Presidential Awards

28 Apr 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Four prominent University of Maine alums, representing alumni success in business, politics, law, literature, athletics and journalism, will be honored on April 30 with UMaine's prestigious Stillwater Society Presidential Awards for Achievement. Those to be recognized are:

A. Manette Ansay, an acclaimed novelist who has achieved both artistic and popular success. Her contributions to literature include novels, short stories and a memoir entitled "Limbo," about her long-term battle with a muscle disorder and its effect on her life. Ansay gained national fame when her 1998 novel "Vinegar Hill," the tale of a woman coming to terms with deep family secrets, was selected for the Oprah Book Club. In 2000 she was selected as a finalist for the prestigious National Book Critics Circle Award.

Mike Bordick, who retired after the 2003 season, bringing to an end a 13-year major league baseball career that included two World Series appearances and participation, as a member of the Baltimore Orioles, in the 2000 All-Star game. Bordick retired with major league records for consecutive games and consecutive chances at shortstop without an error. A solid offensive player, Bordick finished his career with 1,500 hits and a .260 career average.

Douglas E. Kneeland, a journalist who, from 1959 when he joined the New York Times staff until his retirement to Lincoln in 1993, played a significant role in the major newspaper coverage of national and international events. During his 22 years at the Times, Kneeland held various influential positions and is credited with being a driving force behind the Times' emergence as a national newspaper. Kneeland later joined the Chicago Tribune, serving as national and foreign editor and associate managing editor.

The Hon. William W. Treat, who has achieved great success as a judge, a banker, a writer, a political leader and a diplomat. For some 50 years, he has been an influential and trusted confidant to presidents, members of Congress, governors, jurists, and foreign leaders. Judge Treat has always found connections among the elements of his life's pursuits in law, government and banking, using one interest and the related experiences as a springboard to success in another area.

The Stillwater Society was created in 2000 to recognize people who have made significant contributions to UMaine. Friday's ceremony will bring to 15 the total number of people to receive the society's Presidential Award for Achievement, which honors extraordinary achievement by members of the UMaine family. Their accomplishments merit national and international acclaim.

"We are proud of UMaine's association with these four exceptional members of our community," says UMaine President Peter Hoff. "Their achievements are laudable, and they serve as profound examples of the great things that UMaine graduates are doing to advance causes and improve lives every day."

In a Wheel Chair? This Pontoon Boat is for You. Engineering Students Show New Designs on Maine Day

26 Apr 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO

Event to Celebrate the Life Dorothy Clarke Wilson

26 Apr 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The Maine Christian Association, the ecumenical campus ministry for the University of Maine community, will celebrate the life of Dorothy Clarke Wilson on Sunday, May 2 from 2-4 p.m. at the Wilson Center on the UMaine Campus. The event is scheduled for the 100th anniversary of the birth of Wilson, a prolific writer who was known for her commitment to peace and social justice. She died in 2003, shortly before her 99th birthday.

The Wilson Protestant Student Center, where the Sunday event will be held, is named for Dorothy Clarke Wilson's husband, Rev. Elwin L. Wilson, who was the Maine Christian Association's first chaplain, from 1950-55. He died in 1992 at the age of 93.

The Wilsons met when they were students at Bates College. They maintained strong ties to UMaine and the Wilson Center for more than four decades after the ministry took them to other assignments around Maine. Dorothy Clark

Wilson's writing included religious plays, biographies and novels, including "The Prince of Egypt, the story of Moses.

Sunday's event will feature beverages and food, including a birthday cake. The Wilson Center is at 67 College Ave. The phone number there is 866-4227.

Leadership and Outreach Training for Lake Groups

10 May 2004

Contact: Laura Wilson, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-581-2971

ORONO-- Members of volunteer lake associations can participate in a new free training program at the University of Maine June 3-5. The purpose, says organizer Laura Wilson of University of Maine Cooperative Extension, is to provide training in outreach activities, including working with the public, the news media and local government officials.

Lake association members often need to discuss lake issues such as water quality threats, invasive plants or recreational uses, says Wilson. Having an outreach plan can make a difference in developing cooperative relationships with lake shore property owners, municipal officials and others. Planning can also help determine if efforts have been successful.

At the end of the three-day session, participants will leave with an outreach plan for their lake association.

Speakers will include Michele Tremblay of Naturesource Communications; Julia Peterson, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension/Sea Grant; Jurij Homziak, University of Vermont Cooperative Extension/Lake Champlain Sea Grant; and Louise Franck Cyr, University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

Funding for the program has been provided by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Maine Community Foundation. Sessions will begin at 4 p.m. on June 4 and conclude at 3 p.m. on June 6. All supplies, meals and networking breaks are included. Attendees can stay in on-campus lodging for a small additional charge.

Participation is limited, and pre-registration is required. Contact Wilson at 207-581-2971.

Four Professors Receive Prestigious Awards

07 May 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Four University of Maine professors were recognized for outstanding job performance at this afternoon's UMaine Academic Honors Convocation. The convocation is an annual event, scheduled for the day before commencement, at which faculty members and students are recognized for exceptional work. Along with the UMaine Alumni Association's annual Distinguished Maine Professor Award, recognition is given for outstanding achievement in teaching, research and public service.

"The four professors who were honored today represent the outstanding work being done by our faculty members," says UMaine President Peter Hoff. "They recognize the unique role they play as professors at a land-grant university, and work diligently to use their expertise in ways that benefit the people of Maine and beyond, while advancing knowledge in their fields of study."

The 2004 University of Maine Distinguished Maine Professor is Eric Landis of the UMaine Dept. of Civil and

Environmental Engineering. A member of the UMaine faculty since 1994, Landis received UMaine's Presidential Outstanding Teaching Award two years ago. A researcher of the first order, Prof. Landis studies the relationship between material microstructure and engineering properties of concrete and other materials. He has authored more than 75 scholarly publications and made over 100 presentations at professional conferences. Landis has been recognized by his colleagues and his students numerous times in the past decade, with accolades for his scholarly activities and his teaching and mentoring of students.

Prof. Kim McKeage of the marketing faculty in the Maine Business School was honored with UMaine's Presidential Outstanding Teaching Award. Teaching in areas including consumer behavior, principles of marketing, sales management, retail management, services marketing, multicultural marketing, marketing management and market research, she has regularly been recognized by her students and her colleagues for dedication to teaching and advising. She has published research in the study of teaching methods, and has made presentations to UMaine faculty colleagues on teaching and teaching-related techniques. McKeage has been a member of the UMaine faculty since 1994.

This year's Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award was presented to Robert Lad, physics professor and director of UMaine's Laboratory for Surface Science & Technology. A UMaine professor since 1988, Lad is involved in pioneering research work on the development of thin films and coatings for various applications. He has written more than 70 journal publications, has given more than 100 seminars and conference presentations, and has received more than 30 research grants totaling almost \$23 million. He is the principal investigator for the largest research grant ever awarded to UMaine -- a \$10,269,523 multidisciplinary Dept. of Defense grant, "Advanced Development of Chemical and Biological Sensor Suites."

Prof. Todd Gabe of the Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy faculty was recognized with UMaine's Presidential Public Service Achievement Award. A UMaine professor since 1999, Gabe's work is focused on improving economic conditions for people throughout Maine. His research in community and regional economic development, along with his work with citizen groups, businesses, and local and state agencies, is making a real difference in people's lives. His many current projects include work with Piscataquis County leaders to diversify its economy by developing nature-based tourism and a project that is helping residents of Mount Desert Island and Hancock County plan for their economic future.

1,908 Graduate at UMaine's Largest Commencement

08 May 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- An estimated 12,000 people -- graduates, family members and friends -- filled the University of Maine's Harold Alfond Stadium under a cloudless sky this morning, as degrees were awarded to 1,908 members of the Class of 2004. The commencement ceremony was the 202nd, and the largest, in UMaine's history.

Michele Montas, a broadcast journalist and Haitian patriot who graduated from UMaine in 1968, returned to her alma mater to deliver the commencement address. She recalled 1964, when she left Haiti, which she called "a land of turbulence, fear and repression," to begin studies at UMaine.

"Being forced to adapt to a new culture gave me a wide perspective on my own society and, above all, on myself," she said.

Montas began at UMaine as a pre-med student, but quickly determined that journalism would be her calling and that she would return to her homeland to work in that field. She told the graduates about her life with her late husband and fellow journalist Jean Dominique, whom she compared to Prometheus, the mythical hero who stole fire from the gods and gave it to mortals.

"We chose to report the news, and we never looked back," she said. "For 30 years, we paid a heavy price in a country that has been infused with political violence since its inception 200 years ago after the bloody overthrow of French imperialism. We were arrested, harassed, and forced into exile under various dictatorial regimes."

In April 2000, Dominique was assassinated as he was arriving for work at Radio Haiti International, which he and Montas had established as the leading Haitian voice for credible news coverage. Following Dominique's murder, Montas kept broadcasting, working with other reporters to draw attention to the assassination and other "unpunished crimes." Fifteen months ago, after the assassination of her bodyguard during an attempt on her life, Montas closed Radio Haiti International and moved to New York. From there, she continues to work to bring her husband's killers to justice. She reflected today on the journey that she and her husband took together.

"In choosing the road we followed, Jean and I shared the wonderful exhilaration of knowing that what we did mattered. It mattered to us. It mattered to thousands of others. We saved lives. We galvanized efforts. We nurtured solidarity. We fostered hope by simply doing our job," she said.

Montas compared the "fire that Jean stole from the gods" to the fire that education has lit in today's graduates.

"If you look inside yourself, that small flame is there," she said, "of daring to be different, of daring to accept the differences of others, of daring to dream big dreams, beyond the comfort and security of a job, a house and a car, of daring to be free, beyond what your parents and friends expect of you, beyond Madison Avenue's advertising messages that try to define your needs, your desires and even your identity."

UMaine President Peter Hoff presided over the ceremony, during which each of the graduates was recognized individually. Of the degrees awarded, 467 were graduate degrees, 26 of which were doctorates.

Four honorary doctorates were presented at the ceremony. Montas received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree, as did National Public Radio correspondent and 1979 UMaine graduate Brian Naylor. Honorary doctor of science degrees were given to former Maine State Geologist Walter Anderson and to Robert Kates, a pioneering scientist in the study of the relationship between humans and the environment.

Prof. Eric Landis of the UMaine Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the winner of the UMaine Alumni Association's 2004 Distinguished Maine Professor Award, addressed the graduates and discussed the need for graduates to take with them a lifelong love of learning.

"What this means is that if we have all done our jobs, you should have a thirst for knowledge that is unquenchable," he said. "I submit to you that this is not merely an academic nicety, but a necessity for an active and productive future."

UMaine's valedictorian and salutatorian, both of whom hail from Hancock County, were recognized during the ceremony by President Hoff.

Brittney Lee Astbury of East Orland is the Class of 2004 valedictorian. She graduated with degrees in Communication Sciences and Disorders and in Elementary Education, along with an interdisciplinary concentration in disability studies. Amy Elizabeth Mickel of Sorrento, a Kinesiology and Physical Education major, is the class salutatorian.

Jeffery Mills, UMaine's vice president for advancement and president of the UMaine Alumni Association, welcomed the new graduates to the ranks of the 90,000 living UMaine alumni. University of Maine System Board of Trustees member William D. Johnson brought greetings from that board.

Canadian and U.S. Lobstermen Gather for a "Town Meeting

07 May 2004

Contact: Cathy Billings, Assistant Director - Lobster Institute - University of Maine 207-581-2751

ORONO, Maine ' The accents came from Down East Maine, Nova Scotia, Massachusetts and the Connecticut shore, but the talk was all about the same thing: the future of the lobster industry. Keeping that industry healthy will take research on topics such as water quality and lobster health, lobstermen agreed at a first ever Canadian/U.S. Lobstermen's Town Meeting April 23 in Portland, Maine.

'Lobstermen from all geographic areas of the fishery attended and shared what they are seeing and what their theories are about the status of the lobster resource and its habitat. What impacts the fishery in one area could very well impact the fishery in others. That's why we invited lobstermen from Canada down through to Long Island Sound to join us,?

May 2004 Designated as "Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine" Month

07 May 2004

Contact: Aileen Fortune, University of Maine Cooperative Extension (UMCE), York County office, 1-800-287-1535

ORONO-- In Waterville, a nonprofit organization, Hardy Girls Healthy Women, promotes self-awareness and positive images among girls. The group holds conferences, sponsors recreational opportunities and provides a "safe space" for girls to avoid competing with each other and instead, to become friends, says organizer Karen Heck.

Their activities--and the work of similar groups throughout Maine--are the focus of a proclamation by Governor John Baldacci designating May as Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine (TBIO Maine) Month. TBIO Maine is a program coordinated through the Gender Project of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

"I invite all Maine families, schools, and communities to conduct appropriate activities to promote awareness and appreciation of beauty as *good hearts, great works, and activism*," said Baldacci. "All who share this vision should join in this critical work with our girls and young women in groups and communities throughout Maine."

The proclamation acknowledges the vision of TBIO, Maine:

- a new cultural definition of beauty so that girls in Maine feel good, safe, strong and confident and have a sense of ownership of their bodies and their lives;
- girls have the resources, skills, and role models to support them in questioning cultural and media definitions of beauty;
- girls develop an awareness of the inner and outer aspects of beauty and realize that they have choices in figuring out for themselves what it means to be female, whole, and beautiful.

Aileen Fortune of the Cooperative Extension office in York County coordinates the Gender Project and notes that "Turn Beauty Inside Out" began as a project of New Moon Magazine in 1999. Each year the focus is on a different form of media with the goal of encouraging decision-makers to re-think how they portray women and girls.

Inspired by New Moon's "Turn Beauty Inside Out" campaign, a Maine steering committee first met in 2002 to explore ways to introduce the project at the state and local levels. *Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine* is about education, activism and social change, says Fortune.

Governor Baldacci has commended the educational and community development efforts produced by Cooperative Extension educators and the *Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine* steering committee. With sponsorship from the Maine Women's Fund, the Maine Community Foundation and the Maine Women's Health Campaign, *Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine* has compiled educational curricula in media literacy, body image, leadership, and empowerment for girls and women. developed strategies and opportunities for individual and collective action.

In addition, organizers are working to create a highly visible media and public awareness campaign.

Organizers of TBIO, Maine believe that redefining beauty can lead to cultural change affecting the fabric of families, schools, and communities across the state, says Fortune. For example, in a conference in Waterville last year, girls played a game called "the lunch table." They pretended to be in a school lunch room where they were choosing with whom to sit and eat. Stereotypes came to mind â€" the geeks, the princesses, the jocks â€" and the girls then created two-minute skits to demonstrate the characteristics of each stereotype. Conference participants then discussed the issue of stereotyping and how it affects girls who are left out of social groups, says Heck.

More information about *Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine* programs, resources, activities is available at 1-800-287-1535 (within Maine) or 1-207-324-2814; or on the Web at <http://www.umaine.edu/umext/genderproject/04tbioactivities.htm>. To Learn about New Moon's "Turn Beauty Inside Out (TBIO) 2004" activities in May, go to www.mindonthemedia.org.

Cutting-Edge Biophysics Research Facility Opens May 5 at the Jackson Laboratory

07 May 2004

Contact: Joyce Peterson, The Jackson Laboratory, 207-288-6058; Nick Houtman, University of Maine, 207-581-3777; Louise Berlin, Maine Medical Center Research Institute, 207-885-8108

What: Opening reception for the Institute for Molecular Biophysics (IMB), a collaborative research facility with the University of Maine, Maine Medical Center Research Institute and The Jackson Laboratory

Where: The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor

When: Wednesday, May 5, 2004, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Who:

- Rick Woychik, Ph.D., Director, The Jackson Laboratory
- Peter Hoff, Ph.D., President, University of Maine
- Kenneth Ault, M.D., Director, Maine Medical Center Research Institute
- Judy Cuddy, State Representative for Senator Susan Collins
- Barbara B. Knowles, Ph.D. (co-director, IMB), Vice President for Research, Education and Training, The Jackson Laboratory
- Michael Eckardt, Vice President for Research, University of Maine
- Michael Grunze, Ph.D. (co-director, IMB), University of Heidelberg, Germany

BAR HARBOR--"Throughout history, new imaging capabilities--"from the first 17th century light microscopes to the latest MRIs and electron microscopesâ€"have opened new worlds in biomedical research. Today, now that the human and mouse genomes have been sequenced, researchers need nanoscale imaging technologies to explore the structure and function of genes and chromosomes within cells.

The Institute for Molecular Biophysics (IMB) was created to develop and deploy the biological imaging technologies of the future. This interdisciplinary program brings together expertise in biophysics and engineering at the University of Maine, cell biology at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute, and genetics and genomics at The Jackson Laboratory.

"The IMB is an interdisciplinary leap into the future," says IMB co-director Barbara B. Knowles, Ph.D. "It is the forum for the integration of newly developed instrumentation that will allow the application of optical physics and nanotechnology to genome structure. The ultimate goal is to understand precisely how genes control both normal development and human diseases and disorders."

On May 5, the IMB will celebrate a milestone with the opening of the new 3,400 square-foot research area at The Jackson Laboratory. Representatives of the three institutions will be on hand to describe the mission of the IMB, lead tours of the newly constructed laboratory facilities, and introduce members of the research team.

Initial funding for the IMB was provided by the National Science Foundation's EPSCoR program.

Romance Blossoms Via Internet, but Needs Human Touch to Thrive

05 May 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Online matchmaking was bound to happen when the Internet began linking strangers as never before, says a University of Maine graduate student whose research examines development of intimate relationships between adults seeking suitable partners virtually.

The seemingly futuristic method of dating is a present reality that will continue to evolve and sway -- if not shake -- the foundation and development of intimate relationships between adults, according to Kjrsten Keane, who examined some pros and cons of online dating. Keane, who earned her master's degree in instructional technology at the University of Maryland, is combining her interest in technology and human development in her doctorate studies at the UMaine College of Education and Human Development.

"Coming from a technology background, I thought there were ways to harness the Internet to improve quality in everything, including relationships," says Keane, a Milford resident. "But even though you can get know a lot about a person online, that information is restricted to what he or she chooses to convey. Relationship development needs to continue offline to have the best potential."

Focusing on relationships generated through membership profiles on online matchmaking sites, Keane points out that participants can efficiently screen many dating possibilities during a short time on the computer. When a potential romantic match seems compatible, members can explore common interests electronically before choosing to move the relationship to more sociable channels, such as talking over the telephone or meeting in person. Virtual dating also decreases the emphasis on appearance and first impressions. However, Keane cautions that the perfect match on screen might not be so harmonious in the real world.

In her research, Keane found sites catering to specialty relationships specifying preferences for potential matches based on religion, race, sexual orientation, age, occupation and a host of other characteristics. Although numbers are estimates, there is no doubt that Internet dating is huge and growing. A September 2003 U.S. News and World Report item reported "40 million Americans -- half of the country's singles -- had visited an online dating site in the last month."

"As the number of people connecting to the Internet increases, so do the diversity of users and the opportunities to date online and establish relationships," Keane says.

Anonymity is as appealing as accessibility. People can communicate under different user names, experiment with gender identity and explore sexuality while maintaining control over what is shared with a potential partner. The emotional aspect of sexuality has a good chance of developing online, as communication of thoughts and feelings often occurs before sexual activity is begun, and many people prefer the anonymity that online sexuality provides, Keane points out.

"The ability to expediently meet people near and far with specific desired qualities is convenient and exciting, but the inability to share time and space can be a detriment to developing a personal relationship," Keane says. And while it is good that some people felt they could be open and candid, "truly themselves," for the first time in online relationships, she is concerned that the safe anonymity of the Internet may be their only social outlet.

"Sexuality -- online or under any conditions -- has the ability to help or hurt intimate relationships," Keane emphasizes.

Online daters come from all walks of life. Some prefer dating strictly online, others combine technology with personal meetings, many are lonely or shy, and others are socially outgoing but desire new outlets for their energy. The unmet needs they hope to fulfill are as unique as the individuals, according to Keane, but the commonality is that they want to connect with others more quickly and intimately than traditional courtship allows.

Her study also suggested that men and women seem to handle online relationships differently. Women described their virtual dates as being closer and more intimate than men did. Keane points out that this finding complements previous research showing that women's friendships tend to be more deeply intimate than men's. Women place greater emphasis on talking and sharing emotions, while men tend to focus on shared activities.

Future technological growth will greatly extend options for online matchmaking, but the potential for successful, intimate relationships between adults exists as a compromise between online experimentation and traditional face-to-face interaction. Such relationships can begin and develop on the Internet, but should be taken into the physical world in order to thrive, Keane concludes.

UMaine Center on Aging Wins Grant for Elder Abuse Prevention

05 May 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine Center on Aging has received a \$200,000 grant to help detect and prevent elder abuse through a unique screening program being launched in Penobscot and Piscataquis counties this summer.

The "Maine Partners for Elder Protection Project," funded by a grant from the Maine Health Access Foundation (MeHAF), will start with five participating doctors' offices and also includes an education and training component to teach people who work with the elderly to be more alert to signs of mistreatment.

Lenard Kaye, director of the Center on Aging, says the grant will go a long way toward detecting abused or neglected seniors, and also combats one of the most prevalent yet underreported crimes in the nation.

"I think we can radically improve the quality of life for many, many people," says Kaye. "The challenge in a project like this is people have to come forward."

Within the next few months, the center will begin soliciting information through short questionnaires for people over the age of 60 at five healthcare facilities in Penobscot and Piscataquis counties. Using "non-threatening but probing questions," medical staffs will tactfully look for conditions under which elder abuse traditionally happens, according to Leah Ruffin, director for the Maine Partners project.

By working through physicians' offices, Kaye and Ruffin hope to identify actual and potential abuse of seniors at early stages. With 84 percent of elder abuse never reported, according to the Center on Aging, there are many reasons why older abuse victims are reluctant to report it. Older people, however, tend to trust doctors and are likely to feel safe discussing personal issues with them.

In Maine, experts believe that as many as 14,000 incidents of abuse occur annually, and only one in 14 is reported. That

means the vast majority of abuse victims are unknown to the state's health and welfare authorities and do not benefit from the services available to address elder abuse, neglect and physical violence, according to Kaye and Ruffin.

Abuse of the elderly comes in many forms, Kaye says. Neglect is the most prevalent form of elder abuse. Financial exploitation is the fastest growing form of abuse and physical or verbal assault also is common. Most troubling is that family members and friends are most often the abusers.

"In some cases, we're asking elders to acknowledge for the first time in their lives that someone is mistreating them," Kaye says. Such admissions are very difficult for a population that is simultaneously independent, yet vulnerable, he adds.

"Their health is at risk. Their housing may be at risk. Their health is declining and their losing friends and family right and left. Often they're emotionally isolated," Kaye says. "To report someone who is subjecting them to abusive behavior is risking taking away from them one of the few people who are in their lives."

Admitting to an embarrassing, humiliating or even dangerous home environment can seem worse for many people than seeking help.

"The primary care facility is going to be the key," Ruffin says. "We couldn't reach the people we want to reach without the cooperation of the physicians and their primary care practice teams."

In addition to MeHAF, the Center on Aging is working with Eastern Agency on Aging in Bangor, Elder Abuse Institute of Maine, Maine Adult Protective Services and doctors at five facilities whose staffs will speak with elders about their living environments. The healthcare systems and facilities include Eastern Maine Health, Maine Health Alliance (St. Joseph's), Norumbega Medical and Penobscot Community Health Center in Bangor and the Milliken Medical Center in Island Falls. The list of participating facilities is expected to grow pending the success of the first phase.

A statewide advisory board of experts in geriatrics, healthcare, elder abuse, social work and law will oversee the project. They include representatives from the state Bureau of Elder and Adult Services and Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services, Area Agencies on Aging, Spruce Run, the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office, Skelton Law Offices, LLC, Home Resources of Maine, the UMaine School of Social Work and Nursing and Sunbury Primary Care.

MeHAF is an Augusta-based non-profit healthcare foundation created in 2000 from an endowment from the sale of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine to Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. It supports developing solutions for Maine's health care needs through grants and programs, particularly targeting projects that serve the uninsured and medically underserved.

Kaye notes that the coalition formed to oversee the unique project represents a rare merger of medical, social service, state and educational organizations "working to expand access to care for one of the state's most vulnerable groups."

"What makes this so unique," he says, "is that nobody else is screening for abuse through doctors' offices."

In the past, many physicians have focused on a patient's immediate health condition and potential abuse "may be something that is not on their radar screens," Ruffin says. Physicians working with the Maine Partners for Elder Protection Project will look at the whole social aspect of medicine as well as physical health, she says.

An additional component of the project includes organizing workshops and seminars to educate health practitioners, family caregivers and others who work with the aging.

The Center on Aging can be reached for further information at (207) 581-3444. The web site for the center is at www.mainecenteronaging.org.

UMaine Student Journalism Conference Set for May 12

05 May 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- More than 150 student journalists and teachers from 27 schools, in addition to newspaper reporters and editors from throughout the state, will converge on the University of Maine May 12 for the 11th Annual Student Journalism Conference.

The event is an opportunity for aspiring young journalists to meet with and learn from each other and professionals working in the field, according to Shannon Martin, assistant professor of communication and journalism at the University of Maine and director of the Maine Center for Student Journalism.

Students also will bring samples of their publications to exhibit, and will find out which student publications won awards in this year's newspaper contest.

The theme for the conference is "Covering Civil Rights for High School Students." State Attorney General Steven Rowe is the keynote speaker.

The day begins at 9 a.m. at the D.P. Corbett Business Building on the UMaine campus, with remarks by Rowe. Afterwards, students and their advisors break into round-table discussion groups led by practicing journalists and focusing on different aspects of journalism and production.

"The conference is important to the high school students who participate in journalism in some form at their high schools because we'll help them hone the skills they'll need to both produce better student publications now and sharpen the tools they'll need to become good journalists afterwards," Martin says.

Newspaper contest winners will learn who they are at an afternoon ceremony.

Contest categories are news writing, editorial and opinion, feature writing, layout and design, photography, sports writing, writing for the arts, editorial cartoon, general excellence and a new entrant category for newspapers entering for the first time.

The winner in the general excellence category takes home the coveted traveling James Russell Wiggins trophy identifying the state's outstanding newspaper for the year.

Wiggins, an exacting and self-taught newspaperman, New York Times writer and former editor of the Washington Post, retired to his summer home in Maine in the 1960s, and purchased the Ellsworth American newspaper. He died in 2000, one of the 20th century's most revered journalists, after a career of more than 78 years as a writer, editor and poet.

The Maine Center for Student Journalism is funded by the Maine Daily Newspaper Publishers Association with support from the University of Maine Department of Communication and Journalism

More information is available buy contacting Martin at (207) 581-1281 or by email at Shannon.martin@umit.maine.edu.

Parenting Class Offered at UMaine

11 May 2004

Contact: at UMaine Cooperative Extension, Judith Graham, 207-581-3104, or Ruth Brown, 207-581-3448

ORONO-- Becoming a parent can be one of life's most difficult but rewarding challenges. To help people who are

planning to start a family, University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a new course, Parents-to-Be, in June.

The course is designed to help adults get ready to parent by focusing on their development as they learn about parenting skills.

"Throughout our lives, we follow a natural rhythm of growth to upgrade earlier developmental tasks," says Judith Graham, Ph.D., Cooperative Extension educator and human development specialist. "Parents-to-Be goes deeper than many 'information and skills' parent education programs, in that it reflects a more complex perspective of human development, addressing the parent's development as much as the parent-child relationship."

The course will run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Bangor Room of the UMaine Memorial Union on selected Tuesday and Thursday evenings: June 1, 3, 8, 17, 22, and 24.

The registration fee is \$30 per person (\$45 per couple if sharing one book) and includes the book *Growing Up Again: Parenting Ourselves, Parenting Our Children* by Jean Illsley Clarke, a program notebook and all program materials. Limited financial aid is available.

Registration can be done by phone or e-mail to Ruth Brown, 207-581-3448, rbrown@umext.maine.edu. Fee payments with name, address and phone number can be sent to her at UMaine Cooperative Extension, 5717 Corbett Hall, Rm. 306, Orono, ME 04469-5717.

Retired UMaine Staffer Receives 2004 Hartgen Art Award

10 May 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- A longtime staff member at University of Maine who became an instant fan of Vincent Hartgen after taking an art class from him more than 25 years ago is the recipient of the Fifth Annual Vincent A. Hartgen Award.

Janet Candage Rourke came to work at the university's Cooperative Extension Office in 1956 and held various positions on campus before becoming an executive secretary in the Development Office in 1977, from which she retired in 1999.

But she has continued the work she began in 1979 on behalf of the UMaine Patrons of the Arts organization as it struggled to exist with no budget and relying solely on the work of volunteers.

She is described as a tireless motivator and organizer behind the Patrons of the Arts, taking minutes during board meetings, organizing events and trips to museums and galleries and keeping members of the organization informed about the many campus and community activities undertaken over the years.

"Janet organized numerous Patrons' functions, including receptions, dinners and Montreal Art Tours," according to program notes from the April 24 award ceremony. "Her dedication to the Patrons well exceeded her 9-5 responsibilities. Janet has spent countless hours being a creative force to enhance the advancement of the Patrons

UMaine Preps for Annual Youth Music Camp in July

14 May 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The majority of University of Maine students have left the Orono campus for the summer, but there will still

be plenty of students around, particularly in July, when more than 400 young musicians from grades six through 12 arrive for Maine Summer Youth Music Camp.

The 24th annual youth music junior camp for musicians in grades six through nine runs July 11-16 at the Class of 1944 Building and Maine Center for the Arts. Senior camp, for students in grades 10 through 12, is July 18-30.

Junior and senior music camps are exciting and unusual opportunities for you musicians to practice and perform instruments of their choice and also participate at the same time in several choral groups, says Chip Farnham, associate professor of music and director of bands at UMaine. It is a time they can focus without distraction on music.

Farnham has assembled a staff of two to three dozen music or voice instructors from UMaine, colleges or universities across the country and from high schools in Maine.

"The staff is a combination of public school music educators, college faculty members or students majoring in music education here at the university," Farnham says.

All musicians within the appropriate grade divisions are welcome, from novice to All-State participants, he says. While individual piano and guitar lessons will be available, and help with other instruments from the staff, Farnham suggests that music camp participants have basic knowledge of an instrument.

Costs for the summer camps are available by calling the UMaine School of Performing Arts at (207) 581-4702, Additional information and an application form is available online at the School of Performing Arts website at www.umaine.edu/spa/.

After an audition, staff will assign students to different groups based on ability. The schedule allows students to both play an instrument and participate in choral groups.

Room and board is available in campus dormitories and campus dining halls.

Students come mostly from Maine, but usually some are from out-of-state -- students whose parents have heard of the camp or students whose families are taking extended vacations in Maine and whose children want to take a few weeks off to concentrate on music. "It's a wonderful group of kids," he says.

Farnham says the concentration on music and music alone makes the music camps both educational and exciting.

"There's no question that in the public schools they get good instruction," says Farnham, "but they also take other classes. They come here and just focus on their music."

Visiting teachers and conductors include, for the junior camp, Mark Fonder, professor of music at Ithaca College in New York, who will direct the symphonic and concert bands, Jay Nelson, from Presque Isle High School, who will work with the chorus, George Anzivino from the Burnell School in Bridgewater, Mass., jazz ensembles, and Patrick Moore from Houlton High School, who'll direct the musical theatre.

Staffing the senior camp activities will be Farnham, symphonic band, Chris White, director of UMaine sports bands, the concert band, Anthony Maiello, director of instrumental studies at George Mason University, Fairfax, Va., who will be guest conductor of the senior camp symphonic and concert bands, Robert Westerberg, York High School, chorus, Dennis Cox, a professor of music and director of choral activities at UMaine, Peter Bouffard, a lecturer in guitar at University of Nebraska, who will direct the jazz ensembles, and Jay Nelson of Presque Isle, musical theatre.

The deadline for applications for both junior and senior music camps is May 24.

Hooked Up: UMaine Undergraduate Provides Technology Expertise for Northern Maine Schools

14 May 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO-- Reuben Caron knows first hand what laptop computers mean to Maine school children. As a technology consultant for eight Aroostook County school districts, the graduating University of Maine senior saw middle school students, who had never used a computer, become overjoyed at their first touch of a keyboard.

During his four years at UMaine, Caron helped the state's pioneering laptop initiative to level the learning field for students without computer access at home. He created a computer network for the eight districts, providing online access to more than 2,000 students and 400 teachers.

The oldest son of Roland and Linda Caron of Portage, Reuben graduated on May 8 with a degree in electrical engineering technology. This summer he is headed for a job with the Putney School in Vermont as a network operations manager. "They want me to re-do their entire computer network. It's a one-year contract, and after that we'll see where they want to go with it," says Caron.

As a student engineer, Caron provided information technology (IT) support for the electrical engineering technology program. "Reuben brought a lot of experience to his course work. He could take a job and go out and find the solution. We could count on him for anything we needed in the information technology area. He will be hard to replace," says Scott Dunning, associate professor, program coordinator and one of Caron's advisors.

While at UMaine, Caron designed and installed computer systems for department labs and for UMaine's Advanced Manufacturing Center.

It seems that Reuben's fingers have never been far from a keyboard. The 2000 graduate (and valedictorian, as was his younger sister Robin) of Ashland High School learned the fine points of technology sales and management working for the Computer Connection, UMaine's technology purchasing unit. He took academic courses in management information systems, computer programming and electrical networks.

As though that weren't enough, he worked with the University of Maine System's computer network (UNET) and Apple Computer to conduct nightly backup operations for the state's middle school laptop network. He found himself working in the dead of night after daily traffic on the statewide school network had died down.

In 2003, Caron broadened his skills in a summer job with Kannon Communications, Inc., a New Gloucester, Maine company. He consulted with businesses throughout New England on their network needs and continued to provide services to the Maine Laptop Initiative.

However, it was a school networking project that brought him back home. As a freshman he began as the technology consultant for MSAD 32 in Ashland, where his dad had become the superintendent. He created a computer bulletin board system and advised teachers on computer hardware problems. With the laptop initiative came a need for other districts to buy hardware, and Reuben saw that joint purchases could save them money.

Caron eventually made arrangements with eight districts, and created a group known as NorthStarConnection.org: Ashland, Van Buren, Washburn, Danforth, Hodgdon, Sherman, Island Falls and Frenchville. For his required senior engineering project, he purchased and installed computer systems and conducted training sessions for technology coordinators in each district. When he's not in the County, he answers questions and performs maintenance activities from his apartment in Orono.

As the technology coordinator for Ashland, Caron has maintained facilities in classrooms and libraries as well as the middle school laptop program. "He is incredibly reliable," says Gene Bradbury, Ashland High School principal. "If I call him, within the hour he has my computer doing things. I don't know where we'd be without him. A lot of students would rather be out doing other things. He is mature beyond his years."

Using the commercially available First Class software, Caron trained technology coordinators in file management and system rules, giving each of them the skills to work with teachers and students in their districts.

"Each school determines its own priorities and policies on e-mail, access to folders and other system issues," says Caron. To make that job easier, he developed a user manual and set up e-mail accounts for every student, teacher and administrator.

"E-mail rules are important. When students first get online, they get excited and tend to want to send messages to lots of people at once. So we (technology coordinators) talk about spam and language issues. Since e-mail communication lacks visual cues that we use in face-to-face communication, students learn to use other written expression techniques. Without knowing it, they are becoming better readers and writers. They are writing back and forth to each other, peer to peer," Caron adds.

"Before this project, I worked a lot on my own. This project has given me the chance to meet with other technology coordinators and discuss problems," he says.

In the long term, Caron hopes to start his own technology consulting business in Maine. "Some of my friends and I are all going out on our own right now, but once we build up our experience, we may come back together as a group. We know there are exciting possibilities out there."

UMaine Archaeologists Dig for History with New Technology Tools

12 May 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Using tools of the future, a group of University of Maine archaeologists hope to discover more about tools of the past, specifically cutting and carving tools made from obsidian about 13,000 years ago by Peruvian Indians.

Professor Dan Sandweiss this week left with a five-person team from UMaine to meet up with colleagues from a New York college and from Peru to venture deep into the mountains and canyons of highland Peru.

Their quest is to explore early camp sites near the source of obsidian, a black stone that can be chipped and sharpened, which Sandweiss had located several years ago in an ancient fishing village on the nearby Pacific coast.

The project is unusual in that it has the potential to break new archaeological ground and build new stepping stones for better understanding of early South American inhabitants. But the tools Sandweiss will be using in his work include the prototype of a new global position computer that will contain a unique database for mapping and an organized information retrieval system like nothing that exists in the world today.

Called OspreyNav by Intelligent Spacial Technologies (IST) at Target Technology Center in Orono, the laptop computer is outfitted with a global positioning system (GPS), a digital compass, a sophisticated data entry and retrieval system and a solar panel to recharge its battery.

Still under development, the device holds significant interest for several United States organizations or agencies assisting with funding its creation, but IST founder Chris Frank, a former UMaine graduate student, wants to field test the device.

And a month in the arid highlands of the Peruvian mountains is a good place to start, say Frank and his former assistant Helen Duckham.

"We've sort of been testing it," says Duckham, "and seen that it really works. Next is to take it to the real world."

The computer will help Sandweiss and his team in their search for signs of habitation still around after 13,000 years. The new device will allow them to mark those spots precisely in the computer and log their findings for future use, including returning to the exact spot in the future, according to Sandweiss.

"This will be a very useful piece of equipment for us," says Sandweiss. "It will make navigating much easier because we'll have real time position and orientation displayed on an image-based background."

Once coordinates and other information are entered into the computer, a team member can point the computer at an area or object. The computer, which knows through the GPS and the database exactly where it is and which direction it is facing, records information.

In the areas where the device will be used in Peru, Sandweiss's information will start to build the database for that area, which future archaeologists also can use to quickly relocate the sites and continue the research.

When fully developed, the OspreyNav will have commercial value for everyone from tourists to emergency personnel navigating buildings or even neighborhoods. With its layers of information, for instance, an operator could point the OspreyNav at a building and, assuming the data has been entered, learn everything from the number of businesses in the building to the number of people who work there, floor plans, construction information and historical notes.

Tourists could use the equipment as an electronic personal tour guide to find facilities like restrooms, emergency services or coffee shops, not to mention reams of other information about a specific area, according to Frank.

Sandweiss, though, has a different mission.

"What we want to do is understand what people were doing in the past," he says.

The question he seeks to answer is how did the obsidian, or volcanic glass, used for cutting tools by the inhabitants of the fishing village of Quebrada Jaguay get from the mountains to the coast, a distance of more than 150 kilometers?

In his earlier expedition to Quebrada Jaguay, Sandweiss found discarded chips of obsidian, and established that they came from the mountainous area near the highlands village of Alca.

Having already visited and studied Quebrada Jaguay, Sandweiss knows how old the village is and a fair amount about how the Paleo-Indians there lived. By studying the Alca sites, Sandweiss hopes to compare whatever tools, bone fragments or charcoal from prehistoric cooking are found in the ground with evidence and artifacts from the coastal Quebrada Jaguay.

He wonders whether the coastal inhabitants traveled to the Alca region to get the obsidian or whether they traded with other people who either lived in or traveled through the Alca region.

"This material came from the highlands," Sandweiss says. "Either the Quebrada Jaguay folk were going to the highlands or they were trading with people who were living there."

The information will help Sandweiss solidify theories about migratory patterns of early South American people.

"Our (Alca) site is clearly a site of contact" between two regions, he says, "but was there one group of people or two?"

Some of the answers also may lie in the ways in which the tools were crafted.

"We need to look at the way they were making the tools. That differentiates the habits of different groups," he says. "Who was there and when? At the Alca sites, we hope to find suitable material for radiocarbon dates to compare ages."

The information will be of tremendous value to archaeologists worldwide. "This is going to be something new," he says.

The successful testing of OspreyNav will be something new for Chris Frank and his colleagues at IST.

According to Frank, the Peru test "is an extreme environment. This is putting it into the deep end, really."

The challenge for IST, say Frank and Duckham, is to manage the huge amount of information that will go into the unit. By layering data, an OspreyNav operator can selectively call up information, rather than being overwhelmed by too much or even irrelevant information.

Ultimately, Frank would like to see the OspreyNav developed to the point it can be reduced to the size of a cell phone or palm pilot.

UMaine Student Wins National Engineering Award

12 May 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Adding to his already-remarkable list of achievements, University of Maine student Matthew Rodrigue has been named the top electrical engineering student in the nation. Eta Kappa Nu, the national electrical engineering honor society, has announced Rodrigue as the winner of the Alton T. Zerby and Carl T. Koerner Outstanding Electrical Engineering Student award.

"I was honored just to have been nominated," Rodrigue says. "I never expected to actually win."

Rodrigue is a Wilton native who graduated from Mt. Blue High School. He will finish his UMaine coursework in August, upon completion of two summer courses. He will graduate with two degrees -- one in electrical engineering and one in computer engineering. A Rhodes Scholar finalist, Rodrigue was recently named outstanding graduate in the UMaine College of Engineering. He also served as president of UMaine Student Government and as the student trustee on the University of Maine System Board of Trustees. The president of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity in 2001-2002, he was last year elected to that organization's national board of directors. Rodrigue has been honored as UMaine's Student Leader of the Year and Fraternity Man of the Year. During the fall sports season, he has served as cross-country coach at Orono High School.

Rodrigue has a 3.98 grade point average. He will take some time off after finishing his UMaine coursework, with future plans to attend law school. He says that the Eta Kappa Nu honor stands out among the other accolades that have come his way.

"It's pretty neat, because it's a national honor and it's within my field of study," Rodrigue says. "I'm also pleased because it brings distinction to the electrical engineering program, the College of Engineering and to UMaine."

Rodrigue's nomination was spearheaded by classmate Michael Chasse, a native of Presque Isle.

"Matt is a truly outstanding student and a fine young man," says UMaine Executive Vice President and Provost Robert Kennedy. "He has been an invaluable member of our community, serving this university and his fellow students in numerous capacities, all while doing exemplary work in the classroom."

Larryl Matthews, dean of UMaine's College of Engineering, points out that Rodrigue complements academic prowess with "great" interpersonal skills.

"Matt is comfortable with members of the Board of Trustees, the president of the university, faculty members and fellow students," Matthews says. "His leadership with student government, the board of trustees and his fraternity shows a wide range of participation and acceptance by those who work with him at every level."

Rodrigue is the son of Charlie and Pauline Rodrigue of Wilton. He will receive the award at Eta Kappa Nu's national

meeting in Illinois on Oct. 23.

Student Journalism Awards Announced at UMaine Conference

24 May 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Student newspapers from Biddeford, Cape Elizabeth, Hiram, Orono, Portland, Waterville and Wells high schools earned first place awards at the University of Maine's 11th Annual Maine Student Journalism Conference and newspaper competition this year.

More than 150 student journalists and their advisors from 26 schools around the state met May 12 on the Orono campus with reporters and editors from Maine's leading daily and weekly newspapers to learn from working professionals ways to improve their journalism skills.

The competition's top prize, the James Russell Wiggins award for general excellence went to The Wells Street Journal, a monthly, 16-page tabloid-sized newspaper produced by students in the Wells High School's journalism classes.

"We had a very strong turnout and, from the feedback I received, students really appreciate the opportunity to have their school papers critiqued by seasoned editors and reporters in the field," says Shannon Martin, assistant professor of communication and journalism at the University of Maine and director of the Maine Center for Student Journalism. "These students are our news reporters and editors of the future, and we hope to see many of them get their training in our program here at the University of Maine."

The theme for the conference was "Covering Civil Rights for High School Students," with keynote speaker Maine Attorney General Steven Rowe.

Contest categories are news writing, editorial and opinion, feature writing, layout and design, photography, sports writing, writing for the arts, editorial cartoon, general excellence and a new entrant category for newspapers entering for the first time.

Award winners are listed as follows.

General Excellence, judged by Andrew Russell of the Portland Press Herald, Earl Brechlin, Mount Desert Islander, and Matt Shaer, Maine Campus:

- First, The Wells Street Journal;
- Second, The Roar from Biddeford High School;
- Third, The Cape Insight from Cape Elizabeth;
- And honorable mention, Inside from Orono High School.

News Writing, judged by Jeff Ham, Portland Press Herald:

- First, Sacopee Valley Echo from Sacopee Valley High School;
- Second, Ramblings from Deering High School in Portland;
- Third, The Wells Street Journal;

- And honorable mention, On The Median from John Bapst High School in Bangor.

Photography, judged by EJ Hersom of the Sanford News:

- First, Ramblings (Deering);
- Second, Eagle Times from Bonny Eagle High School in Standish;
- Third, The Roar (Biddeford);
- And honorable mention, Cape Insight.

Editorial and Opinion Writing, judged by Rex Rhoades, Lewiston Sun-Journal:

- First, Inside;
- Second, WoRD, a student-written section of the Bath-Brunswick Times Record;
- Third, Sacopee Valley Echo;
- And honorable mention, The Cape Insight.

Writing for the Arts, judged by Christopher Smith, Bangor Daily News:

- First, Inside;
- Second place tie, The Cape Insight and The Eagle's Eye from Ellsworth High School;
- And Third, The Wells Street Journal;

Sports Writing, judged by Kevin Sjoberg, Star Herald:

- First, The Roar;
- Second (three-way tie), The Wells Street Journal, Panther Press from Waterville High School and Cape Insight;
- Third, On the Median (John Bapst);
- Honorable mention, Ramblings;

Editorial Cartoon:

- First, Inside;
- Second, Ramblings;
- Third, The Roar;
- And honorable mention, Eagle Times.

Feature Writing, judged by Robert Wallack, Farmington Chronicle:

- First, Ramblings;
- Second, WoRD;
- Third, The Wells Street Journal;

- And honorable mention, The Roar.

Layout and Design, judged by Brian Hewitt, York County Coast Star:

- First, The Wells Street Journal;
- Second, The Cape Insight;
- Third, The Roar;
- And honorable mention, Inside.

The Maine Center for Student Journalism is funded by the Maine Daily Newspaper Publishers Association with support from the University of Maine Department of Communication and Journalism.

Looking at Lakes

24 May 2004

Contact: Steve Kahl, Director, Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research, 207-581-3286, kahl@maine.edu
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- Lakes are a barometer for acid rain, climate change and other environmental factors. A \$155,000 University of Maine research project jointly funded by the U.S Dept. of Agriculture and the U.S. Geological Survey will focus on a set of lakes from Maine to Pennsylvania first sampled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1984.

The goal is to evaluate 20-year changes in lake chemistry, for the purposes of understanding changes due to acid rain, and potential recovery in biological populations.

UMaine scientists conducting the study include Steve Kahl and Catherine Rosfjord of the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research, Katherine Webster of the Dept. of Biological Sciences, and Ivan Fernandez of the Dept. of Plant Soil and Environmental Sciences. They will collaborate with scientists in the U.S. EPA.

All State Music Festival Brings State's Best Young Musicians to UMaine

21 May 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine is hosting an all-star cast for the 51st All-State Music Festival this weekend, as more than 400 of Maine's best high school musicians have arrived on campus for three days of music, camaraderie and performance.

The three-day event began Thursday, continued today and winds up Saturday with two major public concerts at the Maine Center for the Arts, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Organizers from the UMaine School of Performing Arts also have attracted a slate of nationally respected music

conductors to work with students. Festival participants were accepted into the competitive all-state festival program after auditions at their home schools last fall, according to Chris White, director of sports bands and lecturer in music at UMaine.

Students have been practicing in the 83-member all-state orchestra, 106-member band and 242-member all-state chorus, in preparation for the grand finale concerts Saturday. The event also corresponds with the Maine Music Educators Conference being held on campus.

"We have the best musicians in the state in band, orchestra and chorus, and we have guest conductors here from all over the nation," White says.

Guest conductors include Stephen Peterson, director of bands at Ithaca College in New York, who conducts the wind ensemble and teaches courses in conducting and wind literature. He will conduct concert performance by the all-state band.

Paul Phillips, who will conduct the orchestra concerts, is music director of the Brown University Orchestra and the Pioneer Valley Symphony in Massachusetts.

Jing Ling-Tam, who will conduct the chorus, is professor of music and director of choral studies at the University of Texas Arlington.

All three have extensive experience in teaching, performing or conducting throughout the country and internationally.

The All-State Music Festival is an annual collaborative program sponsored by the University of Maine, UMaine School of Performing Arts and the Maine Music Educators Association. Students stay in university dormitories during the three-day festival.

Their schedules on Saturday will involve dress rehearsals for concerts at two and seven o'clock.

Assisting in the planning and coordination of the festival were White, Beth Wiemann, Curvin Farnham and Anatole Wieck of the School of Performing Arts, and Bruce Stinson, director for Conference Services Division at UMaine.

Admission for the concerts on Saturday is \$6.

Additional information is available by calling the MCA box office at (207) 581-1755

UMaine Software Sessions Explore Computer Code Insights, 'Net Art

18 May 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756 ORONO -- Several internationally known computer code-writers recently helped students in the University of Maine New Media program examine the mystery of power and authority of the Internet in a series of workshops titled "Cracking the Codes." Artist Eryk Salvaggio and software developer Ryan Genz guided students in their exploration of new applications of both the art and science of code-writing -- the basis of programming. Also participating were Dutch Internet artists Joan Heemskerk and Dirk Paesmans, who work under the pseudonym "jodi" and are two of the most celebrated artists working online today, according to organizers Jon Ippolito and Joline Blais, assistant professors in UMaine's New Media Program The workshops ran April 25-29. In keeping with the seamless global nature of the Internet, the series included a video conference in the university's new Collaborative Media Lab at Fogler Library, which connected students with software experts from New York, Tel Aviv, Montreal and Massachusetts. Topics included collaborating in a politically charged environment, on-line performance art, video streaming and oral history recording, which are some of the components of the UMaine new media curriculum. Heemskerk and Paesmans joined the students through video conferencing to offer a remote demonstration of hacking the computer game, "Quake," in addition to demonstrating other "mind-altering experiments in corrupted code,"

according to Blais and Ippolito. The field of new media encompasses activities revolving around the impact of digital media on images, artwork, video and intellectual concepts extending well into politics, philosophy, culture, ethics and values, according to Blais and Ippolito. Undergraduate and graduate students in the UMaine program learn the basics of computer programming and artistic expression through programs as common as Adobe Photoshop for photograph and image manipulation and as complex as Website development using code-writing tools like DHTML or Flash. Yet the focus of the new media program is not the tools themselves, "but how to re-imagine the world using those tools," according to Ippolito. 'Net artists, says Blais, would like to strip away commercialization from art by making it available free on the Internet, and also to inspire people to think about alternative ways to perceive the world and its powerbrokers. Hackers, computer program writers who infiltrate other people's computer operating systems, and coders, who use the same skills for less mischievous ends, "are really trying to alert us to the existence of power," Blais says. Through coding, the language of computers, "we are increasingly finding society and the world shaped physically, philosophically, culturally and politically," she says. The visit by Salvaggio and Genz, and video conference with jodi, exposed students to the expertise and ideas of some of the most accomplished code-writers and 'Net artists in the world, Blais and Ippolito say. Eryk Salvaggio (<http://salsabomb.com>) is a former graffiti artist and author who works from his home in Ogunquit, Maine; Ryan Genz teaches anthropology and interaction design at Rockport College in Maine, and lectures in Canada, Turkey and throughout the United States. Jodi's web site is at <http://jodi.org>. Blais and Ippolito are the founders of Still Water, created within the university's new media program in 2002. The Still Water web site is at <http://newmedia.umaine.edu/stillwater/>. Blais and Ippolito can be reached for more information by emailing: jblais@maine.edu or jippolito@maine.edu.

Nominations Sought for Maryann Hartman Awards

19 May 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine Maine Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program is looking for nominations for this year's Maryann Hartman Awards.

This award is presented every fall to distinguished Maine women whose achievements in the arts, politics, sports, sciences, business, education, and/or community service have provided inspiration to others. Honored last fall were artist and author Dahlov Ipcar, research scientist Joy Longcore, and community activist and state representative Lillian O'Brien.

For more information or to obtain a nomination form call Angela Olson at 581-1228, e-mail her at angela.olson@umit.maine.edu, or stop by the office at 101 Fernald Hall. The nomination form is also available at www.umaine.edu/wic. The deadline for nominations is Friday, June 25.

Goat Goat Meat?

07 Jun 2004

Contact: Julie Anderson, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-780-4205, 800-287-1471, janderson@umext.maine.edu Richard Brzozowski, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-780-4205, 800-287-1471, rbrz@umext.maine.edu

ORONO-- A new statewide directory of farmers who raise and sell goats for slaughter is available from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Cumberland County office.

The Maine Goat Meat Directory includes names, contact information, types of goats and availability of on-farm slaughter service. There are 54 farmers listed in most Maine counties.

Extension educator Richard Brzozowski is also working with farmers to produce a fall census of sheep and goats in the state. "The purpose is to monitor growth of these expanding farming enterprises," says Brzozowski.

A copy of the seven-page directory is available from Julie Anderson at 207-780-4205 or 1-800-287-1471 (in Maine), janderson@umext.maine.edu.

Cohen Center to Benefit from Gift of Nearly \$3 Million

04 Jun 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine Foundation has received a gift of approximately \$2.85 million to support UMaine's William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce. The center was established in UMaine's College of Business, Public Policy and Health in 1997, when Cohen left the U.S. Senate and donated to UMaine the papers from his quarter-century serving Maine in Congress. In 2000, upon completion of four years as Secretary of Defense, Cohen added the papers from his work in the Pentagon to the UMaine collection.

"This is a wonderfully generous gift, for which we are very grateful. It will enable us to advance the mission of the Cohen Center as an important part of the the college's activities and a cornerstone of our future," says Daniel Innis, dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health. "The study of international policy as it relates to business is a fundamental element of our business curriculum. With this gift, the Cohen Center will be in a position to contribute in a more robust way to the education of our students, while also fulfilling its important outreach role."

The gift, which takes the form of six charitable lead trusts, will produce income for the Cohen Center in annual installments, beginning later this year. Two-thirds of that income will be used to support the current needs of the Cohen Center, while the remaining one-third will be added to the already established Cohen Center endowment. The income payments will continue well into the future. The donor wishes to remain anonymous.

"The short and long-term impact of this gift will be phenomenal," says Amos Orcutt, president/CEO of the University of Maine Foundation. "The Cohen Center will very soon begin to receive income payments, which will provide a real, immediate boost the program. On top of that, the Cohen Center's long-term future will be quite bright, as a portion of this income will be added to the endowment. Indeed, when the charitable lead trusts begin to terminate, the endowment will be substantially larger, thus allowing for perpetual and substantial support for the Cohen Center.

"What makes a charitable lead trust unique," Orcutt says, " is that it pays substantial income to the charity for a lengthy period of time and, once that period of time is over, the trust monies are then paid over to designated individuals, such as a donor's grandchildren. In addition, there are many valuable income tax and estate tax benefits to a donor in establishing a charitable lead trust."

The center was established with a \$100,000 gift from Cohen. It is supported by an endowment and other funds that total approximately \$1.3 million. That money, which is used to fund the center's fundamental activities, has been accumulated through a significant number of individual donations.

Through its initial phase of establishment and organization, the center's focus has been on the development of the Cohen Papers Archive and on the presentation of the William S. Cohen Lecture Series.

The collection of papers, managed by archivist Paige Lilly, has been catalogued and is currently available for use by academic researchers and others with an interest in Cohen's career.

The lecture series has brought four high-profile speakers to UMaine since 1997, each of whom addressed large

audiences at the Maine Center for the Arts. Cohen delivered the first lecture himself, with subsequent lectures presented by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Sen. John Glenn and former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

"We look forward with great anticipation to a bright future for the Cohen Center, thanks to this wonderful gift," says Jeffery Mills, vice president for University Advancement. "UMaine is indeed fortunate to have this close connection with Bill Cohen, who ranks among the most prominent and effective public servants in our state's history."

"This gift will provide the resources necessary to advance the Cohen Center in a way that has not been possible to this point," says Innis, who has been the college's dean for two years. "We will first use it to hire a director, who will execute the university's vision for the center, while working with others in the university and beyond to maximize the center's impact on our curriculum, research and public engagement."

Innis also notes that UMaine's Master's in Business Administration (MBA) curriculum has recently been revised to increase its emphasis on the study of international business policy. In fact, each student who enters that program will have as part of his or her course of study a practical business experience in a foreign country.

"The opportunity to advance the Cohen Center comes at an ideal time," Innis says. "It meshes perfectly with the other initiatives that are underway in the college."

Early in Cohen's career, he taught business law at UMaine.

UMaine MBA Revisions Respond to Business Demands

04 Jun 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756 or Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- If you want an MBA from the University of Maine Business School, you'd better have a passport.

An international consulting project is now part of the course requirements. The business school is rolling out revisions in the Master of Business Administration program aimed at responding more quickly to the expectations of business and industry, and also immersing students sooner in business decision-making.

Prof. Rick Borgman, director of the Business School's Office of Graduate Programs, says the redesign of the MBA requirements keeps University of Maine competitive with the nation's top business schools.

"We're taking a good but traditional program and we're simply adding on," he says. "We still require 10 classroom-based courses as we've had in the past, but we've added an expanded experiential component that includes consulting projects, a trip abroad and a residency week."

Borgman says the revisions are among "the first wave" of changes sweeping business schools nationally as they build more practical experience into curricula. Modifications include adding to the UMaine MBA features that traditionally are found in many Executive MBA programs.

"I would call it think-on-your-feet learning experiences, not just classroom learning," he says. "We've still got that. Most, if not all, of the changes we've made to our MBA program are the changes being made in the top 25 MBA programs nationwide."

The residency week allows incoming students to learn about business fundamentals and each other through activities in leadership, technology, communication, actual real-world cases and a Maine Bound challenge.

A streamlining of the curriculum now allows the often older, more experienced graduate students to acquire required

foundation material through accelerated courses or via online non-credit tutorial courses. They can concentrate on graduate level courses without having to take undergraduate classes with younger students.

In addition to the hands-on emphasis, students may now choose to specialize in either finance or decision sciences, or to follow the traditional general management track, according to Borgman.

"We've raised the bar here," Borgman says. "Our expectations are high for our students. We believe the new curriculum will challenge and excite our students."

UMaine has offered the international project in a foreign country as an elective in the last two years, but Borgman says students and faculty found the experience abroad so valuable that the graduate committee for the business school made it a requirement.

"It's a real-world business experience," says Daniel Innis, dean of the business school. "It's an experience that has cultural differences and students learn how interesting business can be in a global economy."

The overall goals of the curriculum changes include teaching better communications, leadership and problem-solving skills, on top of traditional business basics like accounting, marketing, finance and management. While the MBA attracts some students with undergraduate business degrees, the program draws many students with degrees in non-business disciplines, such as English or engineering, Borgman says.

John Simpson, president and CEO of H.E. Sargent, Inc. in Old Town and also a member of the UMaine business school advisory board, says the revised MBA better prepares students to re-enter the workforce with new management skills augmenting the work experience many brought to the program from previous careers.

And as business increasingly becomes more international, domestic and foreign consulting experiences are especially important elements of the program, says Simpson, whose company's parent corporation, in fact, is German.

Also, Simpson adds that the residency week, in which long term relationships develop among participants, may be "the single most important thing that has happened."

It provides an introduction to cases studies and allows students to meet one another before being split up by class or work schedules. That improves student initiative and morale, Borgman and Simpson say, particularly when the typical MBA student may juggle a job, family and classes.

According to Borgman, Bar Harbor businessman Matthew Curtis, president of Cadillac Mountain Sports, typifies the way many employers see the new UMaine MBA. Familiar with both the old and new MBA requirements, Curtis believes the revised MBA goes further in preparing today's business managers.

He pays his employees who enroll in the UMaine MBA program full tuition, allows paid time off for the residency week, field experience and two hours of study time a week. The knowledge they gain from the MBA will allow his managers to work more efficiently with a better understanding of business fundamentals and issues, he says.

"In our case, most of our managers didn't study business at the undergraduate level and yet they ended up in business world," Curtis says.

Jean Deighan, president of Deighan Associates investment management firm in Bangor and also a UMaine business school advisory board member, believes the new MBA also creates a more attractive incentive for Maine students who leave the state for undergraduate studies.

"I think it's one way to get the kids who have gone out of state to get their education to come back to the state to get their MBA and become a part of our business community," she says.

UMaine Announces Student Affairs Division Reorganization

04 Jun 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- A new University of Maine Division of Student Affairs organizational structure, intended to unite the total student experience, inside and outside the classroom, while also maximizing the university's efficiency, will be phased in this summer.

Under the new structure, UMaine Dean of Students Robert Dana becomes the university's senior student affairs administrator. He will report to UMaine Executive Vice President and Provost Robert Kennedy. The Vice President of Student Affairs position, to be vacated upon the departure of Richard Chapman, will no longer exist.

"Robert has done a wonderful job as dean of students and I look forward to working more closely with him as he assumes additional duties," Kennedy says. "Working with Vice President Chapman, Robert has played a central role in improving the student experience at UMaine during the past few years. There is a true sense of community at UMaine, and Robert has been a driving force behind many of the efforts that have brought us to the point where UMaine has become a model for others to emulate."

"Vice President Chapman has played an important role in bringing UMaine to the point where these structural changes are possible," says UMaine President Peter Hoff. "We have made significant improvements in all of our student affairs functions during the past five years, due to Richard's leadership and his ability to surround himself with highly capable associates, who are now able to move forward with greater responsibility."

Three administrative areas, listed below, have been moved from the Vice President for Student Affairs area to that of the Vice President for Administration. The new structure also leaves in place these units' administrative connections to the Dean of Students, through a "dotted line" reporting connection that will ensure that people involved in all areas related to student services collaborate and communicate effectively.

- The Dept. of Public Safety, under the direction of Chief Noel March

- Student Auxiliary Services (Executive Director Robin Toderian now becomes Assistant Vice President for Student Auxiliary Services and assumes administrative responsibility for University Printing Services and the University Bookstore)

- The Parking Services Office, with director Paul Paradis

"Dr. Chapman has put in place a strong, professional team with dedicated employees such as Robin, Noel and Paul and I look forward to building on his work to the benefit of our students and the campus community," says Vice President for Administration Janet Waldron. "I fully expect that the reorganization will facilitate increased service, efficiency and opportunity."

Bangor Wal-Mart to Present Check for Lake Protection

03 Jun 2004

Contact: Laura Wilson, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-2971, lwilson@umext.maine.edu

ORONO-- A representative of the Bangor Wal-Mart store will present a \$500 check for lakeshore protection efforts to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 8. Tara Goodrich of the Maine Conservation

Corps, a volunteer leader in lakeshore restoration, will receive the check in a short ceremony at the Bangor Wal-Mart.

The money will be used to purchase materials and supplies for a vegetation planting project at the Lucerne Beach Club on Phillips Lake.

The project is part of Cooperative Extension's Watershed Stewards Program. Volunteers receive training in water quality protection techniques and carry out a project to reduce erosion and other types of pollution.

More information about Watershed Stewards is available from Laura Wilson, assistant scientist with Extension, 581-2971.

UMaine Reunion 2004 Activities Planned

03 Jun 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Gov. John Baldacci, a 1986 University of Maine graduate, will return to his alma mater along with hundreds of other UMaine alums for Reunion 2004 Friday June 4-Sunday June 6. A series of activities, intended to evoke memories of college years and to provide a glimpse into university life in 2004, is planned throughout the weekend.

A highlight of this year's reunion is back-to-back events scheduled for Friday afternoon. A dedication ceremony for the Fogler Library Steps and Terrace Renovation project, a \$900,000 upgrade to the front of one of UMaine's signature buildings, is scheduled for 2:15-3 p.m. in front of the library. Landscaping for the project was recently completed and those in attendance will be among the first to see the finished product. The ceremony will feature a reading of "Steps," by Pat Smith Ranzoni, a 1962 UMaine graduate and a poet who wrote "Steps" to celebrate this occasion.

At 3 p.m. Friday, in the area adjacent to Lord Hall, Gov. Baldacci will participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Visual Arts Building Campaign and the Lord Hall Renovation. Baldacci is the honorary campaign chair for the project, which will result in a renovated Lord Hall as the new home for UMaine's Dept. of Art, along with a new art studio center. The cost of the project totals \$10 million, \$4 million of which has been provided by a bond referendum approved by Maine voters in 2002. This event will also feature the dedication of the Vincent A. Hartgen Collection, a lasting tribute to the late founder of the UMaine art department.

A Saturday highlight is scheduled for 10 a.m., when several members of UMaine's Class of 1944, the legendary class that provided Class of 1944 Hall and is celebrating its 60th reunion, will take part in the dedication of the class' newest contribution to UMaine -- the recently renovated Class of '44 Bear's Den in Memorial Union. The dedication will include a talk by UMaine political science professor Bahman Baktiari and music by "A-Train."

Ongoing activities during the weekend will include visits to UMaine facilities such as the Page Farm and Home Museum, the athletic facilities, Honors College and the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center. UMaine's Buchanan Alumni House, home of the UMaine Alumni Association, serves as the hub of activity for the weekend. A complete schedule of events is online at <http://www.mainealumni.org/ReunionActivities.htm>.

UMaine Page Farm Museum Seeks "I Remember" Stories

02 Jun 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- "I Remember," an hour of questions, answers and stories about life on the farm in Maine prior to 1950, is the subject of a free brown bag lunch discussion June 4 at the UMaine Page Farm and Home Museum.

Museum director Patricia Henner is the featured speaker, and invites people of all ages to come, bring a lunch and even some rural Maine stories to share.

Henner, who oversees a collection of tape-recorded personal histories dictated by older Maine residents from farm communities, also is in search of photographs to go with narratives from people who lived on Maine farms before and through the World War II era.

Friday's lunch seminar and discussion, from noon to 1 p.m., is the first of a two-part series, and part of an ongoing project, the museum's Oral History Project, Henner says.

On June 4, she'll explain what additional stories and photos she would like to collect from rural Mainers. She hopes those in attendance will return next year for part two, with stories and photographs that can be added to the museum's archives.

Many people view their early farm experiences as just a part of life in the old days, says Henner, when actually those stories are historic treasures. The stories could lead to a new exhibit or a book, she says.

Most important is the urgency to save the memorable stories residing in many of the state's aging farm families.

"We're losing these people without capturing their histories," she says of the aging farm family members, "and we don't want that to happen."

The Page Farm and Home Museum has been collecting family narratives as part of a larger project since 1995. Mary Jo Sanger of Orono, the volunteer director of the Oral History Project, received a small grant from the Maine Humanities Council in 1996 to extend the research specifically to women and children of the farms.

The Page Farm and Home Museum on the Orono campus is open to the public and features exhibits, tours, special events and information about agricultural and rural living in Maine between 1865 and 1940.

Further information is available by calling (207) 581- 4100.

Fish Story Linked to Climate Cycle

14 Jun 2004

Contact: Daniel Sandweiss, Dept. of Anthropology and Climate Change Institute, 207-581-1889,

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Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, -- Old fish bones can tell scientists about more than what people used to eat. They can also provide clues to the climate in which those people lived. In the scientific journal *Quaternary Research*, a team led by three University of Maine scientists reports using fish bones from an archaeological site in Peru to describe the timing of Pacific Ocean climate cycles linked to El Nino.

The report provides new evidence for a theory stating that biological cycles in the world's oceans reflect subtle changes in climate. Industrial scale fish harvesting can also affect fish populations and thus make it difficult to discern the relationship between fisheries and climate.

The UMaine research points to changes in fisheries that pre-date modern harvesting. Those changes are thus more likely to be climate related.

The paper is titled "Geoarchaeological evidence for multidecadal natural climatic variability and ancient Peruvian fisheries." Co-authors are: from UMaine, archaeologist Dan Sandweiss, Kirk Maasch of the Climate Change Institute, Fei Chai of the School of Marine Sciences; and from the University of Georgia, Fred Andrus and Elizabeth Reitz.

With data gleaned from excavations in the ancient village of Lo Dem

Maine Artist's "worldwidewomen" Exhibit at Hudson Museum

10 Jun 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- One of the newest exhibits at the University of Maine's Hudson Museum is by Lamoine, Maine artist Arlyss Becker, a series of prints depicting women around the world as strong, forbearing individuals "balancing the stress and strain of each ordinary day with the wisdom and wit of the ages," according to Becker.

Titled "worldwidewomen," the exhibit went up June 10 and will remain on the third floor gallery in the Maine Center for the Arts building on the Orono campus until Sept. 1.

The show's title refers to a Becker's intention to use a series of color monotype prints, some of which depict women in a Caribbean setting waiting for their men to return from the sea. Some of the women, draped in what appears to be fish net, stand among rocks on the shore. While the first of the prints selected for the series portrayed women caught in the nets meant to catch fish, according to Becker, she expanded it to include women in other circumstances.

Becker's work utilizes experimental collagraphic printmaking techniques and a variety of materials in as many ways as possible to add interest, texture and depth to the work, she says.

"Using rough materials and course tools adds agitation and distress, where needed, in strong evocative ways," Becker says. "Using slippery and glossy materials and fine tools gives softer, subtle surfaces and edges where smoothness is desired. A mix of many techniques adds to the richness and impact of artwork that have layers of meaning."

Becker has a special interest in women from other countries, and has lived and taught art in four states and several countries. She incorporates into her work the results of her observations of cultures, in addition to her interests in art history, reading, fabrics, sewing, knitting, weaving, world wide events and the historic depictions of women, she says.

Becker studied art at St. Olaf College in Minnesota and taught art for 28 years. After retiring from teaching, she devoted more time to painting. Additionally, she has studied sculpture, drawing, painting and printmaking at Haystack Mountain School, Worcester Art Museum, Decordova Museum School and Bennington College. She also has studied painting with Jon Imber and Elizabeth Ahern, well-known Boston area artists.

Becker winters in Colorado, where she continues her artwork, concentrating on mountainscapes and Colorado-based visual interpretations. Working with oils, acrylics and other art media, she has exhibited in Colorado, Massachusetts and Maine.

Museum director Gretchen Faulkner says Becker's work fits well within the Hudson Museum's mission to present exhibits that explore cultural diversity. Becker explores women in a variety of cultural settings, Faulkner says,

In the next few weeks, additional exhibits going up at Hudson include a Northeastern Birchbark exhibit and photography by Martin Neptune, a member of the Penobscot Nation.

The Hudson Museum is free and open Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is

closed Sundays and Mondays. The museum can be reached by calling (207) 581-1901.

Registration Open for On-Farm Weekend

10 Jun 2004

Contact: Vivianne Holmes, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1458 (within Maine), vholmes@umext.maine.edu, or Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- Women who are looking for new agricultural opportunities in everything from raising sheep and milking goats to growing herbs and vegetables can sign up for an Experiential On-Farm Weekend for Women next fall. Registrations are now being taken for the event that will be held at the Nezinscot Farm in Turner, Oct. 14-17.

The Maine Women's Agricultural Network (WAgN) is coordinating the weekend with support from Nezinscot Farm, University of Maine Cooperative Extension and agricultural businesses. The event is funded by a grant from The Harvest Fund of Maine Initiatives.

The schedule includes a close look at farm operations as well as workshops on topics such as spinning and weaving, cheese making and basket making. Routine farming practices from managing pastures to planning farm related businesses will be covered.

Participants can register for the entire weekend or take part in selected workshops. Registration information is available from Vivianne Holmes, Extension Educator who helps to coordinate WAgN, 1-800-287-1458. Space is limited.

Grant to Strengthen Franco-American Studies at UMaine

10 Jun 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- With 25-35 percent of Maine residents being of French-Canadian descent, faculty members like Susan Pinette are eager to strengthen Franco-American studies at the University of Maine.

With assistance from a recent \$25,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant, the assistant professor of modern languages and classics and director of Franco American studies began working with 13 other UMaine faculty members in January to create a stronger, more cohesive Franco American studies program.

The grant helps lay the groundwork for the consortium of UMaine faculty to create what they believe is the first-ever academic model for Franco American studies, which will be used to bolster the UMaine program and also those of other institutions.

Though many colleges and universities throughout the Northeast and Canada include Franco American content in classes, none of them has developed a clear curriculum for a comprehensive Franco American Studies program, nationally or internationally, according to Pinette.

Timing is important. The lack of a designated course of study is particularly a problem now as Franco Americans throughout the state have begun to evaluate their heritage and request that their history, literature and culture be taught in grade school and college, Pinette says.

Once humbled by widespread disrespect and openly discriminated against -- for instance, the target of a massive 1923 Ku Klux Klan demonstration in Milo -- Maine's Franco Americans today are beginning to embrace their cultural heritage. The state is supporting their efforts with educational initiatives and community festivals.

Maine is surrounded by the French speaking Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick, the ancestral homes of a significant portion of Maine's population, says Ann Leffler, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The college oversees the Franco-American Studies program and is home to most of the faculty working on the curriculum project.

"No other university in the nation is as perfectly positioned for such study -- geographically, culturally and academically," she says.

UMaine has been a pioneer in Franco American studies for several years, beginning more than 25 years ago with the establishment of the university's Franco-American Centre on campus, designed to assist in supporting the Franco American communities in Maine, teaching occasional courses and more recently seeing the creation of an academic minor in the field.

The university hired Pinette four years ago to institutionalize a Franco American studies program. She began by introducing an introductory course in Franco American studies and applying for the grant to develop a more formal, comprehensive approach.

However, with no established syllabus from which to create a more formal curriculum, she says, the UMaine consortium of faculty decided to collectively study the subject themselves and create the syllabus.

"The trouble we face is not a lack of resources, but a lack of a curriculum," Pinette says. "Historical accounts, literature in French and English, folklore, and sociological studies of Franco American communities already exist. The problem is instead one of definition and scope."

The faculty group has been meeting, reading and studying through a series of workshops, one in January and one this month, to decide what aspects of Franco-American history, culture and literature should be included in UMaine classes, existing or those that may be proposed.

Pinette says her aim is to create a "community of Franco-American scholars" at UMaine.

"We have to teach the teachers, because lessons in teaching Franco-American history are not in any book," she says. "We have to pick it up ourselves. It's kind of a niche the University of Maine can offer."

Once the new course material is clarified, the group will propose specific ways to interject the course material into new or existing classes.

Participating faculty include Joline Blais, assistant professor of New Media and co-director of Stillwater Lab (a University of Maine digital art and culture center); Don Cyr, community scholar, who teaches Acadian Folklore and Quebec Folklore; Pamela Dean, archivist for the Maine Folklife Center; Jacques Ferland, associate professor of history; Michael Grillo, associate professor of art; Diane Haslett, associate professor of social work; Kim Huisman, assistant professor of sociology; Yvon Labbe, director of the Franco American Centre; Kristin Langellier, professor of communication and journalism; Margaret Lukens, associate professor of English; Raymond Pelletier, associate professor of modern languages and classics and associate director of Canadian studies; Eric Peterson, associate professor of communication and journalism; Rhea Cote Robbins, a community scholar who teaches Franco American Women's Experiences; Carol Toner, director of Maine studies; and Pinette herself.

New UMaine Museum of Art Exhibitions, June 25 - Sept. 18, 2004

10 Jun 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

The University of Maine Museum of Art is pleased to present three exhibitions this summer at Norumbega Hall in downtown Bangor.

Berenice Abbott
Cities Portraits

Photographs by Berenice Abbott, on view at the University of Maine Museum of Art in Bangor from June 25 through September 18, 2004, highlight two major phases of this renowned photographer's career. Berenice Abbott was one of the most accomplished documentary photographers of the 20th century as well as a prolific writer, teacher, and inventor. It was while working for Man Ray in Paris during the 1920s that Abbott first started working in photography. She made portraits during this time and continued to do so in New York City during the early 1930s. Abbott always allowed her sitters to relax and become comfortable in their surroundings before she captured their image, creating honest, straightforward photographs. Her portraits have proven to be true documents of the personalities of this era, still serving historians and scholars of the period. The second focus of this exhibition is on Abbott's photographs of New York City, taken during the 1930s when the city was undergoing massive change and becoming a leading metropolis almost overnight. Working under the Federal Art Project, part of the Works Progress Administration, Abbott combed the streets of Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx, searching for change and the contrasts and contradictions brought on by it. The *Changing New York* photographs, like her portraits, capture the spirit of the age. Through her unique vision this project documented the changing face of the city. In 1939, she wrote that she had intended "

University of Maine Foundation Celebrates 70 Years of Endowing Excellence

08 Jun 2004

Contact: Amos Orcutt at 800.982.8503

ORONO - On June 9, 1934, the University of Maine Class of 1909 presented a check for \$1,000 to the newly formed University of Maine Foundation. The Foundation's investment of that gift and the many gifts that followed has resulted in total assets exceeding \$120 million today. This includes \$90 million of endowed funds that provide scholarships and other forms of financial support for University of Maine students, faculty and programs.

The Foundation will honor alumni, donors and friends with a special 70th anniversary celebration on Wednesday, June 9, 2004 at Buchanan Alumni House in Orono, Maine. At the event, seven individuals, representing each decade of the Foundation's existence will be honored with the first University of Maine Foundation's Leadership Awards. Those seven individuals are:

- 1934-1944: Stephen Wheatland
- 1944-1954: Raymond H. Fogler '15
- 1954-1964: Mark R. Shibles
- 1964-1974: Vincent A. Hartgen
- 1974-1984: Alice R. Stewart '37
- 1984-1994: Harold Alford
- 1994-2004: George L. Jacobson

Dr. Frederick E. Hutchinson, Emeritus President of the University of Maine, chaired the committee that selected the seven honorees, from the UMaine family of alumni, friends and staff, "for their contributions in making significant changes at the University of Maine resulting in the University being stronger and better fitted to do its work."

Robert W. Daigle, the Foundation's Board Chair, will host the recognition program. Daigle, President & CEO of Camden National Corporation, who holds an undergraduate degree from the University recently stated, "I am honored to be a part of the anniversary celebration and am grateful to all the donors, past presidents and chairs whose leadership, generosity and vision have resulted in our success. The University of Maine Foundation provides more than \$3 million annually in scholarship and other support to this state's only land and sea grant college. That support is possible only because of our thoughtful, generous donors."

The University of Maine Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that exists to encourage gifts and bequests designed to nurture academic achievement, foster research and elevate intellectual pursuit at the University of Maine. The Foundation's offices are located at Buchanan Alumni House, Orono, ME and online at www.umainefoundation.

James D. Mullen Named UMaine Business School Distinguished Alumnus

10 Jun 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- James D. Mullen, a prominent Bangor businessman and a 1972 graduate of the University of Maine, is the 2004 recipient of the second annual UMaine School of Business Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The award honors an alumnus of the university who has demonstrated leadership, achievement in business, service to the community, the university and its business school and whose career development exhibits a commitment to and demonstration of life-long learning.

Mullen, a Bangor native, is an owner and the president of Creative Print Services in Bangor. He has been is a member of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees since 1996 and was chairman of the board from 1999 to 2003. In 1993, the UMaine Alumni Association awarded him the annual Pine Tree Emblem Service Award.

Daniel Innis, dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health, says Mullen exemplifies true leadership abilities and visionary thinking in all of his professional and community-oriented endeavors.

Mullen says the time he has devoted over the years to the University of Maine System is based on his belief that it is "under-marketed and under-appreciated, yet it's a source of tremendous benefit for the people of the state of Maine."

The university system, always pressed for money, has been "an enormous economic development force, and for a number of years was a favorite target for legislators to take pot shots at," he says. The system's value to Maine is now better understood, according to Mullen.

In more than seven years he's served on the board of trustees, Mullen says the university has tackled substantial challenges, including reevaluating its need to improve as budgets have shrunk and also bringing a system-wide reorganization plan closer to fruition.

"The strategic plan we've come up with

UMaine Peace Studies Conference Promotes "Inner Peace, Outer Action

10 Jun 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756 ORONO -- Philosophers, musicians, dancers, artists, healers, Buddhists and an Iraqi peace activist are just some of more than 80 speakers participating in the first annual peace conference at the University of Maine. Scheduled June 18-20 and sponsored by the UMaine Peace Studies Program and the Maine Humanities Council, "Peacemaking in the 21st Century: Inner Peace, Outer Action" offers more than 24 panel discussions, and will pose thought-provoking questions about traditional definitions of peace and applications of the peace-making process. "With so much focus on war, we feel there also needs to be a parallel focus on peace and peace-making in the 21st Century," says co-organizer Phyllis Brazee, an associate professor of education and director of the UMaine Peace Studies Office. "And collectively, we in peace studies are aware that it isn't all outer action, but it's inner action that helps us better understand what peace is." The three-day conference, being held at Jenness and Neville halls on the Orono campus, also has attracted teachers, writers, human rights activists, Native Americans, clergy, among others, who are coming from around the community, the state and the world, in some cases, to speak or lead workshops. "We've really put together a broad-based program rather than going in depth because we wanted to help people see the array of arenas that peace-making needs to be in," she says. "Many people define peace very narrowly and we're trying to help demonstrate how broad peace and peacemaking is. "You tell me -- How do *you* define peace?" she asks. "We're trying to help people envision a culture of peace. We're hoping it will be inspirational, uplifting and informative." Brazee and conference co-founder Hugh Curran, adjunct professor of peace studies, designed the conference so that people can attend for a half day, all day or all three days. The conference is described in its brochure as "a forum to those who are exploring themes of peace in a rich variety of ways, from spirituality to art, from storytelling to dance, from Native rights to veterans' rights, from compassionate living to restorative justice and reconciliation. All the speakers and panelists will share their insights and experience, as will the audience, who will be participating with questions and observations of their own." Keynote speakers include: Sulak Sivaraksa, a native of Thailand and Buddhist monk who was educated in Wales and England and works as a university lecturer in Thailand was the editor for six years of the "Social Science Review," which he founded in 1953. He will speak on Engaged Buddhism from 9-10 a.m. June 18. Doug Allen, professor of philosophy at UMaine, who has served as president of the International Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, teaches classes on Hinduism and Buddhism and will speak from 1-2 p.m. June 18 on the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. Afaf Stevens, an Iraqi woman, now an American citizen, who has lived 30 years in both the east and the west, will explore the impact of Islam on western sciences and culture, the culture and role of women in the Middle East and myths, misconceptions and stereotypes of diverse religious traditions. She speaks from 9-10 a.m. June 19. Jonathan Wilson, the founder, publisher and editor of "Hope Magazine" and founder of the non-profit Justice Alternatives, which explores promising practices in justice and correction, will speak from 1-2 p.m. June 19. Wayne Newell, director of bilingual education and a tribal planner with the Indian Township Government, is the author of more than 40 books on Passamaquoddy and Maliseet native languages, works with the Maine Department of Education in developing a Native studies curriculum. He will speak from 9-10 a.m. on June 20. Thomas Turay, is a Sierra Leonean who teaches community-based conflict transformation and peace building at the Coady Institute in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. He also facilitates development-related workshops in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and South America. He will speak with Sulak Sivaraksa from 1-2 p.m. on June 20. Others on the agenda scheduled to share ideas from a variety of disciplines and perspectives include faculty from UMaine. In addition to Doug Allen, the list includes Kyriakos Markides, professor of sociology, Hugh Curran, Michael Grillo, art professor, Michael Lewis, artist and UMaine art professor, John Bear Mitchell, interim director of the UMaine Wabanaki Center, Barbara Blazej, director of the Youth Violence Prevention Program on campus, Peggy Cruikshank, a lecturer in Women in the Curriculum at UMaine and Maria Timberlake, a research assistant at the campus Center for Community Inclusion & Disability Services and an activist with Amnesty International. The conference begins Friday, June 18 with breakfast and registration at Jenness Hall from 7:30 to 9 a.m. and winds up the first day at 9 p.m., following dinner and an evening of jazz. Events Saturday, June 19, begin with a morning ceremony and contemplative practice from 6:30-7:30 a.m., led by Arnie Neptune, a Penobscot Indian Nation elder. Following breakfast, and registration at Jenness for single-day registrants, the program resumes at 9 a.m. with keynote speaker Afaf Stevens and ends at 9 p.m. after a performance of Native American drumming and storytelling by John Bear Mitchell and flute music by Hawkes Henries, a member of the Nipmuc Nation who also makes flutes. Sunday's events begin with a morning ceremony from 6:30-7:30 a.m. led by Rev. Jim Glower, breakfast and single-day registration and Wayne Newell speaking at 9 a.m. The conference ends Sunday after a 4 p.m. closing ceremony conducted by Peter Baldwin of Brooks, Maine, who makes wooden orchard ladders and drums, and orchestrates drum and fire circles. Information and a detailed conference schedule is available on the web site <http://dll.umaine.edu/peace>. Additional information can be obtained by calling the peace studies program at (207) 581-2609 or, for registration questions and information about conference fees and scholarships, (207)

581-4094. On campus housing is available for the three-day event.

Jewish Video Collection to Augment Judaic Studies at UMaine

16 Jun 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- What can we learn about Judaic life from TV's Homer Simpson?

Plenty, says Laura Lindenfeld, A UMaine instructor in film and media criticism.

Several episodes of "The Simpsons," which deal with Jewish family customs, are included in an extensive collection of videotaped movies, television programs and documentaries being acquired by the University of Maine in June.

The extensive 200-title collection of videos on Jewish life, history, culture and humor is the result of a grant application Lindenfeld submitted last spring to the Charles Revson Foundation in New York.

The \$12,500 acquisition is expected to strengthen Judaic studies on campus and provide a rich cultural resource for the public statewide.

The Jewish Heritage Video Collection will be housed at UMaine's Fogler Library and used in existing interdisciplinary classes or special topic courses. It also will be available through Maine's Info Net interlibrary network to organizations and individuals, from Kittery to Fort Kent, Lindenfeld says.

"It's a fabulous collection for Jewish studies and courses," adds Ann Leffler, dean of the UMaine College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, "not just here on campus but we're going to make it available to the public statewide."

Lindenfeld, who holds a Ph.D. in cultural studies with an emphasis on contemporary American cinema, hopes to coordinate Judaic studies so the program can reach more students on campus and provide more community resources throughout Maine.

The Revson Foundation and the Jewish Media Fund usually donate two collections a year to universities or Jewish-education organizations. Most states have a collection at major universities or Jewish centers, but as many as 15 states have none at all. The collection requires a \$2,500 match from the institutions selected to receive the films. The match in this case came from the Minsky Judaic Studies Fund, supported by the families of Norman and Renee Minsky and Leonard Minsky of Bangor.

"Bringing in something like this video collection enlarges our capacity to do research and to provide cutting-edge resources to inspire course development," Lindenfeld says. "Studying films like these can help us understand the broader contexts of culture and identity."

Accompanying many of the videotapes will be suggested course materials to highlight the different questions and activities to include in existing courses and resources for creating entirely new classes.

Judaism has a long tradition in Maine, Lindenfeld says, and there are very few public resources available to learn about the subject. The Jewish Community Alliance in Portland has a Jewish Heritage Video Collection that's available to the public, but it is not accessible through the statewide library network.

The collection of films -- some humorous, some serious and some tragic -- includes titles like "Annie Hall," "Shalom Sesame," "A Rug Rats' Passover," "Europa, Europa," "The Diary of Ann Frank," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Yentl" and "Exodus," plus television programs that involve some aspect of Judaism. They range from work by journalist Bill Moyers, Mel Brooks and Woody Allen to old Jack Benny, Sid Caesar and Jerry Seinfeld reruns.

"These are the classics," she says, "If I were going to teach a course, I'd teach from these films."

Lindenfeld, in fact, is scheduled to teach a class in fall, "Jews and Jewish Life in the Media," through the Department of Communication and Journalism. She also will assist in organizing a local community film festival and a short course on Jewish American Cinema that will include titles from the Revson collection.

The collection offers UMaine new potential for ground-breaking research, which can help in understanding the contributions of Jewish families to the historical growth of Maine communities, according to Leffler.

For students at the university and elsewhere, the videos can provide perspectives on Judaism and Jewish life, its culture and history and also opportunities to analyze how and why specific kinds of stereotypes about Jews developed, Lindenfeld says.

"I think this is a step toward putting us more on the map, not just in Jewish studies resources, but in academic standing," she adds.

Also, Leffler notes, "with religious differences a flash point in the world right now, it is especially important that students and others have an opportunity to learn about Judaism."

UMaine currently has several courses that deal with Jewish life, culture and history, including sections of courses that teach about the Holocaust. They are offered through history, English, communication and journalism, political science and even the School of Performing Arts, as interdisciplinary subjects or special topics courses.

Trying to create a formal academic concentration, minor or major in Jewish studies seems impractical and too expensive, Lindenfeld and Leffler agree.

"I think the vision is to eventually create a concentration in Jewish studies that allows for different departments to have resources for Jewish studies," Lindenfeld says.

Grant to Fund UMaine Preservation Plan

16 Jun 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- University of Maine Vice President for Advancement Jeffery Mills has announced a \$175,000 grant from the Getty Grant Program's Campus Heritage Initiative. The money will be used to fund a preservation plan for the buildings and landscapes included in UMaine's National Register Historic District.

"This grant will enable us to put preservation planning at the forefront of our campus master planning process," Mills says. The preservation plan will be integrated into the larger process, which is at an early stage.

"This project will also help to ensure the preservation of UMaine's distinctive and beautiful New England land-grant campus," Mills says. "We expect that UMaine's preservation plan will be a model for incorporating historic preservation into a campus master plan."

UMaine Vice President for Administration Janet Waldron says that the buildings within the National Register Historic District will be subject to an extensive analysis of their condition. A team consisting of historical architects, a structural engineer, a mechanical engineer and an electrical engineer will evaluate each building or structure to determine existing conditions of building elements and systems. Original and subsequent architectural drawings will be reviewed as part of this work.

Landscape architects will conduct an examination and review of landscape resources. Field documentation will include documentation and site analysis of existing conditions. Architects will prepare diagrams and a narrative of the campus landscape history, including any landscape resources found to be associated with important people or groups, and prepare a visual analysis of existing conditions.

"I very much appreciate the effort that has gone into acquiring this grant," Waldron says. "Prof. Martha McNamara from our history faculty and Susan March from UMaine's development office have been instrumental in this project. We are very pleased with the result, which will greatly enhance our campus planning process."

Upward Bound Begins 39th Year at UMaine

16 Jun 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt: (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine --The University of Maine Upward Bound program will welcome 140 high school sophomores, juniors and seniors Saturday, June 19, as they begin a six-week academic and career exploration experience.

The majority of the students (approximately 100) are in the Classic Upward Bound general academic support and enrichment program. They attend schools served throughout the academic year by UMaine Upward Bound counselors in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo and Hancock counties. The 40 students in UMaine's Regional Math-Science Center are motivated math, science and technology students from targeted high schools around New England.

During the summer program, the students take classes in math, science, English, foreign language, career exploration, SAT preparation and a variety of electives. In addition, students have a research agenda, working on projects with UMaine faculty, as well as community job and service

Upward Bound is a federally funded educational opportunity program for high school students from low-income, first-generation college families. Its goal is to help the students overcome economic, social, academic and class barriers to higher education and break cycles of generational poverty.

Media Note: A large tent will be set up outside Hilltop Commons from noon to 4 p.m. on Upward Bound Summer Program registration day, June 19. Media contacts at registration are: Linda Ives, director, (581-2522); and William Ellis, assistant director, (581-3701).

UMaine to Host International Poetry Conference

15 Jun 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571 ORONO -- University of Maine English Professor Burt Hatlen jokingly calls the 2004 poetry conference of the National Poetry Foundation on June 23-27 "a gathering of the poetry clan, and all the sub-clans." But, in fact, this conference, the 12th poetry conference hosted by the National Poetry Foundation since it was established in 1972 by the late UMaine English professor Carroll Terrell, will be a gathering of some world-renowned poets and scholars devoted to the creation and the study of poetry. As many as 250 poets and scholars are traveling from Italy, Poland, Germany, Turkey, Spain, England, Canada, Korea, Singapore and from some of the best universities in the United States to the UMaine campus to read their poetry, listen to others read, present papers and build academic networks to carry on after the five-day conference ends. Titled "Poetries of the 1940s, American and International," the conference may be the largest of its kind in the world, according to Hatlen, himself a poet and specialist whose field includes 19th and 20th American poetry, and who also has served as director of the National Poetry Foundation since 1991. The conference "is significant, and it's fun, I should also emphasize," says Hatlen. Though a conference of

enormous value for scholars, many of whom will present unpublished papers before audiences of their academic peers, conference organizers also invite members of the public who would like to hear poetry by some of the finest American poets whose work was shaped by the 1940s, or discussions of the poetry of the 1940s by some of the most respected literary scholars writing today. All conference events are open to Maine residents at no cost. The conference is divided into lectures, readings and panel discussions, identified in the 32-page program, which is available at the conference. "The focus is the 1940s," Hatlen says, "a period of radical change in American life. The United States emerged from the war as the richest and most powerful nation on earth, but many poets felt deeply uneasy about the new role they saw America as playing in the postwar period, especially the increasing influence of the military on American society." Not only were the 1940s a period of often very experimental and adventurous musical and literary subcultures, but the period, particularly in the aftermath of World War II, helped crystallize American values. The seeds of the 1950s beat generation and the 1960s counterculture were planted in the 1940s, Hatlen says, and the tension and turmoil of the times is captured in the poetry, not only in American poetry, but in the work of poets from around the world. "Ezra Pound, who was alive and writing at this time, said 'Artists are the antennae of the race.' I think there's validity in that," he says. "The tension and conflict in American life are reflected in the poetry of the 1940s. But also, these poets were dealing with a whole new world, so different from what they were dealing with in the 1930s, when Americans worried mostly about their own country, not about running the world." Among more than seventy other panels, the conference program will include two panel discussions of poetry written by Americans in camps for conscientious objectors and poetry by Japanese Americans interned in camps during World War II. Among the participants at the conference is Robert Creeley, an internationally respected major American poet, who began his career in the 1940s and was an instructor at the famous Black Mountain College in North Carolina, as much a retreat for poets and writers as a formal college. He'll begin the conference with a poetry reading on Wednesday, June 23, at 7 p.m. in Minsky Auditorium in the Class of 1944 Hall. Other poets of international acclaim include: Harvey Shapiro, a World War II veteran who has written poetry about the war and who recently published an anthology of World War II poetry; Jackson Mac Low, a Wallace Stevens Award winner, prolific writer, poet, composer, painter and multi-media performance artist born in 1922; Lyn Hejinian, a professor at University of California at Berkeley and "one of the most highly regarded poets writing today, world-renowned," adds Hatlen; and Margaret Avison, who at age 85 has become one of the most admired and respected poets in Canada. Avison has received the two most prestigious Canadian poetry prizes, the Governor General's Award and the Griffin Prize. Previous National Poetry Foundation conferences at UMaine have looked at other influential periods -- the 1930s in the 1993 conference, the 1950s in the 1996 conference and the 1960s in the 2000 conference. Hatlen says that, even though the 1940s has long been seen as an important period in America's evolution, it became more symbolic after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. "Around 9/11, the 40s rhetoric was invoked over and over again," he says. "Pearl Harbor all over again." The 1940s "is the beginning of globalization, if you like," he says. "The U.S. gets its power through military means worldwide and many poets were very uneasy about those changes." The conference is being held in a variety of buildings on campus, including Neville Hall, the Doris Twitchell Allen Community Center and the Class of 1944 Hall. In addition to the National Poetry Foundation website, more information can be obtained by calling 581-3813.

Student Project Explores Why Youth Leave Maine

25 Jun 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- It comes as little surprise that the majority of young people leaving Maine after college do so in pursuit of better jobs and higher pay, but research by two UMaine graduate students shows cultural attractions also serve as a virtual Pied Piper of Hamelin leading youth away.

The richly diversified financial, commercial and entertainment opportunities Portland's Old Port section, for instance, are typical attractions for young people compared to the perceived lack of such vibrancy north of Augusta, says Rachel Bain, whose master's degree thesis was a study of youth migration.

In addition to job opportunities, the Bangor area also needs more socially oriented businesses like the Whig & Courier Pub and more boutique businesses, not more box stores and retail jobs, she says.

"I don't think it starts with the cultural piece," says Bain. "I think it starts with giving them something to do and then making it more attractive for them to stay."

Bain and her research partner, Jill Bachman, interviewed or sent surveys to hundreds of University of Maine students, either freshmen or seniors, to see how student views changed between those two groups. Students were ages 18-24. Though disappointed to receive responses from only about 14 percent, Bain says she believes the research is representative, and worthy of review by Maine's economic development and municipal policy-makers.

Their results parallel results from other studies of Maine's so-called "brain drain," but Bain says what's different, and potentially more revealing, is that her study, titled "Anywhere but Maine," goes beyond census data. The research was part of a course in public administration and was supervised by faculty advisor Ken Nichols, associate professor of public administration.

"What we felt was lacking was the personal touch from the people in that age group, the actual voices," she says. "We wanted to after it from a different angle. We wanted to get these young adults point of view as to why they wanted to leave Maine. We wanted to see what they were thinking."

Of 200 surveys gathered from graduating UMaine seniors and 150 from freshmen at the Orono campus, 71 percent said they planned to leave Maine after graduating. Bain says she and Bachman are confident most first year students who claimed residence in Maine were from Maine originally, and that the majority of seniors were students who also went to high school in-state.

While the two top reasons for the out-migration were professional opportunity and livable wages, respectively, the third biggest reason, according to 26 percent of those who returned surveys, was "other," which respondents explained was mostly greater cultural experiences and increased diversity.

Forty percent of the first year students cited a lack of cultural and diversity as reasons they probably would leave Maine later, while only 20 percent of the seniors blamed a lack of culture and diversity. Bain infers that the disparity reflects differing values, between freshmen, who are not immediately worried about finding a job, and seniors, who by graduation, have already begun job-hunting.

Thirty-one percent of the graduating seniors cited a lack of jobs in Maine as a reason to leave the state, while 38 percent said a general lack of opportunity was enough reason to leave.

Asked about overall confidence in the strength of the Maine economy to provide "a secure future for new college graduates," about three-quarters said Maine could not offer graduates "the aspects of life they would need in order to be successful and secure" here.

Many students whose residences were north of Augusta indicated they would leave the area, but not necessarily the state, Bain says, noting that southern Maine was cited as a destination for some students.

While many students were predisposed to leave the state after college, Bain says she was most struck by people who said they felt forced to leave.

"What worried me is I kept hearing 'I love this state, I wish I could stay.' They want to stay but they feel they can't. This was the saddest part," Bain says. "These people were looking at me and saying my family's here and I wish I didn't have to leave."

Bain and Bachman's report suggests the departure of young people creates a self-fulfilling prophecy. As young people leave and the population becomes more saturated with older and aging residents, services and amenities become geared more toward older people and less toward the young.

Maine policymakers, the women's report says, should develop a strategic plan to address the concerns of college-educated young adults, including a commitment to public transportation. In addition to the pursuit of economic development that generates jobs and income attractive to young people, Maine also should reevaluate "social goals."

They also suggest the possibility of a loan repayment assistance program, through which college grads would receive state help in repaying college loans in exchange for a commitment to live in state, or expanded internship programs to help students acquire experience in areas of academic fields of study.

"I would say the nature of this age group is to explore and to find new things," Bain says. "Maybe they'll find these things in Maine. We really need to attract people who really love this state."

Not stemming the tide only further contributes to Maine's declining economy, she says.

Senior Companion Program Awarded Wal-Mart Grant

25 Jun 2004

Contact: Carla Ganiel at (207) 581-3326

ORONO -- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension (UMCE) Senior Companion Program (SCP) is the recipient of a \$500 grant from the Bangor Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart officials Don Emmons and Allison Carson presented the grant award to SCP Project Director Carla Ganiel and AmeriCorps VISTA member Susan McNerney on June 9 at UMaine's Buchanan Alumni House.

The Senior Companion Program is a national community service program providing older Americans with opportunities to volunteer. Senior Companions are individuals aged 60 or older who provide companionship to homebound or isolated elders in their communities. The program seeks to reduce loneliness and isolation and to help homebound individuals maintain their independence. Over 100 senior volunteers are currently involved in the program, which serves more than 500 people in 13 Maine counties.

Senior Companions spend time with elders reading, playing games, reminiscing, and assisting with daily living tasks such as grocery shopping. SCP volunteers receive monthly training and education in elder issues. Those who meet income eligibility guidelines receive a modest stipend and reimbursement for transportation expenses.

For more information, call (207) 581-3870 or 1-800-287-0274 and ask for the Senior Companion Program.

UMaine Program Advances Early Intervention Professionals

24 Jun 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761 Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761
ORONO, Maine -- The first graduates of a federally funded master's degree program at the University of Maine are bringing new ideas and leadership capacity to agencies serving young children with disabilities and their families. The U.S. Department of Education grant -- Training Options for Early Intervention Personnel (TOP) -- funds graduate study for practicing professionals and is a collaboration of the UMaine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCI) and the College of Education and Human Development. More than 100 students have enrolled in TOP courses, and 50 have been accepted into the graduate school at UMaine. Recent graduates are Holly Day of North Yarmouth, Cyndi Dyer-Hutchison of Benton and Sandy Flacke Wood of Morrill. In addition to coursework, the educators researched and completed projects to benefit their professional fields. Day is team leader of service coordinators (case managers) at Child Development Services in Lewiston. Her project involved forming a partnership with a regional hospital to refer babies in its neonatal intensive care unit to Child Development Services prior to discharge in order to begin early monitoring. Dyer-Hutchison teaches in the inclusive preschool classroom for 3-5 year olds at Child Development Services in Waterville. She created an informational video for parents preparing for the initial services eligibility team meeting and interview. Flacke Wood,

an educational specialist at Mid-Coast Resource Development Center in Belfast, trains and mentors childcare providers. Her profession-targeted project piloted a model curriculum for family childcare providers. Dr. Lucille Zeph, director of CCI and assistant professor of Education, is the project director for TOP. Drs. Sandra Doctoroff and L. Sharon Gilbert, co-coordinate the project and serve as the primary faculty. "This project has allowed the University of Maine to begin to address the state's critical shortage of highly qualified early intervention specialists to meet the need of young children birth to age five with disabilities and their families," said Zeph. "Graduates are expected to fill leadership positions throughout Maine." More information about the TOP grant program is available from the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies by calling (207) 581-1084 or checking the website, www.umaine.edu/cci/learning/top.

Northern Maine Plant Research Facility to be Dedicated

21 Jun 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine will dedicate the Jacob Shur Research Facility in Crystal, Maine at 1 p.m. Thursday, June 24. A gift from Island Falls potato grower Arthur Shur, the facility will provide space for UMaine scientists to apply advanced tissue culture techniques to the needs of Maine's potato and horticultural industries.

Maine Governor John Baldacci and Commissioner of Agriculture Robert Spear will attend the ceremony marking the dedication of the research station to Arthur Shur's father, Jacob Shur.

The facility includes a building and three greenhouses with enough space to accommodate up to a million plants. Tissue culture allows growers to produce desirable, disease free plants at a commercial scale.

Prior to the donation to UMaine, the facility had been leased to the Monsanto Corporation for research on genetically modified potatoes. No research related to genetic engineering is being done at the facility.

"This very generous gift from Arthur Shur, combined with the recent construction by the Maine Potato Board of the experimental storage facility and the new greenhouse at Aroostook Farm, gives us the ability to provide state-of-the-art research support to the potato industry. This new research facility will provide support for horticulture and forestry issues as well," says Bruce Wiersma, director of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station at UMaine.

Examples of the kind of research that the facility will make possible include new potato varieties and ornamental plants with significant market potential for farmers, homeowners and landscapers. Susan Ballou of Island Falls managed the station for Monsanto and will continue as the manager for UMaine.

UMaine Engineering Student Takes First in International Competition

02 Jul 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Travis Hamel of Milford, a junior in the University of Maine Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, received a first place award in the Bentley Education Network (BEN) Student Design Competition, Animation and Freeform/Artistic Expression Category. Hamel's entry was a 3D rendering of a 1947 Willys Jeep.

Bentley produces MicroStation, a popular engineering design program that contestants used for their projects.

Hamel is working this summer for UMaine's Facilities Management office producing designs of existing and proposed buildings with MicroStation. At home, he spends his spare time building a replica of a 1965 Shelby A.C. Cobra

convertible and working on his father's 1928 Model A Woodie.

Other winners in the Bentley competition came from Romania and Singapore. Travis is the son of Tom and Nan Hamel of Milford.

UMaine Cooperative Extension Agent to Receive

29 Jun 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO-- Colin Stewart of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension will receive an Achievement Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at its 89th Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in Orlando, Florida on Tuesday, July 13. Stewart will be honored for his service to Maine's greenhouse industry and his efforts to apply the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

The award states that Stewart, a resident of Orono and native of Bowie, Maryland, "has effectively served the greenhouse industry with a new greenhouse IPM program. Colin was responsible for initiating and coordinating the statewide poinsettia, spring bedding plants and home IPM programs. He has established a Japanese beetle monitoring and management program for the town of Winterport. He has actively trained master gardeners and IPM scouts in basic entomology, beneficial insects, and IPM strategies."

The award is given to the top one percent of Cooperative Extension county agents in the country with less than ten years of service. This year, fifty-six individuals from throughout the United States were presented the Achievement Award.

Stewart is the son of Bill and Eileen Stewart of Bowie.

Grant to fund Maine Rural Substance Abuse Partnership

28 Jun 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571
Nick Houtman at (207) 581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at the University of Maine has received a \$400,000 Congressional award to fund the Maine Rural Substance Abuse Partnership. The partnership includes community-based prevention, education, and treatment initiatives in Washington County linked to a drug data-sharing consortium of rural states.

The announcement was made today in Machias by the University of Maine and members of the Maine Rural Substance Abuse Partnership - Marcella Sorg, a research associate at UMaine's Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy; and Barbara Drisko, coordinator of the Washington County Drug Action Team (WCDAT).

The funding, to be administered by the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance, was included in a Congressional bill and signed into law earlier this year.

Support for the grant came from members of Maine's Congressional delegation and area legislators. That support included involvement by Rep. Michael Michaud's office in WCDAT meetings and in community "twin summits," held

in Machias and Calais last year to identify priorities for addressing the county's substance abuse problems. Last August, Sen. Susan Collins highlighted rural need when she co-chaired a Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs hearing on prescription drug abuse in the state. Rep. Thomas Allen and Senator Olympia Snowe have also been supportive of the initiative.

"I am extremely impressed by all the outstanding work the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy has done to address the growing epidemic of substance abuse in our state, particularly in Downeast Maine," Michaud stated. "I continue to look forward to seeing this project move forward, so we can address these problems through treatment, education and prevention."

Improving access to services at the community level and information about rural substance abuse at community, state, and national levels is the bottom line for the Maine Rural Substance Abuse Partnership.

"Substance abuse is one of the most critical problems facing rural populations in Maine and nationally. Funding resulting from Rep. Michaud's leadership in the House on this issue enables rural communities in Maine, in partnership with the University of Maine and other rural states, to develop meaningful and appropriate solutions," says Sorg, a WCDAT participant for the past two years and Partnership project director.

"While it's occurring statewide, Washington County was one of the first counties to be identified nationally as having a problem with rural prescription drug abuse," she adds. "The county understands it has a problem and has mobilized to do something about it. It has the potential to be a national model."

In an academic-community partnership, UMaine and WCDAT will combine their expertise and resources in treatment, prevention, education, law enforcement, and economic development to address priorities identified by the county-wide community at the summits sponsored by WCDAT in Machias and Calais in 2003. The highest priorities include: establishing a single information source to improve access to substance abuse services; supporting community alternatives to incarceration for substance abusers; working toward local availability of long-term residential treatment; and improving sharing of county, state, and national substance abuse data to monitor potential problems.

Facilitating the latter will be a rural states database of drug-related deaths, injury, treatment, and arrest statistics to be created by the Partnership. Maine and eight other rural states - New Hampshire, Vermont, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Oregon - will establish a Rural States Drug Data Partnership to share, analyze, and disseminate information on substance abuse. The hope is to compile aggregate data that better explain the growth of drug problems in rural areas nationally, along with community models to address problems locally.

One initiative being explored in the Rural States Drug Data Partnership is the use of GIS technology to compare characteristics of towns in the participating rural states.

Last week, the congressional Appropriations Committee reported out the Fiscal Year 2005 Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Appropriations bill, which recommends funding the project again during the next fiscal year. This request was made by Rep. Michael H. Michaud in the bill which is expected to pass the full House of Representatives in the coming weeks.

Young Writers Camp Opens Monday

09 Jul 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt (207) 581-2761

ORONO-- Forty-six aspiring writers will sharpen skills and express their creativity during the annual Young Authors' Camp taking place July 12-16 at the University of Maine. The students in grades 3-12 represent 24 schools throughout the Greater Bangor area and from Fort Kent to Oakland.

The Young Authors' camp is led by exemplary teachers who have completed the rigorous requirements of the Maine Writing Project at UMaine, the state's National Writing Project affiliate. The National Writing Project is a federally funded professional development program dedicated to the teaching and learning of writing across the curriculum in the nation's schools.

Media are welcome to attend any of the camp session, which run from 8:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday in Shibles Hall. Young Authors' Camps, sponsored by the UMaine College of Education and Human Development, are also offered at Benton Elementary School (July 12-16) and at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor (Aug. 9-13).

The agenda and instructors for the July 12-16 Young Authors' Camp in Orono are:

Daily Agenda (Tuesday-Friday; Monday will not be a regular day because of registration)

8:30-10:15 a.m. -- Writing Workshops

10:15-10:30 a.m. -- Break

10:30-11:15 a.m. -- Writing Workshops

11:45 a.m.-noon -- Sharing and closing sessions

Instructors and Room Locations:

Grades 3-4 -- Mary Moreau (teacher at Old Town Elementary), 203 Shibles

Grade 5 -- Valerie Shinas (teacher at Orono Middle School), 159 Shibles

Grade 6 -- Cheryl Brown (former teacher at Bangor High, now a UMaine doctorate student), 316 Shibles

Grades 7-8 -- Amanda Anderson (teacher at Leavitt Area High School, Turner), 313 Shibles

Grades 9-12 -- Marla Gerber (teacher at Maine Central Institute, Pittsfield), 204 Shibles

UMaine Graduate Student Trekked Across Greenland, Antarctica

09 Jul 2004

Contact: Coen Hofstede, Climate Change Institute, 207-581-8935, coen.hofstede@maine.edu

Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO-- It helps to visit a place if you're going to study it, but some might say that Coen Hofstede went to extremes. The University of Maine Ph.D. student in the Climate Change Institute is conducting research on a fast flowing glacial ice stream that drains part of the Greenland ice sheet. He uses computer models to simulate the complex physics that define how an ice stream grinds over land and scours the sides of its channel.

In late spring, 1997, he visited the ice stream that is known as the Jakobshavn Isbr

UMaine Student Film to Debut at International Film Festival

07 Jul 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Working all night, napping on the production room floor and letting other work slide was just part of the sacrifice by two dozen University of Maine film students whose efforts are being rewarded July 10 with the debut of their movie at the Maine International Film Festival in Waterville.

"It was crazy, but we got it done," says musician Justin Taylor of Vassalboro, a junior studying film and music in the University of Maine's New Media program. "When we were doing post production, I slept on the production room floor for about two hours a night because I also had classes."

Taylor spent two days composing and recording the musical score for the 20-minute film "Float," the intriguing story of three friends trying to honor the last wishes of a fourth friend who dies unexpectedly.

"Float," produced under the guidance of executive director Raphael DiLuzio, assistant professor of new media who teaches several courses on film production, was one of 32 short movies submitted to the Maine Film Office for consideration and one of only nine selected for inclusion in the Maine Filmmakers Forum on Saturday, July 10 at the Waterville Opera House between 3-5 p.m.

"It's sort of a mini-festival within the Maine International Film Festival," says Greg Gadberry, assistant director the Maine Film Office. Competition, he says, "was pretty stiff. The Maine Filmmakers Forum has become increasingly competitive over the years."

"Float," he says, "holds up very well against the other films that we're showing this year. The jury was very impressed by the originality, the technical expertise and the acting, all of which came together in a very nice little package."

Says director and co-writer Ivor Hadziabdic, a UMaine senior from Croatia who studies video and video installation in the new media department, "Float" is about a group of friends, four men who work together as a team, bonded and guided by the oldest of the four.

"The guy that dies was pretty much the bond that holds them together and after he dies, they are beginning to reexamine their values. It's basically about friendships falling apart," Hadziabdic says.

The older man, a day prior to dying of apparent natural causes in his apartment, had expressed a desire to "just float" after he dies, so the remaining friends decide to send his body, along with hundreds of colorful origami figures created by the dead friend, down a river in a rubber raft.

According to two other new media graduate students, Nathan Hankla of Georgetown, Maine, assistant director who did most of the film's final editing, and Sheridan Kelley of Cherryfield, Maine, still photographer for the production, "Float" was filmed within 20 miles of the UMaine campus, at local apartment, Sunkhaze Stream and the back roads leading to it from Old Town and in an Orono-area pub and coffee house.

Most of the 25 people involved with the film, including director of photography Nate Stevens of Norridgewock, who helped with directing, and actor Dustin Sleight of Orono are UMaine students. The other three actors were nonstudents.

The film can be viewed on the www.3leggeddog.com/gallery/

Humans May Surpass Other Natural Forces as Earth Movers

07 Jul 2004

Contact: Roger LeB. Hooke, Dept. of Earth Sciences, 207-581-2203 (office), 207-348-6933 (home), rhook@acadia.net
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- Think of large earth moving projects: highway interchanges, coal mines or Boston's Big Dig. According to Roger LeBaron Hooke, a University of Maine scientist, such activities have propelled humans into becoming arguably the most potent force in shaping the planet, surpassing rivers, wind and other natural phenomena. He finds this achievement troubling, and other scientists are taking note.

Hooke taught at the University of Minnesota until 1999 and is now a UMaine research professor in the Department of Earth Sciences and Climate Change Institute. He studies glaciated landscapes and has worked in Maine, the Canadian Arctic and Sweden on the forces that molded ice sculpted hills, built gravel ridges and left large landforms such as Cape Cod and Long Island.

In the early 1990s, a newspaper report on the annual number of housing starts in the United States led Hooke to wonder just how much earth was being displaced by human activity. He gathered data on residential subdivisions, road construction and mining. His goal was to estimate the amount of soil and rock that humans move from one location to another through activities akin to the forces of nature that he also studied.

In 1994, Hooke published the results in a paper in *GSA Today*, a journal of the Geological Society of America. He estimated that on a worldwide basis, humans move more of the planet around, about 45 gigatons (billion tons) annually, than do rivers, glaciers, oceans or wind. For comparison, he estimated that meandering rivers may move about 39 gigatons of sediment a year. Others have estimated that rivers deliver about 24 gigatons of sediment to the oceans each year. Even that enormous figure can be partly attributed to people. Soil erosion from farm fields, construction sites and other sources contributes significantly to river sediment loads.

Continuing his research, Hooke has put human earth moving into an historical context. After all, people moved rock to build monuments such as Stonehenge in England and pyramids in Egypt and the Americas. In the journal *Geology* in 2000, Hooke estimated that over the last 5,000 years of human history, the total amount of soil and rock moved by people would be enough to build a mountain range about 13,000 feet high, 25 miles wide and 62 miles long.

In the last century, powerful technologies have enabled people to accelerate this process. At current rates, the size of that metaphorical mountain range could double in the next 100 years, he wrote. "One might ask how long such rates of increase can be sustained and whether it will be rational behavior or catastrophe that brings them to an end."

"I come at this from an environmental point of view," Hooke says. "We've been at it for a century at this level. I wonder how much longer we can continue making a mess of the planet."

Among the environmental problems linked to these activities are acid mine drainage and river sedimentation. Mountaintop removal, a technique for strip mining coal in the Appalachian coal belt, results in the destruction of river valleys, he adds.

Although he is not conducting new research in this area, geologists continue to show interest in his ideas. He gave a presentation in 1998 to the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In November, the Geological Society of America has invited him to give a presentation at a symposium on Human and Ecosystem Vulnerability.

How humans treat the land, Hooke says, can have unintended consequences. "The Dust Bowl of the 1930s resulted in part from clearing the land," followed by severe drought. "We don't know what causes these (climate) conditions, but there's no reason they couldn't recur."

UMaine Leadership Transition Announced

10 Jul 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Peter S. Hoff, the 17th president of the University of Maine, has resigned from that position effective Aug. 15, it was announced today by [University of Maine System](#) Chancellor Joseph Westphal. Westphal also announced that Robert A. Kennedy, UMaine's executive vice president and provost, has been appointed interim president.

Hoff has been UMaine's president since Aug. 1, 1997. His tenure in that role is the longest of any UMaine president since 1965. During his presidency, student enrollment has increased by more than 25 percent and there has been measurable progress in such areas as extramural research funding and private giving to the university. There has been more infrastructure development than any other point in UMaine's history, with more than \$150 million in construction and renovation projects either completed or started.

Hoff will assume a five-year position as University of Maine System Professor, a non-tenured position. In that role, he will work as a scholar and researcher on higher education and related policy issues.

"Peter has been an imaginative and innovative administrator who has developed a team that has delivered significant results in the development of programs, the improvement of infrastructure, growth of the university and outreach to alumni and other important constituencies," says H. Allen Fernald, chair of the UMaine Board of Visitors. "He has been a strong advocate in the Legislature, where he has many friends. Peter has earned our respect and our thanks for his many accomplishments during his tenure as president."

Hoff has a Ph.D. in English and Humanities from Stanford University. He is a Wisconsin native who has worked in public higher education in Wisconsin, Indiana, Georgia, California and Maine. Before coming to UMaine, he served for four years as senior vice chancellor for academic affairs in the California State University System.

"Peter Hoff was easily the strongest candidate for president back in 1997, and, overall, he has lived up to the search committee's high expectations," says UMaine history professor Howard Segal, who was a member of that committee. "He is himself a proud graduate of another land-grant institution, the University of Wisconsin, and he came to UMaine with a commitment to bringing the institution into the twenty-first century within the land-grant tradition. He understood from the outset that UMaine needed to stop relying on the state for so much of its funding; to increase its undergraduate and graduate enrollments; to seek greater external research and development funds from government and business; to establish partnerships with area corporations, research labs, and hospitals; and to balance the sometimes competing interests of liberal arts programs with science and engineering programs."

Ann Leffler, dean of UMaine's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences since last summer, measures Hoff's leadership in the context of the national higher education scene.

"I have been impressed with his ability to maintain UMaine's momentum despite serious resource challenges," she says. "He has upheld the tradition of strong UMaine presidents, supporting the extraordinary accomplishments of UMaine's faculty and students."

Kennedy has been at UMaine since July 2000, serving first as Vice President for Academic Affairs. In 2001, he was promoted to the position of Executive Vice President and Provost. At UMaine, Kennedy has played a central role in developing and executing the university's teaching, research and statewide public outreach mission. He has led the university's strategic planning process, which has helped to provide direction for progress in critical areas.

"Bob Kennedy will guide UMaine through a period of continued momentum," Leffler says. "He has earned high marks on campus and in the community for his vision and openness, strengthening friendships between UMaine and supporters throughout the state. His insights - and his ability - will strengthen UMaine's ability to meet the challenges it faces."

UMaine's Page Farm and Home Museum Hosting Traditional Community Picnic July 25

16 Jul 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- As more than 80 Maine farms open their doors to the public for tours on Open Farm Day July 25, the University of Maine's Page Farm and Home Museum will host a traditional community picnic lunch, featuring old-time

games and a home-made ice cream-making demonstration.

This year is the ninth that the Page Museum has offered a companion program celebrating rural Maine farm life and offering the public a taste of the old fashioned, according to Page Farm Director Patricia Henner. The event is free.

"It's a lot of fun for us," she says. "We traditionally have a community picnic on Open Farm Day. It's one of those things we do to promote the program, and so people can reflect on some of the community values that people held in Maine."

The Page Farm and Home Museum, on the Orono campus, features exhibits, tours, special events and information about agricultural and rural living in Maine between 1865 and 1940.

In addition to games for young and old -- horseshoes, bean bag toss, croquet, a three-legged race -- the annual picnic also is a time for families "to come see demonstrations of old crafts and to feel involved in the community and meet friends and neighbors and mix fun with education," Henner says.

The days starts at 11 a.m., rain or shine, with lunch at noon and the ice-cream making (and sampling) demonstration at 1 p.m. While the museum provides free beverages and some desserts, participants are asked to bring a dish to share, a casserole or salad, for instance, Henner says. Additionally, she suggests people bring a lawn chair or blanket.

"If it rains, we're going to move the picnic indoors, like we did last year," she says.

Traditionally, between 100 and 150 people attend.

New exhibits and demonstrations at the museum include soap-making, spinning, blacksmithing, canning and videos of life in bygone days, in addition to the new Maine State Grange exhibit, which Henner believes may be the only one in the country, given the secrecy that historically surrounded the Grange.

Standing exhibits include equipment and vehicles for clearing land, harvesting and storing crops and poultry, dairy, 4-H, ice harvesting, a novel gift shop in an old general store setting and a replica of celebrated Maine cook and cookbook author Brownie Schrupp's kitchen.

More information is available by calling the museum at 581-4100 or checking the museum website: <http://www.ume.maine.edu/~pfhm>.

Cooperative Extension Assists with New Farm Network

15 Jul 2004

Contact: Rick Kersbergen, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1426 (In Maine), or 207-342-5971; Diane Schivera, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), 207-568-4142

ORONO, Maine -- Many livestock farmers are showing interest in the effective utilization of pasture for raising and finishing livestock. In response, the Maine Grass Farmers Network is being created to provide information and support to interested farmers. The first in a series of educational events is scheduled for July 20th at the Guistra farm in Union.

Many livestock farmers in Maine are learning about potential advantages of growing grass as carefully managed pasture for their livestock, says Rick Kersbergen of University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Growing grass in Maine takes advantage of our short growing season and cool climate. Keeping land in pasture reduces soil erosion caused by row crops. Currently there is a huge potential resource of underutilized pasture and grass ground in Maine, he says.

Grass farming and pasture raised livestock utilize pastureland effectively, while improving animal health, product quality and market advantage. Pasture raised milk, meat, poultry, and eggs have the potential for high nutritional content

and higher market prices. Grass farming can increase profitability, helping to keep farms and farmland viable and maintaining the rural character of our communities.

With the support of a grant from SARE, the Northeast Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, the coordinators have scheduled a series of pasture walks this summer and fall. They also plan to arrange several workshops, produce information to help farmers and create a core group of trained professionals in Cooperative Extension, the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, the Maine Department of Agriculture and National Resources Conservation Service.

Farmer consultants also will be available to provide technical information and support to a network of grass-based farmers in Maine. A database of livestock farmers and an email network of farmers who wish to be part of the network are being developed.

Fact sheets for professionals and farmers will be created with topics to include: forage identification, fencing methods, watering systems, pasture management (reclamation, set-up, evaluation), predator control, and genetics.

An initial study group/pasture walk pilot project is being implemented in the Waldo County area in coordination with Unity Barn Raisers. UBR aims to "serve more local needs locally," and has been the leading force behind the following projects: community-led farmers' market, community meals program organized around local meats and produce, farmland protection initiative working to permanently protect 1000 acres of prime farmland in the region. From this initial project, the project will gradually branch out to cover the state in the next two years.

The first in a series of pasture walks will be held on July 20th from 6-8 pm at the farm of Clint Guistra's on the Carroll Rd in Union. On July 27th, from 6-8 pm, there will be a pasture walk at the Healy farm in Thorndike. The pasture walks are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Diane Schivera, project coordinator, at MOFGA at 568-4142, or Rick Kersbergen of University of Maine Cooperative Extension at 1-800-287-1426 or Paula Roberts of Meadowsweet Farm at 338-1265 or by email at mgfn@prexar.com.

Seaweed Growth Could Generate New Harvesting Jobs

14 Jul 2004

Contact: Mike Stumbo, 207-226-3225, Mike_Stumbo@fmc.com
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SEAWEED GROWTH COULD GENERATE NEW HARVESTING JOBS

ORONO, Maine -- If there is a silver lining to the sea urchin decline along the Maine coast, it may be the increased abundance of a commercially important type of seaweed. As urchin harvesters have removed the spiny creatures from coastal waters, a dark purple edible and valuable seaweed known as Irish moss, or *Chondrus crispus* to scientists, has spread like dandelions in the spring.

Now, with a \$10,000 seed grant from the Maine Technology Institute, FMC BioPolymer in Rockland is teaming up with University of Maine scientists to determine just how much Irish moss has expanded and how it can be sustainably harvested. The research may lead to new harvesting methods and new jobs.

FMC BioPolymer is a division of FMC Corporation based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The company began using Irish moss to produce carrageenan, an ingredient in foods, pharmaceuticals and personal care products, before 1950. The plant grows on both sides of the Atlantic and was harvested from the waters of southern Massachusetts through the

Canadian Maritimes.

Today, most carrageenan is produced from seaweed imported from Asia Pacific regions or from Chile. In North America, the small amount of *Chondrus crispus* currently used in the production of carrageenan is largely harvested in the Canadian Maritimes.

The research project is a marriage of economics and ecology. Maine fishing communities are dangerously dependent on lobsters for the bulk of their income, and Irish moss could provide an important employment option, says Robert Steneck, UMaine professor of oceanography and leader of the research project. Urchins eat Irish moss, and the depletion of sea urchins has led to what is believed to be the all time highest density of *Chondrus crispus* in Maine waters, he adds.

It is also hoped that thinning the *Chondrus crispus* through sustainable harvest will reduce hiding places for the non-native green crabs, which feed on baby sea urchins. A result of harvesting could be more rapid recovery of sea urchin stocks.

Steneck is a renowned expert on coastal ecosystems, a Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation recipient and recognized lobster researcher.

In July, Steneck's team began surveying and mapping *Chondrus crispus* seaweed density along the entire length of the Maine coast. A final report will be issued in early 2005.

If sufficient density of Irish moss is found to be available, a second project will be launched to develop a mechanical harvester. The machine would allow a two-person team in a skiff to gather seaweed at a more productive rate than the traditional method of hand raking and beach gathering of storm tossed seaweed.

Six to ten two-person teams will be needed to harvest *Chondrus crispus* along with at least one gathering and drying station. The market price for *Chondrus crispus* seaweed is currently around \$2,400 per ton.

The total cost of the survey is expected to be \$42,000, with the difference from the \$10,000 MTI seed grant being made up by \$16,000 in expense funding from FMC Corporation through Coastal America. The remainder will come from donations of management time by FMC BioPolymer and the University of Maine.

MTI is funded by the State of Maine to invest in technologies that have potential to create high skill jobs in critical industries.

FMC Corporation is a diversified chemical company serving agricultural, industrial and consumer markets globally for more than a century with innovative solutions, applications and quality products. The company employs approximately 5,300 people throughout the world. The company divides its businesses into three segments: Agricultural Products, Specialty Chemicals and Industrial Chemicals.

Model Adolescent Literacy Course Under Way at UMaine

13 Jul 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Nineteen Maine teachers from York to Washington counties are sharpening their skills in a growing area of educational concern during the Adolescent Literacy Institute taking place at the University of Maine. The program offers a national model course to help secondary school teachers in all content areas boost their students' reading skills and help them meet the literacy demands of higher academic standards.

The course, "Teaching Reading through Teacher and Student Inquiry," was developed and is taught by Tanya Baker, literacy coordinator at Brewer High School and UMaine doctorate student in literacy, and Jeff Wilhelm, a former UMaine literacy professor now at Boise State University. They developed the course three years ago as part of the Washington County Adolescent Literacy Project, a national demonstration site to create, sustain and study school-wide literacy initiatives at the high school level.

Basic reading and writing are no longer sufficient for today's high school students who must demonstrate strong literacy and critical thinking skills to meet performance-based standards in all subject areas, Baker points out. "If we are asking students to go beyond their reading comprehension in subject matter, we need to give them the underpinning -- the ability to read, grasp and use information to meet higher demands," she explains.

The July 12-21 session is the only time the course will be offered in Maine this year. The state Department of Education has requested that next year, the course be offered in southern Maine as well as in Orono. Other states, looking for ways to improve adolescent literacy, are expressing interest in the Maine model. Baker and Wilhelm have taught the course in Utah and Chicago area schools, and are scheduled to present it in Providence, R.I.

Media are welcome to attend institute sessions and interview the instructors and participants. Wednesday and Thursday morning (July 14 and 15) would be especially good times to see how the course works and the teachers in action, according to Baker. Institute hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m., with morning sessions taking place in 115 D.P. Corbett Business Building.

Upward Bound Beetles Help to Keep High Schoolers on College Track

08 Jul 2004

Contact: Randy Alford, 581-2964; Linda Ives, 581-2522; George Manlove, 581-3756

ORONO -- "I've got one alive and two dead. Do they normally lie on their back like that?" asks a high school girl in a University of Maine Upward Bound class. "How do I know they're really dead?"

She peers into a screen box with a potato plant and begins counting beetles.

Forty-five high school students from throughout New England are divided into teams to test varying doses of two tropical plant extracts and an organic pesticide Spinosad (sold under the brand name Entrust R) on adult Colorado potato beetles. The experiment has never been done before, according to UMaine professor Randy Alford, an entomologist for 30 years and who oversees the experiments.

The class is part of the Upward Bound Math-Science Program, which introduces economically disadvantaged and often ethnically diverse high school students to college-level studies. Students work with UMaine professors, graduate students and even undergraduates who have passed through Upward Bound classes themselves.

They are now in the third week of the 2004 summer session, which ends July 29. Once accepted into the federally funded, three-to-four-year program, they spend six weeks each summer returning to Orono for Upward Bound classes.

Experiments typically take place in classrooms, labs and in the field. An offshoot of the Johnson Administration's war on poverty from the 1960s, Upward Bound is designed to help highly motivated students overcome economic, social, academic and class barriers to higher education and break cycles of generational poverty. At UMaine, it is run through the College of Education and Human Development.

Part of why the program succeeds is that learning is driven by a framework that starts with hands-on science experiments and progresses to other disciplines -- data entry, spreadsheets, math and statistics and report-writing -- as students plan, execute and document experiments, according to Kevin Richards, a UMaine psychology major from

Dover-Foxcroft who personally went through Upward Bound.

The experience makes college less intimidating and less mystifying later, he says.

Alford revels in the students' excitement and sense of exploration, and says the research is scientifically important enough to be published in professional journals.

"This is what I want them to get," says Alford as the students compare notes, chatter about the dead beetles in the laboratory and chart the results on a blackboard. "It's their appreciation of the results and their relationships with each other

School Of Marine Sciences Hires William Ellis To Be Assistant Director

12 Jul 2004

Contact: William Ellis, School of Marine Sciences, 207-581-4360, wge@umit.maine.edu
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine - The School of Marine Sciences at the University of Maine has a new assistant director. William Ellis of Orono will advise first year undergraduates and manage student recruitment activities at high schools, in addition to managing the day-to-day activities of the school.

"Ellis has a strong research and teaching background, but he also brings an interest in higher education administration and an interest in helping students make a successful transition from high school to college," says Dave Townsend, School of Marine Sciences director.

A native of East Vassalboro, Ellis has a Ph.D. in chemical oceanography from the University of Rhode Island and is a 1986 graduate of Bowdoin College. He was an assistant professor of ocean sciences at Maine Maritime Academy in Castine before coming to UMaine in 2000 as assistant director of the Upward Bound Regional Math/Science Center.

"One of the unique aspects of UMaine is that undergraduates have so many opportunities to work with faculty members on research," he says. "The Semester by the Sea program at the Darling Center is also a great opportunity for students to focus on marine sciences in their junior or senior year. Students can participate in research cruises in the Gulf of Maine and around the world."

As assistant director, Ellis will visit high schools and work with prospective and new students to guide them in their academic choices. "A lot of students are attracted to our program by marine mammals. They want to work with whales or dolphins," he says. "While some are able to do this, they learn there is so much more to explore within the marine sciences. Students learn we need to understand the complexities of the oceans in order to address issues with climate change, fisheries, and even whales and dolphins" he says.

Ellis also teaches two general education science classes at UMaine's Hutchinson Center in Belfast: a general concept course in oceanography, and "Chemistry for Everyday Living."

In addition to Ellis being hired, Dean Bruce Wiersma of UMaine's College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture has appointed Townsend for a second three-year term as director. Irv Kornfield of Bangor has been selected to serve as the associate director, replacing Rebecca Van Beneden.

UMaine Computer Engineers Helped Lay Foundation For New U.S. Army Supercomputer

12 Jul 2004

Contact: Eric Wages, Dept. of Industrial Cooperation, 207-866-6510, wages@eece.maine.edu
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine computer engineers and employees of Applied Thermal Sciences of Sanford, Maine have bragging rights in a recent announcement that the U.S. Army will create what may be the second most powerful computer in the world. The Army decision to build the machine known as the MACH 5 (Multiple Advanced Computers for Hypersonic, G5) is based in part on UMaine research funded by the Army to develop more powerful and less expensive computing technology for military research.

In May, the Army announced that it would purchase a system consisting of 1,566 Apple Xserve G5 desktop computers for \$5.8 million. When Army contractor, Colsa, Inc. of Huntsville, Alabama, completes the system this fall, it is expected to be second in speed only to the \$350 million Earth Simulator computer in Japan. The Colsa computer is expected to operate 25,000 times faster than the average desktop computer.

"The goal of our work is to learn how to build bigger, better, faster, and cheaper supercomputer technology for the Army," says Eric Wages, supercomputer engineer in UMaine's Dept. of Industrial Cooperation. Working with Wages at the Target Technology Center in Orono are Bruce Segee and Andy Sheaff of UMaine's Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Glen Beane, a graduate student in the Department of Computer Science; and Larry Thompson of Applied Thermal Sciences, an engineering research firm in Sanford.

For the last two years, this team has been working to analyze the performance of complex software that simulates high-speed missile trajectories on a cluster of high performance desktop computers. The software is so complex that engineers have taken what amounts to a digital magnifying glass to see how various sections of the code perform.

"Our job is to profile the code and then figure out how to make it run faster without changing it," says Wages.

Scientists typically use supercomputers to understand complex phenomena such as nuclear explosions, global climate or the Big Bang. A faster computer essentially allows scientists to work on complicated problems with greater accuracy.

At the Target Technology Center in Orono, the UMaine team is currently using a supercomputer cluster of 208 desktop computers, or nodes. Starting this week, researchers will begin building a new 256 node Apple Xserve G5 system, "a baby MACH 5," says Wages. The new \$680,000 system is funded by the Army under contract with UMaine.

The current supercomputer system will remain at Target. "We hope to keep the system running 24/7 and available for UMaine researchers and businesses," says Wages. UMaine students and faculty in chemistry, marine sciences, computer science and computer engineering are already using the system for their research.

For more information on the UMaine's supercomputers or the people behind the project, see <http://www.clusters.umaine.edu>.

Farmers Can Get Free "Slow Moving Vehicle" Sign

23 Jul 2004

Contact: Richard Brzozowski, Cumberland County office of Cooperative Extension, 800-287-1471 (within Maine)

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension has teamed up with farm equipment dealers to offer free Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) signs to Maine farmers this summer. Placed on the rear of farm tractors and implements traveling less than 25 miles per hour, the sign is designed to warn other drivers of the slow moving vehicle they are approaching.

With summer in full swing, many Maine farmers and farm workers are on public roads moving equipment, livestock, hay and crops with tractors. "Operating a farm tractor on a public road can be a dangerous situation," says Richard

Brzozowski, Extension educator in Cumberland County. "Tractors move slowly, and other drivers need to recognize that."

Farmers can obtain one free SMV sign by contacting the UMaine Cooperative Extension at 1-800-287-1471 (toll free in Maine only). Farmers will receive a coupon and a safety packet on the use of tractors on public roads and how to install the SMV sign. They can redeem the coupon at their nearest participating farm equipment dealer to pick up a new bright sign.

Farmers are asked to redeem the coupon before September 1. Participating farm equipment dealers include the following businesses:

- Delekto Brothers - Auburn
- Greenway Equipment Dealers- Bangor
- Greenway Equipment Dealers - Ellsworth
- Hall Implement Co. - Windham
- Hammond Tractor - Fairfield
- Ingraham Equipment Center - Knox
- Kramer's Inc. - Sidney
- MPG Truck & Tractor - Presque Isle
- Scammon Tractor - Saco
- Theriault Equipment - Presque Isle
- Union Farm Equipment - Union
- Waterman Farm Machinery - Sabattus
- Wescott & Sons - Gorham

\$5 Million Added to Gilbert Loan Fund at UMaine

30 Jul 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The Charles E. Gilbert Loan Fund, which provides low interest loans to University of Maine graduates who are accepted at medical, dental or veterinary schools, has grown by \$5 million with an additional contribution to the fund from the Charles E. Gilbert Trust. The fund is held and managed by the University of Maine Foundation. The addition of \$5 million, which was provided earlier this year, is the largest addition ever made to an endowed fund at the UMaine Foundation.

Some 200 students have received loans from the fund over the past 25 years. Approximately \$650,000 is available each year, provided in the form of an interest-free loan for the duration of the student's academic program and up to three years for a required internship. In repayment, the loan has a three percent interest rate. Loans typically range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 annually; 30 were awarded for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Gilbert graduated from The University of Maine in 1894. He was connected with the Great Northern Paper Company for many years as a mechanical engineer. Throughout his life he was engaged in a number of lumbering operations and made several trips around the world.

"Mr. Gilbert demonstrated great foresight and generosity by remembering University of Maine students in his will in such a meaningful way," says Amos E. Orcutt, President/CEO of the University of Maine Foundation. "His fund may someday help to alleviate the state's shortage of medical professionals."

UMaine students interested in more details should contact the Office of Student Financial Aid.

UMaine Business School Names Grant Graduate Programs Director

28 Jul 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Richard A. Grant of Brunswick has been named the new Director of Graduate Programs and Executive Education for the University of Maine Business School.

He replaces Richard Borgman, associate professor of finance, who has returned to full-time teaching.

As director of graduate programs, Grant manages the Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Accounting programs, and will develop new programs for business leaders and executives already advanced in their careers.

Grant holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and an MBA from the University of Southern Maine. His professional background is in retailing and direct marketing with L.L. Bean and Timberland.

At L.L. Bean, he served in several capacities -- senior analyst in strategic planning, a business analyst in merchandising, assistant manager in product quality and direct shipment coordinator in customer service.

At Timberland, Grant served as store manager for the company's first factory outlet in Brunswick, Maine, and the second store, in Burlington, Vt.

Grant also worked as an independent writer under the business name Right Word Communications and has been a contributing business writer for the Portland-based Interface newspaper group since 2002.

He is a member of the Portland Marketing Association and Maine Public Relations Council, and has contributed numerous hours volunteering for several organizations, including: various roles in United Way of Greater Portland fundraising campaigns, a board member for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Brunswick, a USM Alumni Board member, secretary of the USM School of Business Alumni Chapter, and a member of the advocacy steering committee and the student business plan competition committee at USM.

Grant recently was selected into the Leadership Maine program for 2004--2005. Leadership Maine is a year-long experiential program, which provides 40 established leaders with a statewide perspective of the economy, information to meet the challenges of tomorrow and encourages the building of networks to spark collaborative change in Maine.

Tax Analysis Points to Size of Potential Revenue Cap

28 Jul 2004

Contact: Todd Gabe, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3307, todd.gabe@umit.maine.edu Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu ORONO-- An analysis of potential state budget changes resulting from the tax cap proposal on the November ballot identifies the magnitude of funding choices that state legislators could face in the next biennium. Todd Gabe, an economist in the University of Maine Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy (REP), performed the work to identify potential consequences for higher education spending, including state support for the University of Maine System.

"The idea behind the study is to get a sense of how the Palesky tax cap could affect Maine's finances, if the state helps municipalities bridge the gap between local expenditures and estimated revenues under a 1 percent property tax cap," Gabe says. "Right now it is unclear how Maine towns and the state would find new revenue sources to support local services, so I am looking at the impacts of the tax cap under the assumption of no additional revenues," he adds.

Gabe has calculated the potential budget effects under several scenarios. One of the most significant factors affecting those scenarios is how local governments and the legislature implement Question 1, which the voters passed in June. That measure requires the state to pay 55% of local education costs, up from the current 43%.

Assuming that local governments reduce their own spending by the same amount that they receive in additional state support, says Gabe, the proposed tax cap could require the state to reallocate at least \$372.5 million in each year to meet the property tax limits imposed by the tax cap.

If municipalities were to shift spending from education to other purposes and not reduce their overall expenses, the state would have to come up with up to \$529.7 million annually to meet the tax cap limitations.

Both scenarios assume a level two-year state budget of \$5.22 billion. Hypothetically, state programs could be reduced by an amount consistent with their relative portion of the state budget.

In the first case, the University of Maine System would be reduced from current 6.8 percent to 4.2 percent of the total state budget. The reduction would be more drastic, to 3.6 percent of the state budget, in the second case.

Gabe presents his analysis in a REP staff paper that has been posted to the department's website. The fifteen-page report includes ten tables that show current state budget allocations and how expenditures could hypothetically change under each scenario.

Figures used in the analysis came from the Maine Municipal Association, Maine Department of Education, Maine Revenue Services and the State of Maine Budget Website. Uncertainties stem from using figures from different sources, Gabe notes. The study did not account for growth in the state economy or the possibility that the legislature could replace property tax revenue with increases in income or sales taxes.

Gabe sees the study as a first look at a complex economic policy issue. He concludes, "I still have some questions about how the Palesky tax cap would be jointly implemented with Question 1, and the extent to which the tax cap could shift the tax burden from out-of-state property owners to Maine residents who pay other state taxes."

Parisian Theater Professionals Consider Collaborating With Maine Playwrights

26 Jul 2004

Contact: Jean Fried, Margaret Chase Smith Center, 207-299-6979 (cell)
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

Note: An itinerary is available from Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, at the number above.

ORONO, Maine -- Three theater professionals from Paris, France will spend July 25 to August 1 in Maine to lay the

groundwork for future collaboration in drama production. The visit of co-directors Marc Legrand and Lee Fou Messica and Serge Lannes of Les Dechargeurs, a theater located in the heart of Paris, is being coordinated by Jean Fried, a senior policy fellow in the University of Maine Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy.

Fried's fellowship is supported by UMaine's International Affairs program.

The directors will meet with playwrights and theater professionals in Bangor, Machias, Saco, Biddeford and Lewiston. During their trip, they will perform a scene from a play at St. Mary's Church in Lewiston, a performing arts, museum and learning center.

Gregoire Chabot, a Maine playwright, will join them for the performance that will precede the annual Festival de Joie in Lewiston.

Fried notes that the collaboration is part of an effort at the Margaret Chase Smith Center to foster sustainable development in Maine. "This is only one part of the larger project that is also concerned with economic development, scientific research and other areas," he says.

Collaborative theater could occur through productions of Franco-American and French plays in Maine and France. Differences in interpretation and audience reaction could be used to highlight how French culture has evolved differently in North America and in France. "We would use this to understand cultural changes based on geography and social history," says Fried.

The group will also meet with John Rohman of Bangor, chair of the Maine Arts Commission, to exchange ideas about cultural exchanges between France and Maine.

Sea Kayak Industry Generates Estimated \$8.5 Million Economic Impact to State

04 Aug 2004

Contact: At UMaine: Todd Gabe, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3307, todd.gabe@umit.maine.edu, Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu
At MASKGI: Paul Travis, president, 478-8193, ptravis@adelphia.net

ORONO-- Maine's sea kayak industry generates an estimated total impact of at least \$8.5 million to the state's economy, according to a report from the Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy at the University of Maine. In cooperation with the Maine Association of Sea Kayak Guides and Instructors (MASKGI), Assistant Professor Todd Gabe and Tom Allen, associate scientist, analyzed surveys from nine of the state's 22 sea kayak outfitters who are MASKGI members.

The economic impact figure is a first step in estimating the impact of all sea kayaking activities in Maine. In the future, MASKGI plans to continue efforts to understand the industry's impact by including non-guided trips, those led by other outfitters and related equipment purchases.

The surveys were conducted online with the help of Maine Sea Grant in 2003.

"We are trying to quantify the economic impact that the industry has on the coast of Maine," says MASKGI founder and vice-president Dave Mention who worked with Gabe to develop the survey. "You can consider it to be just a kiosk on a dock or to be an integral part of Maine's coastal tourism economy. Our best guess right now is that the industry is comparable to the schooner trade, but we don't have the total numbers. This survey is just a first step."

Natalie Springuel, a Maine sea kayak guide and marine extension associate with Maine Sea Grant, agrees that the industry's actual economic impact is higher than the survey results suggest. "With all the guided tours and rentals from independent businesses, inns, campgrounds, outfitters who are not MASKGI members, new businesses popping up

regularly, not to mention out of state businesses running trips in Maine, and the countless boy scout troops, camps and church groups who run trips, I think the sport brings a lot more than \$8.5 million," she says.

The estimate includes the industry's direct revenue, additional spending by customers and the new economic activity stimulated by that spending. Gabe and Allen calculated the latter figures with a standard computer model that estimates the ripple effects of direct sales within an economic sector.

The survey also concludes that total employment in the industry amounted to about 416 people with a payroll of \$1.3 million.

The survey revealed that about one quarter of sea kayak outfitter customers are from Maine. Most of the remainder come from other states, and about five percent come from other countries. A typical outfitter has been in business for ten years, had revenues of about \$205,000 and served 2,473 customers in 2003.

Gulf of Maine Marine Ecosystem May have Entered New Phase

04 Aug 2004

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Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- For most of the past 4,500 years, cod was king in the Gulf of Maine's coastal waters. Today, cod have given way to the Jonah crab with potential long-term consequences for coastal fisheries, according to a University of Maine research report published in the journal *Ecosystems*.

With crabs and lobsters at the top of the proverbial heap, the Gulf may have entered a new stable phase marked by the presence of expansive kelp beds and the near absence of sea urchins. These findings could signal the likelihood of significant biological changes in other heavily fished parts of the world's oceans as well.

The authors of the report are Robert S. Steneck, professor of marine sciences at UMaine's Darling Marine Center, and former UMaine graduate students John Vavrinec and Amanda Leland. They received support for their research from the Pew Foundation for Marine Conservation, Maine Sea Grant, the Maine Department of Marine Resources and the National Undersea Research Program.

The researchers analyzed fishing records and previous studies to gather evidence for the changes brought on by fishing pressure in marine ecosystems. Ancient coastal middens, for example, have revealed evidence suggesting that Native American fishing activities were beginning to affect near shore ecosystems several thousand years ago. Analysis of colonial and modern fish landing records shows that such changes accelerated with the adoption of new fishing technologies.

It is a revolution of sorts, an overturning of the established order brought on by fishing pressure, that leads to major changes in the coastal marine ecosystem, according to the article, "Accelerating Trophic-level Dysfunction in Kelp Forest Ecosystems of the Western North Atlantic." In the Gulf of Maine, the revolution was brought on by the drastic reduction in the number of cod and other top predators over the past century.

"To understand how these changes are accelerating, we looked at archaeological data for coastal Maine over the past 4500 years. The long dominance of predators has given way to many species playing 'king of the hill,'" says Steneck.

"While there is no fear of these species going extinct," he adds, "entire sections of the food web have become so rare that they no longer perform critical ecological functions in the marine community. This is called food web (or trophic level) dysfunction."

When such species as cod were no longer able to perform their function of keeping their prey species in check, the ecosystem entered a new phase marked by abundant sea urchins and a lack of kelp beds. Urchins ate so much kelp that they created areas known as "urchin barrens" where only low growing algae could survive.

In turn, the harvesting of urchins during the 1990s has led to the re-emergence of kelp beds and the dominance of crabs and lobsters. The report cites an experiment in which adult urchins were stocked in an area to see if they would survive and reproduce. Crabs ate most of the urchins.

"The problem is this 'trophic level dysfunction' is accelerating. Ecosystem changes persist for shorter and shorter periods of time because the 'driver' species increasingly fall below functional population densities," Steneck explains.

"When a threshold is reached, the system changes fundamentally. Everything that came before it is thrown out the window. What this does in the long run is make the system unpredictable."

For the first time, adds Steneck, the low diversity of marine organisms, including Maine's fabled groundfish, have left the system too reliant on a single species (lobster) and too vulnerable to continued and unpredictable large-scale fluctuations.

Kenda Scheele Named UMaine Associate Dean of Students

03 Aug 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO - Kenda Scheele, director of campus recreation at the University of Maine since 2001, has been named associate dean of students at UMaine. She was selected for the job following a national search.

"Kenda brings a wonderful set of complementary skills and experiences to this new position," says Robert Dana, UMaine's dean of students. "She has done a great job moving our recreation programs forward over the past three years, and I know that she will excel in this new position. While our search attracted many fine applicants, we were gratified to find the ideal candidate right here in our own community."

As associate dean, Scheele will lead and supervise several program areas related to campus life: Residence Life and Programs; Sexual Assault Awareness programs; Student Activities and Memorial Union programs; campus event planning; Student Employment and Volunteer Services; and Campus Recreation.

"I'm very excited to start this new position, it's a great opportunity," Scheele says. "I have always enjoyed working with university students. Their enthusiasm and vitality are infectious. I hope I can do great things with the students here at UMaine."

Prior to her arrival at UMaine, Scheele spent 19 years working at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb. She started there as assistant coordinator of intramural sports and held several positions of increasing responsibility, advancing through the ranks to become senior associate director of campus recreation before leaving for UMaine. Scheele earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, a master's from Colorado State University and a Ph.D. from Nebraska. Earlier this year, she completed a law degree at the University of Nebraska Law School.

Scheele fills a position vacated in March 2003 by Calli Sanders, who is now Senior Woman Administrator and Associate Athletics Director at Iowa State University.

UMaine Adopts Newly Certified "Green" Cleaning Program

13 Aug 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- With an eye on employee and student health and the environment, the University of Maine has joined a growing movement to adopt a "green certified" facility cleaning program. UMaine has contracted with Butcher's, Inc., of Marlborough, Massachusetts, to buy cleaning products that are certified by the independent Green Seal product certification organization.

"Six months ago there was only one company that was certified, but more have now come on board," says David Fowler of UMaine's Department of Facilities Management. "We've been trying these products in a few of our buildings, and as of August 16, we'll be using them for all of our cleaning needs."

The new products include carpet cleaners, floor cleaners, window washing liquid and other supplies. The department maintains over 80 academic and research buildings with an estimated 2.2 million square feet of surface area. The green cleaning products will also be used in UMaine's dormitories and dining halls.

New dispensing systems will also be installed with the aim of efficiency and reducing waste. Custodians will be able to refill cleaning product containers with concentrates and water.

The new products will cost about the same as what the university has used in the past, says Director of Facilities Management Anita Wihry, but efficiency improvements are expected to result in overall cost savings. UMaine spends about \$190,000 annually on paper and cleaning supplied for academic and research facilities.

UMaine Center on Aging Secures Grant for Workplace Safety Study

13 Aug 2004

Contact: Len Kaye, (207) 581-3483; Sandra Butler, (207) 581-2382
George Manlove, (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- With Maine's aging workforce laboring well beyond traditional retirement age, researchers at the UMaine Center on Aging and the state Department of Labor want to know if employers are prepared for the expected ballooning of older workers still on the job.

The Center on Aging recently received a \$7,500 grant from the Harvard-National Institute for Safety and Occupational Health (NIOSH) Education and Research Center at the Harvard School of Public Health to conduct a pilot study that's expected to lead to a more comprehensive assessment of how to better prepare the workplace for aging workers. The results of the study should be of interest to state government policy-makers and national organizations that advocate for older Americans.

Researchers Lenard Kaye, director of the Center on Aging, Sandra Butler, an associate professor of social work, and Kristin Nadeau, a research associate and graduate of the UMaine social work graduate program, conducted interviews with nearly three dozen people, employers and employees from five industry categories.

"This is a topic that really interests people and interestingly, there has been very little that's been done on it nationally," says Ruth Lawson-Stoppa of the Bath-based Occupational Health Association and a member of the Maine Occupational Research Agenda (MORA). MORA is a consortium of health and occupational professionals working under the wing of the labor department to oversee the study.

"There are some changes that are happening demographically, and it's startling that very little work has been done" on

Maine's aging labor force, Lawson-Stopps says.

Kaye and Butler, both published authors and authorities on gerontology, wonder if employers are prepared for thousands of baby boomers who will remain on the job into their late 60s and 70s.

"Research shows older workers (age 55 and older) are likely to be working longer as opposed to the past, when most people retired at age 65 or earlier," Kaye says. "That's a pronounced reversal of previous trends in the last 20 years."

A downturn in the economy, significant losses over the last decade in the value of stock market-based retirement accounts and the fact that many aging baby boomers are healthier these days, suggests, Kaye says, that "we need to prepare for expanding numbers of older workers in the workplace, and that makes this sort of research all the more timely and relevant."

As Kaye, Butler and Nadeau analyze their data, they are finding that most employers value the wisdom, experience and dedication of older workers. Older workers tend to have fewer on-the-job injuries than their younger counterparts, although older people tend to take longer to recover from an injury than a younger worker.

Studies show that older workers also tend to have repetitive motion and back injuries while younger people tend to have more hand and eye injuries, a likely result of older workers being more careful as they become familiar with their jobs and their bodies.

"The focus of this current research is on workplace health and safety," Butler says, "so the state can make provisions to assure a safer workplace as the labor force changes."

Among the questions researchers asked in the pilot survey was "how they saw themselves as workers at age 30 as opposed to today," Nadeau says. "We are asking them if they feel if their health and safety needs have changed as they've aged."

Kaye adds that, "in a sense, we also want to determine if an employer is making changes and encouraging them to stay in place or, not so subtly, to move on."

The five industries the Center on Aging is looking at in the pilot study are healthcare, shipbuilding and repair, public schools, grocery stores and state government -- all categories the department of labor identified as having more injuries among older workers than many other industries.

"The demographics show that before too long there are going to be some shortages of younger workers," says Lawson-Stopps. "It means we really need to look at these older workers. A concern we have is this is going to be a large segment of the population as the baby boomers are getting older; it will be an enormous segment of the population."

Those concerns are supported by department of labor data, which projects growth of a whopping 63 percent increase (48,000 people) in workers between age 55 and 64 from 2000 to 2010, yet only 10 percent growth in younger age groups, according to senior economic analyst Glenn Mills, in the labor market information division.

Maine's workforce of people 55 and over was about 100,000 in 2,000, nearly 15 percent of Maine's labor force of about 689,000 that year. Mills says that although the data is four years old, the projections remain accurate, with the numbers of older workers multiplying.

UMaine Journalism Professor Picked for State Court Records Task Force

09 Aug 2004

Contact: Shannon E. Martin, (207) 581-1281
George Manlove, (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- University of Maine Communication and Journalism Professor Shannon E. Martin has been selected by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court to serve on the new Judicial Branch Task Force on Electronic Court Records Access.

The task force is charged with reviewing policies for public access to electronic court records and making recommendations to accommodate the news media and special interest advocacy groups, while providing for privacy concerns of people involved with court processes.

Though the news media, private investigators and special interest advocates are the most frequent users of court documents that are available to the public, the Maine court system administration wants to achieve greater public accessibility to court documents. The need for new policies and rules for accessing public records from home or office computers is a topic that all states are addressing, according to the state Supreme Court.

Task force members were selected for their broad and varied experiences with the legal system and electronic public records issues.

In addition to Martin, an authority, lecturer and published author on news media and communications policies and law, and freedom of information access issues, the task force includes representatives from state government, the Attorney General's Office, prosecutor and defense attorney organizations, members of the news media, a children's advocate, a private investigator, a Maine civil liberties attorney, domestic violence organizations, the Maine State Bar Association and law enforcement. Superior Court Justice Andrew M. Mead, in Bangor, serves as chairman.

After a year of study, the task force will recommend to the Supreme Court new rules, orders and policies to allow the broadest public access to court records, while balancing privacy and safety concerns.

Superior Court Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley says the court is pleased "by the willingness of these professionals to volunteer their time to assist the Judicial Branch in developing policies that will have the effect of allowing for broad public access to electronic court records while balancing the competing goals of public safety, personal privacy, and the integrity of the court system."

Martin teaches courses at UMaine on journalism, First Amendment and mass communications law and policy, in addition to federal and state freedom of information legislation.

In 2001, she co-authored a paper on the subject, titled "State Laws Requiring World Wide Web Dissemination of Information: A Review of State Government Mandates for Documents Online," published in "Information and Communication Technology Law" (VoL. 10, No. 2, 2001).

She frequently discusses media issues, including public information accessibility, with state and national news media, and was a training leader on the subject of Internet research in Bosnia for the International Research & Exchanges Board, an international nonprofit organization specializing in education, independent media, Internet development and civil society programs in the United States, Europe, Eurasia, Middle East and North Africa and Asia in May, 2000.

Her research interests include state and federal public information access and control policy issues, computer-assisted reporting, online and digital news, and information services development, policy and law.

She can be reached to discuss the implications and significance of the new task force at (207) 581-1281.

Princeton Review Rates UMaine a "Best Bargain

24 Aug 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- In its annual guide, "The 357 Best Colleges," the Princeton Review has listed the University of Maine as #20 in its "Best Bargain - Public" category. The publication determines academic ratings for institutions, then compares those rankings with tuition costs to create a list of the top 20 public colleges and universities in this category.

"We are pleased with the Princeton Review's ranking, which supports for our belief and contention that UMaine is an outstanding value," says UMaine Interim President Robert Kennedy. "We are proud to offer the benefits that come with being a land-grant state university in a wonderful place to work, study and live. As we prepare to begin a new year filled with meeting new and prospective students, the timely release of this guide is indeed welcome. This latest rating is a credit to our faculty members, students and staff."

Other universities recognized in the same category include the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Washington, the College of William and Mary, the University of Texas-Austin, Kansas State University and North Carolina State University. In its 2002 rankings, the Princeton Review ranked UMaine #1 in the category "More to Do on Campus."

Nichols Named to Equal Opportunity/Diversity Post

24 Aug 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- University of Maine Interim President Robert A. Kennedy has announced a change in the staffing of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity.

Harry Payne, Executive Director since August 2003 has resigned and left UMaine to return to New Jersey. President Kennedy is recommending the fixed-term appointment of Susan Nichols, currently Investigations Coordinator for the University of Maine System Office of Human Resources, to assume the position of Executive Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at UMaine, beginning September 1.

Nichols has been responsible for investigating complaints alleging discrimination and harassment on all seven campuses since 2003. She has previously served in several capacities for the U.S. Postal Service: EAP Coordinator, Mediator, Equal Employment Opportunity Manager, Diversity Development Specialist, Manager of EEO Investigations, and Director of Human Resources. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire and has done graduate work in organizational development, public administration and counseling. Upon approval from the Chancellor's Office, Nichols' appointment will run through June 2006. A national search is planned during the 2005-2006 academic year to fill the position on an ongoing basis.

"I am very pleased that the Chancellor's Office has agreed to allow Susan Nichols to take a leave of absence from her current responsibilities and assume this very important position on our campus. Harry Payne made significant contributions to furthering our efforts in these important areas and I believe it is essential to replace him immediately with a seasoned administrator who is knowledgeable and experienced in this work," Kennedy says.

Nichols, who will serve as the University's ADA and Title IX Coordinator, will report to President Kennedy through Evelyn Silver, senior advisor to the President. Bonita Grindle will continue as Assistant Director and Susan Scott as Administrative Assistant in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity.

Cooperative Extension Offers Tips on Effective Meetings

19 Aug 2004

Contact: Ron Beard, Cooperative Extension educator, Hancock County, 1-800-287-1479, rbeard@umext.maine.edu

ORONO, Maine

Orono Bog Boardwalk Offered \$50,000 Challenge Grant

19 Aug 2004

Contact: Ron Davis, director of Orono Bog Boardwalk, 717-248-3797 until August 28; after then, 207-866-4785 or -4786

ORONO-- Orono Bog Boardwalk Director Ron Davis announced on August 18th that the boardwalk has been offered \$50,000 by an anonymous donor. Davis was recently informed of this offer by the donor's Bangor attorney. To receive the funds, the boardwalk must raise \$50,000 in matching funds from other sources.

The funds are to help build a boardwalk endowment whose earnings will be used to maintain the facility and continue its educational programs. The endowment is held by the University of Maine Foundation.

The nearly mile-long wetland boardwalk was conceived by its founders as a permanent facility, so the people of the Bangor area and visitors to the area can continue to experience the peaceful beauty of a pristine wetland and learn about its natural history, says Davis, a retired University of Maine biologist.

The boardwalk begins in the Bangor City Forest and crosses the town line onto University of Maine land in Orono. UMaine, the Orono Land Trust and the City of Bangor jointly manage the boardwalk as a community facility. However, no separate budget lines are dedicated to the boardwalk by these organizations. The boardwalk is largely supported by grants and donations. It is open free of charge to users. Actual operation of the facility is carried out by volunteers, including, this season, 24 docents who greet and guide visitors and answer questions about bog wildlife and ecology.

The boardwalk opened to the public in June 2003. Its instant popularity is indicated by registration records. The 15,650 visits to the facility in 2003 consisted mainly of Bangor area residents but included many persons from elsewhere in Maine, other states, and over 15 foreign countries. Registrations to date this season suggest an equal or greater number of visits than in 2003. These visits include groups from numerous schools and clubs -- for which the boardwalk provides expert guides, free of charge, and a series of weekend nature walks guided by boardwalk docents to inform participants about the ecology, plants, and animals of the bog.

The boardwalk has become increasingly popular with tourists to the area. The continued success of this facility depends on the support of Bangor area citizens and businesses. Major donors to the boardwalk are posted at the boardwalk information area.

Area residents and visitors can help the boardwalk obtain the challenge grant funds by making a donation to the Boardwalk Endowment Fund, University of Maine Foundation, 2 Alumni Place, Orono, ME 04469. More information about the boardwalk may be obtained by consulting the website, www.oronobogwalk.org, or by contacting Ron Davis at ronald.davis@umit.maine.edu or evenings before 8:30 at 866-4785 or -4786.

Ayers Island Hosting Artists' Convergence for Experiments in Art, Culture, Technology

19 Aug 2004

Contact: Peter Rottmann at 866-2619; George Manlove at 581-3756

ORONO -- The cavernous 360,000-square-foot complex on Ayers Island, which has housed lumber, paper and textile mills in the Basin Mills area of Orono, is the site of the first Ayers Island Contemporary Arts Festival, "Without Borders," Aug. 21-Sept. 15.

The event is described as a convergence of emerging new artists and artwork and involves artists from England, Canada, France and Maine. The festival opens informally on Aug. 21, with official opening performances scheduled Sunday, Aug. 22, from noon to midnight with music, food and a celebration of contemporary, cultural and technological art.

"We hope to present to the state of Maine something I think is really unique and exciting," says co-organizer Owen Smith, the newly appointed chair of the UMaine New Media Department.

The festival is expected to be an annual or biannual gathering place for people exploring diverse forms of contemporary art and cultural expression, most specifically art that uses technology in production or presentation.

Principal organizers include George Markowsky, chair of the UMaine Computer Sciences Department, Peter Rottmann, formerly a boat builder and manager of a software and computer services company, and John Hackney, a former professor at the University of South Florida Medical School. They also are officers in Ayers Island, LLC, which owns the 60-acre island in the Penobscot River on which the old mill sits. Markowsky and Rottmann are officers of Trefoil Corporation, a private software and computer consulting firm on Ayers Island.

Ayers Island, LLC is working in collaboration with several University of Maine professors from art, music, new media and computer science departments, who envision the festival will be a catalyst for new artistic development in the region.

"We aim to bring a wide variety of international artists to Maine while at the same time showcasing local and national art and culture," Markowsky says.

Festival highlights include emerging international, national and local artists in an eclectic array of music, performance, poetry, film and exhibition programs. The main exhibition includes a variety of installation sculptures using new technologies, performances, live music and poetry readings, video screenings and workshops.

Free and open to the public, organizers expect hundreds of people of all ages and interests to visit during the three-week exhibit and see the type of new art that is emerging with assistance of technology -- normally work accessible only in major cities, Smith says.

"It will be a nice event and give visitors something to do in Orono," Smith says. The rambling mill building, in a state of partial renovation, will be aesthetically "perfect" for the festival, he adds. Ayers Island is accessible by a quaint one-lane bridge.

Events of opening day include indoor and outdoor activities: fish tacos on the grill at noon; improvisational music at 1 p.m. by Niagara Falls, an experimental jam band from Philadelphia; video-art screening at 2 p.m.; a sound and visual performance at 4 p.m. by composer and UMaine music Professor Beth Wiemann; a fire extinguisher bells performance at 5 p.m. by central Maine artist and musician Peter Bosse; a wine reception to mark the festival opening at 6 p.m.; and an interactive performance (percussive patterns triggered by a singer's hand motions when tracked by a camera) by MAP & DM Ingalls, a Maine poet and instrumentalist, at 7 p.m.

About 20 performers or artists, including several UMaine students or recent graduates, will participate.

"We feel the festival will prompt an awareness of and create a sustained demand for contemporary forms of the visual, literary and performing arts," Markowsky says. "It has real potential to act as a stimulus for artistic innovation and provide a pivotal springboard for many artistic careers, in the state of Maine and beyond."

The festival is supported financially by state and local businesses, and involves collaborations with the Universite du Quebec

UMaine Business School Receives Software Donation

18 Aug 2004

Contact: George Manlove at 581-3756

ORONO -- A Portland software development firm has outfitted the University of Maine Business School's computer lab with a new financial modeling program designed to give UMaine students a leg up on business planning.

The donation from the Quantrix company of its Quantrix Modeler software and about 40 licenses for the lab's computers is valued at nearly \$10,000 and will help students more easily understand and build business planning models, the company says. It also will allow UMaine business students to become familiar with software that many may find already in the workplace after they graduate, Quantrix says.

Company representatives have demonstrated the new program to business school faculty and some UMaine administrators, and UMaine Professor of Finance Bob Strong likes what he's seen so far.

"I'm certainly going to use it in my investments class," Strong says. "It's conceivable that one of the accounting classes may find a use for it and for people in management information systems, I think they'll find it quite interesting, too."

Quantrix Modeler, Strong says, is similar to but more dynamic than traditional spreadsheet modeling software in that it is more flexible and business projection data can be "sliced and diced" to be reconfigured by dragging and dropping information without having to rebuild the spreadsheet to accommodate changes in business scenarios. It is as easy or easier to use than a commonly used business spreadsheet program, Microsoft Excel, Strong and company representatives say.

"It will be a handy way for them to manipulate data quickly," Strong says. "It's clever."

Company COO Chris Houle compares Quantrix Modeler and Excel this way: "Quark Express is to Microsoft Word as Quantrix is to Excel."

The software is an intuitive program that makes business modeling, or projecting such things as sales growth and income over time, more flexible, particularly during presentations in which a presenter may be asked to shift values in charts, bars and graphs to reflect a different business perspective or condition, Houle says.

Quantrix Modeler incorporates a unique approach that separates the logic of a model from the structure, which allows users to create and use formulas outside the confines of the cell, says Peter Murray, president of Quantrix.

Users can make view multiple scenarios without intensive reprogramming, he says.

Knowledge of the Quantrix Modeler, which Houle predicts will become a common business software tool, can be "a differentiator" for students graduating from college and competing for a position in the business world.

"Gifts such as these are essential to keeping the University of Maine cutting edge," says Jeffery Mills, UMaine's vice president for university advancement, "as well as a real compliment to faculty member Bob Strong. He is seen as a leader in financial management in New England and it is outstanding that Quantrix wishes to support his academic work."

Looking for Hay? Cooperative Extension Website Can Help

17 Aug 2004

Contact: Rick Kersbergen University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-342-5971, richardk@umext.maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- "Making hay this year has been quite a challenge," says University of Maine Cooperative Extension Educator Rick Kersbergen. "The lack of a continued dry period has made dry hay harvesters a very frustrated group of farmers."

Extension's online "Hay Directory" can help farmers find it with the click of a mouse. The website <http://www.umaine.edu/livestock/hay.htm> lists growers with hay for sale as well as those looking for hay to buy. Current listings include 2003 and 2004 hay supplies, but by the end of August, the site will cover only 2004 postings.

Dry hay usually requires several days of continued good weather to get to the proper moisture level that makes it safe for storage in square or round bales. Unfortunately, there have been very few consistent weather patterns to allow for a good harvest period, says Kersbergen. Farmers who make silage (a wet fermented hay product) have been able to get most of their grass and legume crops harvested, so they have sufficient supplies of stored feed for their livestock.

For producers who are looking for hay to purchase, locating a good supply may be more difficult than usual. With the weather we have experienced this year, quality is also an issue for livestock owners.

Hay producers who want to be listed in the Directory can call the Waldo County Extension office at 1-800-287-1426 (in Maine) or 207-342-5971. The following information is needed: name, address, type and volume of hay or silage available, whether or not transportation is offered. They can also email that information to Kersbergen at richardk@umext.maine.edu.

Farmers who need information about hay quality or producing a quality hay product can contact Cooperative Extension educators, including Kersbergen in Waldo County, Dick Brzozowski in Cumberland County (1-800-287-1471), or Chris Reberg-Horton in Orono (1-800-870-7270).

Herbert Hodgkins, Lobster Institute Volunteer, to Receive "Barn Raiser" Award

13 Aug 2004

Contact: Cathy Billings, Lobster Institute, 581-1443 or 581-2751

ORONO, Maine -- "Well, I think we just cured a lobster." With those words, he was hooked, and Herb Hodgkins has been a volunteer with the University of Maine and the Lobster Institute ever since for nearly thirty years.

This year Herb, a resident of Hancock, is being recognized by *Yankee* Magazine for his years of dedicated volunteerism as a recipient of their 2004 Barn Raiser Award. According to *Yankee* Magazine, "This prestigious award honors the spirit of old-time barn raisings, when people joined hands to create New England's communities. It is presented to those who personify the best of the volunteer spirit."

A representative from *Yankee* will be on hand as the Lobster Institute celebrates Herb's Barn Raiser Award with a reception on Tuesday, August 24 from 4 -- 6 p.m. at the Gallery & Restaurant at Oceanwood Campground in Bunkers Harbor. The community is invited and RSVPs are requested by calling the Lobster Institute at 207-581-1443.

Herb's first volunteer work with Professor Bob Bayer of the University of Maine was in the mid 1970s. It involved helping to find a cure for gaffkemia or "red tail" disease -- a bacterial menace that was infecting lobsters being held in tidal pounds. Bayer had a trial vaccine that needed to be tested, and Herb offered the use of his lobster pound and his lobsters for the trials. Herb, Bayer, and several UMaine students hand-injected hundreds of lobsters with the vaccine. Herb diligently checked the lobsters and recorded observations until that day when Bayer finally announced, "Well I think we just cured a lobster."

With that, Herb became one of UMaine's and the Lobster Institute's most dedicated and longstanding volunteers. In fact, in the mid-1980s Herb played an integral part in the formation of the Lobster Institute. As then president of the Maine Lobster Pound Association, he joined with the heads of the Maine Lobstermen's Association, the Maine Import/Export Lobster Dealers, and others in approaching UMaine about creating an organization that would connect all sectors of the lobster industry with each other as well as with scientist.

In 1987, the Lobster Institute was formed. An all-volunteer Board of Advisors was recruited, and Herb served as the first vice chairman of that group -- a post he holds to this day. Based at UMaine, the Lobster Institute's core functions include communication, technical assistance, research, and educational programs to help secure the lobster resource and the vitality of lobstering as an industry and as a way of life.

Herb has been involved in many research projects over the years, contributing his lobsters, his equipment, his time, or all of these. He has worked on several lobster health studies; he stores and maintains the Lobster Institute's research vessel, the *RV Blackfly*; he has been a speaker at Lobster Institute community presentations and at Lobster College. His most recent volunteer activity involves studies on alternative soy-based lobster bait.

Herb's commitment and reliability as a volunteer continue to set the standard for both the Lobster Institute and for the lobster industry. His many other volunteer efforts include service to his home community of Hancock, Maine; the Maine Lobster Pound Association; and the Frenchman Bay Conservancy.

For more information about the reception to honor Herb, contact Cathy Billings at the Lobster Institute at 581-1443 or 581-2751.

Tractor Safety Competition At Cumberland County Fairgrounds

16 Aug 2004

Contact: Richard Brzozowski, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Cumberland County office, 1-800-287-1471 (within Maine) ORONO, Maine -- Speed may count in an upcoming farm tractor competition in Cumberland, but skill and safety will take top prize. Farmers and farm workers can now register to compete in one of three divisions in the 2004 Maine State Farm Tractor Skills Competition on Sept. 26 at the Cumberland County Fairgrounds.

Tractor operators who want to participate in the events can submit their entry forms to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension office in Portland. Contest information and forms are available at www.umext.maine.edu or by calling 1-800-287-1471. There is a \$10 entry fee. The deadline is 4:30 p.m., Sept. 24.

Prizes will be awarded as follows: first place, \$250; second place, \$150; third place, \$100; and fourth place, \$50.

The purpose of the event is to promote tractor safety, says Richard Brzozowski, Cooperative Extension educator in Cumberland County. "I developed this contest to draw attention to the tractor operation skills of Maine farmers and to promote farm safety. This is not a tractor rodeo," Brzozowski adds.

The competition will require operators to drive a tractor and wagon through a course of gates and alleys. Points will be deducted for hitting gates or tipping over items on the wagon. Operators will also be tested on their skills at hooking and unhooking a tractor to a farm implement.

Sponsors for the 2004 Maine Tractor Skills Competition include Pineland Farms of New Gloucester and the Maine Farm Bureau. Tractors for the contest will be provided by Hall Implement of Windham, Scamman Tractor of Saco and Wescott & Sons of Gorham.

More information is available on the internet at <http://www.umext.maine.edu/topics/tractorskills04.htm>.

Renowned Inventor Hall to Speak at UMaine Convocation

25 Aug 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- When the University of Maine Class of 2008 gathers for fall convocation, its first official event to attend as a class, it will hear from a man who has invented dozens of familiar products and advertising slogans.

Doug Hall, a 1981 UMaine graduate, is the founder of and chief inventor at the Eureka! Ranch think tank, which has offices in Cincinnati, Ohio and Oxford, England. According to a national survey, the average household uses 18 products or services that Hall and his team have played a part in developing.

Hall earned a chemical engineering degree from UMaine, then worked for a decade at Proctor & Gamble, rising to the rank of Master Marketing Inventor. At Proctor & Gamble, Hall set a corporate record by developing and introducing nine new business initiatives in a twelve-month period.

He is also known for his work as a public speaker, author and radio program host.

Hall's talk is scheduled for 4 p.m. at Hutchins Concert Hall, Maine Center for the Arts.

UMaine Folklife Center Brings Boatbuilding, Basketmaking, Greek Cuisine to Folk Festival

24 Aug 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Wooden boat building is as immersed in Maine's cultural heritage as Native American basketmaking, lumbering, potatoes and textiles, although that fact may be lost as Mainers focus on emerging new industries.

Visitors to the National Folk Festival on Bangor's waterfront park area, however, will have a chance to see and hear all about the historic Maine boat building trade by visiting the University of Maine's Folklife Center in the folk and traditional arts area tents.

The Folklife Center exhibit will feature boat building discussions, narratives and demonstrations of boats being built by hand on site. Some of Maine's most prominent boat builders will discuss the building of wood and fiberglass work boats, sailboats, rowboats, canoes, dories, bateaus and even yachts.

Pauleena MacDougall, associate director of the University of Maine's Maine Folklife Center and faculty associate in anthropology, recently completed a research project on boat building in preparation for the folk festival.

In May and June, she recorded interviews with a half dozen coastal boat builders, discussing technique, philosophy and evolution of the trade. As part of its educational outreach efforts, the center has brought exhibits featuring traditional trades and crafts that are part of Maine's heritage in each of the last two years of the three-year folk festival. The festival this year is Aug. 27-29.

Since MacDougall's work involves collecting, preserving and interpreting pieces of Maine history that created its character, culture and traditions, it was natural that boat building was a good topic to research and present, she says.

Boat building is a significant part of Maine history, culture and economy, but the industry also is underappreciated, she says.

"We tend to think of Maine industry as being paper or fishing," she says. "Traditionally, fishermen made their own boats. It wasn't particularly glamorous. They had to make a living. Today's boats are more attractive, but the principles are the same."

MacDougall says she has been unable to find out precisely how many people are building boats today in Maine, but she estimates as many as 6,000 boatyards exist, mostly along the state's winding, twisting coastline.

MacDougall and a group of UMaine students who helped with the project will show their interviews in a video presentation, which will augment the demonstrations and exhibits. The presentation includes conversations with boat builders in Brooklin, Maine, a village of fewer than 900 people a few miles south of Blue Hill that boasts itself as the "boat building capital of the world."

MacDougall says the town, which is home to Wooden Boat magazine, the Wooden Boat School and nearly a dozen boatyards, is representative of a boat building community because of the significance of the craft to its residents.

"Everybody I talked with from that community is either building a boat, had recently finished building a boat or were about to start building a boat," she says.

The cost of the project was underwritten by an \$8,150 grant from the Maine Arts Commission.

"Maine has a good reputation for boat building all over the world," MacDougall says. "Any yachtsman knows if he's sailing along the Maine coast and runs into trouble, he can pull into any port and find a good craftsman to fix it. That's not true in other states."

Among the more than a dozen boat builders who will be featured in the exhibit include some well-known names: Ralph Stanley of Southwest Harbor, James and Joseph Lowell of Yarmouth, Wade Dow of Brooklin, David Moses Bridges of Perry; Rollin Thurlow of Atkinson, Bill Shamel of Grand Lakes Stream and Eric Dow of Brooklin and his daughter Ariel Dow.

Also, construction of sails, oars, "ships knees," mast hoops and ditty bags are scheduled to be part of the exhibit.

In addition to boatbuilding, the folk and traditional arts tents, organized by UMaine's Maine Folklife Center, include the Native American basketmaking exhibit from the Hudson Museum, including demonstrations by long-time basketmaking families from the Penobscot, Micmac and Passamaquoddy tribes, and demonstrations of Greek cooking, with members of Greek communities in Bangor and Millinocket offering samples and recipes.

More information about the folk festival and the Maine Folklife Center is available at the website:
<http://www.umaine.edu/folklife>.

UMaine RSVP Launches "Bone Builders" Exercise and Osteoporosis Program

24 Aug 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Dozens, if not hundreds, of older people will start beefing up on bone mass soon as the University of Maine's RSVP program launches more new "Bone Builders" classes at three new sites in Bangor and Bar Harbor.

RSVP, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, operated through the UMaine Center on Aging on the Orono campus, has received a \$5,844 grant from the Maine Community Foundation to provide weights and training materials for classes for older men and women who are at risk for osteoporosis, a bone-diminishing disease that afflicts 28 million Americans, mostly women whose estrogen levels drop after menopause.

The new classes, which are free to participants, began recently at Bangor's Hammond Street Senior Center and are generating overwhelming enthusiasm, says Jane Harris Bartley, director of the UMaine RSVP.

"We've received the best response to this Bone Builders program of any of our programs," she says. "We've been getting calls from throughout Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis and Washington counties."

In September, RSVP will launch the community-based osteoporosis prevention program at the Bangor-Brewer YWCA, the Women's Collective and the YWCA of Mount Desert Island, both in Bar Harbor and possibly the Old Town YMCA.

"It's off and running," says Hammond Street Senior Center staff member Louise Bonawitz, a 2004 UMaine graduate who worked with Harris Bartley to bring Bone Builders to Maine. She also is one of several professional trainers preparing instructors to lead the classes. "I suspect this is something we'll see in many, many locations."

Bonawitz believes these are the first programs in Maine specifically offered to provide weight training and education to combat osteoporosis.

"The Hammond Street Senior Center is really pleased to participate and to offer our site for Bone Builders," says Bonawitz. "We have a class of 14 participants and all of them are noticing improvements in their strength, their balance and their posture. They're learning about health generally and osteoporosis specifically and they're having a good time doing it."

The program uses light ankle weights to build muscle strength and bone mass in older people whose muscles and bone strength begin to weaken and diminish as they age. Research has shown that weight training is one of the most effective ways to combat osteoporosis.

The twice-weekly classes will be kept to about 15 people, Harris Bartley says. Additional class sessions can easily be added as participation increases, she adds.

"My vision is to have enough classes operating over the next four years to have at least four to five classes in each of the four locations in the four counties that we serve," Harris Bartley says.

In addition to gentle, no-impact weight training, the hour-long classes cover weight training, balance training and discussions about diet, nutrition and healthy living.

The RSVP Bone Builders program is a striking success in Rutland, Vt., where Harris Bartley visited to learn about the program before enlisting professional trainers to teach volunteers here in Maine. Begun there four years ago, the Rutland RSVP has offered more than 50 classes to more than 650 participants, according to Harris Bartley.

Harris Bartley expects the Bone Builders program will help reduce some of the estimated 1.5 million fractures that are blamed each year on osteoporosis. Because the program depends mostly on grants rather than university funds, "this would not have happened without the support of the Maine Community Foundation."

The grant provided seed money to buy weights, handouts and to pay instructors to train volunteer class leaders.

UMaine RSVP is known for programs that rely on more than 550 community volunteers to help prepare, deliver and serve meals for older people and shut-ins, reading time for day care and preschool children, companionship and emergency preparedness programs for older Mainers and help with American Red Cross blood drives. Housed at Crossland Hall at the University of Maine in Orono, the RSVP program is funded by state, federal and United Way grants and serves nearly 20,000 people in its four-county territory.

More information about the Bone Builders program can be obtained by calling Harris Bartley at (207) 581-4418.

UMaine MBA Students Face Obstacle Course as Prelude to Business Program

24 Aug 2004

Contact: George Manlove, 581-3756, Rich Grant, 581-1971

ORONO -- They've raised the bar on business studies at the University of Maine, specifically as the fall class of new MBA graduate students come to the Orono campus a week early for an unusual "business boot camp," which includes the university's MaineBound Challenge Course.

Nearly three dozen students, ranging in age from early and mid-20s to their 40s, will work on communication and teambuilding exercises Wednesday (Aug. 25) afternoon, getting started about 3 p.m. with field warm-up drills before approaching physical and logistical challenges beneath or among cables, tires and high walls on a course designed to test the strongest and boldest of athletes.

But this class includes students straight out of college returning for graduate studies and several experienced, middle-aged professionals returning to academia for a Masters in Business Administration degree.

The challenge course is one of many activities the students will undertake Aug. 22-27, during "residency week," a week devoted to helping the class members get to know one another and the faculty with whom they'll be working and studying over the next year-and-a-half.

Such out-of-the-box thinking aims to produce business leaders who can think and perform creatively and make the best advantage of the types of teambuilding they'll face in a changing, challenging business environment later, says Rich Grant, director of the UMaine School of Business Graduate Programs and Executive Education.

"We expect this residency week to foster a sense of community and identity and socialize the students to the graduate experience," Grant says.

Students, for their part, appreciate the requirement, even if they do have to report for academic duty a week earlier than the other 10,000-plus students enrolled at UMaine. Residency week is required for new MBA students and voluntary for the Master's of Science in Accounting.

"I'll be honest in saying that originally I thought it would be a waste of time," says MSA student Shana Carney. "This summer I have been working at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Boston. Never before had I realized how important teamwork type skills are. I really believe that the residency week will help to begin to foster these skills as well as build relationships and trusts around students where they most likely do not already exist."

The residency week emphasizes ethics, leadership, teamwork, communication and case work. It includes a business simulation, several business dilemmas to solve in teams, congregate dinners and the MaineBound experience.

"Our intent is to give incoming graduate students a 'basic training' experience that will help them achieve success in their impending studies, as well as in their careers after earning master's degrees," says Dan Innis, dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health, who will participate Wednesday in the MaineBound Challenge Course.

"Skills such as working well in teams, making effective decisions, and dealing with ambiguity are important ones for our future business leaders to develop," he says.

Kennedy, UMaine Staff to Welcome Students Friday

25 Aug 2004

Contact: Joe Carr, 581-3571

ORONO -- Nearly 500 University of Maine employees, students and alumni will be out in force on Friday, greeting new UMaine students and their families as they move into residence halls. A modern version of the traditional "Maine Hello," the move-in has become a highlight of UMaine's Fall Welcome Weekend, a series of events designed to acclimate new students and get them ready to begin classes on Monday, Aug. 30.

"There is nothing quite like the 'Maine Hello,'" says UMaine Interim President Robert Kennedy. "It is such a pleasure to meet the new students and their families and to lend support as they join our community." Kennedy assumed the UMaine presidency on Aug. 15, but he has participated in the program for the past several years in his role as executive vice president and provost. Students move in between 8 a.m.-2 p.m., with the bulk of activity occurring between 10 a.m. and noon.

The UMaine Class of 2008 will number approximately 1,763. They will be moving into 16 of UMaine's 18 residence halls; Oak Hall and Doris Twitchell Allen Village do not house first-year students. UMaine's overall 2004-2005 student population is expected to be approximately 11,300.

The move-in activities are just the beginning of a full three days of social events, informational sessions and opportunities for students to take care of necessary last-minute details before classes begin. Activities include Dinner and a Student Organizations Showcase (Friday, 5 p.m., on the Mall); Class Picture and Spirit Rally (7 p.m., Alford Stadium); Opening Ceremony: UMaine Traditions (9 p.m. Friday, Maine Center for the Arts); Bus Trips to the Bangor Mall and National Folk Festival (leaving from Memorial Union at 1 p.m. Saturday); a field hockey game against the University of Calgary (3:30 p.m. Saturday); a performance by comedian and UMaine graduate Steve Caouette (10 p.m. Saturday, Hauck Auditorium); Fogler Library Maine Mystery Tour (1-2 p.m. Sunday); Black Bear Block Party (9 p.m. Sunday, Memorial Union patio).

A full schedule of events is on the Web at <http://www.umaine.edu/orientation/agenda.htm>.

Note: President Kennedy will be available for interviews during the move-in on Friday. Please contact Joe Carr on cell phone at 949-4149 for assistance in determining Kennedy's location.

Cooperative Extension to Honor Senior Companions

01 Sep 2004

Contact: Carla Ganiel, Cooperative Extension, (207) 581-3326

ORONO-- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension will honor more than 100 senior volunteers for their efforts to help homebound elders remain independent. A recognition event for individuals serving in Cooperative Extension's Senior Companion Program will take place Thursday, September 9th at 11 am at the Spectacular Events Center in Bangor.

The Senior Companion Program is part of the National Senior Service Corps, a national community service program providing older Americans with opportunities to volunteer. Senior Companions are individuals age 60 or older who provide companionship to homebound or isolated elders in their communities. The program seeks to reduce loneliness and isolation and to help homebound individuals maintain their independence.

The annual recognition will honor 105 Senior Companions who volunteered in 13 Maine counties, providing support to more than 500 clients.

Senior Companions spend time with elders reading, playing games, reminiscing, and assisting with daily living tasks such as grocery shopping. SCP volunteers receive monthly training and ongoing support. Those who meet income eligibility guidelines receive a modest stipend and reimbursement for transportation expenses.

For more information, call (207) 581-3870 or 1-800-287-0274 and ask for the Senior Companion Program.

Peace, Politics, Terrorism Top UMaine Socialist, Marxist Studies Speaker Schedule

31 Aug 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The fall semester's Socialist and Marxist Studies Luncheon Series at the University of Maine features a wide-ranging speaker series designed to generate thought and debate over controversial topics including terrorism, U.S. involvement in the Middle East and domestic policy issues.

Every semester since 1988, the weekly Socialist and Marxist Studies Luncheon Series at the university has offered an informative, challenging and controversial list of speakers.

"These are well-attended presentations of high quality and always generate good questions and lively discussions with diverse points of view," says UMaine philosophy Prof. Doug Allen, who organizes the series. "The 10 programs scheduled for fall of 2004 focus on significant, difficult and contemporary issues."

Unless otherwise indicated, discussions take place Thursdays from 12:30-1:45 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge in the Memorial Union. The public is invited at no cost.

The new series includes two internationally renowned speakers, Phyllis Bennis from the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, and Sulak Sivaraksa, one of the world's major engaged Buddhists.

The program also includes discussions on crises and contemporary issues such as the 2004 elections, 9/11 and the war on terror, the media and the Iraq war, free trade with Central America, and the impact of money and politics on education.

Speakers do not necessarily present socialist or Marxist viewpoints, but offer differing perspectives on a wide range of issues.

The schedule is as follows:

- Sept. 9: "Linking Terrorism and Iraq in Pre-war Coverage," Prof. Amy Fried, Political Science, UMaine. Coe Lounge, Memorial Union.
- Sept. 16: "Marxism, Militarism, and the Election," Carl Cooley, industrial worker, farmer, teacher and member of Socialist Equality Party.
- Sept. 23: "Mahatma Gandhi after 9/11: A Different Approach to Terrorism and Violence," Professor Doug Allen, Philosophy, University of Maine.
- Sept. 30: "The Eagle and the Candor: A Vision for a New Civilization in the Western Hemisphere," Roberto Mendoza, Native American/Chicano activist and filmmaker, active in Green/Bioregional and Native American movements for past 30 years.
- Oct. 14: "What if Bush is Re-elected? Student Perspectives on a Second Bush Administration," UMaine student Isaac Curtis, moderator, with student representatives from the Maine Peace Action Committee, the Progressive Student Alliance and other UMaine organizations.

- Oct. 21: "Challenging U.S. Support for Israel's Occupation of Palestine: International Law & Human Rights," Phyllis Bennis, director of the New Internationalism Program of Institute for Policy Studies in Washington D.C.
- In the evening, at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Bennis also will deliver the Howard B. Schonberger Peace and Social Justice Lecture on "Challenging Empire: Iraq, the UN and the 'Second Super-Power.'"
- Oct. 28: "Engaged Buddhism and Socialism," Sulak Sivaraksa, born in Thailand, nominated for Nobel Prize, Buddhist peace activist and UMaine Libra Professor.
- Nov. 4: "CAFTA (Central America Free Trade Agreement): Another Bad Deal for the Masses," Stefano Tijerina (Director), Bjorn Claeson (Program Director), and Marion Harris (Sister City Program) of PICA.
- Nov. 11: "Buying Public Policy: Money and Politics," Joseph W. Westphal, Chancellor of University of Maine System and professor of political science.
- Nov. 18: "No Child Left Behind: The Impact of Federal Legislation on Public Education," Dr. Valerie Ruhe, research associate, Center for Research and Evaluation, and Prof. Anne Pooler, associate dean, UMaine College of Education and Human Development.

The series is co-sponsored by Marxist-Socialist Studies Interdisciplinary Minor and the Maine Peace Action Committee, with generous support from the Memorial Union and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For additional information, Allen can be reached at (207) 581-3860 or by email at douglas.allen@umit.maine.edu.

UMaine Research Journal Goes Online

13 Sep 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine has converted its *Journal of Research in Rural Education* to an exclusively online, open-access journal (www.umaine.edu/jrre).

Founded in 1982 by the UMaine College of Education and Human Development and published through the College's Center for Research and Evaluation, *JRRE* disseminates the results of educational research relevant to rural settings. Topics include learning and instruction; educational leadership; educational policy; and the cultural, historical and economic context of rural education. Book reviews are published as well.

By going online, every aspect of the editorial process is rendered less expensive and more efficient, according to Theodore Coladarci, *JRRE* editor and professor of educational psychology at UMaine. All functions of *JRRE* are now electronic. Authors submit manuscripts as e-mail attachments, and submissions are sent out for review and returned by reviewers in the same fashion. With newly posted articles announced through *JRRE*'s listserv as well as the listservs of several organizations, articles quickly reach many more readers than possible with a print journal, Coladarci points out. There are no changes in content or editorial policy.

"*JRRE* will continue to enjoy the reputation of being the leading research journal devoted to rural education," Coladarci said. "And now it is free to all."

All new *JRRE* articles will comply with the federally mandated Section 508 Guidelines for web accessibility. This assures that all users, with and without disabilities, can fully access and benefit from the website. Each new article also includes a link to the Acrobat (pdf) version of the article as well.

Design and technical aspects of the conversion to an online journal was a group effort of Coladarci, managing editor

Amy Cates, and College webmaster Alan Parks. All articles published prior to the online conversion have been archived online. A database containing every article, current and archived alike, can be searched by title and author.

For more information about *JRRE*, contact either Coladarci (coladarci@umit.maine.edu) or Cates (amy.cates@umit.maine.edu).

Nipmuc Flute-Maker Henries Performance Sept. 19 at UMaine

13 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Nipmuc Indian flute-maker Hawk Henries will perform Sunday, Sept. 19 at 3 p.m. at Minsky Recital Hall at the University of Maine, combining a flute concert with a discussion of Nipmuc tribal history and his flute-making.

Nipmucs are the original people of central New England and are among the Eastern Woodlands or Algonquians of the Eastern United States.

Henries, who lives in North Sullivan, Maine, carves Eastern Woodland flutes from a single piece of wood, using just hand tools and fire. His performance includes answering questions about his life, culture and experiences, and a performance of music that "speaks to the spiritual fire within all creation," according to information from the Hudson Museum, which is sponsoring the event.

Henries performs regularly at Native American events throughout the country, has recorded tracks for Public Broadcasting Corporation documentaries and has recorded "Keeping the Fire," "First Flight," "Tribal Winds."

Admission is \$5. Tickers are available at the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, (207) 581-1755, or on the Web at www.mainecenterforthearts.org.

Hudson Museum's New Exhibits Feature Tribal Photos, Pottery

13 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Two special exhibits open Sept. 14 at the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine, one a rare assemblage of photographs of Navaho Indians in the early 1950s, the other a collection of stylized pottery bowls painted by the Mimbres peoples.

Both exhibits focus on the native cultures of the Southwest, according to museum director Gretchen Faulkner.

The Navajo photographs are a rare and intimate look at the nation's largest and perhaps best known Indian tribe, photographed by cultural anthropologist John Collier Jr., who used photography to document his anthropological research.

A collection of 50 photographs from more than 1,000 comprises the exhibit created by C. Stewart Doty, a University of Maine professor emeritus of history, who co-authored a book on the Collier's Navajo photos with Dale Sperry Mudge, a former Hudson Museum Advisory Board member and UMaine graduate.

The exhibit reveals candid and poignant images of traditional Navajo life in the early 1950s, a transitional period in

which the tribe shifted from a pastoral existence sheep-herding, spinning, weaving and trading to a more urban-wage, cash-crop-oriented lifestyle using newer methods of cultivation and harvesting, also marking the beginning of town life for Navajos.

Doty, now a resident of Albuquerque, N.M., will open the exhibit with a lecture at 4 p.m., Sept. 14 in the Bodwell Lounge in the Hudson Museum.

"Maine historically has had connections with the Southwest and with the Navajo people," Faulkner explains. "Engineers from UMaine built the rail lines through the region and Mainers engaged in the Navajo textile trade.

"Today, evidence of these connections can be found in the many Southwestern textiles, jewelry, basketry and pottery found in the state," she says.

"Photographing Navajos" and Doty's lecture draws on and expounds upon those connections, she says.

Collier, considered the foremost authority on using the camera for anthropological research, was the son of the controversial New Deal Indian Commissioner responsible for Navajo livestock reduction -- a sign, historians say, of the younger Collier's sensitivity and appreciation of the Navajo people, who allowed him to wander among their families in spite of their resentment of his father.

Collier sought to present an accurate historical record of the Navajo lifestyle and struggles.

The mystery of the sudden disappearance in about 1150 of the Mimbres people in the southwest cannot be explained, but their unusually artistic paintings on pottery survive in museum collections around the world.

The Hudson Museum's William P. Palmer III Collection includes more than 40 Mimbres bowls, many of which have never been exhibited publicly before, according to Faulkner.

Mimbres pottery is characterized by distinctive portrayals of everyday activities -- hunting, dancing, swimming, and gambling -- in addition to images of animals, mythical creatures, and abstractions of plants, animals, insects, fish, mountains, and even clouds. Some Mimbres bowls have symbolic "kill holes" in the bottom, which archeologists speculate were made to release spirits through the bowl.

Both exhibits, "Photographing Navajos: John Collier Jr. on the Reservation, 1952-1953" and "Glimpse into a Lost World: Mimbres Ceramics from the William P. Palmer III Collections," are in the museum's temporary exhibits areas. The museum's permanent exhibit, "From Native Hands: Southwestern Basketry, Pottery, Textiles and Silver," explores the four technologies, presenting raw materials, tools and finished objects and is located on the second level.

Admission to Hudson Museum is free. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m.-4p.m. The museum is closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays.

The museum can be reached by telephone at (207) 581-1901. Its website is:

<http://www.umaine.edu/hudsonmuseum/index.php>

Columbia Provost, Panel Discussion to Highlight Civil Liberties/Security Forum

10 Sep 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571, Kathryn Hunt at 581-1553

ORONO

UMaine/UVote Registration and Education Program Under Way; Green Party Nominee Pat LaMarche at UMaine Wednesday

10 Sep 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Following this week's University of Maine visit by Democratic vice presidential nominee John Edwards, and with the November election looming in just a few weeks, interest in politics at UMaine is running high.

With several ongoing activities and planned events, the university's UMaine/UVote program is helping to facilitate discussion and provide voter registration opportunities for UMaine students.

"We believe that it is part of our responsibility to help students develop a sense of their role in our democracy, so that they leave UMaine with an understanding of what it means to be an active, contributing member of society," says UMaine Associate Dean of Students Angel Loredo, who oversees UMaine/UVote. The Edwards visit stemmed from a UMaine/UVote invitation issued to national candidates in the major political parties through state campaign coordinators.

The next scheduled event is an appearance set for Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 12:30 p.m. in Memorial Union's Coe Room by Pat LaMarche, the Green Party's vice presidential nominee.

"There is tangible momentum for these programs following the activities of the past several days, including the John Edwards rally and statewide efforts related to the New Voter Project, an important initiative involving state government and higher education," Loredo says. "We want our students and others in the UMaine community to have access to useful information, so that they can be informed participants in the process."

Loredo points out that UMaine/UVote is meant to be a comprehensive program, which provides educational opportunities related to national, statewide and local campaigns and issues.

"While we're delighted to be visited by nationally prominent people," Loredo says, "it is also important for our students and others to have opportunities to learn about local candidates and to become informed about statewide issues."

In addition to ongoing voter registration activities and LaMarche's Wednesday appearance, other scheduled events include:

- "Social Issues Impacting the Political Process," a talk by UMaine political science professor Mark Brewer on Monday, Sept. 20 at noon in Memorial Union
- "The Image of the Presidency: Why Vote?," a discussion featuring UMaine political science professor Richard Powell on Thursday Sept. 30 at noon in Memorial Union

Tentative plans call for further activities, including forums with local candidates and possible debates on national issues featuring UMaine students who are involved with on-campus political organizations.

"Because they are in a place where the exchange of ideas is encouraged, UMaine students are in a unique position to learn and to participate," Loredo says. "Young voters are a growing force in this country, and their impact is real. We know that UMaine students take their right and responsibility to participate in the process seriously, and we hope and expect that they will turn out in large numbers in November, enthusiastic and prepared to make their vote count."

Union of Concerned Scientists President to Give Public Presentation at UMaine

10 Sep 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs and Marketing, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- Kevin Knobloch, president of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), will give a public presentation at the University of Maine at 4 p.m. Sept. 21 in the University Club, Fogler Library. The title of his talk is "Solving the Nuclear Threat: From the Iraq War to True Security."

He worked at UCS as a legislative director for arms control and national security from 1989 to 1992. He has also worked as a journalist and as a legislative aide to Senator Timothy Wirth of (D-Colorado) and Representative Ted Weiss (D-New York).

Knobloch holds a master's degree in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, with a focus on environmental management and natural resource economics, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he concentrated in English and journalism.

Knobloch's host at UMaine is David Batuski, chair of the Dept. of Physics and Astronomy.

Full Tuition Scholarship for Women to Attend this Year's Yankee Woodlot Forestry Camp

10 Sep 2004

Contact: Leslie Hyde, Cooperative Extension, 1-877-944-2267 (toll free in Maine) or 207-789-5868, lhyde@umext.maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- The 2004 Yankee Woodlot Forestry Camp will be held September 27 through October 1 at the Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center in Lincolnville. Full tuition is being offered this year to any woman who wishes to take the program.

Funding is being provided by the "Woman and the Woods" program of the Maine Forest Service and the Woman's Agricultural Network (WAgN) of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Vivianne Holmes, Extension Educator and WAgN Director, says, "we are providing this support as an incentive to get women enrolled in Forestry Camp. Attending Forestry Camp is a great way to develop networks with others involved in caring for forestland and a place to gain a wealth of knowledge about forest management."

This is the twenty-first year for the annual program which is attended equally by men and women. It is the first year that incentive funding is being provided exclusively for women.

The goal of Yankee Woodlot Forestry Camp is to increase the acreage of land in Maine that is managed for long-term sustainability. Sustainable forest management is the practice of meeting forest resource needs and values of the present without compromising the similar capability of future generations. To achieve this goal, not only do landowners need to be clear about their own needs and desires, they must also be knowledgeable about forest ecology, biodiversity, wildlife, best management practices and they must be thinking about future generations.

According to forester and Extension Educator Leslie Hyde, Forestry Camp provides landowners with hands-on experience in getting to know the Maine forest and how to manage woodlands. The program is orientated for the landowner, woods worker, land trust volunteer, town forest personnel and others who have responsibility to care for forestland.

Hyde points out that the course is helpful for those who are working with a professional forester and wish to better understand what the forester does and why. The Yankee Woodlot Forestry Camp is sponsored by the University of

Maine Cooperative Extension in collaboration with the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM) and the Maine Forest Service.

Each day of the weeklong program seeks to answer basic questions that a landowner typically asks about his or her forestland: where is it? what's on it? what's under it? what is it worth? how can I best care for it?

On the first day of the program, participants are given a mock deed to a 20-acre parcel of the Tanglewood forest and then, working in groups, challenged to answer these questions for this plot of land. Participants locate their parcel by learning to use a compass, pacing distances, making a map, marking boundaries and locating it on aerial photographs. Learning about forest ecology and then identifying trees, plants and wildlife reveals what's on their parcel.

"What's under it" is discovered through the use of soil maps and then a shovel and soil auger to dig into the forest floor. To figure out "what its worth," a full day is devoted to woodland cruising. Cruising involves using tools to measure tree height and diameter, taking plot samples and using current price tables to calculate the dollar value of the trees growing on the parcel.

To determine "how to best care for it," students learn a variety of silvicultural methods and hear from professionals with years of experience. On the last day of the camp, each group presents their plan for managing their study parcel.

The days of forestry camp are filled with an exciting blend of presentations, discussion and fieldwork. Evenings include special guests and plenty of time for discussions, time for viewing videotapes or just relaxing. Faculty and foresters are available for personal consultation throughout the week.

Since Forestry Camp began in 1983, more than 300 graduates have completed the annual course. They include about an equal mix of men and women ranging in age from 17 to 87.

Participants live in separate wood-heated cabins. Showers and wash facilities are located a short walk from the cabins. Hardy, well-balanced meals are served family-style in the main dining hall. The registration fee is \$400 for Maine residents, \$450 for non-residents, and includes meals, lodging, cruising stick and educational materials.

To register contact Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center, One Tanglewood Road Lincolnville, ME 04849, call toll free in Maine 1-877-944-2267 or 207-789-5868. website: <http://www.umaine.edu/umext/YankeeWoodlot>

LaBonte Named to UMaine Business School Post

07 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Jonathan LaBonte of Bradley has joined the staff in the University of Maine College of Business, Public Policy and Health as assistant to the dean for external relations.

A 2002 graduate of the University of Maine, with a B.S. in chemical engineering, and formerly an engineering consultant in areas of loss prevention and risk assessment in the Boston office of Factory Mutual Insurance Co., LaBonte's chief responsibilities include serving as a liaison between the college and the Maine business community.

LaBonte works with Daniel Innis, dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health, in representing the college's individual schools of Business, Public Administration, Nursing and Social Work.

Focusing on advancement and development, LaBonte will work in tandem with the UMaine Public Affairs and Marketing Department, among others in the UMaine community, to help inform the public about faculty research, accomplishments and community collaboration opportunities. UMaine has identified developing partnerships with the

private sector in Maine as a priority that parallels its interest in offering its resources and research to business, government and non-profit organizations throughout the state and internationally.

Already familiar with many departments and faculty at UMaine, LaBonte says he looks forward to working with old associates and acquaintances in a professional capacity and helping to advance the mission of the university.

"And, of course, being back in Maine is a major plus at the same time," he says.

At Factory Mutual, the Lewiston-Auburn native's work centered around the pulp and paper, forest products and other manufacturing industries, as well as financial and real estate firms. His territory included in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, greater Boston and upstate New York.

Art Exhibition Sept. 24, 2004 - Jan. 8, 2005

10 Sep 2004

Contact: Kathryn Jovanelli at (207) 561-3360

BANGOR-- The University of Maine Museum of Art is pleased to present the work of two artists this fall at Norumbega Hall in downtown Bangor. Both artists exhibited on the coast earlier this summer, giving those who missed either show an opportunity to see the most recent work by these important Maine-inspired artists.

John Walker

A Winter in Maine

New landscapes from abstract painter John Walker will be presented at the University of Maine Museum of Art from September 24 through January 8. This exhibition, curated by Bruce Brown and Wally Mason, is selected from paintings created by the artist during his first full winter on the Maine coast. Brown interviewed Walker in preparation for the catalog that accompanies the show. During this interview, Walker commented on the influence of the winter on his work, "I suppose what happened was what I expected. I knew it was going to be cold. I knew it was going to be lonely. It was all terribly exciting." He explained further, "First of all, I endeavor to paint what I'm looking at. And, of course, that's changing, so my thoughts are changing. You know, the painting is not of me. It's about me standing there. For the painting to be any good it has to be about everything I'm involved in that day and at that time. A painting is not a passive object."

Walker's paintings truly involve everything from the world around him, recording not only the feel of the landscape as it changes with the seasons, but the actual land itself. This is most obvious in his use of mud collected from the flats of Johns Bay. In a recent interview with journalist Bob Keyes, Walker explained the caked on mud in his paintings, "I didn't want impressions. I'm not an impressionist. I'm a realist. The inspiration is trying to get some realism there. Having tried and tried, it seemed obvious to get a bucket of it and mix it in with the paint, to get the feel for how the tide comes in and out and the patterns that are caused by that constant changing tide on that particular cove where I work."

Walker has painted the Maine landscape for over thirty summers, but it was not until a sabbatical from Boston University, where he is a professor in the School of Visual Arts, that he could explore the changing coastal landscape throughout a Maine winter. The paintings were introduced at the Center for Maine Contemporary Art in Rockport this summer. The University of Maine Museum of Art will be the exhibit's last stop in Maine before traveling to Nielsen Gallery in Boston.

Rose Marasco

Domestic Objects: Past and Presence

The University of Maine Museum of Art in Bangor will be exhibiting photographs by Maine artist Rose Marasco, September 24 through January 8. This exhibition brings together ten years of Marasco's large-format color photographs in which she chronicles the actual and symbolic significance of everyday household objects. The images range from common, utilitarian items to personal, hand-crafted items: from clothespins in a variety of shapes and sizes and rolling pins that echo the curves of landscapes to buttons stitched in patterns, quilt blocks pieced together with newspaper backings, and diaries.

Rose Marasco is an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Southern Maine. This exhibition, sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Fannie E. Gray Educulture Fund, will travel to the University of Maine at Farmington before concluding its tour of select cultural institutions throughout Maine.

Museum of Art

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 9 am - 5 pm. Sunday 11 am - 5 pm.

Admission: \$3.00 per person. No charge for Museum Members and UM students with Maine Card.

Directions

From the North

I-95, Exit 185 (formerly 48) - Broadway, (Bangor, Brewer)

Turn left at light onto Broadway, Rt. 15

At the 4th light (1.2 m), turn right onto State St., Rt. 2

At the light at the bottom of the hill (.1 m), turn right on to Harlow St. (a one-way street)

Merge into left lane, turn left into parking lot of Norumbega Hall.

From the South

I-95, Exit 185 (formerly 48) - Broadway, (Bangor, Brewer)

Turn left at light on to Broadway, Rt. 15

At the 3rd light (1.1 mi), turn right onto State St., Rt. 2

At the light at the bottom of the hill (.1 mi), turn right onto Harlow St. (a one-way street)

Merge into left lane, turn left into parking lot of Norumbega Hall.

Sportscaster Gary Thorne '70 and Businesswoman Meredith Burgess '78 Highlight 2004 CCAC Annual Meeting and Dinner

08 Sep 2004

Contact: Doug Bennet, UMaine South Portland Office at 828-2327

Portland, Me. -- The Cumberland County Alumni Chapter of The University of Maine is pleased to announce that UMaine alumnus Gary Thorne, class of 1970, will be the honored guest speaker at the group's annual meeting and dinner on Sept. 21 in Portland.

The evening will begin with a social at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:15 p.m. and will be held at the Holiday Inn Portland West, off exit 48 of the Maine Turnpike. The general public is welcome to attend.

Thorne is a 1970 graduate of the University of Maine with a BS in business. He graduated from the University of Maine School of Law in 1973 and received a doctorate in law in 1976 from the Georgetown University Law Center. He is a former assistant district attorney in Bangor, Maine, and was admitted to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court in March 1977. In January 2000 he joined ABC Sports as a play-by-play commentator on the network's coverage of the National Hockey League.

In addition to hearing from Thorne, the Chapter will honor local businesswoman and civic leader Meredith Strang Burgess, class of 1978. As owner of Burgess Advertising & Associates of Portland, Burgess is the recipient of many

awards, including the Conwell Award from the Advertising Club of Greater Portland and YWCA's Tribute to Women in Industry (TWIN) award. She is a past recipient of the UMaine Alumni Association's Block "M" award and, in 1996, she received a Volunteers of America "Star" award. Burgess currently serves on The University of Maine's Board of Visitors.

This is the third year the Cumberland County Alumni Chapter of The University of Maine has honored a southern Maine alumnus or alumnae. Past winners include Maine Supreme Court Chief Justice Leigh Ingalls Saufley, class of 1976, and Bill Johnson '56, former Vice President of Mobile-Exxon and Mayor of Saco, and a member of University of Maine System Board of Trustees.

UMaine School of Performing Arts Fall Semester Schedule

09 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine School's of Performing Arts has announced its 2004 fall semester performance schedule, four months of music and theater showcasing musically artistic work by students, faculty and guest musicians and performers.

The schedules follow:

MUSIC

Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m.

Faculty Recital: Cadenzato faculty ensemble
Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Faculty Recital: Ginger Yang Hwalek, piano, Nancy Ellen Ogle, soprano, Kathleen Ellis, narrator, featuring new and recent works by North American Composers including the premiere performances of two songs by William Goldberg; a reception will follow the performance. Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.

Guest Artist Dan Moore, acclaimed percussionist, features innovations and cutting-edge applications of digital music in the area of percussion; Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Oct. 17, 2 p.m.

Faculty Violin Recital: Anatole Wieck
Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Women Composers Concert
Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.

UMaine/SPA Alumni Homecoming Concert
Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Oct. 24, 2 p.m.

Faculty Piano Recital: Phillip Silver

The concert will include a world premiere performance as well, as the participation of a special guest, internationally acclaimed soprano Deborah Cook, and Noreen Silver on 'cello. Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Oct. 31, 2 p.m.

Orchestra

Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Nov. 7, 2 p.m.

Collegiate Chorale

Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Nov. 14, 2 p.m.

University Singers

Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Nov, 16, 7:30 p.m.

Percussion Concert

Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.

Symphonic Band

Maine Center for the Arts. Admission \$6.

Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Athena Consort/Black Bear

Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Nov. 21, 2 p.m.

Oratorio Society

Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m.

Chamber Concert

Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Combo

Hauck Auditorium. Admission \$6.

Dec. 3-4, 7:30 p.m.

Opera Workshop

Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.

Yuletide Celebration

Maine Center for the Arts. Admission \$6.

THEATRE

Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.

Readers' Theatre: A Stray Dog

A full-length play in two acts. First presented at the "Monday Night Readings" series at the Minneapolis Playwrights'

Center in Minneapolis, Minn., this play has been presented at the Seattle Group Theatre, the Empire Institute for Art and the Empty Space Theatre. A Stray Dog is the story of a young man, Alec (Alexander) Jones, and his return home to reclaim his tribal Native American name and the struggles he faces with his family members who have mistaken images for culture. Directed by playwright William Yellow Robe, Libra Diversity Professor at the University of Maine in fall 2004.

Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Bent

A significant and thought provoking piece of drama, Bent portrays the issues around the treatment of homosexuals in Nazi Germany. It's a defiantly inspirational tale, told by characters who possess power and poignancy in the face of persecution and terror. Martin Sherman's award-winning play received a Tony nomination for Best Play and won The Dramatists' Guild's prestigious Hull-Warriner Award. "Powerful and provocative," says the New York Times. "Brilliant ... An explosive, overpowering experience," says Women's Wear Daily. For mature audiences only. Hauck Auditorium, Oct. 22-23, 29-30, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 24 & 31, 2 p.m. Admission \$8.

Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Readers' Theater
(Production TBA)

Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

Better-n-Indians

The School of Performing Arts co-sponsors this production, directed by its playwright William S. Yellow Robe, Jr. A comic satire about non-Native misconceptions of "Indian" identity and the experience of being "Indian" in a non-Native dominant culture. The audience takes a tour of a series of "exhibits" designed to illustrate these concepts and experiences. Yellow Robe educates and validates with humor and wit. Cyrus Pavilion Theatre, Nov. 12-13, 18-20, 7:30 p.m. & Nov. 14 & 21, 2 p.m. Admission \$6.

DANCE

Dec 9, 7:30 p.m.

Dance Showcase

Minsky Recital Hall. Admission \$6.

UMaine Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program Announces Fall Series

02 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Domestic violence, imprisoned mothers, women migrant workers and families in Cuba are among the topics scheduled for discussion during the University of Maine's Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program brown bag lunch series this semester.

The series is designed to share the work being done on women's issues in the community and to interest students in taking Women's Studies courses, as well as to encourage faculty to teach such courses and to incorporate material on women into the rest of their curriculum.~

The programs also showcase the women's studies scholarship being done on campus by faculty members, students and staff, and demonstrate to the community the breadth and depth of intellectual and cultural work done on women's issues.

Campus/community cooperation is an important feature in this semester's series.

Unless otherwise noted, programs will be held from 12:15-1:30 p.m. in the Memorial Union's Bangor Lounge.

The schedule of discussions follows:

Sept. 14

"A Life in the Borderlands/La Frontera": Remembering Writer Gloria Anzald

UMaine Community ArtWorks Program Sign-up Ready

02 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756 ORONO -- The University of Maine's ArtWorks after school art program, providing community children a chance to explore art above and beyond their home or school exposure, is accepting applications through Sept. 29 for the fall session.

Attendance is limited and acceptance is based on a first come, first served basis.

ArtWorks is a creative opportunity for the university's art education majors to share their art expertise with children from kindergarten through sixth grade and also gain essential practical teaching experience, says art Prof. Constant Albertson, who directs the program.

It also allows children an opportunity to explore different art media, including paints, pencils, pastels, clay, wire or paper mache.

The university has offered the program for about 20 years, with increasing interest from the community.

Students teaching the classes under Albertson's supervision in most cases are artists studying to become state-certified art teachers.

"If you didn't have this practical piece, learning how to write curriculum would not be as powerful a learning experience," Albertson says of the ArtWorks program. "When you have real people looking back at you, it becomes more important to you to get it right."

ArtWorks classes group children by age or grade levels and meet at Carnegie Hall and at one other classroom on the UMaine campus.

The fall session runs Oct. 15 through Nov. 12, meeting Friday afternoons from 3:30-5 p.m. Sessions also are held in the second semester, usually in late February. A \$25 course fee covers the costs of materials. A limited number of scholarships are available.

Applications may be requested from and submitted to ArtWorks, Department of Art, 5712 Carnegie Hall, University of Maine, Orono, 04469-5712.

Parents or guardians should indicate on their application form if children require special classroom access provisions. For safety, student instructors will release children from the classroom only upon the arrival of a pre-designated adult.

More information is available by calling Albertson at 581-3251 or the UMaine Department of Art, 581-3245.

UMaine Art Faculty Members Exhibit Personal Collections

02 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Fun, eclectic, even quirky is how the University of Maine Art Department's newest faculty exhibit is being described.

"The Faculty Collects" opens at the Carnegie Galleries Friday, Sept. 10 and will remain up through Oct. 8.

The unusual exhibit offers a peek at the personal interests of 15 art faculty members through things they have collected over the years. Just what types of things do art professors covet in their spare time?

A collection of 60 variations of the traditional Maine Caddis fishing fly, a collection of 300 pair of scissors, both metal and plastic, confiscated by airlines since Sept. 11, 2001 and pieces of wood from a dismantled 19th Century house in the south are part of the show. Those, along with collected paintings, photographs, old cameras, drawings, ceramics, digital media and sculptured works comprise the exhibit, which features about 30 works in all, says gallery coordinator MaJo Keleshian.

"This is a show of various things the art faculty have collected," she says. "Some of these things are more or less traditional wall mountings, photographs and prints, pretty much traditional work, but also various things that the art faculty have collected over the years."

While the objects and art work were not created by the UMaine art faculty, Keleshian says, the choices of art reflect the taste and aesthetic sensibilities of the faculty.

"Quirky, is a good word, but quirky with intelligence," she says.

The exhibit is an opportunity for students to see faculty from another dimension, adds Owen Smith, associate professor of art and one of the exhibitors.

Artists, he says, are collectors at heart, and often collect artwork that represents a particular art form in which an art professor is interested, or something that might be used in class.

"The thinking, really, was for the most part, one of the ways we try to engage students is to show them what we do as professionals," he says. "We can show them here what we do outside the classroom."

The Carnegie Galleries at Carnegie Hall on the Orono campus are open to the public at no cost weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The public is invited to an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. on Sept. 10. Many faculty members will be on hand to explain their interest and the significance of the objects and the art they have chosen to show.

UMaine Scientist and Orono Teachers Collaborate in New Wetland Science Project

07 Sep 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- Students in the Orono schools could be the first in Maine to put a new wetland science curriculum into action this fall. If all goes well, their efforts could eventually pay off in helping the Town of Orono to conserve wetland hot spots known as vernal pools.

Vernal pools are critical habitats for some types of amphibians such as wood frogs and spotted salamanders. The pools

are fishless and often dry up by early to mid-summer.

University of Maine wetland ecologist Aram Calhoun has been meeting with three Orono teachers this summer to lay the groundwork for a new science curriculum that is based on studies by her and several UMaine graduate students. The curriculum will guide classroom and field research activities designed to give middle school and high school students experience with collecting, managing and interpreting scientific data.

The multi-year project has grown out of two earlier efforts: a high school environmental science program called Wetland Connections; and a test of vernal pool conservation steps developed by Calhoun and UMaine master's student Damon Oscarson of Rye, NY. In the latter, Calhoun and Oscarson worked with citizen volunteers in the rapidly developing communities of Falmouth, Maine and three Farmington River watershed towns in Connecticut.

"We tested the (Best Development Practices) manual with citizen volunteers, and it worked," says Calhoun. "They identified vernal pools in their towns, mapped them and assessed them. Then they ranked them for conservation purposes, from high to low priority."

The goal was to help each community determine where to focus its wetland conservation efforts and where to allow development to proceed. "We know that we can't save every vernal pool on the landscape. Let's pick the ones that have the best chance to keep sustainable populations of animals," Calhoun says.

Teachers involved in the Orono project include Cindy Clay, Jessica Archer and Danielle O'Neal. Over the next year, Orono students will study two vernal pools, one on school property and another on private property. UMaine graduate students will help to teach the younger students how to identify different wetland species and their egg masses, signs of reproducing populations.

The project will integrate a variety of classroom activities including language arts, mathematics and computer skills. A website will be developed for students to share data, photographs, maps and reports.

Eventually, the project could grow to include all vernal pools in Orono. In addition to doing science, students will learn how to ask landowners for permission to study pools on their property. Students will not study privately owned pools unless landowners give permission.

Maine-Based Biophysics Institute Receives Funding for First U.S.-based 4Pi Nanoscale Microscope

08 Sep 2004

Contact: Joyce Peterson, The Jackson Laboratory, 207-288-6058, joyce@jax.org
Joe Carr, University of Maine, 207-581-3571, joe_carr@umit.maine.edu;
Martha Davoli, Maine Medical Center, 207-662-2196, davolm@mmc.org;
Cheryl Dybas, National Science Foundation, 703-292-7734, cdybas@nsf.gov;

BAR HARBOR--The 4Pi Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope is the world's most advanced optical microscope--capable of revealing the nanostructure of genetic material within a cell in three dimensions. The first such instrument is now coming to the United States in 2005, thanks to a \$732,624 National Science Foundation grant to a Maine interdisciplinary biophysical research program.

The Institute for Molecular Biophysics brings together expertise in biophysics and engineering at the University of Maine in Orono, molecular and cell biology at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute (MMCRI) in Scarborough, and genetics and genomics at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor. IMB's goal: to explore the structure and function of genes and chromosomes within cells, in order to understand precisely how genes control both normal development and disease.

Once installed at The Jackson Laboratory, the 4Pi microscope will enable the IMB researchers to examine specific structures within a cell-such as a single gene on a chromosome-at a resolution four to seven times greater than previously possible.

"Astronomers have space-based telescopes like the Hubble Space Telescope to understand the history and structure of the universe," comments IMB co-director Barbara Knowles of The Jackson Laboratory and the University of Maine. "Physicists have giant particle accelerators to isolate the fundamental elements of energy and matter. Now researchers in genetics and biology have an advanced tool to examine the very structure of the mouse, human and other genomes."

The 4Pi microscope is manufactured by Leica Microsystems in Mannheim, Germany, based on technology developed by Stefan Hell of the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in G

University of Maine Foundation Ends Fiscal Year on Positive Note

02 Sep 2004

Contact: Amos E. Orcutt, President & CEO, 1-800-982-8503

ORONO

UMaine Faculty Recital Offers "American Voices" Concert

20 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

UMAINE FACULTY RECITAL OFFERS "AMERICAN VOICES" CONCERT

ORONO -- The UMaine faculty recital, "American Voices," on Saturday, Sept. 25 features two musicians and a narrator celebrating song collaborations of American composers and poets.

The evening includes works by nationally acclaimed composers William Goldberg and Joyce Suskind, putting some familiar poetry classics to music.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall in the Class of 1944 Hall building. Admission is \$6.

Art song literature, according to UMaine music Prof. Nancy Ellen Ogle, is the musical setting of a poem that already has been published. Poems will be sung.

"The effort is to show these poems in an expressive way," she says, by putting popular poetry to music.

The music can aid in the interpretation of the poetry, Ogle says. "One feels the poem as it first inspired the composer to set it."

Performers include pianist Ginger Yang Hwalek, soprano Nancy Ogle and poet Kathleen Ellis of the UMaine English Department, who will provide commentary on the program.

Some of the poets whose work will be featured include Emily Dickinson, William Blake and W.H. Auden. More contemporary poets whose work will be performed include Ruth Stone, Harold Siegelbaum and Benjamin Friedlander, who also is an assistant professor of English at UMaine.

"This program will present some of the loveliest and most engaging works Hwalek and I have found in our research in this genre," Ogle says.

Goldberg, formerly a New York City composer and piano teacher -- and influenced by the free-flowing New York-Greenwich Village Bohemian era -- is now a Hallowell, Maine resident, where he continues to compose and perform around the state.

"He

UMaine to Host College Fair Sept. 27-28

20 Sep 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Nearly 200 colleges and universities, from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii, will send representatives to the New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) college fair at the University of Maine Sept. 27-28. This will be the 28th year the UMaine has hosted an event of this nature.

Universities, public and private colleges, community colleges and technical institutes will all be represented. There will also be information tables regarding Army and Navy ROTC, the New England Board of Higher Education and the Sen. George Mitchell Scholarship Institute.

The college fair will be held at the UMaine Field House. A financial aid information session is set for 6-7 p.m. at Wells Conference Center on Monday night. The college fair itself, in the Field House, is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. Monday and 9-11:30 a.m. Tuesday.

More information, including a complete list of schools that will be represented, is available at the [NEACAC website](#).

Second Annual Commemorative Ornament to be Unveiled at UMaine Bookstore

15 Sep 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571, Holly Williams at 581-1700

ORONO -- The second annual University Bookstore Commemorative Ornament will be unveiled on Thursday, Sept. 23 at 12:30 p.m. in the University of Maine Bookstore. This program is intended to celebrate and recognize UMaine organizations that best live up to the spirit of the holiday season. All proceeds from the sales of the ornaments are donated to university groups that best achieve the altruistic goals of helping others.

For the second year, the commemorative ornament program will honor Alternative Spring Break. The organization promotes community service on the local, regional, and international levels through programs that immerse students in different cultures. The students spend their spring break performing community service and advocating lifelong social action.

"The thing about Alternative Spring Break is when you think of the word altruism -- wanting to do something just for the benefit of others -- they are the first group many people think of on campus," says Holly Williams, publications coordinator for the University Bookstore.

Lyn Dexter, coordinator of Alternative Spring Break, says she couldn't be happier about her group being selected as benefactors again this year. The group needs to raise approximately \$20,000 each year, to cover expenses involved in sending students to the program locations.

"We're just phenomenally excited to be able to have this for two years in a row," Dexter says. "It's a huge help for us."

Previous fundraising efforts have included bake sales, bottle drives, letter writing campaigns, benefit dinners and "adopt a breaker" programs to raise the estimated \$300-400 needed to send every breaker to a destination.

"You name it, we've tried or done it," Dexter says.

The Alternative Spring Break program at UMaine is based on a national program called Break Away. The affiliation allows Dexter to find locations through a national database and requires group members to uphold the components of strong and direct service, alcohol and drug free participation, orientation, education, training, reflection and reorientation.

Alternative Spring Break has been chosen to receive the proceeds from the ornament again this year in hopes that second year sales will be higher. After this year, a search committee will be formed to select the organization that will receive the proceeds.

"Last year was the first year so Alternative Spring Break deserves another shot at potentially a much greater fundraising effort," Williams says.

Sales of the ornaments last year generated a little more than \$2,000 for the group. Bookstore Director Bill Hockensmith says his goal is \$3,000 this year.

UMaine Faculty Members, Students Team up to Teach Milbridge Migrant Workers

16 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- University of Maine Spanish Professor Kathleen March of the Department of Modern Languages and Classics and five current or former students have embarked upon a cooperative pilot project tutoring Spanish-speaking migrant workers Downeast.

The twist, however, is instead of helping Spanish-speaking families with English as a second language, tutors will bring the worker families up to speed in their own language, Spanish, before tackling English.

March and Candace Austin, an educational consultant and founder of Mano en Mano, a Milbridge non-profit social service organization, decided to cooperate in finding 10 bilingual people who could be trained and certified by Literacy Volunteers of America founder Ruth Colvin and begin work this fall with families from countries including Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Austin tutors Hispanic families in English through the Milbridge Public Library and schools in Milbridge, a community where 12 percent of the population -- mostly berry pickers, wreath makers and fish factory workers -- speak Spanish.

She found that many of the migrant family adults were unable to read and write beyond third- or fourth-grade levels in their own language and were unable to transition from Spanish to English.

"It's difficult teaching English as a second language before they even have the first," Austin says.

The suspension of the state Migrant Education Program last summer brought enough new people to her door, Austin says, that she called upon March to help put together the Literacy Volunteers certification workshop and find people willing to travel to Milbridge to tutor families. Half of the tutors are from the Milbridge area and half are from the university community.

The year-long tutoring project is partially funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family

Literacy. If successful, the program will become a national model, Austin says.

"It's so exciting," adds March, who is among the cadre of tutors, "because this ties into why I got into Spanish in the first place -- an interest in doing community work."

Using UMaine students to assist Spanish-speaking families helps the university extend its resources beyond the classroom, March says. Language students can work with diverse populations and serve a public good without ever leaving the state.

"It's out of the classroom, but it also is just as valuable as lessons in the classroom, and it helps students recognize the human and professional value of their linguistic skills," March says.

New Writing Series Announces Fall Poetry Readings at UMaine

15 Sep 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571, Steve Evans at 581-3809

Please note: an incomplete version of this news release was inadvertently sent yesterday. Please use this copy. Thank you.

ORONO -- Nine poets from around the country and abroad will highlight the New Writing Series at the University of Maine this fall. Sponsored, in part, by the English department at UMaine, the New Writing Series has taken pride in bringing poets to campus who favor an "adventurous and innovative " take on poetry, according to Steve Evans, assistant professor of English and coordinator of the series. This year promises to be no exception, he says.

"We're trying to foster a diverse culture on the campus and in the community," Evans says. "We do that, first, by insisting that poetry become part of the dialogue. And then we make sure to invite poets who provide unique and sometimes oppositional visions of their art and of the world. Poets who shake things up and whose activities aren't restricted to 'poetry as usual.'"

This fall's poets have earned reputations in other fields as well: among them there are playwrights, novelists, small-press publishers, and translators. "We talk often of the 'creative economy' in Maine nowadays," says Evans. "Well, poets have lived in that economy for generations now and are our foremost experts on it. We should listen to their experiences and learn from their examples.

"Usually we work hard to emphasize younger writers, people who are maybe one book into their careers, and this semester we do have Devin Johnston and Andrew Joron. But the real center of this series happens to be four women writers--Marjorie Welish, Fanny Howe, Cole Swensen, and Alice Notley-- who are farther along in their careers and writing at the absolute top of their game," Evans says.

The schedule of readings and locations on the UMaine campus follows:

Sept. 21

Marjorie Welish will read at 4:30 p.m. in Soderberg Auditorium, Jenness Hall. Most recently, Welish published *The Annotated 'Here': New and Selected Poems*

UMaine Shares Ice Core Technology with China

15 Sep 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- In an ongoing collaboration between the University of Maine

Faculty Concert, Cadenzato, Offers Colorful Chamber Music for Season Opening

15 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The opening concert of the of the School of Performing Arts 2004 Music Series on Saturday, Sept. 18 features the University of Maine faculty ensemble, Cadenzato, and offers an evening of vibrant chamber music.

"The music ranges from the 18th Century music to music of today," says Liz Downing, who plays flute. "It's a real variety of style and instruments. I think it will be a spirited and lively concert for the audience."

The concert is at 7:30 p.m. at Minsky Recital Hall on the Orono campus. A \$6 admission is requested.

In addition to Downing, other performers include Louis Hall, oboe, Jack Burt, flugelhorn, Stuart Marris, timpani percussion, Noreen Silver, 'cello, and Phillip Silver, piano.

Burt is the new professor of trumpet at the UMaine School of Performing Arts.

The program includes: "Concertante in F for Flute, Oboe, Piano," composed by Ignaz Moscheles; "Flugelhorn and Piano," by Michael Nyman; four of eight pieces from "Eight Pieces for Four Timpani," composed by Elliott Carter and performed by Marris; "Dream Dances for Flute, Oboe and Cello," composed by Peter Schickele; and "Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano," Op. 63, composed by Carl Maria von Weber.

The selections will make for "an interesting musical array and a colorful concert to compliment the arrival of the fall season," Downing says.

More information is available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts box office at (207) 581-1755.

Narrative Performance Chronicles Woman's Breast Cancer Survival

15 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Playwright and performer Linda Park-Fuller will perform her personal narrative about breast cancer, "A Clean Breast of It," on Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Al Cyrus Pavilion Theatre at the University of Maine.

Framed by statistical information, humor and song, "A Clean Breast of It" chronicles a patient's emotions and insights from the moment of discovering a lump in her breast through biopsy, surgery, chemotherapy and finally, healing.

The performance is designed to help break the silence surrounding the disease, and to be of interest not only to survivors, caregivers and health professionals, but also to general audiences of both young and mature ages. An audience discussion will follow the performance.

Park-Fuller was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1989. Although the treatment -- including mastectomy, chemotherapy

and reconstruction -- was physically and emotionally draining, today she is cancer-free and committed to sharing survival tactics.

"Today I see the experience less as a trauma and more as an opportunity to grow," she says, "to learn about myself, to recognize what is really important in life."

In addition to performing and teaching seminars, Park-Fuller is researching and writing about the healing potential of improvisation and narrative.

She currently is a professor of performance studies at Arizona State University, and regularly donates to breast cancer research a percentage of any profit she receives from "A Clean Breast of It." The event is free to the public.

The event is sponsored by the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program at the University of Maine. Co-sponsors include the UMaine Department of Communication and Journalism, UMaine School of Nursing, Theatre/Dance Division of the UMaine School of Performing Arts, the Breast and Osteoporosis Center of Eastern Maine Medical Center and the American Cancer Society, New England Division.

More information is available by calling 581-1228.

Actor Ashong to Speak at UMaine

15 Sep 2004

Contact: Kyle Webster, UMaine Student Government at (207) 581-1787

ORONO -- Actor and activist Derrick Ashong will present a lecture entitled "Killing Cool: Igniting the Soul of Society" in 114 Little Hall at the University of Maine on Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. The lecture is presented by the Guest Lecture Series, a subdivision of Student Government. It is free and open to the public.

Ashong is best known for playing the role of Buakei in Steven Spielberg's critically acclaimed film "Amistad." He is a graduate of Harvard University and former president of the Harvard Black Student Union. He was born in Ghana in 1975 and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. and Saudi Arabia.

He now travels the nation talking on a variety of topics surrounding racial stereotyping and empowerment of youth. The lecture Ashong will present at UMaine focuses on the concept of "being cool" and how this plays into actual success. He advocates being true to oneself over following the crowd, noting that those who are successful are those who don't play into the norm.

Prior to his lecture, Ashong will be meeting with students in the Bangor Lounge at 4 p.m. to discuss his views on racial prejudice. This is also free and open to the public.

The Guest Lecture Series (GLS) is a part of Student Entertainment, which is a sub-committee of UMaine Student Government, Inc. The primary goal and purpose of GLS is to bring educated experts on various topics from around the world to the University of Maine for free lectures that are open and available to all students.

UMaine Anthropologist Acheson Wins National Award

27 Sep 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- University of Maine anthropology and marine sciences professor James Acheson has been named the 2004 winner of the prestigious American Anthropological Association's Kimball award for effecting change in public policy.

Acheson, a cultural anthropologist, author and professor at UMaine since 1968, will receive the Solon T. Kimball Award for Public and Applied Anthropology at the association's annual meeting in San Francisco in November.

The award, given only every other year since 1978, recognizes outstanding achievement in applied anthropology and research that has had an impact on public policy.

"It was something I never expected," Acheson says.

Founded in 1902 and with nearly 30,000 members, the American Anthropological Association (AAA) is the world's largest anthropological organization.

A Bangor resident, Acheson has a joint appointment in the Anthropology Department and the School of Marine Sciences. He is also cooperating research professor with the Lobster Institute at UMaine.

He is an internationally recognized authority on economic anthropology and the social science aspects of fisheries management.

"In the past few years, my primary contribution has been to use 'rational choice theory' to show under what conditions groups of people will and will not develop rules to conserve the resources on which their livelihood depends," Acheson says. "This has led me into a far more theoretical realm -- namely trying to understand the circumstances under which people develop rules in general."

Acheson has studied the system of self governance in the Maine lobster industry and has chronicled the circumstances under which lobster fishermen developed informal rules and lobbied for formal laws to conserve the lobster stock.

"Lobstering is an unusual success story and there's an awful lot we can learn there," he says. "The important thing is these guys imposed these rules on themselves. It's an interesting, interesting industry," and the lessons we can learn from this industry can be applied to managing other threatened natural resources, from oil to clean air.

Allan Burns, professor of anthropology and associate dean of faculty affairs at the University of Florida, chair of the AAA's award selection committee, writes in an announcement of this year's Solon Kimball Award that Acheson's "work is especially impressive in that his theoretical perspectives drive his policy efforts.

"The ease with which he works across disciplinary lines such as anthropology and economics reflects the spirit of the Kimball Award and the career of Solon Kimball as well," Burns writes. "His work truly contributes to the development of anthropology as an applied science, and his commitment to working in national and international policy is especially inspirational for all anthropologists.

Jim Roscoe, chair of the UMaine Anthropology Department, says that through his close work with lobstermen, Acheson introduced a human element into a regulatory process that traditionally has been guided by politicians and biologists.

Additionally, Roscoe says, "Jim has helped develop over the years theories of how institutions and rules evolve that can be used in other disciplines."

In helping to identify successful ways to regulate public policy, Acheson has provided insight into "what most of us cultural anthropologists are trying to do -- to come up with the means that will help us with the problems most of humanity faces," Roscoe adds.

Acheson grew up in Augusta and earned a bachelor of arts degree from Colby College and a doctorate at the University of Rochester. In all, Acheson has published more than 75 articles, including one in the June issue of the prestigious American Anthropologist, four books, several monographs and reports to the Maine legislature. His two books on the

Maine lobster industry are "The Lobster Gangs of Maine," published in 1988, and "Capturing the Commons" in 2003. The second focuses on the management of the lobster industry.

Maine Folklife Center Brings Boatbuilding to Common Ground Fair

23 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The Maine Folklife Center's programs at this year's Common Ground Fair highlight inland boat and canoe building, featuring some of Maine's well-known guides and boat builders.

The fair is Sept. 24, 25 and 26 in Unity.

The Folklife Center has assembled a group of canoe experts to discuss different approaches to building wood and canvas canoes, says Jamie Moreira, director of the Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine and an assistant professor in the Anthropology Department.

This will be the folklife center's seventh year participating.

"We're there to do demonstrations on various aspects of Maine tradition," Moreira says. "This year it's inland watercraft."

Among the speakers will be Rollin Thurlow of Atkinson, who will speak Saturday at 11 a.m. about building canoes. Thurlow has done extensive research on the history of the wood and canvas canoe in the northeast, Moreira says. Throughout the weekend, Thurlow will demonstrate the craft of building wooden canoes, with special sessions devoted to steam-bending techniques.

On Sunday at 11 a.m., Steve Cayard of Wellington discusses the techniques of building birch bark canoes.

"He's not only someone who's learned the craft, but he's put a tremendous amount of energy into investigating the making of birch bark canoes," Moreira says. Cayard has visited museums from Pennsylvania to Canada to study historical examples of Native canoes.

Other speakers and participants in a boat builder's roundtable discussion include:

Jerry Stelmok of Island Falls Canoe in Atkinson, who builds canoes along the original lines of E.M. White, who started building in a shop near Gilman Falls about 1885 and later set up a factory in Old Town that produced wooden canoes until the 1960s;

Bill Schamel of Grand Lake Stream, who builds wooden Grand Lake canoes through a technique that differs from building birch bark or canvas canoes, according to Moreira;

And Gil Gilpatrick, a well-known Maine Guide from Central Maine who builds cedar strip canoes and who has written several books on the guiding and canoeing.

"Basically, we have four different people with four different approaches to building inland watercraft," Moreira says.

An estimated 50,000 people are expected to visit the 28th Common Ground Fair, the nation's oldest organic agriculture and environmentally friendly fair. The Maine Organic Farmers' Association started the fair in 1971.

Information is available at the Maine Folklife Center website -- www.umaine.edu/folklife -- or through MOFGA.

The UMaine Folklife Center is dedicated to preserving and promoting traditions that have helped shape the culture and traditions of Maine. The center also had a boatbuilding exhibit at the National Folk Festival in Bangor in August.

UMaine Video Games Conference Explores Mix of Fantasy, Reality

24 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove, 581-3756

ORONO -- The harsh graphic violence in so many of today's computer video games may seem impersonal as players wind their characters' way through tunnels, fortresses and dangerous city streets, but a UMaine New Media professor believe there's a lot more going on than meets the eye.

"What people call entertainment is actually doing a lot of ideological work," says Prof. Joline Blais. "If people work out all kinds of things as they play, they can be unconsciously acting out social and political conflicts in an attempt to understand them."

The burgeoning billion-dollar computer game industry generates more cash than Hollywood and Blais, along with her New Media 398 students, recently studied what goes on and what drives our cultural fascination with violent, gender-biased, doom-predicting computer games.

The third conference in Still Water's Code and Creativity series, titled "War Games: Making and Unmaking the World," Sept. 17-24, featured some of the world's leading computer game artists whose works reveal and recreate for players the parallels between computer games and power, politics and life.

Six national computer artists visited the Orono campus to deliver presentations, demonstrate new games and meet with students and the public to explore the art, theory and philosophy of computer games that place players in conflict simulations for military and entertainment purposes.

They discussed whether we are temporarily captured or freed by the magnetism of computer games. It's a deeper discussion than wondering why Johnny remains glued to his PC or Game Boy on a sunny Saturday afternoon.

"We're rethinking what games do to us," says Blais, "For instance, why are millions of players thrilled about killing 'bosses' -- the standard game term for villains?"

Substitute "corporate power" for "boss" and you begin to see where Blais is coming from.

Beneath the aggressive manipulation of speeding cars and high-powered weaponry to defeat enemies is an often overlooked layer of political and psychological role-playing serving as an outlet for the frustration felt in a big world with little power for the individual, according to Blais.

"I think that games, at least violent games, are satisfying a need for resistance in our culture," she says, "but are we really conscious of what we're doing when we play? It is really a paradoxical thing. I don't think you can say violent games are all bad."

Though not all games are violent, most involve conflict, and many are based on the military and war scenarios. Blais hoped the events helped raise awareness of social, political, economic and philosophical issues addressed by gaming.

"Games can often be just a cathartic release, and that worries me," Blais says, "If there's something wrong with the culture, you ought to be working it out in the culture. Games could help us work these things out. We ought to be using games not just to experience these tensions but to act on them outside the game world."

That's what the visiting game designers are exploring, Blais adds.

"This conference tackles the tensions at the heart of war-gaming and explores alternative design strategies in the company of some of today's top game design artists," Blais says on the Still Water website, which she runs with fellow New Media Prof. Jon Ippolito. Many of the games are a plea for an end to violence and war, she says, "clever gameworlds designed to help us play out scenarios for peace."

New UMaine Composites Laboratory Addition Hosts Projects with Maine Businesses

23 Sep 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman at (207) 581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Just over a year after Maine voters approved a jobs bond in June 2003, the University of Maine's Advanced Engineering Wood Composites (AEWC) Center is humming with activity in a new laboratory funded by the bond. "Many projects involve Maine businesses and communities in need of the kind of economic development that could be supported by innovative composite wood products," says Habib Dagher, AEWG director and professor of civil and environmental engineering at UMaine.

"We have moved quickly on the design and construction of the laboratory addition because we needed the space to carry out projects on behalf of a number of Maine businesses," says Dagher. "Considering the importance of moving quickly to maximize the impact for the people of Maine, UMaine System Chancellor Westphal, former President Peter Hoff, and Interim President Robert Kennedy provided us with the tools and support to make this project happen in record time."

AEWC Associate Director Stephen Shaler oversaw construction and worked closely with UMaine's Department of Facilities Management, WBRC Architects and Engineers of Bangor and the H.E. Sargent Construction Company of Stillwater to complete the addition.

The project is one example of economic development opportunities that stem from a partnership among strong university research and development programs, state government and the business community. AEWG is playing a role by developing new composite technologies.

For example, a new roof system uses panels that allow construction of cathedral ceilings with no roof trusses. The panels are insulated, internally vented and can accommodate long spans under heavy snow loads. This project is being conducted for a new startup Maine company, NETFORMS, located in Falmouth. The firm has received Maine Technology Institute (MTI) seed funding to evaluate the technology. MTI funds are being sought to complete the design and testing of the new roof system under snow and high wind loading.

Another research project uses what engineers call Delta-strand wood composites that are made from pulpwood-grade logs and are three times stronger than the original wood. "This is achieved by randomizing the defects in the wood structure and densely packing the strands by utilizing the delta geometry," says Dagher. The University has applied for a patent for this technology.

"We are currently in the process of getting National Building Code approval for the technology, so that a company can be set up in Maine to produce this product," he adds. "Research efforts to develop the product are still under way and will take two more years. Once this is completed, the big challenge would be to attract investors who want to come to Maine to establish a manufacturing facility."

UMaine is working with the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and the Wood Composites Incubator in Greenville to identify investors for this and other programs.

A third project underway in the new laboratory addition is a study of Maine wood species to develop Oriented Strand Lumber (OSL) studs, joists, beams, and headers. OSL consists of wood strands that are bonded together with the grain running parallel to the axis of the member.

"In the new lab addition, we are studying the effectiveness of using Maine wood species in the OSL process, as well as the optimum shape and size of the strands. OSL composite studs and joists are now used in upscale home framing by large home builders because the composites do not twist or warp and can be produced in practically any length and width. This OSL technology has potential for Maine because it uses a variety of low-grade woods that are abundant in the Maine forests," Dagher adds.

"Student researchers are also developing a new lightweight prefabricated composite arched roadway bridge system that works in the 20 ft to 60 ft span range," says Dagher. The fiberglass/carbon fiber hybrid composite arch sections can be lifted in place by two workers. Engineering students are focusing on ways to speed up the manufacturing process for these arches to reduce costs and achieve commercial feasibility.

"If one examines the growth of the forest products industry in the 1990s, the solid-sawn wood market has grown by 30%, whereas the wood composite market has grown by 100%. This is one reason that UMaine has built a world leading program in this field," Dagher says.

Students and Adviser from Mexican University to Visit UMaine

23 Sep 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- A group of seven students and an adviser from the Mexican university La Universidad de las Am

Bear's Den Grand Opening Friday

22 Sep 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- A grand opening for the remodeled Bear's Den in the University of Maine's Memorial Union will bring into focus the pub-style facility's important role in UMaine's culture, past and present.

The grand opening is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 24 at 4 p.m. The space that formerly held the Bear's Den, a traditional gathering place in Memorial Union, was modified for different purposes when the Union was renovated from 2000-2003. Members of UMaine's Class of 1944 spearheaded the drive, and raised the funds, to remodel another facility in the Union late last year, turning it into a modern-day Bear's Den. Representatives of the Class of 1944 are expected to be attendance at Friday's event.

The Class of 1944, for its 60th reunion, donated \$160,000 for the project.

"The return of the Bear's Den has meant a great deal to our community during the past several months," says Robert Dana, UMaine's Dean of Students. "Not only is it a first-class dining facility, it provides an important link to the university's traditions. For our students, employees and visitors, the Bear's Den is a place to gather and to enjoy together one of the places that makes UMaine special."

The Friday grand opening will feature a broadcast by student radio station WMEB. The new Bear's Den will feature table service, with Starbucks coffee drinks, Bahama Blast granita drinks, appetizers, entrees, desserts, daily specials and

interactive entertainment. Special planned events include a Halloween party, a holiday sing-along and celebrations for Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day.

Beer and wine will be available to patrons who are 21 years of age or older.

"It is an honor for us to have the opportunity to create a vibrant tribute to the legacy of the Class of 1944," says Dawn Aubrey, associate director for Dining Services, Marketplace and Retail Operations. "We embrace the exciting opportunity to create an atmosphere that will enhance the facility as a can't-miss gathering place for UMaine's students and other community members"

The Bear's Den will be open each week from 4 p.m.-12 midnight Tuesday through Thursday, and from 4 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Tax Cap Analysis: What if the Cap had been in Place in 2003

21 Sep 2004

Contact: Todd Gabe, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3307, todd.gabe@umit.maine.edu

ORONO-- University of Maine economists have analyzed the impacts of the proposed one-percent property tax cap by estimating the effect on 2003 local government revenues and expenditures as if the cap had been in place. In a report issued today, they conclude that Maine towns would have had a shared budget deficit of \$687.7 million if the tax cap had existed, as written, last year.

They also found that the tax rate for homeowners would have gone down in 391 towns. It would have gone up in 81 towns because of changes in the way homes are valued for taxes under the tax cap proposal.

The analysis was done by Todd Gabe, Jonathan Rubin and Tom Allen of the Department of Resource Economics and Policy and Catherine Reilly of the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy. Rubin is also interim director of the Smith Center.

The 53-page report includes 32 pages of tables showing changes in municipal tax revenue, state and local government expenditures, and taxes paid on a \$150,000 home bought in 2003 under the property tax cap. The Maine State Planning Office, Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station and the Smith Center provided financial support for the study. The full report is available online at www.umaine.edu/mcsc/TaxCap.pdf.

The authors also reviewed the impacts of property tax caps in Massachusetts and California. In broad terms, they note that, in addition to reducing property taxes, tax caps shift tax burdens from some property owners onto others and encourage communities to look for funding from other sources.

"People need to know what they're voting on in November," says Gabe. "This is the most detailed town-by-town analysis that's been done on the tax cap proposal as it is written. (If it passes), state and local governments could respond to it in many different ways, but based on the experience in other states, it could mean cuts in services and creation of new sources of income."

The analysis demonstrates, says Rubin, that the tax cap proposal would have "unintended consequences that go beyond lowering taxes. It will be a shift in authority from local government to state and other centralized units of government."

Had the Maine tax cap been in effect last year, the authors found that the following changes would have occurred:

- Statewide, total property tax revenues, which amounted to \$1.6 billion in 2003, would have dropped by \$687.7 million or 43 percent. If the MMA bill, passed in June of 2004, had been in effect, the shared deficit could have

dropped from \$687.7 million to \$535.2 million

- Tax rates based on the tax cap were lower in 391 municipalities than the 2003 "full-state value" tax rate for residential real estate, but in 81 municipalities, the cap was higher than the 2003 tax rate for residential real estate.
- In municipalities in which the tax rate would have increased under the tax cap, people who bought their homes in recent years would have paid higher taxes under the tax cap. People who have lived in their homes for at least several years would have paid lower taxes.
- Statewide, owners of seasonal, or "vacation," homes, would have paid \$50.9 million less in property taxes in 2003. This reduction would amount to 31.9 percent of the taxes paid on these properties.
- Total municipal spending of about \$2.16 billion in 2003 would have been reduced to about \$1.32 billion under the tax cap, after including additional state school spending. With the exception of education, debt payments and county taxes, total municipal spending for other purposes would have been cut by 69.4 percent.

If the property tax reduction had been replaced by state income or sales taxes, total state income taxes would have had to increase 64 percent, or the sales tax rate would have had to increase from 5 percent to slightly over 9 percent.

"The overall lesson learned from other states is that property tax caps can have impacts beyond the straightforward reduction of one type of tax," the report concludes. "Changing local tax structures can shift the tax burden away from certain property owners, taxpayers, and businesses and onto others; can shift control of local revenues and expenditures from one level of government to another; can force communities to raise other fees; and can affect land use and property values."

High Blood Pressure Related Decline in Cognitive Function Affects Adults Young and Old

04 Oct 2004

Contact: Merrill F. ("Pete") Elias, Department of Psychology, 207-244-9674, mfelias@aol.com;
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- High blood pressure in otherwise healthy adults between the ages of 18 and 83 is associated with a measurable decline in cognitive function, according to a report published today by University of Maine researchers in the pre-publication online edition of the journal *Hypertension*. The article will appear in the October issue of the printed journal.

While they characterize the decline as "relatively minor and manageable in terms of everyday functioning," the authors say their findings underscore the importance of treatment for high blood pressure. In the study, younger individuals (18-47) performed at a higher level on cognitive function tests than did older individuals (48-83), but they, like older individuals, showed blood pressure-related decline in cognitive function over time.

The study "breaks new ground," and "has far-reaching public health implications," according to an editorial by two medical researchers in Belgium and the Netherlands published in the same issue of the journal. It extends what has been viewed as a problem of the elderly to younger people. *Hypertension* is published by the American Heart Association.

The authors are Penelope K. Elias, Merrill F. Elias and Michael A. Robbins of the UMaine Department of Psychology and Marc M. Budge of the Dept. of Geriatric Medicine, Canberra Hospital, Australia.

The report, titled *Blood Pressure-Related Cognitive Decline: Does Age Make a Difference?*, is based on an analysis of 20 years of blood pressure and cognitive performance data for 529 subjects in the Maine-Syracuse Longitudinal Study (MSLS) of Hypertension and Cognitive Functioning. That study was begun by Merrill Elias and David Streeten

(Professor of Medicine) of the Health Sciences Center, State University of New York at Syracuse in 1974. It continues with grants from the National Institutes of Health, most recently the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the National Institute on Aging.

Subjects in the study exhibited a normal range of cognitive functioning, as determined by the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS). People suffering from dementia, diabetes, psychiatric illness, alcoholism, drug abuse or stroke were excluded.

In tests of four major areas of mental function, the researchers found that measurements of problem solving abilities under time constraints showed a statistically significant association with blood pressure in younger and older adults, aged 18-83.

Other studies have related high blood pressure to cognitive decline but have not compared younger and older individuals and have not measured cognitive performance over an extended time period.

The results emphasize the importance of reducing high blood pressure even in younger adults, the researchers conclude. "To the extent that BP (blood pressure) effects on cognition are not reversible, it is important to prevent an increase in BP levels as early as possible in the life cycle," they conclude.

Across the population, lowering average systolic (the highest number in blood pressure tests) blood pressure by 20 millimeters mercury or diastolic blood pressure by 10 millimeters mercury would "have a considerable beneficial effect on the preservation of cognitive abilities in the population as a whole," they write.

UMaine Homecoming Set for Oct. 22-24; Go Blue Theme Captures Essence of Homecoming Celebration

30 Sep 2004

Contact: Bob Potts (bob.potts@umit.maine.edu) at (207) 581-1149

ORONO, ME-- The University of Maine Alumni Association has announced its schedule of events for Homecoming Weekend at UMaine, October 22, 23, & 24, 2004.

Highlights of this year's Homecoming include the Black Bear football game vs. Northeastern, Saturday at 2 PM at Alford Stadium. Two hockey games are also scheduled for Homecoming weekend, Friday and Saturday nights at 7 PM. Tickets for all athletic events may be purchased by calling (207) 581-BEAR or 1-800-756-TEAM.

Alumni and friends are invited to join the Alumni Association in the "GO BLUE" Celebration Tent, located at the north end of Morse Field inside the stadium, sponsored by IBM. Concessions and refreshments will be available, as well as face painting and music by the Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band. A game ticket is required for admission to the tent.

A popular attraction each year is the annual Alumni Association Craft Fair & Food Cafe in the UMaine Fieldhouse. Hours are Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 10-4. Admission is \$1.00; under 12 FREE. Over 220 vendors will have items for sale and on display.

Friday, October 22, the Alumni Association will be presenting the 2004 Spirit of Maine Achievement Award to Dr. Linden McClure, class of 1989. As a research and development engineer for Hewlett-Packard, McClure designs technical workstations and chipsets for microprocessors. He was also the lead engineer on embedded systems for a Space Shuttle payload for NASA. McClure is an adjunct professor at the University of Colorado, where he earned his masters and doctoral degrees.

The Spirit of Maine Achievement Award is given annually to an alumnus/a who has graduated in the last fifteen years

and whose "accomplishments, commitment, and initiative in a profession, business, or public service arena reflect the high standards and vitality of the University of Maine." This is the 4th year the Alumni Association has presented the award.

For additional information on UMaine's Homecoming weekend, visit www.mainealumni.com.

Public Welcome to Presentation on Nature's Mechanical Devices

29 Sep 2004

Contact: Sara Lindsay, School of Marine Sciences, 207-581-2739;
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777.

ORONO-- Barbed wire, chain saw cutters and the Wright brothers' airplane may be mechanical devices, but they are part of a story inspired by nature's own handiwork. Author Steven Vogel will tell that story as part of a public presentation, Copying Nature's Mechanical Devices: History vs. Mythology, at the University of Maine at 7:30 p.m., October 14.

Vogel is the James B. Duke Professor of Zoology at Duke University and the author of such books as Prime Mover: A Natural History of Muscle and Cats' Paws and Catapults: Mechanical Worlds of Nature and People. A reception will follow his presentation which will be in room 100, D. P. Corbett Business Building.

Vogel will also give a seminar, To Twist or Bend? Flexibility in the Face of Flow, about his research at 3:10 p.m. Oct. 15 in room 102, Murray Hall. His research interests center on understanding life in moving fluid. He authored a seminal book on the topic: Life in Moving Fluids: The Physical Biology of Flow.

"Dr. Vogel can speak to a broad audience, and we hope that his seminars will promote conversation among the diverse scientific community at the University of Maine and nearby colleges and research institutions," says Sara Lindsay, assistant professor in the School of Marine Sciences.

Sponsors include the University of Maine Chapter of Sigma Xi, with additional support from The Cultural Affairs Committee, Office of the V.P. for Research, Office of the Provost, School of Marine Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences, and Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Sept. 30 Concert Features Acclaimed "Plugged-In" Percussionist

28 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The UMaine School of Performing Arts is bringing a guest composer and percussionist to Minsky Recital Hall Sept. 30 to perform his "Music for a Plugged-In Percussionist" concert, an innovative and cutting-edge application of digital music in the area of percussion.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at Minsky Recital Hall in the Class of 1944 Hall. Admission is \$6.

Dan Moore, professor of music at the University of Iowa and head of the percussion program, plays a customized marimba, which he modified to augment the acoustic marimba with electronically-triggered sounds. Described as a "total percussionist" experienced with many aspects of percussion -- keyboard, drum set, ethnic, multi and electronic --

his music ranges from concert to marching and from jazz to classical.

Stuart Marrs, UMaine music professor, percussionist and chair of the School of Performing Arts Music Division, invited Moore to Orono because "he represents the forward-looking mix of technology and live performance, using digital technology to create performance music," Marrs says.

The music Moore will play, Marrs adds, "is very accessible music" for general audiences. "It's music that they know with technology of the future."

Moore has performed throughout the United States and in Japan and China.

In 1985, he formed the Britain/Moore Duo with Nashville-based steel drummer and percussionist Mat Britain. The BMD tours nationally with their eclectic mix of acoustic and electronic percussion. Their most recent CD, *Little World of Rhythm* (Cricket City 2001) was described by a reviewer as having "a musical spirit that lifts the soul."

Moore has presented performances and clinics at the prestigious Percussive Arts Society International Convention with The Britain/Moore Duo, with DigiJam with fellow plugged-in percussionists FutureMan of Bela Fleck and the Flecktones and first-call Nashville studio percussionist Tom Roady, among others.

At UMaine, Moore's program includes: "Sea Journey" by Chick Corea, "Boston Marathon" by Gary Burton, "Madam Orphosis" by Dan Moore, "interlude #1 (American)" by Dan Moore, "Blue in Green" by Miles Davis, "interlude #2 (African)" by Dan Moore, "My Funny Valentine" by Rodgers/Hart, "Bamboo" by Mike Mainieri, "interlude #3 (Brazilian)" by Dan Moore, "Meditation" by Antonio Carlos Jobim, "Blonde Vivant" and "Swing Swang Swung" by Dan Moore.

Ticket information is available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box office at (207) 581-1755.

Culturefest 2004 at UMaine Oct. 30

28 Sep 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The 2004 edition of Culturefest, the University of Maine's annual celebration of international and cultural diversity, is set for Saturday, Oct. 30 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the UMaine Field House.

Culturefest activities are designed to provide the community with opportunities to learn about and enjoy cultures from many of the 70 different countries represented at UMaine.

"This is the biggest international event on campus," says organizer Sarah Joughin of the UMaine Office of International Programs and National Student Exchange. "We usually have more than 1,000 people coming through the door. It's really pretty amazing."

This year, Culturefest will include cultural exhibits displaying posters, maps, videos, music, art, clothing, games, and an international food court where students will sell homemade ethnic food.

Visitors also can expect to see a style show featuring students modeling traditional clothing, a talent show including performances of song, dance and various other demonstrations and a children's exhibit with activities.

Joughin expects visitors will again come from as far away as central and eastern Maine, and beyond.

"It's a unique and rare opportunity to learn about and appreciate cultural differences," she says. Cultures from Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and the Americas will be represented, Joughin says.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information about the 17th annual Culturefest, contact the UMaine Office of International Programs at (207) 581-2905.

International Geology Conference in Bar Harbor

08 Oct 2004

Contact: Joe Kelley, Dept. of Earth Sciences, 207-581-2162, jtkelley@maine.edu; Joe Carr, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3571, jocarr@maine.edu

Note: news media representatives are welcome to cover the meeting or participate in field trips. Arrangements can be made by calling Joe Kelley, 581-2162, jtkelley@maine.edu. On field trips, reporters must provide their own transportation and meals.

ORONO, Maine -- The geological forces shaping the Maine coast will be a focus of an international conference in Bar Harbor Oct. 14-17. Sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and hosted by the University of Maine Department of Earth Sciences, the meeting will bring together more than 50 scientists for presentations and field trips.

Organizers of the event include UMaine geologists Joseph Kelley and Daniel Belknap, Duncan Fitzgerald of Boston University and Ilya Buynevich of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The meeting is titled Quaternary Land-Ocean Interactions: Driving Mechanisms and Coastal Responses, and will be held at the Atlantic Oaks by the Sea in Bar Harbor. It is part of a series of meetings known as the International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP).

The purpose of the IGCP meetings is to encourage international cooperation in research on geological problems, to promote the wise use of the Earth as a human habitat and a source of natural resources and to reduce the effects of natural disasters.

Speakers in Bar Harbor will address research on changes in sea level and coastal land forms around the world during and following the last Ice Age, a period known as the Quaternary. Topics will range from sea level change on the Maine coast and coastal salt marshes in Newfoundland to sea level fluctuations in Brazil, India and Scotland.

After presentations at the Atlantic Oaks all day Thursday and Friday morning, the participants will take a field trip on Friday afternoon to visit coastal sites on Mt. Desert Island in Acadia National Park. Field trips will continue through the weekend with visits to Downeast sites on Saturday and mid-coast Maine on Sunday.

New Publication Helps Answer the Question, "Who owns the beach?"

07 Oct 2004

Contact: Catherine Schmitt, Maine Sea Grant 207-581-1434, catherine.schmitt@umit.maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- Ask a Mainer who owns the beach, and you're likely to get several answers. "The beach is private property of the landowner." "The town owns the beach." "The public has the right to use the beach for fishing, fowling, and navigation." Sometimes the answer is a combination of these, or sometimes it's just a blank, puzzled look. Who

does own the beach in Maine?

Maine has thousands of miles of coastline, yet only a small percentage of the state's coastline is publicly owned. This contrast between private and public ownership can generate conflict between those who own the shore and those who wish to use and enjoy it, especially as more people move to the coast and recreational tourism increases. The public has certain traditional rights to the land between high and low tides, even where that land is privately owned, but understanding those rights can be tricky.

John Duff of the Marine Law Institute, University of Maine School of Law, and Maine Sea Grant have produced a publication to help people navigate the legal issues and technicalities of public access to the Maine coast. *Public Shoreline Access in Maine, A Citizen's Guide to Ocean and Coastal Law* reviews existing access laws, describes several landmark court cases that have established public and private rights to coastal land, and discusses options for communities seeking to secure public access to the coast. Printed copies of the publication are available from Maine Sea Grant at 207-581-1435 or kvillarreal@maine.edu. The document can also be viewed and downloaded from <http://www.seagrant.umaine.edu/>.

UMaine Marketing Club to Host National Marketing Expert

08 Oct 2004

Contact: Harold Daniel, 581-1933; George Manlove, 581-3756

ORONO -- Students from the UMaine Business School are bringing in a nationally known marketing research expert to campus Oct. 21 to meet with business students and address a public forum in the evening.

Local business owners and operators, or anyone interested in learning about the benefits of market research, are invited to attend the evening session, at 7 p.m. in the Room 101 lecture hall at the D.P. Corbett Building, adjacent to the back of the Maine Center for the Arts. The event, which will include a question and answer session and reception afterwards, is free, although members of the UMaine student chapter of the American Marketing Association will appreciate small donations to help cover expenses, according to Elizabeth Duran, chapter president.

Rodney Cober, executive vice president of client services for Burke Marketing Research headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, will spend the day meeting with students in Prof. Harold Daniel's marketing research classes, and address a broader public audience in the evening. Burke Marketing Research is a major supplier of marketing research services to international companies including many Fortune 500 companies like Proctor and Gamble.

Daniel, the faculty advisor to the UMaine AMA, formerly worked with Cober when Daniel worked in the private sector before pursuing career in academics.

The theme of Cober's talk will be the value of marketing research, including a novel concept in the industry using marketing research findings to calculate returns on marketing investments. Market research is a critical but often overlooked component of any business that relies on public perception of its company and products, according to Daniel and Duran, the president of the UMaine AMA.

"Personally, I think this event is really exciting, because this is a student-lead effort, and I think there is a crying need for this kind of program within the community," Daniel says. "Business owners and operators hopefully will get something out of it they can take back to their businesses."

Students, Duran says, look forward to hearing from an authority of Cober's caliber and they also are eager to talk with local business people about their marketing challenges. Daniel's marketing students previously have been recognized for their work with local small businesses, non-profits and national companies, helping to improve their marketing practices while offering students a practical educational opportunity.

"I think it's important to businesses and to students because it puts a real life perspective on business issues," beyond textbooks, Duran says. "I think it's really important for the businesses to attend these seminars because maybe they don't realize how important market research is."

Cober serves on the Burke Board of Directors and has been a member of the Board of The Council of American Survey Research Organizations. He holds undergraduate degrees from Valley Forge Military Academy and the University of Maryland and an MS in marketing from Penn State University.

Cober has overall responsibility for the quality of the measurement, analytical and consulting services that Burke provides its clients. In addition to its domestic business, he also is responsible for the coordination and implementation of Burke's worldwide customer loyalty and custom research programs.

Cober also brought the concepts of customer-driven service-quality to the Burke organization.

Further information about the UMaine visit is available by calling Daniel at 581-1933 or emailing him or Duran at hdaniel@umit.maine.edu or eduran@umit.maine.edu.

Maryann Hartman Awards Ceremony Oct. 13

06 Oct 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Gov. John Baldacci will pay tribute to Maryann Hartman at the 19th annual Maryann Hartman Award ceremony on Wednesday, Oct. 13 from 5-7 p.m. at the University of Maine's Buchanan Alumni House. The awards are named for the late Maryann Hartman, UMaine associate professor of Speech Communication and distinguished educator, feminist, scholar and humanist. Hartman was Baldacci's professor and debate coach when he was a UMaine student.

Each year the UMaine Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program recognizes four Maine women of achievement--women whose accomplishments provide inspiration for other women.

This year's recipients are Denise Altwater, who has integrated traditional cultural practices into her work with and on behalf of Wabanaki youth; Vivianne Holmes, who, as farmer herself and Cooperative Extension agent, has provided support for women farmers; and Leigh Saufley, the first woman to serve as Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. In addition, Safia Nur, a 2004 graduate of Lewiston High School who has worked courageously for civil rights in her school and beyond, will receive the Maryann Hartman Young Woman's Social Justice Award.

A 1976 UMaine graduate, Leigh Saufley of Portland is the youngest chief justice in Maine's history. A graduate of the University of Maine School of Law, she served as one of Maine's first female deputy attorneys general. She was appointed to serve on the Maine District Court (1990), the Maine Superior Court (1993) and the Supreme Judicial Court (1997), before being appointed chief justice in 2001. As justice, Saufley has been particularly concerned with the issue of domestic violence, as well as the safety and accessibility of the courts. She has served on the boards of the Advisory Committee for Professional Responsibility and the Advisory Committee for the Future of Maine Courts, among others

Agricultural educator and activist Vivianne Holmes of Buckfield has been a mentor of, advocate for, and organizer of Maine women farmers for over 25 years. She is currently an extension educator for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties. She was instrumental in organizing the Women in Agriculture Network (WagN) within Maine and New England. Using workshops, conferences and farm tours, Holmes has provided the leadership to enable Maine women farmers to gain access to funding capital and current research on the best management and agricultural practices. In addition, she is a founding member of Daughters of Yarrow, a

study/support group for lesbian farmers. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Maine Women's Fund.

As the director of the Wabanaki Youth Program of the American Friends Service Committee in Perry, Denise Altvater has worked tirelessly to provide opportunities and support for tribal youth. She is one of the primary organizers of the annual Youth Wellness Institute and has helped to create the Wabanaki Youth Alliance, which trains youth from each community in topics chosen by the young people. With other adults who had been placed in foster homes as children she helped train more than 500 Maine Department of Human Services workers in how to comply with 1978 federal law designed to reduce the high number of native children being sent to live with non-native families. She is also a founding member of Silent Cry, a group for sexual abuse survivors which has since evolved into an activist group called Screaming Eagle. In 2001 she received the Leadership Award presented by the social justice organization, Leadership for a Changing World.

Safia Nur came to Lewiston three years ago. She was among the first Muslim students to attend Bowdoin College's Upward Bound residential program. Trained by the Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence, she worked in her school community to organize the pro-diversity group that stood strongly against the white supremacists that marched in Lewiston and spoke eloquently at that rally. "Working for social justice takes passion, patience, and heart. I can't think of another student who embodies these three qualities to a larger extent," noted Bridget Mullen, Director of Upward Bound at Bowdoin. Nur is now a first-year student at the UMaine, majoring in International Affairs.

The ceremony is free and open to the public, but registration is requested. For more information and to request an accommodation please call Angela Olson at 581-1228.

UMaine's Thwarted Voices Concert Premieres "Forgotten" Music

06 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- UMaine Music Prof. Phillip Silver's annual Thwarted Voices concert Oct. 24, featuring music of Holocaust era composers, offers a diverse blend of compositions ranging from sensuously melodic to bold and powerful.

Now in its fifth season, Silver's Thwarted Voices concert series is deeply personal for him and an opportunity to perform what is called "forgotten music" composed by Jewish musicians victimized by the Nationalist Socialist racist policies of the Holocaust in Europe. Some composers perished in Nazi concentration camps and others escaped by fleeing, in some cases to America. But much of their music has remained unperformed over the years.

The concert is at 2 p.m. at Minsky Recital Hall in the Class of 1944 Hall. Admission is \$6. Traditionally, the concert has been in the winter, but Silver rescheduled it to fall because weather conditions are more accommodating.

For this year's concert, Silver has selected music composed both before and during the Nazi period. Contrary to some perceptions, the music is varied and much of it bright and spirited, unlike the dark and melancholy images of the Holocaust, says Silver, an internationally recognized piano soloist and collaborator who continues to research the music and musicians caught up in the Holocaust.

He is motivated, he says, by the tragedy of Holocaust and the loss for half a century in some cases of "extraordinary" music that has been suppressed by history.

"I'm overwhelmed by the high quality of the music," he says. "There really is a vast, vast amount of music that was lost for generations that is now slowly working its way back" for public enjoyment.

Silver will be joined on stage by cellist Noreen Silver, a UMaine School of Performing Arts music instructor, and Deborah Cook, an acclaimed international soprano and instructor of voice.

Aside from its historic significance, the music is generally appealing, Silver says.

"I think it's a very varied program, but it's also accessible," he adds. "The music will place demands on the listener but it's not going to turn anybody away."

This year's Thwarted Voices concert includes the American premiere of a suite for piano by Erich Zeisl, a powerful neo-romantic sonata for cello and piano by Karl Weigl, two Walt Whitman settings by Franz Schreker and the world premiere performance of a work by Paul Ben-Haim composed prior to his flight from Nazi Germany.

The music varies from "sensual, lush and French-oriented with a lot of impressionistic elements" (Ben-Haim) to "profound and morose" (Schreker).

Die Heinzelm

Northern Maine Children's Water Festival Set for UMaine Oct. 12

06 Oct 2004

Contact: Barbara Welch, Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection, 207-287-7682;
Ruth Hallsworth, UMaine Mitchell Center, 207-581-3196

ORONO, Maine -- They

Aroostook Farm Greenhouse Opening for Oct. 13

06 Oct 2004

Contact: Charlene Herrick, Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, 207-581-3204,
charlene_herrick@umenfa.maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station at the University of Maine will celebrate the completion and opening of a new greenhouse at the Aroostook Farm in Presque Isle on Oct. 13. Public bond referendum funds approved in 2003 provided most of the financing for the facility which will be used to provide year-around services to the Maine potato industry.

The open house event will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and will include tours of the facility and descriptions of research, including potato breeding and insect and plant disease studies.

The new greenhouse replaces a structure built in 1942. With 2,800 square feet, it is smaller than the original 4,400 square foot building, but a new layout and heating system give researchers more working room than was available in the old building. Moreover, the three individual sections have their own temperature and ventilation controls, allowing for greater control over conditions necessary for each research area.

From a maintenance standpoint, the old greenhouse had become very challenging to repair and service, and it was very expensive to heat during the winter months,

UMaine Graduate Students from Surry, Bangor Receive U.S. EPA Fellowships for Environmental Research

05 Oct 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- Two University of Maine graduate students have received fellowships from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support their research. They are Karen Merritt of Surry, a Ph.D. candidate in civil and environmental engineering, and Nicolas Blouin of Bangor, a master's candidate in marine biology.

They are among 124 recipients of fellowships recently awarded to students conducting environmental research throughout the country. The value of the award is \$70,000 over two years for Blouin and \$105,000 over three years for Merritt.

Mercury in sediments

Merritt works with UMaine engineer Aria Amirbahman on a new method for analyzing mercury in sediments. The system uses a thin membrane made of chitosan, a material that can be made from lobster and crab shells.

Merritt has a bachelor's degree in geology from Carleton College and a master's in the Dept. of Plant, Soil and Environmental Sciences at UMaine. She has taught shipboard marine science for the Sea Education Association of Woods Hole, Mass.

In her research, she and Amirbahman are using sediments from the Penobscot River to see how effectively the membranes pick up mercury. They chemically modify the chitosan membrane material to increase its mercury binding capacity. Merritt's goals are to determine the best way to adsorb (hold) mercury bearing compounds and to separate them by varying degrees of biological availability.

In previous research, Amirbahman tested the ability of chitosan beads made of raw crab shells to remove metals and other possible pollutants from wastewater. If successful for mercury detection, the chitosan system could improve the accuracy of mercury monitoring for environmental monitoring and clean-up activities.

Nutritious seaweed

Blouin is working with UMaine marine biologist Susan Brawley to understand the reproductive mechanisms and potential uses of a common seaweed known as Porphyra. The marine plant with the purple blade also goes by the popular names nori and laver and is used in a variety of food products ranging from Japanese sushi to casseroles.

"Porphyra has a great flavor," says Blouin, who has a background in commercial photography and a bachelor of fine arts from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

In his research, he divides his time between Brawley's laboratory on the Orono campus, the waters off Schoodic Point at Acadia National Park and UMaine's Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research (CCAR) in Franklin. At Schoodic, he collects Porphyra samples and studies its distribution and abundance. At CCAR, Blouin is studying techniques for growing Porphyra in tanks as well as its potential to grow alongside finfish aquaculture pens.

Porphyra blades of different species can be difficult to distinguish in the wild, says Blouin. In Orono, he dries and grinds the leaves in order to identify species by analyzing their DNA.

Brawley's research on Porphyra is funded by the Maine Sea Grant program. She has traveled to Japan to study Porphyra aquaculture and has focused her research on the plant's sexual and asexual reproduction. She and Blouin will travel to China this fall to study Porphyra growing and harvesting techniques.

UMaine Researchers, Federal Reserve Bank Official to Address Economic Development Conference at Lucerne Inn

05 Oct 2004

Contact: Todd Gabe, Dept. of Resource Economics, 207-581-3307;

Jim McConnon, Cooperative Extension and Dept. of Resource Economics, 207-581-3165.

ORONO, Maine -- Communities across Maine and the nation are struggling with a reduction in manufacturing jobs and issues related to changing demographics and fiscal crises. Mark R. Drabenstott, vice-president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and director of its Center for the Study of Rural America, will address these and other themes in his keynote speech at a conference, Opportunities and Challenges: Economic Development for Maine Communities, at the Lucerne Inn on Oct. 21.

The University of Maine Department of Resource Economics and Policy (REP) is organizing and sponsoring the meeting in order to provide information about resources to community leaders and others interested in economic development.

"Our goal is to pull together and explore information about the challenges and opportunities facing rural economies. Maine is at the forefront of these trends, transitioning from a manufacturing based economy to a more diversified economy," says James McConnon, associate professor in REP, small business specialist with UMaine Cooperative Extension and a conference organizer. Other organizers include Todd Gabe, Tai Cheng and Tom Allen of REP.

A morning panel discussion after Drabenstott's speech will include comments from Robert Baldacci of Pierce Atwood, LLP; Jonathan Daniels of Eastern Maine Development Corporation; Laurie Lachance of the Maine State Planning Office; and Steve Deller of the University of Wisconsin-Madison (formerly of UMaine).

Daniel Innis, dean of the Maine Business School, will provide remarks at noon, and UMaine researchers working on economic development issues will describe their studies in the afternoon. They include Greg White on grocery retailing, Kevin Boyle on land use change and Todd Gabe on tourism.

The meeting is scheduled to conclude at 2:30.

There is a \$30 registration fee which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. The registration deadline is October 18. More information is available here or from Todd Gabe, 207-581-3307.

Hudson Museum Lecture Addresses New Noah's Flood Theories

04 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- A discussion about some "incredible scientific sleuthing" that resulted in archaeological evidence of a sensational flood 7,600 years ago, which created the Black Sea, is the subject of a public lecture Oct. 8 at Minsky Recital Hall at the University of Maine.

Dr. Walter Pitman, special research scientist at the Lamont Doherty Observatory at Columbia University, also will pose questions about whether that flood may have been the one described in the Book of Genesis and the source of Noah's Flood.

His lecture, titled "Evidence for and Implication of the Black Sea Noah's Flood: Geology, Archaeology, Language and Myth," begins at 7 p.m. The lecture is free.

In the 1990s, Pitman, a geophysicist, and Dr. William Ryan, an oceanographer at Columbia, scientifically documented evidence of a cataclysmic flood that refilled the Mediterranean basin and turned the Garden of Eden into a "sea of death."

Pitman and Ryan detail their findings in their book "Noah's Flood," published by Simon & Schuster in 1999.

Basing their conclusions largely on soil samples and other evidence from the bed of the Mediterranean and Black seas, the two marine geologists hypothesize that "this cataclysmic event, in which the Atlantic Ocean burst through the Strait of Gibraltar and refilled the Mediterranean basin, turned a Garden of Eden into a sea of death. The Black Sea people fled, never to return, migrating as far as Western Europe, Central Asia, China, Egypt and the Persian Gulf."

Ryan and Pitman speculate that the former inhabitants and their descendants, through oral traditions, preserved the memory of the traumatic flood, which they say may have been the source of Noah's Flood.

Flooding most likely was caused by melting ice caps, which raised the levels of ocean's as much as 300 feet, causing the Atlantic to breach the Strait of Gibraltar, previously dry land, according to Harold Borns, UMaine professor of geological sciences and quaternary studies. Borns calls the research "incredible scientific sleuthing."

The New York Times in 1999 wrote about Pitman and Ryan's theories: "While the authors have yet to win over skeptics of the Black Sea flood's possibly sweeping influence on history, other scientists have weighed in with new findings that seem to confirm the fact of the flood itself.

"In about 5600 BCE, with rising global sea levels, salt water from the Mediterranean and Aegean seas apparently burst into the Black Sea, then a landlocked freshwater lake. The Black Sea rose with terrifying swiftness, inundating more than 60,000 square miles of coastal plains and giving the body of water its current size and configuration," the Times wrote.

Among the scientists expressing interest in Pitman and Ryan's theory is oceanographer Robert Ballard of Titanic-exploration fame. The search for archaeological evidence of Noah's biblical ark continues in the mountains of the region, Iraq, Iran and Turkey.

The lecture is sponsored by the Hudson Museum and the Climate Change Institute at UMaine. Information is available on the Hudson Museum website: www.umaine.edu/hudsonmuseum.

UMaine's Wiemann Wins Aaron Copland House Music Residency

12 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- UMaine music professor, composer and performer Beth Wiemann has been selected for a 2004 Aaron Copland Awards residency at the former home of composer Aaron Copland near Peekskill, N.Y., an historic rural hide-away for emerging and talented musicians to work uninterrupted.

The expenses-paid residencies offer gifted composers the opportunity to live for three to eight weeks at Copland's restored, landmark home one hour north of New York City, to focus undisturbed on their creative work, according to the Copland House.

Typically, six to eight gifted, emerging or mid-career American composers each year are invited to reside, one at a time, at Copland House, Aaron Copland's restored, longtime New York home. There they can focus on their creative work, free from the distractions of daily life and other professional responsibilities. As guests of Copland House for three weeks to two months, their meals, housekeeping, local transportation and other needs are provided.

Copland House jurors reviewed 90 applications from composers in 28 states to select eight winners this year. Jurors considered composers breaking new ground in musical genres that include "uptown and downtown, electronic and acoustic, progressive and traditional and emerging and mid-career," Copland House says.

Wiemann's compositions include synthesized classical music, often featuring clarinet, saxophone, voice or piano, sometimes involving video.

A clarinetist and composer who joined the UMaine faculty in 1997, she has performed on several compilation CDs, Wiemann recently released her first full length compact disk, "Why Performers Wear Black," released by Albany Records and featuring soprano Susan Narucki and pianist Christopher Oldfather. The music incorporates Wiemann's interest in setting words with electronic and digital technology.

The Copland residency will be the fifth for Wiemann this year. Currently on sabbatical, she also has received expenses-paid fellowships at Yaddo in upstate New York and at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, N.H.

Wiemann earned a bachelor's degree at Oberlin College and a master's and Ph. D. at Princeton. She maintains homes in Bangor and in Maynard, Mass.

UMaine Art Faculty Exhibit Runs Oct. 15-Nov. 19

12 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- artNOW!, an exhibition of new work by University of Maine Department of Art faculty can be seen from Oct. 15 to Nov. 19 in the Carnegie Galleries on the UMaine campus.

ArtNOW! brings together the art of 22 faculty members in an exhibition of 80 pieces of new work, says MaJo Keleshian, gallery coordinator.

This year's work includes photographs, paintings, drawings, prints, ceramics, books, mixed-media, sculptures and installations. The exhibit opens Friday, Oct. 15 with a reception from 5-7 p.m. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

The work is "a representation of the creative productivity of the faculty," says Mike Lewis, a painter and professor of art. "It's the equivalent of research in other departments."

Anyone who has taught art in the department in the last year was invited to submit work for the exhibition.

"Each faculty member is developing conceptual ideas that are addressing a very broad range of issues, interests and concerns," says Lewis. "They have to figure out which materials to use in expressing the ideas, the concepts -- personal, social or political. It's a full spectrum of contemporary interests."

Lewis' work, "Beauty and Darkness," for instance, depicts fields, trees, clouds and light, overshadowed by a sense of darkness.

"They start with the landscape, but try to move the viewer to an inner space, more emotional and more mystical," he says. "It's a response to the current scene, especially the political scene where there is all this beauty in the world, but also this inability to function peacefully. There is a sense of ambient darkness that hovers over us."

Assistant Professor of Art Sam Van Aken, who teaches sculpture, has a piece consisting of 16 tomatoes with teeth, some real and some from dentures, titled "Killer Tomatoes." It is a statement about how technology transforms the way we live, he says, an absurd transformation of a similar piece he created about genetic engineering of fruit combined with the concept of a B-grade movie ("Attack of the Killer Tomatoes") coming to life.

Adjunct Professor Wayne Hall calls the exhibit "a spot in time," since "everybody's work is always changing." Few

people have a chance to see the collective talent and creativity of the Department of Art faculty in one location, he says.

"Nobody really sees it all until you have a faculty show," says Hall, who teaches three-dimensional design and wood sculpture. Hall's work, "Studies from the Wood: Branches and Bridges" includes pieces of beech and red maple from his Bucksport studio, where he creates wooden furniture from saplings, twigs and tree branches.

"I have these pieces all around me that arise like Haiku," Hall says. "I sort of live with these materials, literally, every day."

Keleshian, who works with watercolors and wax to replicate marks made in nature, says her three pieces, titled "de rerum natura", are part of a series.

Nationally Renowned Scholars to Participate in the Conference on the Intellectual Commons at the University of Maine

08 Oct 2004

Contact: James Campbell, Dept. of Spatial Information Science and Engineering, campbell@spatial.maine.edu, 207-548-2200 ORONO-- Nationally renowned scholars Hal Abelson of MIT and Peter Suber of Public Knowledge will join local presenters at the "Copyright, Scholarship, and the Case for Open Access: A Conference on the Intellectual Commons" on Saturday, November 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Orono at the D.P. Corbett Business Building at the University of Maine. The conference is free and open to the public, although pre-registration is necessary.

Recent developments in copyright law, digital technology, and an unprecedented concentration of media ownership are limiting traditional channels of access to information in the United States. The Conference on the Intellectual Commons will investigate emerging options for scholars, teachers, authors, artists, entrepreneurs, non-profit agencies, and others to access or re-use work produced by others in new ways, and to make their own work more widely available through the information commons.

Hal Abelson, a Professor at MIT, is a founder or founding director of the Creative Commons, of Public Knowledge, and of the Free Software Foundation. He has also played an instrumental role in the development of DSpace, open-source software that allows a university to "capture, distribute and preserve the intellectual output of its faculty and researchers" in local repositories in a way that makes that output available to the public.

Peter Suber is a national leader in seeking to expand access to scholarly knowledge in today's digital environment. He is currently the Open Access Project Director at Public Knowledge in Washington DC, and a Senior Researcher at the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC). He is also a lawyer as well as a research professor at Earlham College where he taught as a full time faculty member from 1982-2003.

Neeru Paharia, the San Francisco-based Assistant Director of the Creative Commons, will demonstrate some of her organization's latest innovations in finding, re-using, and distributing music, movies, art, and text.

Faculty from University of Maine system campuses will also lead sessions. The conference will explore topics such as: Scholarly Publishing in the Digital Age; Economics of Open Access; Artists, Creators and the Commons -- New Approaches to Sharing and Disseminating Work; Libraries and Access to Scholarly Information; and Alternatives to Traditional Copyright -- Why and How.

The Conference on the Intellectual Commons is sponsored by the University of Maine Information Science Collaborative, Fogler Library, the Technology Law Center at the University of Maine School of Law, Still Water and a number of professional organizations concerned with preserving and expanding access to digital information. There is no fee to attend but pre-registration is necessary due to space limitations. Information on the conference and registration is available on the Web at <http://library.umaine.edu/COIC>

UMaine College Hosting "Great Conversations"

08 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- With topics ranging from criminal justice to the creative economy, robots to conservationists, Maine's first occupants to modern Franco American culture, a new roundtable discussion program at UMaine offers alumni attending Homecoming 2004 some "Great Conversations."

Sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the program will give alumni and members of communities near the university a chance to talk with faculty members about topics that inspire teaching and research at the University of Maine.

Scheduled for 11 a.m. Oct. 23 in the Coe Room of the Memorial Union, the hour-long event will bring together faculty and guests in roundtable discussions over morning coffee and snacks, with up to five guests and a professor at each table.

The conversations include an examination of "Why the Criminal Justice System Can't Work," led by Steven Barkan, professor of sociology, and a discussion of "Economic Development, the Creative Economy and the Liberal Arts," with Tony Brinkley, professor of English.

Elise Turner, computer science professor will share her knowledge of artificial intelligence (and consciousness) at a table focused on the question "Will my grandchild's best friend be a robot?"

History professor Richard Judd will answer the question "Was Audubon a conservationist?" while guests at another table Joline Blais, new media professor, and Susan Pinette, director of the Franco American Studies Program will explore how new media can enhance the future of Franco American culture.

"Great Conversations is a wonderful opportunity for people to tap into the intellectual energy of the college," says Dean Ann Leffler. "Homecoming weekend is a perfect time to recreate and celebrate the learning that UMaine students and faculty do together."

To reserve a space at one of the six tables, contact Kathryn Olmstead (kathryn.olmstead@umit.maine.edu) at 125 Stevens Hall on the UMaine Orono campus, (207) 581-3844. Admission is free and seating arranged on a first-come, first-served basis.

Details on discussion topics follow:

"Maine's First Occupants," with Brian Robinson, assistant professor in the anthropology department and the Climate Change Institute: Fortunately for us, Native Americans who arrived in Maine about 11,000 years ago liked high-quality materials for their tools. By tracking these tools to their original sources, we can also track their movements across the landscape.

"Will my Grandchild's Best Friend be a Robot?" with Elise Turner, associate professor of computer science and department chair: Movies like "AI" and television shows like "Star Trek: The Next Generation" portray human-like robots. How close are we to having such robots in our midst? Can robots ever be conscious? If they are conscious, what should their status in society be?

"Economic Development, the Creative Economy and the Liberal Arts," with Tony Brinkley, associate professor of English: The strength of the creative economy reflects a community's power to create a prosperous cultural and economic future for itself and for its heirs. The liberal arts are central to this project, to the cultural and economic future of Maine. To link the two is to recognize that economic development without cultural development is soulless, and that

cultural development without economic development is impoverished.

"Why the Criminal Justice System Can't Work," with Steven Barkan, professor of sociology and department chair: Government statistics on crime and justice indicate that a "get tough" approach to crime that relies on arrest and imprisonment is ultimately an ineffective method of reducing the crime rate. A sociological understanding suggests that a crime-reduction approach grounded in a public health strategy offers much more promise.

"Was Audubon a Conservationist?" with Richard W. Judd, professor of history: An exploration of our ideas about nature and conservation. Why do we hold the natural in such high regard? Where did our ideas about nature conservation and preservation come from?

"Creating a Future: Franco Culture and New Media," with Joline Blais, assistant professor of new media, and Susan Pinette, director of Franco American studies and assistant professor of modern languages: As a new generation of Franco Americans begins to recover its often overlooked culture, a major obstacle is the power of "corporate culture," which makes us consumers of Hollywood or Pixar stories rather than creators of our own. Franco American studies can provide ways to reflect on the complexities and richness of our culture, while new media can provide tools, rationale and contexts for moving from consumer and corporate culture to a local "open culture" rooted in Franco American experience.

U.S. Diplomat Hillas (UMaine '76) to Speak at

08 Oct 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Kenneth M. Hillas Jr., the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Prague, will return to his alma mater on Wednesday Oct. 13 to give a talk, "The Enlargement of the European Union." UMaine's second event in this semester's International Affairs Lecture Series, Hillas' lecture is co-organized by UMaine's International Affairs Program and the U.S. State Department's Bureau for Public Diplomacy.

Hillas graduated from UMaine in 1976. In his current role, he is the principal adviser to the ambassador and serves as the chief operating officer of the embassy. His distinguished 24-year career with the Foreign Service has included posts in Russia, Italy, Serbia and South Africa.

His Wednesday talk is scheduled for 12 noon in the Bodwell Lounge, Maine Center for the Arts. Hillas is expected to address a variety of issues, including whether the European Union will retain its capacity to act with the addition of new members and whether the eight former Communist countries that are now part of the EU have become genuine democracies.

Board of Visitors to Welcome Kennedy, Discuss Future at Tuesday Concluding Session

25 Oct 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine Board of Visitors, authorized by the Maine Legislature in 1997 to advocate for the university and advise its administration, will hold its annual two-day on-campus meeting Oct. 25 and 26 at UMaine's Buchanan Alumni House. As the meeting concludes on Tuesday, Board Chair H. Allen Fernald will host a session, "Building the Future," at which he will formally welcome Interim President Robert Kennedy on behalf of the board.

Fernald and Kennedy will both offer remarks about UMaine's direction and the critical role the board will continue to play. Members of the UMaine community and news reporters are invited to the session, which will begin at 2:30 p.m.

"More than ever, it is important for UMaine to turn to the Board of Visitors for assistance as we position the university for the future," says Kennedy, who became UMaine's interim president on Aug. 15. "We are making concrete plans, within the context of the University of Maine System strategic plan, which calls for UMaine to continue its leadership role as the system's flagship university. We will rely heavily on the counsel of the board members to help us choose the proper course of action."

Kennedy will also discuss the four new committees he has created to work on specific strategic planning concerns. Each committee will have Board of Visitors representation, along with representation from the UMaine faculty and other segments of the university community. The committees will study the following:

- Fogler Library
- Graduate education
- UMaine's role in the Higher Education Park planned for Bangor
- Distance education/outreach centers

"These concerns are central to our planning, and our long-term ability to positively affect Maine, through teaching, research and engagement with communities across the state," says Kennedy, who discussed the committee structure with UMaine's Faculty Senate last week.

On Monday, the board approved the nominations of three new members:

- Maria Fuentes of Hallowell, the executive director of the Maine Better Transportation Association and a 1985 (MBA) UMaine graduate
- Catherine Scott-Craig Newell of Locke Mills, who earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from UMaine in 1968 and currently serves as executive director of the Maine Adult Education Association
- Matthew Rodrigue, a Wilton native who graduated from UMaine in 2004 and currently works as a Massachusetts-based controls engineer with Woodard and Curran

As described in the law authorizing its existence, the board can have up to 20 members. Each of the seven universities in the University of Maine System has its own Board of Visitors. UMaine's board meets four times each year.

9/11 Commissioner Bob Kerrey to Speak at UMaine Nov. 9

22 Oct 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

Note: a photo of Bob Kerrey is available upon request.

ORONO, Me. -- Bob Kerrey, president of New School University and former Nebraska governor and U.S. senator, will visit the University of Maine on Tuesday, Nov. 9 to deliver UMaine's second Governor's Distinguished Lecture.

A collaborative effort of UMaine and the Maine governor's office, the Governor's Distinguished Lecture Series brings to UMaine a governor or former governor who has expertise in international politics. Last year's speaker was New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson.

UMaine President Robert Kennedy and Maine Gov. John Baldacci will introduce Kerrey at the Nov. 9 event, which is scheduled for 11 a.m. in the Maine Center for the Arts. Baldacci and Kerrey worked closely together when they were members of Congress.

Kerrey was Nebraska's governor for four years before his election to the U.S. Senate in 1988. He was re-elected to the Senate in 1994 but chose not to run again in 2000, instead assuming the presidency of New School University in New York City.

"We are looking forward to Sen. Kerrey's visit," says UMaine President Robert Kennedy. "He has an enviable record as one of the most distinguished public servants of the past two decades. He is an educator in the true sense of the word, and we anticipate a talk that will add measurably to our collective understanding of important national and world issues."

Kerrey, who served as vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, was the unanimous choice of the lecture series committee. Beyond his role as a university president, he has been involved in education on many levels, including a leadership role in a bipartisan Congressional Web-based Education Commission.

Kerrey served as a member of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, better known as the 9/11 Commission. The commission interviewed over 1,200 people in ten countries and reviewed more than two and one-half million pages of documentation. The commission's report is number two on the New York Times best seller list, and has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. It provides a serious and thoughtful analysis of all the issues related to the terrorist threat, and provides a framework for public policy discussions about terrorism.

That experience will provide the context for Kerrey's UMaine talk which will be titled "Inside the 9/11 Commission: How Safe Were We? How Safe Are We? How Safe Can We Be?"

"The chapter on the 'Foundation of the New Terrorism' is well balanced and objective, and one of the best summaries of the rise of Bin Laden and Al Qaida I have read so far," says Prof. Bahman Baktiari director of UMaine's International Affairs Program. "The recommendations for improved Congressional oversight are solid and they will lead to important changes in oversight practices."

The event is free and open to the public, with no advance ticketing required. Seating will be limited, so those planning to attend are asked to plan to arrive early. Doors will open at 10 a.m.

Note: Kerrey and Baldacci will be available to reporters at a news conference immediately following the lecture. It will be held in the Bodwell Area of the Maine Center for the Arts.

Fogler Library Reception to Introduce New Jewish Video Collection

21 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine's Project Opportunity is inviting the campus community and the public to a reception Oct. 25 from 4-5:30 p.m. at Fogler Library to hear about the newly acquired Jewish Heritage Video Collection.

The 200-title collection of videos on Jewish life, history, culture and humor, which is now available to schools and community groups statewide, is the result of a grant from the Charles Revson Foundation in New York acquired by Laura Lindenfeld, director of Project Opportunity at UMaine and instructor of film and media criticism, and a generous matching donation from the Norman Minsky and Renee and Leonard Minsky families of Bangor.

The \$12,500 acquisition will strengthen Judaic studies on campus and provide a rich cultural resource for the public throughout Maine. The films, housed at UMaine's Fogler Library, can be used in UMaine classes, by Jewish community groups and in schools throughout Maine. Anyone can borrow the films through the Maine interlibrary network.

The reception will be in the second-floor Faculty Club at Fogler.

Brief remarks will be offered about the significance of the film collection by Norman Minsky, Laura Lindenfeld, Ann Leffler, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, interim UMaine Provost John McMahon and UMaine's interim president Robert Kennedy.

The collection of films -- some humorous, some serious and some tragic -- includes titles like "Annie Hall," "Shalom Sesame," "A Rug Rats' Passover," "Europa, Europa," "The Diary of Ann Frank," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Yentl" and "Exodus," plus television programs that involve some aspect of Judaism. They range from work by journalist Bill Moyers, Mel Brooks and Woody Allen to old Jack Benny, Sid Caesar and Jerry Seinfeld reruns.

Along with many of the videotapes come suggested course materials to highlight questions and activities teachers, both on campus and off, might consider for existing courses and resources for entirely new classes.

Cuba, Nicaragua Spring Break 2005 Tours Available

21 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine's Peace Studies Program is organizing trips in February and March to Cuba and Nicaragua, offering a first-hand look at the social, political and economic effects of global trade policies on the two developing nations.

The trips over spring break are open to anyone who would like to visit farms, families, schools, health and social work facilities, cultural institutions and government organizations, according to organizers Barbara Blazej and Dallas Anderson of the UMaine Peace Studies Office.

While the UMaine delegation to Cuba in February 2004 was limited to students, Blazej has now expanded participation to the general public.

The trips are sponsored by Witness for Peace, a Washington-based non-profit organization that supports peace, justice and sustainable economies in the Americas by changing U.S. policies and practices that contribute to poverty and oppression. The travel ban and trade embargo against Cuba prohibits United States citizens from going there, unless through an organization licensed through the U.S. Department of Treasury. Witness for Peace is licensed to sponsor trips to Cuba.

Blazej, a UMaine Peace Studies Program lecturer and director of the Youth Violence Prevention Project, says the U.S. trade embargo has been devastating to the civilian population of Cuba.

"Current North American perceptions of Cuba and negative propaganda have given an outdated and distorted image of Cuban society," Blazej says. "On this trip, we will observe first hand the results of an obsolete U.S. economic and political policy. We will see how the Cubans creatively endure the effects of the US 'bloqueo.'"

While both trips will have social and political themes, the Cuba trip, in particular, will expose delegation participants to the effects of the trade embargo the United States imposed on Cuba after revolutionaries overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959, Blazej says.

Travelers depart Feb. 27 and return March 7. Contact Blazej for details about "Lessons from Cuba: Myths, Realities, and Visions for the Future" at Barbara.Blazej@umit.maine.edu or call 207-581-2625. The price of the nine-day Cuba trip is \$975, which covers all expenses except air fare.

The Nicaragua delegation will examine how United States economic free trade policies affect the people, workers and culture, according to Dallas Anderson, an international affairs and Spanish major helping to organize travel arrangements.

Delegates from Maine going to Nicaragua Feb. 28 -- March 9 will have an opportunity to speak with the Nicaraguan people most affected by free trade and an unjust global economic system, says Anderson, who is coordinating the "Nicaragua From the Inside: The Impacts of Globalization" trip.

Delegates also meet with those who make and promote the policies to share what they have learned and to advocate change. Participants will spend a few days in the home of a Nicaraguan family in a farm community, learn about Nicaragua's struggle for debt relief and meet the maquila workers behind the "Made in Nicaragua" label.

The price of the 10-day trip is \$825, which does not include air fare. Anderson can be contacted for details at Dallas.Anderson@umit.maine.edu or by calling 207-581-2625.

A deposit of \$150 must be paid by Nov. 1 for those interested. Call or email for an application. Up to 25 people may participate in each trip.

Peace Week at UMaine Features Buddhist Activist Sulak Sivaraksa

21 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756 ORONO -- Sulak Sivaraksa, Thailand's most prominent lay Buddhist social activist and author -- and visiting Libra Professor -- will lead Peace Week discussions Oct. 26-Nov. 4 at UMaine.

Peace Week is an annual series of lectures sponsored by the university Peace Studies Program.

Sivaraksa is widely known as a major figure in the international socially engaged Buddhist movement. He has been deeply concerned with environmental destruction and has organized groups, including Buddhist monks, to preserve local environments, principally forests that are essential to village economies.

Sivaraksa, the author of "Seeds of Peace" among other books on Buddhism and peace, also was the founding editor of the "Social Science Review," Thailand's leading intellectual journal until it was suppressed by the government in 1976, and he established the first of many foundations to inspire young Thais to dedicate their lives to social justice. One of his best known is "International Network of Engaged Buddhists," which sponsors publication of "Seeds of Peace," a journal titled after his book and published several times a year. He has written hundreds of essays and articles in Thai and several collections of essays in English, including an autobiography, "Loyalty Demands Dissent," and "Global Healing."

The American Friends Service Committee has nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize, although he is the recipient of a well-known international award, the Right Livelihood Award.

"For this campus to have him come here is quite a feat," says Hugh Curran, adjunct professor of Peace Studies. "He is very much unlike what you would expect an activist to be. He is a kind of scholar activist."

Curran invited Sivaraksa to come to UMaine under a joint Libra Professorship through the Peace Studies Program and Philosophy Department after meeting Sivaraksa at Harvard University, where he was a visiting professor recently. Sivaraksa also has been a visiting professor at Swarthmore and Smith colleges.

"He is a major voice on peace and environmental issues," Curran says.

Sivaraksa's environmental views include fierce criticism of government and commercial exploitation of nature on both national and global levels. He believes that the qualities of simplicity, responsibility and care are essential to the preservation and conservation of nature, and that we have to return to a mindful awareness of the interdependence of human beings and nature.

His environmental ethics are based on the Buddhist principles of a deep respect for nature and the well being of all. He has established a conference center (an Ashram) on the outskirts of Bangkok for contemplative and socially engaged educational purposes.

Critical of global consumerism and international development motivated by profit and greed, Sivaraksa has said the world faces a crisis "that demands a revolution no smaller than the one that led Europe out of the Middle Ages."

After attending the University of Bangor in Wales in the early 1960s, Sivaraksa earned a law degree in Thailand and became a university lecturer, publisher and editor.

His schedule at the University of Maine is as follows (Sessions noted below are free and open to the public):

Tuesday, Oct. 26, Keynote Speech for Peace Week, 101 Neville Hall, 7-9 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 28, Socialist & Marxist Luncheon Series: A talk on "A Buddhist Response to Free Market Fundamentalism," Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 1, Philosophy Colloquium, Levinson Room, The Maples, A talk on "A Buddhist Analysis of Self," 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 2, Meditation Session, Drummond Chapel, Memorial Union, 5-6 p.m.

Thursday, Nov.4, A talk at the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park St., Bangor, 7 p.m.

UMaine Intensive English Institute Preps for Japanese Students

21 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The UMaine Intensive English Institute is planning for the February-March visit by more than two dozen Japanese college students, and again is seeking host families in the area.

Institute Director Chris Mares will need even more families than volunteered to host the visiting students last February and March. The number of visitors has grown by a third, from 17 students last semester to 25 in 2005.

The program's success has increased similarly, says Mares, who is in Japan, having been invited to Hirosaki University and nearby public schools in Japan Oct. 13-24 to present seminars on new English-teaching methods.

Mares, whose expenses will be paid by Hirosaki University, a sister school to UMaine in Aomori Prefecture in northern Japan, will give demonstration English language classes in elementary, middle and high schools in the area, in addition to leading workshops for practicing teachers at Hirosaki University.

New teaching methods include a focus on English language and American cultural immersion, Mares says. The three-week course for visiting Japanese students focuses on U.S. culture, especially the lives of the people of Maine, both past and present.

Last year the students made Penobscot baskets, listened to story tellers, met lobstermen, foresters, watched maple syrup being made in the university woods and learned to square dance.

Attaching real activities and living with Maine families as a part of the exchange blends a cultural understanding with learning English, giving the latter more relevance, says Mares.

"Following the natural approach to language acquisition, the principle underlying the program is that if students are motivated and if the material is interesting and presented transparently at a level students can understand through clues other than simply language, then language acquisition will occur," he says.

Last year the program was particularly successful, as Mares arranged for the Japanese students to stay with host families in the area and introduced them to "conversation partners," to meet informally and chat about everyday issues.

UMaine faculty, staff and members of the surrounding communities participated in the program.

"They get a lot more in terms of language on one hand and they get a lot in terms of cultural influence, a real massive experience," Mares says. "Because they are coming to Maine, we give them information about Maine and this area."

The visitors will learn about basket-making from the Penobscot Nation, New England story-telling and even about native birds and owls.

"We're trying to give them a true and rich experience," Mares says. Sponsors also took the students to visit Quebec City last March.

The program is separate from the university's International Student Exchange program, but the English language immersion course fuels the exchange program, Mares says. It also assists in achieving the university's goal of promoting increased cultural diversity and understanding on campus and in the community.

The students study at UMaine for three weeks under the auspices of a language and culture program, but receive credit from Hirosaki.

As part of the program, UMaine students may choose to study in Japan, and, in fact, two UMaine students have already studied Japanese language and culture at Hirosaki University. The Japanese university is looking actively for more UMaine students to continue that tradition, according to Mares. The program includes provisions for tuition waivers and a limited number of scholarships.

UMaine students receive transferable foreign language credit from Hirosaki University by taking a three week course at the IEI.

Since the University of Maine has relationships and exchanges with universities all over the world, Mares says administrators are exploring opening the door for similar English immersion visits to and from other countries and cultures.

The Japanese students will need housing convenient to the Orono campus for the last week in February and the first two weeks of March.

Mares can be reached at (207) 581-3895 for more information.

Grand Opening for Engineering and Science Research Building

21 Oct 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine College of Engineering and Laboratory for Surface Science and Technology (LASST) will celebrate the grand opening of the new \$16 million Engineering and Science Research Building on campus at 1:30 p.m. October 22. Supported by funding passed by Maine voters in 2002, the ESRB hosts laboratories and offices for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and LASST.

A highlight of the new building is a 3,500 square-foot clean room for research and development in the areas of nanotechnology, microfabrication, sensors, and biotechnology. Research progress in such areas has led to the establishment of six spin-off companies in Maine in recent years. The clean room is the only such facility in northern New England and is one of approximately 25 university-based clean rooms of its kind in the U.S.

The Pizzagalli Construction Company of South Burlington, Vermont was the contractor for the 51,000 square-foot building which was designed by the architectural firm of Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott of Boston. In addition to laboratories and offices, the building includes a new Arthur St. John Hill Auditorium named for the professor who served ECE from 1918 to 1964.

Interim University of Maine President Robert Kennedy will welcome guests. Speaking at the grand opening will be four UMaine graduates, a representative of Maine state government and UMaine officials. Among the graduates are Stephen Swan, process engineering manager for National Semiconductor, Inc., and Mark Waite, president of Launch Momentum, LLC and vice-president of Stillwater Scientific Instruments.

Swan graduated from UMaine in 1982 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. His expertise is in the area of semiconductor device technology, process control and operations management. He holds an MBA degree from the University of Phoenix and is an author on two patents. He lives in Windham, Maine.

Mark Waite received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology with a minor in Business Administration from UMaine in 1982. He co-founded Launch Momentum with Dan Martin to help the Maine technology community transform ideas into successful businesses. Waite's role at Launch Momentum and Stillwater Scientific Instruments is to evaluate potential business opportunities, and provide strategic business development and marketing expertise that will propel company growth.

Representing state government will be Jack Cashman, commissioner of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development.

Waldo Libbey, ECE professor emeritus and a graduate of the University of Maine Class of 1943, will speak on the legacy of Arthur St. John Hill.

Maine Sea Grant Director Elected to National

20 Oct 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu;
Paul Anderson, Maine Sea Grant, 207-581-1435, panderson@maine.edu

ORONO-- Paul Anderson, director of the Maine Sea Grant College Program at the University of Maine, has been elected to the post of the president elect of the National Sea Grant Association (NSGA), a non-profit organization in Washington D.C. Anderson will become president for a two-year term beginning in 2007 and serve on the organization's board of directors for two-year periods prior to and following his term.

"This gives us an opportunity to show leadership at the national level," says Anderson who has served on the NSGA board as the secretary for the past two years. NSGA supports the growth and implementation of the \$62 million national

Sea Grant College Program by working with Congress and federal agencies.

Members of the organization include the directors of all 30 Sea Grant programs throughout the country as well as officials affiliated with Sea Grant. The group provided testimony to Congress and the U.S. Oceans Commission which released a report last spring outlining potential changes in U.S. policies affecting the marine economy and environment.

Members of the NSGA also work with the Sea Grant parent organization, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to integrate Sea Grant research with other ocean science programs. Anderson will help steer Sea Grant through the federal reauthorization process which is due to occur in 2007.

"As president-elect and president, it's expected that I'll be on call to provide testimony to Congress as needed," says Anderson.

UMaine receives about \$1 million in Sea Grant funding annually and was dedicated as a Sea Grant College in 2004, following more than 20 years as a joint program with the University of New Hampshire. In 2005, Maine will host National Sea Grant Week, an annual event for all Sea Grant programs, at the Samoset in Rockport.

UMaine Conference will Focus on Open Access to the "Intellectual Commons"

19 Oct 2004

Contact: James Campbell, Dept. of Spatial Information Science and Engineering, campbell@spatial.maine.edu, 207-548-2200 ORONO, Maine -- Nationally renowned scholars Hal Abelson of MIT and Peter Suber of Public Knowledge will join local presenters at the "Copyright, Scholarship, and the Case for Open Access: A Conference on the Intellectual Commons" on Saturday, November 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the D.P. Corbett Business Building at the University of Maine in Orono. The conference is free and open to the public, although pre-registration is necessary.

Recent developments in copyright law, digital technology, and an unprecedented concentration of media ownership are limiting traditional channels of access to information in the United States. The Conference on the Intellectual Commons will investigate emerging options for scholars, teachers, authors, artists, entrepreneurs, non-profit agencies, and others to access or re-use work produced by others in new ways, and to make their own work more widely available through the information commons.

Hal Abelson, a professor at MIT, is a founder or founding director of several organizations, including the Creative Commons, Public Knowledge, and the Free Software Foundation. He has played an instrumental role in the development of DSpace, open-source software that allows a university to "capture, distribute and preserve the intellectual output of its faculty and researchers" in local repositories in a way that makes that output available to the public.

Peter Suber is a national leader in seeking to expand access to scholarly knowledge in today's digital environment. He is currently the Open Access Project Director at Public Knowledge in Washington DC, and a senior researcher at the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC). He is also a lawyer as well as a research professor at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana where he taught as a full time faculty member from 1982-2003.

Neeru Paharia, the San Francisco-based assistant director of the Creative Commons, will demonstrate some of her organization's latest innovations in finding, re-using, and distributing music, movies, art, and text.

Faculty from University of Maine system campuses will also lead sessions. The conference will explore topics such as: Scholarly Publishing in the Digital Age; Economics of Open Access; Artists, Creators and the Commons -- New Approaches to Sharing and Disseminating Work; Libraries and Access to Scholarly Information; and Alternatives to Traditional Copyright -- Why and How.

The Conference on the Intellectual Commons is sponsored by the University of Maine Information Science

Collaborative, Fogler Library, the Technology Law Center at the University of Maine School of Law, Still Water and a number of professional organizations concerned with preserving and expanding access to digital information. There is no fee to attend, but pre-registration is necessary due to space limitations. Information on the conference and registration is available on the Web at <http://library.umaine.edu/COIC>

UMaine Presenting Provocative Play "Bent" Oct. 22-31

18 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The next UMaine School of Performing Arts theater production, opening Oct. 22 at Hauck Auditorium, tackles the poignant and provocative "Bent," a play depicting the treatment of homosexuals in Nazi Germany, and the persecution and terror the characters face during their imprisonment in camps during the reign of the Third Reich.

The play, by Martin Sherman, follows the journey of Max, a homosexual who is ripped from his carefree, hedonistic lifestyle and thrown into a concentration camp where homosexuals are viewed as subhuman. Max masquerades as a Jew to prolong his survival, but meets Horst, whose sensitivity leads Max to reconsider his identity as a gay man. What follows is a unique love story defying their oppression.

"Bent" encourages audiences to evaluate the untold truths of history and the identities that society forces upon individuals. History classes have long focused their Holocaust lessons on the Jewish people who fought to survive in Nazi Germany, but say comparatively little about the persecution, murder and torture of political prisoners, the disabled and homosexuals.

"Audiences may be surprised to see very beautiful, very likable, very sincere, very good men depicted onstage in 'Bent,' who just happen to be homosexual, and what terrible consequences they face only because they are gay," says Sandra Hardy, associate professor of theatre and director of the production.

"Bent" was first seen at the Royal Court Theatre in London in 1979 with Ian McKellen in the central role of Max Berber. When the play was produced on Broadway afterwards, actor Richard Gere led a cast that included David Dukes and David Marshall Grant. Hardy was in the audience and was moved by the story and the insights it provides about being gay.

"Both audiences and students of theatre should be challenged by the play being produced, and I thought the time had come to do a play about homosexuality," she says.

Hardy hopes her choosing the play is viewed as having the courage to risk controversy and provide the kind of theater that promotes change.

"For those people who come to the theater to be entertained, to be told what they want to hear, to be satisfied when they leave the theater that things are good and right, if you come to the theater not to think but to laugh and hum and to escape, this is not for you," Hardy observes. "This is a piece for smart theater-goers who want to be stimulated both intellectually and emotionally."

"Bent" has received a Tony nomination for Best Play and won the Dramatists' Guild's prestigious Hull-Warner Award. It is recommended for mature audiences, says Hardy, because of the subject matter. It is being produced Oct. 22-23 and Oct. 29-30 at 7:30 p.m., and Oct. 24 and Oct. 31 at 2 p.m. Admission is \$8; more ticket information is available at (207) 581-1755.

UMaine Professor, Students Help with Election Day Polling

01 Nov 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Amid the flurry of excitement and activity as Mainers flock to the polls to settle state referendum questions and a presidential election on Nov. 2 will be a group of University of Maine political science students helping with exit polls for state and national polling services.

UMaine Political Science Prof. Amy Fried again has recruited nearly a dozen of the students in her American Public Opinion class to interview voters as they exit polling stations in area precincts throughout the day on Tuesday.

Some will be volunteering for journalist Mal Leary of Capitol News Service in Augusta and Christian Potholm, a Bowdoin College professor and a political consultant seasoned in public opinion polling. They'll collect voter opinions on the Palesky tax cap and bear-baiting referenda, and on state ballot questions.

Other students will gather information and opinions about Congressional and presidential elections for Edison-Mitofsky pollsters, who compile information used by the networks CNN, Fox and Associated Press.

Fried says students can learn about the political process through their experiences interviewing voters leaving polling stations. It helps cement what they learn from classes, according to Fried, and it helps polling companies gather reliable information.

Exit polling at elections are critical for university researchers like Fried, Potholm and others in political science fields to know how voters make decisions, in addition to when they make them and what personal information may be of interest to analysts.

It will be useful to know, for instance, says Leary, whether people voting on the Palesky one percent property tax cap own or rent their homes. Renters may be less interested than home owners in property tax issues.

Exit polling involves a list of questions designed to generate enough information to provide explanations of voting results, yet not consume too much polling time. Exit-poll volunteers will approach voters at random, usually every third or fifth voter, and will call in results on a periodic basis throughout the day.

News organizations, Leary adds, are hungry for exit poll results and are the basis for major news networks' predictions of outcomes. "I'm in it because I want to write the story in the morning," says Leary, who supplies Capitol News Service articles and broadcasts to the Bangor Daily News, the Lewiston Sun-Journal and radio stations throughout Maine.

"From an academician's point of view, they are saying we'd like to do what we like to do, which is analyze the data," he says. Leary and Potholm often collaborate during elections.

The UMaine students will join more than 100 other college students around Maine, including all of the University of Maine System campuses, some community colleges and Bates, Bowdoin and Colby colleges, plus high schools in areas where there are no colleges.

In addition to asking about voter choices, the student pollsters also will gather demographic information, including age, political affiliation, gender and occupation.

Fried believes that, on the whole, voters are truthful with pollsters. As part of her public opinion class requirements, Fried is requiring the students to write papers about their polling experiences.

New U-ME Vote Website Offers Debate, Discussion and Registration Details

29 Oct 2004

Contact: Joline Blais at (207) 581-4486
Jon Ippolito at (207) 581-4477 or George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- With city and town clerks signing up new voters in Maine by the thousands as Election 2004 approaches, two UMaine professors are worried that not all potential first-time voters have enough information to register to vote.

Joline Blais and Jon Ippolito, assistant professors of New Media and co-directors of the UMaine Still Water program, recently created and posted a new interactive website, U-Me Vote, a "clearinghouse" for election questions, Ippolito says. The site provides voter registration information and instructions, including local polling locations, access to websites, articles and opinion columns on election issues -- and a place where users can leave comments under election issue categories.

The non-partisan site, http://newmedia.umaine.edu/stillwater/ume_vote/, aims to educate, stimulate and convince young people of voting age to participate in what many people call the most important election in their lives.

"In this election," Ippolito says, "there is so much at stake for young people. I think they need to stand up and accept the mantle of citizenship."

Ippolito and Blais discovered from speaking with students in their classes that, while many are informed about the issues, many students have been discouraged from registering to vote for several reasons. Some had received inaccurate or incomplete information about how to register, what to bring for identification and where to take it, and others indicated they didn't feel informed enough about issues to vote.

"I think it's also a matter of them feeling a little bit intimidated," Ippolito says.

Blais hopes students will be inspired to become more involved.

"It's taking an active role rather than just consuming information from the media," she says. "Students can be better informed. They are playing a stronger role in their education and their participation in the political process."

Issues like the war in Iraq and the question of a new military draft, the economy and budget questions as they affect student loan availability or tuition costs, jobs after graduation or questions of reproductive rights may affect students immediately, Blais and Ippolito say, while issues of healthcare, social security, stem cell research and foreign policy loom in their futures.

"We've used this Internet technology to spark local discussions," Blais says. "We've tried to make space available for students' needs, both real and virtual, so we put a website up to address student concerns with election issues."

Because it can be edited by users, the site will be a work in progress, as visitors add topics, comments, resources, opinions and URLs. Already, students have begun discovering and using the site, which Blais, Ippolito and other faculty members have been promoting.

"We're hoping some people will feel encouraged to exercise the power that they don't realize they have," Blais says.

UMaine students, for their part, seem to like the U-Me Vote site.

"I haven't really seen many non-partisan websites," says Mia E. Dow, campaign coordinator for UMaine Republicans. "I certainly haven't seen a website like the one Joline and Jon have put up. That is a really good database. It seems like

UMaine Theater Performing Native American Play

29 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine Department of English and School of Performing Arts have teamed up to bring nationally acclaimed Native American playwright William S. Yellow Robe Jr. to campus this fall to teach a playwriting class and direct one of his plays that explores myths about Native Americans.

Yellow Robe, also a poet, fiction writer and actor, is a member of the Assiniboine Tribe from the Fort Peck Reservation in northeastern Montana. He is a visiting Libra Diversity Professor at UMaine this fall as a result of collaboration between the chairs of the English department and the Division of Theatre and Dance of the School of Performing Arts.

Currently the Playwright in Residence at Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, R.I. and artistic director of No Borders Indigenous InterTribal Theatre Company, Yellow Robe has written 44 plays, including musicals, children's theater, comedies and dramas.

At UMaine, a mostly Native American cast, including students and non-students of varying ages, will perform Yellow Robe's play "Better 'n Indins" at the Edgar Allen Cyrus Pavilion Theater beginning Nov. 11.

The play is a comic satire about non-Native misconceptions of "Indian" identity and the experience of being "Indin" in a non-Native dominant culture, according to Margo Lukens, associate professor and chair of the English department.

"It's a picaresque play," Lukens says, "that takes you on a tour of misconceptions about Indians. Some scenes are sad and some are hilarious. We're going to be setting the entire theater as a kind of hokey trading post museum."

The production also takes the theater division a step further with development of its community outreach efforts, Lukens says. The division produced another of Yellow Robe's plays "A Stray Dog" Oct. 6 as a Readers Theater presentation, in which actors used minimal costume and sets and read their scripts on stage.

"This is the first time these actors are doing a full production with lights, sets and costumes," she says. "This is the development of this group of actors. It will be a wonderful evening of entertainment -- unlike any other."

In addition to teaching a course on playwriting, Yellow Robe will train assistant directors, Lukens says, to carry on producing intertribal theater after Yellow Robe returns to Rhode Island, where he is also a guest lecturer and visiting professor at Brown University in Providence.

Yellow Robe is a member of Theater Communications Group, Inc., the Dramatists' Guild of America, Inc. and was the first playwright to receive the Native Book Award for drama at the former Returning the Gift conference in Norman, Ok.

His plays have been produced at the Public Theater/NY Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Group Theater, American Conservatory Theater, the Mark Taper Forum and elsewhere.

"Better 'n Indins" runs Nov. 11-13 and Nov.17-20 at 7:30 p.m. and at 2 p.m. on Nov. 14 and 21. Admission is \$6; students with MaineCards are admitted free.

New Director Named for Statewide Coaching Education Center

29 Oct 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO-- A Pittsfield native has been named director of the statewide coaching education center headquartered at the University of Maine and will lead implementation of the new online coaching eligibility course being piloted this fall.

Karen Brown, a 2002 graduate of UMaine, earned her master's degree in Recreation Parks and Sports Leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University and worked as promotions coordinator for the University of Richmond's Division I sports before returning to her home state to spearhead the activities of the Maine Center for Sport and Coaching (MCSC).

A priority for Brown will be overseeing the MCSC's new online coaching eligibility course, which introduces aspiring coaches to information supporting positive and healthy athletic competition. The curriculum, researched and written over the past year, incorporates varied dimensions of coaching such as developmentally appropriate practices for students of different ages, organizational and planning skills, effective communications with players, parents and the community, and the role of coaches in contributing to the mission of the school and to the state academic standards -- the Maine Learning Results.

Endorsed by the Maine Principals' Association (MPA), which oversees secondary interscholastic sports and coaching eligibility in Maine, the UMaine College of Education and Human Development and the MCSC, the course is currently being piloted by seven high schools from Portland to Caribou. It will be available statewide in January.

"The Maine Principals' Association looks forward to our relationship with the Maine Center for Sport and Coaching and its new director, Karen Brown," says MPA Executive Director Richard Durost. "The online eligibility course is expected to provide an effective, cost-efficient option in helping Maine high school coaches meet the MPA coaches' eligibility requirements, thereby serving the high school student athletes of Maine."

Since its establishment in 1992, the coaching center has provided on-site and ITV training at the basic and instructor levels that has enabled more than 7,000 Maine coaches to meet coaching eligibility standards. With the online course, the MCSC can offer a much broader resource and support system for coaches, according to Brown.

"The most effective coaches understand the academic and personal demands on students and when athletic expectations become unrealistic," she says. "We want the center to serve as a network with the shared philosophy of 'kids first.' Certainly, winning is important, but when it becomes a pressure and the main focus, then it becomes a problem."

Brown, who played three sports in high school and college basketball, is looking forward to building the MCSC into a full professional development resource for aspiring and practicing coaches with positive results for Maine student-athletes.

"Karen has displayed a passion for sport and a desire to work closely with coaches, administrators, parents, student-athletes and others in the community to improve the overall educational experience for Maine's youth," says Robert Cobb, dean of the UMaine College of Education and Human Development and chair of the MCSC Advisory Council. "Her talent, energy, personality and character make her a wonderful fit for this leadership position."

Brown, hired following a national search, earned her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and Physical Education from UMaine, where she received the Wesley D. Jordan Athletic Service Award, presented annually to the senior who has demonstrated outstanding dedication, loyalty and perseverance in the name of Maine athletics.

More information about the MCSC and the online coaching eligibility course are available from Brown at (207) 581-2443; karen.brown@umit.maine.edu. The MCSC website can be reached at www.mcce.umaine.edu.

Farmers Eligible for Research Funds

28 Oct 2004

Contact: Rick Kersbergen, University of Maine Cooperative extension, 1-800-287-1426, richardk@umext.maine.edu

ORONO-- Farmers with an idea for a new sustainable agriculture technique are eligible to apply for research funding from the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (Northeast SARE). "This grant program has been available to producers for several years, and Maine has been very successful in receiving funding," says University of Maine Cooperative Extension Educator Rick Kersbergen.

The goal of the program is to develop, refine and demonstrate new sustainable techniques and to explore innovative ideas developed by farmers across the region. Information gained from these farm-based projects may be used to redirect future research priorities.

To apply, farmers must be in the Northeast SARE region that ranges from Maine to Maryland. They need not be farming full time, but the operation should have an established crop or animal product that is sold on a regular basis.

Nonprofit farms may apply, but the primary activity of the farm must be to produce and sell food under the kinds of economic constraints that affect commercial growers. Many community-supported farms qualify, but farms where the primary mission is educational normally do not.

The Northeast SARE Farmer/Grower grant program supports producers who want to try an experiment, trial or demonstration project on their farm such as a new technique for adding value, a new crop, a pest-management strategy or a method of direct sales. The goal of the program is to help farmers explore sustainable and innovative production and marketing practices that are profitable, environmentally sound and beneficial to the community. Successful proposals define a problem and offer innovative solutions. Proposals can address a broad range of agricultural production or marketing issues.

Before writing anything, farmers should talk with a technical advisor. All projects must have a technical advisor such as a county Extension educator, Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, a university research or Extension specialist, a private crop management consultant, or other agricultural professional. Although the technical advisor is required, the farmer should be actively in charge of the project.

There are two grant categories: grass roots and farm trial. Grass roots grants are experimental and innovative; the goal is to help farmers test new ideas. These are often ideas that farmers develop about the daily business of managing the farm. They should reflect the concerns and the barriers to sustainability specific to crops or products in the area.

Grass Roots grants have no set restrictions on content. They can experiment with a new crop, develop a machine or tool that does something new, try out a pest control or grazing technique, or explore adding value or a new way of marketing directly to the public.

Farm Trial grants support the adoption of specific practices. The goal is to field-test production techniques that have been previously researched and to gather data about results and effectiveness. This year, grants are being offered in several areas:

From Pulp to Polymers--UMaine Engineer Developing Integrated Forest Products Refinery

27 Oct 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu;
Adriaan Van Heiningen, Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering, 207-581-2278,
avanheiningen@umche.maine.edu

ORONO-- Wood pulp might make the paper industry go around, but this renewable product has untapped potential for a

variety of uses, according to a University of Maine professor. Adriaan van Heiningen works in the UMaine Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering on ways to squeeze more energy and new products from pulp.

With a three year \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy and a contract with International Paper, van Heiningen, who holds the J. Larcom Ober Chair in Chemical Engineering, is focusing on a portion of pulp that is known as hemicelluloses. In a pulp mill, most of the hemicelluloses end up in the spent pulping liquor and are burned. However hemicelluloses contain a considerable amount of oxygen and do not generate much heat when burned in industry boilers. Therefore van Heiningen wants to increase the value of hemicelluloses for the paper industry by using it for new value-added products ranging from ethanol to car fenders and table tops.

"The paper industry in the United States needs new sources of revenue to compete internationally and the U.S. needs alternative fuels to reduce its dependence on fossil fuel," says van Heiningen. "The process that I am working on could use more of the biomass (in trees) and produce more products at competitive prices."

Van Heiningen has more than 20 years of experience in pulp and paper research. He is working with UMaine professors Douglas Gardner and Joseph Genco, Research Engineer Haixuan Zou and graduate students Sefik Tunc and Ryan Mills on new uses of hemicelluloses extracted from wood chips before the chips are turned into pulp. In the laboratories of UMaine's Pulp and Paper Process Development Center, the wood chips are chemically extracted at varying temperatures and pressures, while hemicellulose-based polymers will be used by Gardner's group in the Advanced Engineered Wood Composite Center (AEWC) to make new composite products such as table tops and car fenders.

The trick, says van Heiningen, is to extract hemicelluloses in a way that preserves the quality of chips used in the standard Kraft chemical pulp process. After extracting hemicelluloses, the researchers run chips through that process to produce wood pulp. The extracted hemicelluloses may then be fermented into fuel ethanol and/or further converted into other chemicals to form industrial polymers. Van Heiningen's group is also looking into ways to add the hemicelluloses back into Kraft wood pulp to increase paper production.

Van Heiningen calls a future manufacturing plant that would use these technologies an "integrated forest products biorefinery." Just as in a petrochemical refinery, the amount of the different product streams produced by such a biorefinery would depend on the prices for pulp, ethanol, electricity and other products, van Heiningen explains.

"The basic concept is not new," says van Heiningen, "but we are developing new technologies that will make it economical, and keep our pulp and paper industry competitive."

Lighting Calculator, Mathemagician" to Draw High School, Middle Students to UMaine

25 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756 ORONO -- What do you get when you cross a mathematician with a magician?

Dr. Arthur Benjamin -- "Mathemagician."

A mathematics professor at Harvey Mudd College, one of the world's fastest "lightning calculators," a magician and frequent performer at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, Professor Benjamin is bringing his dynamic "mathemagician" show to the University of Maine.

He will perform on campus for more than 1,200 Maine students and teachers on Nov. 3, 4 and 5. A show for the general public is scheduled Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. in the 300-seat Room 100 at Donald P. Corbett Hall. The performance is free.

Benjamin will demonstrate and explain the secrets of rapid mental calculation and explain how he trained his mind to perform enormous mental calculations and remember long lists of numbers. He also will perform other feats of "mathematical magic."

The event is sponsored by the Maine Mathematics and Science Teaching Excellence Collaborative (MMSTEC) as part of its support of mathematics and science education in Maine.

Benjamin's show, says UMaine math Lecturer Amie Gellen, "is truly educational and inspiring. He's a distinguished mathematician and a fascinating person."

Gellen says response from schools has been overwhelming.

"We are tremendously excited about this outreach effort," Gellen says. "UMaine and MMSTEC are pleased to provide this exceptional educational opportunity for so many young people and the community."

Benjamin's calculating abilities are so quick that he goes beyond mere multiplication problems ending in seven-digit answers. He can square three-digit numbers in one second and four-digit numbers in about 15. In one calculator-racing performance, just to "test the accuracy" of the audience's calculators, he asked members of the audience for two numbers to multiply. Hearing 68 and 92, he asked the audience to be sure their calculators read 6,256 -- before the numbers could be punched in, according to an article in the Mathematics Association of America journal "Math Horizons."

"MMSTEC wants to show students how enjoyable, even amazing, math can be. Dr. Benjamin will give people a new perspective on mathematics," Gellen says, "and hopefully inspire them to attend the University of Maine and consider a career in mathematics education."

Benjamin has appeared on The Today Show and National Public Radio and has been featured, in The Los Angeles Times, Scientific American and Discover Magazine. He is the author of several books and has presented his mixture of math and magic to audiences all over the world.

MMSTEC (<http://www.EducateMe.info>) activities at UMaine are coordinated by Robert Franzosa and Amie Gellen of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, John Donovan, who holds a joint appointment with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the College of Education and Human Development, and Herman Weller of the College of Education and Human Development.

Under the direction of University of Southern Maine Prof. Richard Stebbins, MMSTEC began as a collaborative effort involving educators at UMaine, USM, the University of Maine at Farmington and the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance. It has grown to include participation from University of Maine System campuses in Machias, Fort Kent, Presque Isle and Augusta, and Maine's community colleges.

The collaborative operates on a \$4 million, five-year grant from the National Science Foundation with an overall goal of reducing the shortage of math and science teachers in Maine through better recruitment, preparation and support.

The '60s Revisited; History Teachers Conference Tackles Era of Hope, Rage and Change

25 Oct 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine History Department's 2004 conference for Maine middle and high school teachers will tackle the exciting, tumultuous times of the 1960s on Oct. 29 at the Buchanan Alumni House.

The day-long event, titled "The 1960's: A Decade of Hope, Rage, & Change," will feature talks and panel discussions on wide variety of aspects of one of the most influential periods in the lives of today's baby-boomers and the generations that followed.

The event, now in its 10th year, draws approximately 100 teachers to the Orono campus each year and serves as a forum for discussing and disseminating recent scholarship and ways of incorporating aspects of the new material into Maine's middle and high school curricula.

It also is an excellent opportunity to strengthen ties between secondary schools and university educators, says Alexander Grab, a UMaine history professor. The conferences highlight topics related to presenting history in the classroom. Each year, the history department picks a different topic.

"We have a wonderful selection of topics and panels this year arranged around the theme of the conference," Grab says.

Many people who experienced life in the '60s may not remember the period vividly. Others, many of whom are young teachers today, may have only heard or read about the philosophies and politics of the '60s that engulfed the western world.

"Especially if they are history or social studies teachers," Grab says, this year's conference "adds to their knowledge and understanding."

Speakers include UMaine faculty members who are experts in their fields, and can speak to the 1960s period with perspective and insight about issues including feminism, black power, racial equality, imperialism and the Vietnam War.

Both keynote speaker Prof. Maurice Isserman of Hamilton College in upstate New York and Richard Judd, a UMaine history professor, are national authorities on the 1960s.

"I think it will be a great program, even if you are not a teacher," Grab says. "it will be great for just listening."

Last year the program theme was moral problems in history.

The 2004 conference begins with coffee and registration at 8:30 a.m., opening remarks at 9 a.m., and concludes at 3 p.m. The cost of the conference is \$25, which includes morning coffee, tea and pastries and a buffet luncheon.

Isserman's talk, "Old Glory on Mt. Everest and Other Ironic Tales from the Sixties," begins at 9:15 a.m.

For a small fee, students attending the conference can receive 0.6 CEU credits. Participants with disabilities requiring accommodation should contact Grab at 581-1928 or the University of Maine History Department at 581-1908 as soon as possible to make arrangements.

The schedule is as follows:

- 8:30-9 a.m., Registration and coffee
- 9~9:15 a.m., Introduction and greetings
- 9:15-10:30 a.m., Keynote address: Prof. Maurice Isserman, Hamilton College, "Old Glory on Mt. Everest and Other Ironic Tales from the Sixties"
- 10:30-10:45a.m., Coffee Break

Panels:

- 1:45-12:15 p.m.
- 1. Culture and Campuses
- Prof. Nathan Godfried, UMaine History Department: "Changing Visions of Imperial America: Mass Culture of the 1960's"

- Prof. Richard Judd, UMaine History Department: "The Environmental Movement in the 1960s"
- Prof. Burt Hatlen, UMaine English Department: "The Vietnam War and Campus Radicalism: The University of Maine in the 1960's"

2. Teaching the 1960's in Maine High Schools

- Katheryn King, Hampden Academy
- James Smith, Bangor High School
- Marc Halstead, Northfield High School, Montpelier, Vt.,
- Joel Hills, Hampden Academy
- Lunch: 12:15-1:15

Panels

- 1:15-2:45

1. Women and Minorities

- Prof. Mazie Hough, UMaine Women in the Curriculum: "Beyond Bra Burning -- A Historical Perspective of the Women's Liberation Movement"
- Prof. Maureen Smith, UMaine director of Native American Studies and History: "The 1960's in Maine's Indian Country: The Affirmation of Ancestral Activism"
- Prof. Marli Weiner, UMaine History Department: "Struggle for Racial Equality in the 1960's: The Civil Rights Movement"

2. US Foreign Policy, Vietnam and Canada

- Prof. Elizabeth McKillen, UMaine History Department: "The US in Vietnam: Aberration or Culmination?"
- Prof. Ngo Vinh Long, UMaine History Department: "The Vietnamese Revolution and US Counter Insurgency"
- Prof. Scott See, UMaine History Department: "The Peaceable Kingdom? Canada in the 1960s"

Buchanan Alumni House is located at 160 College Avenue, next to Lengyel Gym.

Coverage Details Related to Tuesday's Bob Kerrey Lecture at UMaine

07 Nov 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Bob Kerrey, the former Nebraska governor and U.S. Senator who currently serves as president of New School University in New York City, will visit the University of Maine on Tuesday, Nov. 9. In an 11 a.m. appearance at the Maine Center for the Arts, Kerrey will deliver the second talk in the Governor's Distinguished Lecture Series, a collaborative effort of Gov. John Baldacci's office and the University of Maine. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson

delivered the inaugural lecture in October 2003.

Kerrey, who will be introduced by Baldacci and UMaine Interim President Robert Kennedy, will discuss "Inside the 9/11 Commission: How Safe Were We? How Safe Are We? How Safe Can We Be?" Kerrey served as a member of the commission, which recently released a well-received report. Kerrey has autographed several copies of the report, which will be for sale at the lecture for \$7 each.

Some details that may be of interest to news organizations covering the event:

- Seats will be reserved for reporters in the back row of the lower section of the Hutchins Concert Hall;
- The program is expected to take about one hour; it will be followed by a news conference with Kerrey and Baldacci in the Bodwell Lounge (upstairs in the Maine Center for the Arts building);
- Media parking spaces will be reserved in the parking lot opposite the front doors of the MCA;
- An audio and video mult box will be available at the back of the lower level, near the facility's audio board; a UMaine video camera will be placed in the tenth row center; it will feed a signal into the mult box;
- Photographers will have the opportunity to use the balcony and concert hall side doors to shoot cutaways;
- A large crowd is expected; reporters are asked to arrive early if possible.

UMaine Canada Week Celebrates Canadian-American Center's 25th Anniversary

05 Nov 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- In celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary, the University of Maine Canadian-American Center will focus its annual Canada Week activities on assessing the state of Canadian studies in the United States.

Planned in conjunction with UMaine's annual International Week, Nov. 8-12, Canada Week will take a retrospective look at Canadian studies, says Raymond Pelletier, associate director of the Canadian-American Center and associate professor of French.

The public is invited to all events, which are free.

"This is an especially meaningful Canada Week for us," Pelletier says. "This is the twenty-fifth year that the UMaine Canadian-American Center has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Resource Center."

The center administers the most extensive Canadian program in the United States, according to Pelletier.

The UMaine Canadian-American Center, located at 154 College Ave., is part of the New England Consortium of the Study of Canada, which includes the University of Vermont and Plattsburgh State University in New York.

With nearly 20 faculty members dedicated to or teaching courses involving Canadian studies, and regular student-faculty field trips to Canada, Pelletier says the UMaine program "is the leading institution for studies on Canada in the country."

Canada Week is a 25-year-old tradition at UMaine, but this year, teachers, professors, students and the members of the community will discuss how Canadian studies evolved at UMaine and consider future directions for the curriculum, Pelletier says.

"Anybody who's had anything to do with Canadian studies over the last 25 years is invited to celebrate with us," he says. Invited guests include members of the Consortium, representatives from the Canadian Consulate in Boston and Quebec Delegation in Boston.

Public events begin Nov. 9 with the Canadian Studies Luncheon and Lecture Program acknowledging the Canadian-American Center's 25 years as a national resource center on Canada. It's being held from noon to 2 p.m. in the Mahogany Room at Wells Commons. Reservations are requested by calling (207) 581-4220.

Guest speakers include: George Sulzner, University of Massachusetts professor of political science and president of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, Robert Babcock, UMaine professor emeritus of history, Stephen Hornsby, director of the UMaine Canadian-American Center, and Victor Konrad, former director.

On Nov. 10, from 12:15-1:30 p.m. at Bodwell Lounge in the Maine Center for the Arts, as part of the Alice Stewart Graduate Student Lecture Series, speakers include: Hans Carlson, "St. Croix to Stats-Can: Politics and Mapping French History in the Canadian Maritimes;" Sarah Domareki Kazmierczak, "To stay or to go? A literary and historical study of Quebec emigration to New England, 1820-1930" and Lise Pelletier, "Acadian Renaissance: The Struggle Continues." A box lunch will be provided. Reservations are requested by calling (207) 581-4220.

On Nov. 12, from 3-6 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union, Distinguished Lecturer Allan Greer, professor of history at the University of Toronto, Canadian social historian and former UMaine faculty member, will speak on "Canada in the History of Colonial North America: National, Transnational, and Imperial Approaches."

On Nov. 18, from 3-5:30 p.m. at Bodwell Lounge, Canada-in-the-Classroom, a K-12 After School Workshop titled "Acadian History and Culture, Two Approaches: Teaching French Fluency, and Teaching with the Explanatory Maps of Saint Croix & Acadia. Refreshments, handouts and continuing education credit will be available. Reservations are requested.

More information about the program is available by calling Betsy Arntzen at the Canadian-American Center, located at 154 College Ave. on the Orono campus, at (207) 581-4225, or by emailing to barntzen@umit.maine.edu. Additional information also is on the Canadian-American Center website at <http://www.umaine.edu/canam>.

UMaine Music Professor Phillip Silver Joins Advisory Board for International Music Project

03 Nov 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Phillip Silver, a UMaine associate professor of music, research and performance, has joined the advisory board of The Inextinguishable Symphony Project, an international educational project that tells the story of the little-known Jewish Cultural Association, formed in 1933 in Nazi Germany.

Based on the book, "The Inextinguishable Symphony," published in 2001 by music scholar and former National Public Radio host Martin Goldsmith, the project includes a 90-minute Public Broadcasting Service television documentary, a worldwide concert tour, a collection of CDs and companion educational programs. It is expected to reach 58 million people in the United States and around the world in major cities from Los Angeles to Berlin, beginning in 2005.

The book and documentary are based on Goldsmith's research on the Jewish cultural organization Kulturbund Deutsche Juden ("The Cultural Association of German Jews") formed as a private venue for Jewish performers and artists after the Third Reich banned Jews from public employment. The title of the book and documentary draw their names from Danish composer Carl Nielsen's Symphony No. 4: The Inextinguishable Symphony.

Goldsmith's parents were members of the Kulturbund orchestra, but were able to get exit visas to the United States in 1941 -- the year the Nazis disbanded the Kulturbund and shipped its members to concentration camps.

As an advisory board member with the project, Silver joins 13 international authorities on Holocaust era music, including Leonard Slatkin, music director of the National Symphony Orchestra, Bret Werb, music specialist at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Eugenia Zukerman, flutist and correspondent for CBS News' "Sunday Morning."

Silver, whose own relatives died in the Holocaust, says he is privileged to be asked to serve on the advisory board.

"I didn't think twice about it," he says. "I said I would gladly participate."

The film, expected to be released in early 2005, includes rarely seen archival footage of the Kulturbund in its hey-day, in addition to interviews with Goldsmith, his father and other surviving members of the organization. The project is an opportunity to preserve an important glimpse at pre-World War II history, according to Silver.

As an advisory board member, Silver will help promote and publicize The Inextinguishable Symphony Project, which relies on charitable contributions for funding. His role will take him to New York City in May to perform music of Ignaz Straszewski, composer and former conductor for the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera who emigrated from Germany to the United States.

In addition to teaching, Silver, a pianist and recognized authority on music of the Holocaust era, lectures and performs internationally and on a regular basis at UMaine. His annual "Thwarted Voices" concerts feature the diversity of music of the Holocaust. On the UMaine faculty since 1998, Silver also has recorded several CDs under the Koch/Schwann label.

Annual Children's Book Drive Gears Up

01 Nov 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine College of Education and Human Development, in partnership with the Old Town-Orono Kiwanis Club, has launched the 27th annual drive to collect books for needy youngsters. The public is invited to join in the tradition by donating new books suitable for toddlers to teens.

Established by College Dean Robert Cobb, the community book collection has made thousands of books available to deserving area children. The College takes the lead in collecting the books, and Club members distribute them at the service organization's annual holiday party for area children.

Books, gift wrapped if possible and marked for a particular age level, may be brought to Cobb's office, 151 Shibles Hall, through Friday noon, Dec. 3.

The UMaine Bookstore in Memorial Union is again joining the College to boost the number of books collected and children served. The Bookstore will be collecting books for the drive starting November 15. For every book purchased for the drive, the Bookstore will contribute a book of equal value. Children's books will be 25 percent off during Children's Book Week, Nov. 15-20.

Patent Protection Workshop Targets Students and Faculty Inventors

03 Nov 2004

Contact: Sharon Malm, UMaine Target Technology Incubator, 866-6500, sharon.malm@umit.maine.edu

ORONO- Coming up with a good idea and figuring out how to make it work are just the beginning of successful innovation. Getting that idea patented is also key. Students and faculty members can get a glimpse of the patent process at a two-hour workshop in the Memorial Union's Coe Room at noon Wednesday, November 10.

The meeting will provide information about the basics of patent rights. Participants will also learn how to conduct a patent search.

"This will be a unique opportunity to better understand the patent process and the resources available to assist inventors to determine the patentability of an innovation and the steps necessary to successfully secure a patent," says Debbie Neuman, director of the Target Technology Center, co-sponsor of the event.

Woody Higgins, director of the Maine Patent Program and Lois Nase of the Maine Patent and Trademark Depository Library in Fogler Library will give presentations.

Other sponsors of the event are the UMaine Innovation Center, the Maine Patent Program, the Maine Patent and Trademark Depository Library and the law firm of Eaton Peabody.

For more information contact Sharon Malm at 866-6500 or sharon.malm@umit.maine.edu.

UMaine, Hampden Academy Symphonic Bands to Perform Nov. 17 at MCA

15 Nov 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine Symphonic Band will share the stage at the Maine Center for the Arts Nov. 17 with Hampden Academy musicians as UMaine Director of Bands Curvin Farnham presents the fall symphonic band concert.

Hampden Academy's symphonic band will open the program at 7:30 p.m. at Hutchins Hall. The UMaine symphonic band will perform second on the program after a brief intermission.

The Hampden symphonic band, under the direction of Patrick Michaud, will present a program of traditional band music including, "Rise of the Firebird" by Steven Reineke, "Adagio" by David Holsinger and "Chorale and Capriccio" by Ceasar Giovannini.

After intermission, the UMaine symphonic band will perform a program of band literature selected from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The program includes "Pacific Commemoration" by Mark Camphouse, "Trauersinfonie" by Richard Wagner and "To Tame the Perilous Skies" by David Holsinger.

The program's musical range includes the somber funeral procession, "Trauersinfonie," in honor of German composer Carl Von Weber, whose body was moved in 1884 -- 18 years after his death -- from London to Germany for a grand ceremonial burial, to "Pacific Commemoration," composed to represent the past and future of Pacific University in Oregon. The second half of the piece, representing the university's future, is a vibrant and optimistic fanfare, according to Farnham. A spirited march by turn-of-the-century Pennsylvania composer Frank Panella, "On the Square," also is on the program. The piece was played by the U.S. Army Band on the field of the 1924 World Series baseball games.

Holsinger wrote "To Tame the Perilous Skies" for the 564th Tactical Command air force band at Langley Air Force

Base and provides musical insight into the "dangers and excitement faced by military aviators as they 'tame the perilous skies,'" Farnham says.

Farnham says the program offers exciting and entertaining music from both symphonic bands and also is a great opportunity for the university to share one of Maine's finest concert halls with local school musicians and to expose the students to UMaine's talented and well-practiced musicians.

UMaine graduate students of conducting Gina M. Provenzano of Blue Hill and Dean Paquette of Ellsworth will be assistant conductors for the university symphonic band.

Concert admission is \$6. Ticket information is available at the Maine Center for the Arts box office at (207) 481-1755.

Veteran's Day Ceremony to Commemorate 1943 UMaine Army Unit

10 Nov 2004

Contact: Steve Adam, (207) 581-2262; George Manlove, (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- A special Veteran's Day memorial ceremony will be observed Thursday, Nov. 11 at the University of Maine to commemorate the addition of newly discovered names of World War II casualties who attended UMaine in 1943 as part of a specialized U.S. Army training program.

A plaque bearing the names of former Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) members will be hung near a plaque bearing 52 original names put up in a Veteran's Day commemoration in 2002.

ASTP veteran Robert McKinney of Old Town will formally present the plaque to UMaine Interim Provost John Mahon. Also representing UMaine at the presentation will be Larryl Matthews, dean of the College of Engineering, and Maj. Diane Dunn, executive officer of UMaine ROTC.

The informal public ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. in the lobby outside the Minsky Recital Hall auditorium in the Class of 1944 Hall, where the original plaque is displayed.

The ASTP originated when the U.S. Army sent soldiers to various colleges to learn special war skills. The detachment assigned to UMaine was designated as the "pre-radar" group, and arrived on campus beginning in the summer of 1943 to study electrical engineering and other related disciplines. Army records list the maximum number of ASTP soldiers at UMaine was 516.

In March of 1944, the army decided need for infantry replacements was more pressing than the need for technical specialties, so the army disbanded the ASTP and sent detachments to combat units in Europe. Most of the UMaine ASTP troops first went to Tennessee to join the 104th Infantry Regiment and the 26th Infantry Division (Yankee Division).

Between 1944 and 1945, more than 10 percent of the UMaine ASTP soldiers were killed in action, with as many as 75 percent wounded, in historic campaigns that included the Battle of the Bulge and the crossing of the Rhine River.

In 2002, the UMaine College of Engineering hosted a reunion for the surviving ASTP members who began their service in Orono. About 60 ASTP veterans attended, many seeing each other for the first time since the unit disbanded.

The reunion included a memorial service in which a plaque was presented to the university commemorating the names of 52 UMaine ASTP veterans identified as killed in action. Since then, surviving ASTP members have located the names of several additional members who were killed in World War II.

Additional information is available by calling Steve Adam, advancement officer, UMaine College of Engineering, at (207) 581-2262.

UMaine Business School to Host Open House Nov. 17

08 Nov 2004

Contact: Richard Grant, 581-1973

ORONO -- The University of Maine Business School invites the public to an open house Nov. 17 to learn more about its business graduate programs, which could be tickets to new career opportunities.

Some of the business school faculty members will be on hand from 5-7 p.m. in the Donald P. Corbett Business Building to answer questions and describe recent improvements to the Masters of Business Administration and Masters of Science in Accounting programs, says Richard A. Grant, director of business graduate programs at UMaine.

The open house will be of interest to college seniors and people from the surrounding communities considering coming back to school for a graduate degree. A short presentation on the benefits of the two graduate degree programs is scheduled at 5:45 p.m.

"For people looking to pursue a career in business, an MBA is extremely important," Grant says. "Especially in view of the new components of the graduate programs, which we redesigned to get students working sooner with practical experiences, helping real businesses with real business problems."

In the fall of 2004, the UMaine business school revised its MBA program to place heavier emphasis on hands-on learning, teamwork and leadership development. Three new experiential courses -- a residency week, an international business project and an internship -- added more of the practical experiences that business leaders say gives students an edge in today's competitive job market.

"Our MBA program produces graduates with practical business skills and a global perspective," Grant says. "More importantly, it produces business leaders who can think strategically and critically, who can inspire and lead and who can create and convey a vision."

The Maine Business School meets and exceeds standards set by the AACSB International (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), which has accredited the business school since 1974.

Light refreshments will be served. Please call Chris Hockensmith at (207) 581-1973 or email the business school at: mba@maine.edu for more information. The business school website is: www.umaine.edu/business.

UMaine Touted as Economic Engine as Conference Takes Up Business Climate

08 Nov 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- As the state of Maine struggles to replace its withering manufacturing-based economy and stem the flow of young people to out-of-state jobs, UMaine interim President Robert A. Kennedy stresses the importance of the university as an economic engine driving job creation and spawning economic research to help lead the state through troubling times.

"The University of Maine is very much a part of the economic engine and economic vitality and economic future of the state," Kennedy says. "Two-thousand faculty and staff help the university meet the responsibilities for outreach and research."

Kennedy delivered his comments to about 80 business leaders, economic developers and state and regional policy-makers at an Oct. 21 business and economic climate conference sponsored by the UMaine Department of Resource Economics and Policy (REP).

Kennedy cites the recent creation of six new companies that grew from university research projects, specifically four that resulted from student research.

The university's contributions, though, are "more than the figures," Kennedy says. "It's much more than the multipliers. It's about the students."

Students at UMaine have opportunities to engage in both scholarship and research, he says. "So many of our students are working side by side with our faculty.

And faculty research benefits policy-makers and others. For instance, the Department of Resource Economics and Policy has in the last few years published evaluations of economic influences ranging from clean water in Maine to the emerging biotechnology industry and, more recently, the Palesky tax cap referendum.

The day-long event held at the Lucerne Inn in Holden was the first conference sponsored by the department on Maine's business and economic climate. Speakers and discussion panelists outlined strategies to help business and industry make the most of a sagging economy.

Next year's conference already is being planned.

"We are going to do another one next year," says Kevin Boyle, chair of the Department of Resource Economics and Policy. "Our plan from the beginning was to make this an annual event, and plenty of people came up to me and said this is great and should have been done before."

Boyle says in addition to being educational for participants, the conference allows the university and Resource Economic Department to share its expertise with the business community.

"I think we have a good department that is known outside of Maine, but not necessarily in Maine," he says. "I think we have important research going on and I wanted to make people more aware of it."

Co-organizers James McConnon, an REP associate professor and small business specialist with UMaine Cooperative Extension, and Todd Gabe, assistant professor in resource economics and policy, wanted to hear first-hand from the conference audience which economics issues are important to them. That will help steer future UMaine economic research.

The survey also will help develop a theme for next year's conference, Gabe says.

In his keynote address, speaker Mark Drabenstott, vice-president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and director of its Center for the Study of Rural America, cited examples of rural communities in the Midwest and plains states identifying and developing business niches and creating economic partnerships to promote them.

Drabenstott suggests that Maine can do more with its wildlife recreation industry, which contributes \$759 million annually to the Maine economy. With nearly half of that coming from wildlife watchers, Drabenstott quipped, "Those Audubon people are quiet, but they spend money."

Andy Shepard, president of the Maine Winter Sports Center in northern Maine, owners of six community-based ski areas around the state, was one of the business owners in the audience pleased to hear about research possibilities in tourism and nature-based industries.

"Looking at tourism is a very positive step and it's very critical that the university try to figure out what the issues are and how to take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves," he says.

Other conference speakers included Daniel Innis, dean of the UMaine College of Business, Public Policy and Health, who cited the success of West Virginia, a rural state with economic challenges like Maine's, but which developed a successful business niche in the automobile industry.

Innis also believes Maine must do a better job of boosting young people's aspirations and create the type of economies that will keep them in the state.

Gabe and Boyle discussed research findings, Boyle on the subject of economics and land use change, and Gabe on tourism development in Maine. Gregory White, also an REP professor, discussed his research on the impact of grocery stores in rural Maine.

Panelists included Robert Baldacci of Pierce Atwood, LLP, Jonathan Daniels of Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Laurie Lachance president of the Maine Development Foundation in Augusta and former state economist, Michael Starn of the Maine Municipal Association and Steve Deller, an economist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and formerly a faculty member with the UMaine Department of Resource Economics and Policy.

Other organizers included faculty members Tai Cheng and Tom Allen of REP.

Engineering Awards Recognize UMaine Students, Staff and Faculty

19 Nov 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO-- Graduate students from Surry and Orono and an administrative assistant from Eddington joined engineering professors from Old Town and Orono in receiving awards from the University of Maine College of Engineering on November 5. The College held its 25th annual Edward T. Bryand Recognition Banquet at Penobscot Valley Country Club.

Karen Merritt of Surry received the college's 2004 Graduate Research Assistant Award. A recipient of a highly competitive three-year fellowship from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Merritt is working with Aria Amirbahman, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, on technology to improve mercury detection in sediments. She presented her work on Capitol Hill in October and has received additional research funding from the Sea Grant College Program.

Linda Liscomb of Eddington, administrative assistant in the School of Engineering Technology, won the Leila S. Lowell Award for service to the school. Since coming to UMaine in 1998, she has worked closely with students, faculty, and alumni and is known and appreciated for her courtesy and her prompt resolution of issues. Liscomb's work with graduate and alumni databases is a critical component of the school's assessment processes, continuous improvement plan and strategic initiatives.

Edwin Nagy of Orono received the Graduate Assistant Teaching Award. A Ph.D. student in the Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Nagy's innovative work in 3D imaging of material microstructure has led to five refereed journal publications. He has taught courses in steel design, timber design and general graphical design in structural engineering. Nagy has worked as a structural engineer in Arizona and brings his experience to the classroom where students have praised his enthusiasm and rigorous approach.

Mauricio Pereira da Cunha of Orono received the Early Career Research Award. Pereira da Cunha studies a new class of electronic sensors based on langasite crystals. He has received more than \$3 million in research grants from the

National Science Foundation, the U.S. Army and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. In addition to conducting research that has garnered the attention of the international scientific and engineering community, he has integrated his research into his undergraduate and graduate classes, inspiring the next generation of electrical and computer engineers.

Jean MacRae of Orono received the Early Career Teaching Award. She applies expertise in biological approaches to environmental engineering problems and teaches a required course in environmental engineering. Using a variety of leading edge teaching techniques, such as cooperative and active learning exercises, she has raised the level of interest in environmental engineering among UMaine students. She has also been one of the university's strongest promoters of the Center for Teaching Excellence. She has led Learning Circles and organized workshops on topics such as "Identifying Techniques to Help At-Risk Students" and "Challenges Facing Women Teaching Primarily Men." She is working with Bangor area teachers to incorporate arsenic and water quality issues into middle school science and high school chemistry classes.

Douglas Ruthven of Old Town received the College's Ashley S. Campbell Award, given to the faculty member whose achievements have brought distinction to the engineering profession and education. Ruthven is the world's leading expert on the adsorption and diffusion in molecular sieve zeolite and other adsorbants that are important in catalysis and chemical reaction engineering. He has authored numerous publications and has presented hundreds of invited lectures over his career. His textbook "Principles of Adsorption and Adsorption Processes," published in 1983, remains the standard reference text in this field.

Doug Hall, UMaine graduate (Chemical Engineering, 1981) and resident of Newtown, Ohio, received the Edward T. Bryand Distinguished Engineering Award. Hall has distinguished himself as a triumphant entrepreneur and master inventor. Corporations turn to him to revitalize their products. An engineer at heart, Hall works on pinpointing principles, systems, and marketing approaches underlying the capitalist creativity. He turned his creativity guru practice into the Trailblazer Training Business. Today, in addition to his work with large corporations, Doug uses his Merwyn Technology, an artificial intelligence system to help small businesses and non-profits around the world. His interest in the creative process led to his first book, Jump Start Your Brain (1995). It was followed by Making the Courage Connection and Jump Start Your Business Brain in 2001 and Meaningful Marketing in 2003.

Construction Management Students Place 2nd in Regional Competition

19 Nov 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, UMaine Dept. of Public Affairs, houtman@maine.edu, 207-587-3777

ORONO-- A student team from the University of Maine Construction Management program placed 2nd in the heavy highway division of the region one construction management competition held November 11-14 in Fairfield, New Jersey.

Between 8 a.m. and midnight on the first day, the team assembled a complete written bid proposal for a real project being built by Kiewit Construction Company: replacement of deteriorated track foundations and subgrade materials under existing track at a major urban railway station. The comprehensive proposal included detailed cost analysis, schedule, labor requirements and plans to do the work itself.

After the midnight bid opening, the following day the team personally presented their proposal to Kiewit Co. representatives in a closed discussion forum.

The annual competition and job fair is organized by the Associated Schools of Construction and sponsored by regional contractors, such as Kiewit Construction, Turner Construction and Hensel-Phelps Construction. Other firms participate in the job fair as well.

Locally, the team was sponsored by a generous donation from Eldon Morrison of CPM Constructors, Freeport, Maine.

Team members included Travis Ridky of Oakland, ME; P. Brady McGowan of York, ME; Byron Beauregard of Rangely, ME; Seth McGee, West Gardiner, ME; Robert Lightbody, Embden, ME; Gerard Bard of Greenfield, ME; and Anthony Cincotta of Waltham, MA. William Manion and Philip Dunn were the faculty advisors.

Students to Create, Share Stories at Statewide Rally

18 Nov 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt (207) 581-2761

ORONO-- Upward Bound students from around the state will be at the University of Maine Nov-20-21 for the annual state rally. The approximately 175 high school students will be participating in a series of workshops, performances and activities reflecting the rally's theme of "Story and Story Telling" and designed to build common ground among the students.

Activities will emphasize that each student has a story worth telling, that there is value in listening to one another's stories and that they have the power to create their own life story. Storyteller Jennifer Armstrong of Belfast will be the featured speaker on Saturday. Her talk begins at 6 p.m. in 101 Neville Hall.

The students will represent Upward Bound programs at UMaine, Bowdoin College, UM-Presque Isle, UM-Farmington and the University of Southern Maine. Upward Bound is a federally funded educational opportunity program for high school students from low-income, first-generation college families. Its goal is to help these students succeed in higher education. Participation is year-round with service to students in their schools, as well as a summer residential academic program on participating campuses.

An agenda follows, and media are welcome to all activities. UMaine Upward Bound counselor Nathan Larlee is the media contact for the weekend event.

Agenda

Saturday, November 20

- 11:30 --12 Registration
- 12 -- 1 Lunch (Student Union Marketplace)
- 1-1:15 Welcoming Announcements -- 101 Neville Hall
- 1:15-1:30 Performance by UM-Farmington students (video) -- 101 Neville Hall
- 1:30-2 Discussion -- Introduction to weekend theme-- 101 Neville Hall
- 2-4 College tour across campus (leave from Neville Hall) UMaine, Husson, EMCC
- 4 -- 6 Check into lodging and go out to dinner
- 6-7 Special Performance -- Jennifer Armstrong -- 101 Neville Hall
- 7 -- 9 Small group / large group story sharing activity, Field House, Memorial Gym

- 9 Open Gym, pool time, pizza party, karaoke, Field house, Memorial Gym
- 11 Back to Lodging

Sunday, November 21

- 7:30-8:30 Breakfast at Governors
- 8:30-9 Morning meeting (readings by staff), 101 Neville Hall
- 9-11 Morning Workshops, 101 Neville Hall
- 11-11:30 Return and present to whole group
- 11:30-12:15 Closing Performance -- 101 Neville Hall
- 12:15 Adjourn

Workshops Link Local Food Producers, Retailers and Farmers

17 Nov 2004

Contact: Andrew Files, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3108, andrew.files@umit.maine.edu

ORONO--University of Maine researchers will host a series of workshops in December and January on creating networks to improve community marketing of locally grown foods. In eight workshops throughout the state, they will meet with farmers, food producers and retailers to discuss opportunities to make local foods more available to consumers.

Researchers are working with support from a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant. One of their goals is to identify up to four groups that can benefit from technical assistance through UMaine Cooperative Extension and the Small Business Development Centers of Maine.

Their work proceeds as a state Task Force on Local Agriculture Development continues its efforts to enhance economic development through support for local agriculture.

Farmers, food producers and retailers are welcome to attend the sessions that are free and open to the public. No pre-registration is required. More information is available from Andrew Files, associate scientist in the UMaine Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, at 207-581-3108.

The date, time and location of the eight workshops are as follows:

- Thursday, December 2, 2004 -- 9:00 a.m. to Noon
The Blue Bird Ranch Restaurant, Machias
- Thursday, December 9, 2004 -- 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Caribou Inn and Convention Center, Caribou
- Tuesday, December 14, 2004 -- 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Buxton Town Office, Buxton
- Friday, December 17, 2004 -- 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Oxford County UMaine Cooperative Extension Office, Oxford

- Thursday, January 6, 2005 -- 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Somerset County UMaine Cooperative Extension Office, Skowhegan
- Friday, January 7, 2005 -- 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Penquis Higher Education Center, 50 Mayo Street, Dover-Foxcroft
- Thursday, January 20, 2005 -- 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Hutchinson Center, Room 105, Belfast
- Thursday, January 27, 2005 -- 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Damariscotta Fire Station, Damariscotta

UMaine Professor Kevin Boyle Honored by the Carnegie Foundation

18 Nov 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has named University of Maine Professor of Resource Economics and Policy Kevin Boyle the 2004 Maine Professor of the Year.

The Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) established the Professors of the Year Program in 1981. CASE works in cooperation with The Carnegie Foundation and various higher education associations to administer the award, nominees for which can be teachers at public or private institutions of higher learning. Winners are selected based on outstanding teaching, commitment to undergraduate students and influence on teaching. There is one award winner from each state, along with four national award winners.

"It is rewarding to receive national recognition from such highly-regarded organizations, and to be included with so many accomplished professors from outstanding institutions around the country," Boyle says. "This honor also reflects well on UMaine and I am pleased that it draws positive attention to the university and its efforts."

Boyle is a Presque Isle native and a 1978 UMaine graduate. He received the 2003 Distinguished Maine Professor Award, presented each year by the alumni association in recognition of faculty achievement. He currently serves as chair of Resource Economics and Policy.

"We are delighted that the Carnegie Foundation has recognized Kevin's outstanding professional contributions," says Jeffery Mills, UMaine's vice president for advancement and the president of the University of Maine Alumni Association. "It is particularly gratifying to see one of our own receive this distinguished honor. Kevin's achievements are in the proud tradition of UMaine alumni who have achieved great things in their professional lives." The alumni association nominated Boyle for this award.

A leading environmental economist, Boyle is an expert on the development of statistical models to estimate the economic values people assign to natural resources and environmental quality. The author of over 150 published research papers, Boyle has also devoted a great deal of time to sharing his expertise with government agencies and environmental groups. Applications of Boyle's research can be found in studies of wildlife -- fishing, hunting, non-consumptive uses of wildlife, and the protection of endangered species; water quality -- surface water and ground water; forest ecosystem protection; and land-use change. As an expert in these natural resource areas, Boyle is frequently tapped by federal and Maine agencies for policy advice.

"I've always felt pretty lucky to be able to be here, to be working on the faculty and to be able to make a contribution to the state," Boyle says. "My work is based on trying to do things intended to improve environmental and economic

conditions for the people of Maine. This award suggests that those efforts are meeting with some success. The message is that you can be a scared kid from the County coming here to go to school, and you can end up doing well."

Boyle earned a master's degree from Oregon State and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. He joined the UMaine faculty in 1986.

"The key thing about my philosophy is that UMaine should be student-oriented, whether in teaching, research or outreach," Boyle says. "I see all three as being woven together. I try to bring research and practical work to the classroom and get my students involved in research and outreach activities. That effort is central to my approach."

"Kevin exemplifies what it means to be a scholar at a modern land-grant university," says UMaine Interim President Robert Kennedy. "His teaching inspires students to excel, while his research and public engagement activities have a real impact on our understanding of the use of our natural resources, an issue that is critical to the future of our state."

Maine 4-Hers Bring Home Awards at the BigE

30 Nov 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu;
Shirley Hager, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-581-3183, shager@umext.maine.edu

ORONO, Maine - The Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts, may be the mother of New England's agricultural fairs. For the more than 60 Maine 4-H members who competed at the BigE last September, it was the chance to put finishing touches on months of hard work. Their efforts paid off with awards and first and second place finishes in dairy, horse, beef, sheep and working steer categories.

"The kids work for this all year long," says Shirley Hager, University of Maine Cooperative Extension program administrator in Orono. "Eastern States is the culmination of a process that starts with projects in local 4-H clubs." BigE ran from Sept. 17 to Oct. 3 with entertainment, parades, carnival rides, food demonstrations, livestock exhibitions and other attractions.

More than one million people went through the gates, the largest attendance since the first event in 1917.

Like candidates for all-star sports teams, members of Maine's 139 4-H clubs must qualify for the opportunity to go to the BigE. They participate in at least one and sometimes multiple tryout sessions in which judges rank their knowledge and their ability to care for and manage animals.

Youths in the working steer competition participated in three tryouts during the summer to win a seat on one of the largest working steer youth competitions in New England. Working steer is a young version of a pair of oxen. Eight members of the Maine team attended the BigE and brought home several first and second place honors. The Maine team placed second overall in collective points.

During two days of 4-H sheep showing, the 17 members of the Maine team competed in breed classes and showed their skills through a knowledge exam, a blocking contest, quiz bowl, an educational exhibit and rigorous showmanship classes. The Maine contestants brought home championship and first place honors.

The 61 beef category participants from all states kept busy in five days of competition in judging, educational exhibits, beef records, a hands-on "skil-a-thon," a beef breed show and fitting and showmanship. The 20 members of the Maine team brought home four first place finishes in the fitting and showmanship categories, winning Grand Champion, Reserved Grand Champion, Highly Commended and Commended showpersons. The grooming team also ranked first.

Members in the 4-H horse program participated in tryouts June 25 in Skowhegan. While twenty-two girls and one boy

took a chartered bus to West Springfield, their horses arrived in two vans that hold ten horses each. The show consisted of fitting and showmanship, an equitation class, pleasure class and one other class of the kids' choice. The extra classes included a command class, hunter over fences, hunter under saddle, trail class or Western handiness. The kids also took a knowledge test and judging class and competed in a quiz bowl.

The Interstate Drill Team, a group of riders from all New England States who perform riding patterns to music, was coached by two Maine volunteers from Houlton.

The Maine 4-H dairy team consisted of 20 members who participated in quiz bowl, clipping, fitting, judging and showmanship competitions. They brought home first place finishes in clipping and judging for Ayrshire cattle. The Maine team also had the second-place State Jersey Herd.

Financial support for the 4-H members' participation comes from the Pine Tree State 4-H Foundation, the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs, the Maine Extension Homemakers Council and the Eastern States Exposition, the non-profit organization that hosts the BigE.

UMaine Jazz Ensemble, Combo Concert Dec. 2 at Hauck Auditorium

29 Nov 2004

Contact: George Manlove, (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The UMaine Jazz Ensemble and UMaine Jazz Combo will appear in concert in Hauck Auditorium in the Memorial Union of the University of Maine on Thursday evening, Dec. 2, beginning at 7:30 pm.

Among the pieces to be performed by the Jazz Ensemble is Larry Kerchner's arrangement of Joe Zawinul's fusion classic, "Birdland," originally recorded by the band Weather Report.

Well-known composer Matt Harris' wonderful new composition, "The Prez," is an up-tempo original for jazz big band, featuring a sextet within the larger ensemble, says Karel Lidral, associate professor of music and director of jazz studies and of the UMaine Ensemble and Combo.

Student solos in the piece are by Steve Barter on the tenor saxophone, Sarah Nichols on piano and Tim Applegate on the drumset.

Composers Bobby Troup and Neal Hefti collaborated on the wonderful ballad, "Girl Talk," recorded by, among others, the Count Basie Orchestra. Mary-Anne Chesley is featured on alto saxophone in this arrangement by veteran composer Mark Taylor.

A new piece, from composer Lars Halle, "Sonidos De La Calle" (Sounds of the Street) is set in a "tremendously exciting" Latin rhythm, the mambo, Lidral says. Soloists include students Laura "Zuke" Zukowski on baritone saxophone, Jarrod Bishop on trombone, and Andrew Gerke on trumpet.

"The astute listener will hear a brief quote from a classic swing era big band composition, "The Peanut Vendor," Lidral adds.

The remainder of the Ensemble's "book" includes contemporary and classic compositions from Dominic Spera, David Springfield, Bill Liston, Dean Sorensen and Bob Mintze -- and some very exciting solos by Justin Obie, trumpet, Rodger Wong, trombone, Christine Sawtelle, piano, and Karl Varian, trumpet, as well as others.

The four pieces to be performed by the Jazz Combo are chosen from eight works that the group has worked on in the fall semester. Those compositions include four by Sonny Rollins ("Oleo," "Pent Up House," "St. Thomas" and "Tenor

Madness") and four by Thelonious Sphere Monk ("Blue Monk," "In Walked Bud," "Round Midnight" and "Straight, No Chaser"), all arranged by Frank Mantooth, a wonderful jazz composer, arranger and pianist who passed away earlier this year. Solos are liberally spread around the organization, and include those from trombonists John Maclaine and Jamie Colpoys, tenor saxophonist Steve Barter, pianist Justin Obie (who plays trumpet in the Jazz Ensemble), and drummers Caleb Wheeler and Jason LaVerdiere.

Tickets are \$6, although UMaine students are admitted free with a MaineCard. More information is available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or online at www.umaine.edu/spa.

UMaine Celebrating African-American Holiday Kwanzaa Dec. 3

24 Nov 2004

Contact: Shezwae Fleming (207) 581-1425; Gretchen Faulkner (207-581-1901; George Manlove (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The UMaine community will celebrate the African-American holiday Kwanzaa on Dec. 3 -- a celebration of family, friendship, community and culture marked by a seven-day observance of seven principles of life.

The public is invited to ceremonies being held from 10-11:15 a.m. at the Hudson Museum in the Maine Center for the Arts on the Orono campus.

The celebration of Kwanzaa, the Swahili term for "first fruits of the harvest," includes gift-giving, music, a candle-lighting ritual, a discussion of the seven life principles of Kwanzaa and a feast.

The Kwanzaa observance at UMaine will condense the components of the seven-day holiday into a program of about an hour and a half, according to Shezwae Fleming, director of multicultural programs and the ALANA Center at UMaine and coordinator of the celebration. Instead of a traditional banquet, light refreshments and a sampling of African cuisine, courtesy of the UMaine African Student Association, will be available. The event is sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Students and the Hudson Museum.

"It's fun. It's educational. I want to make it as engaging as possible," Fleming says. "I'm hoping to have a diverse group of students participate. I think it will articulate the universal nature of Kwanzaa."

Established in 1966 in California by Maulana Karenga, a professor and now chair of the Department of Black Studies at California State University at Long Beach, Kwanzaa is intended to preserve, revitalize and promote African-American culture. It traditionally is celebrated from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, but is being observed at UMaine on Dec. 3 because of the Holiday break.

Though Karenga wanted to create a way for African-Americans to better understand their ancestral roots, Fleming explains the holiday transcends race and ethnicity. Though spiritual, it is not a religious holiday.

"Civic and community responsibility, economic development, family values all are a part of it," she says. Celebrated by 18 million people throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America and Asia, Kwanzaa highlights wholesome values for any culture, she says.

The signature centerpiece of Kwanzaa is a kinara, a candle holder with one black candle with three red and three green candles on each side. The red candles represent past struggles and the green represent a fruitful future. On each night of Kwanzaa one of seven candles is lit and one of the holiday's core principles (Nguzo Saba) are discussed.

The seven principles are Umoja (unity); Kujichagulia (self determination); Ujima (collective work and responsibility); Ujamma (cooperative economics); Nia (purpose); Kuumba (creativity); and Imani (faith).

Kwanzaa was first introduced to UMaine in 1999 by Associate Dean of Students Angel Loredo, who says he organized the first Kwanzaa "because it is a very holistic, healthy and spiritual experience to go through Kwanzaa. It provides students an opportunity to look at other cultures and to see how it fits into their own lives," he says.

Loredo and Fleming both say they have noticed "a disconnect" between many young people today and their ancestry. Even within the black community, Fleming adds, many African-Americans born and raised in the United States know little about their African roots.

Fleming hopes people of all color and nationality will come to the Hudson Museum and learn about Kwanzaa. A university like UMaine, with such a culturally diverse population, is a logical place for students to learn about multicultural holidays, Loredo observes.

Hosting Kwanzaa also is another way that Hudson Museum Director Gretchen Faulkner can offer cultural programs to area residents.

"We're hoping the public and school groups will come and learn about Kwanzaa," she says. The Hudson Museum celebrates many cultural traditions from around the world, she says. "We host Kwanzaa as the museum has extensive African collections. In spring 2005, a new exhibition of this material will open on the museum's third level."

More information is available by calling Fleming at (207) 581-1425 or Faulkner at (207) 581-1901. The official Kwanzaa web site is at: www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org.

UMaine Cooperative Extension Japanese Exchange Program Honored

24 Nov 2004

Contact: Jill Coffren, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-645-3248, coffren@megalink.net

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine 4-H International Exchange Program, which brings Japanese youth to Maine every summer, has received an "Outstanding Quality Program" award for 2004. Along with three other states, Maine received the award during the Fall Coordinators Conference Nov. 11-14 in Valley Forge, PA.

The award was made by the 4-H International Programs Committee, which is made up of Extension staff from across the country. According to Jill Coffren of Jay who manages Maine's program for University of Maine Cooperative Extension, each state program is reviewed by committee members and the executive director of WorldWide Exchange Services.

Programs are evaluated on the basis of management and year-to-year enhancements. In 2004, the program brought 24 Japanese students to Maine for stays in households across the state. Nineteen of the students spent one month with a host family, and five stayed for a full year.

More information about the program is available from Coffren at 207-645-3248 or coffren@megalink.net.

Michael Hastings Named Director of UMaine Grants Office

24 Nov 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- Michael M. Hastings, a resident of Hampden and a former congressional staff member for Maine senators William Cohen and George Mitchell, has been appointed as the director of the University of Maine Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP). Most recently, Hastings was the director of the Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center located on the UMaine campus.

In his new role, he will have responsibility for ten staff members who work with UMaine scientists on grant proposals and ensure that research activities comply with federal and state reporting requirements. The ORSP also helps to identify potential sources of new research funding, including government agencies and private foundations.

In the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2004, UMaine received \$56.7 million in grants and contracts, its largest annual amount ever. All of the increase over the previous year's funding came from federal sources.

To continue that growth, Hastings wants to identify new sources of research support and to make sure that officials who manage those funds are aware of UMaine's expertise. "All federal funding for research came about as a result of legislation," he explains, "and we need to work more closely with program officers at the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health and other agencies."

In turn, scientists need to be aware of agency priorities and pending research topics before formal requests for proposals (RFPs) are published, Hastings adds. "When an RFP is published, we should already have something ready to go. The RFP should not be our first look at a program area."

Hastings credits increasing staff productivity for keeping the number of ORSP employees stable in recent years, despite increases in research funding. "I'd like to use computer technologies further to free up staff time to help faculty with research grants and to focus on sectors such as biotechnology, defense, health and other areas," he says.

In addition to his experience with aquaculture and federal policy, Hastings managed activities for Catholic Relief Services in Africa between 1984 and 1991. In that capacity, he arranged for food shipments to Sudan and Liberia to help people affected by civil strife.

Students to Face Tough Values Questions

23 Nov 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- How do young people learn to deal with the tough dilemmas that pose questions of ethical decision-making and require deeper thinking about personal and community values? More than 50 students from schools across the state will define and explore such issues at the Developing Leaders with Moral Courage summit, taking place Tuesday, Nov. 30 at the University of Maine.

Conducted by the National Center for Student Aspirations of UMaine's College of Education and Human Development, the summit is expected to draw student leaders and those with leadership potential from more than a dozen schools ranging from Carrabec High School in Anson to Sumner High School in Sullivan and from Belfast High School to Forest Hills Consolidated School in Jackman. The summit is sponsored by a \$10,000 gift from the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation.

The summit will focus on the moral courage (choosing to stick to one's values in the face of opposition and the risk of personal sacrifice) needed to make wise and meaningful decisions even when faced with "right vs. right" situations. Students will consider values such as citizenship, commitment, honesty, freedom, respect, responsibility, obedience and trust as they ponder the moral courage needed to put values into action. Activities will focus on doing the right thing, even when no one is looking or when the decision may not be popular, as they weigh dilemmas of trust vs. loyalty, self vs. community, short-term vs. long-term, and justice vs. mercy.

Dave Goldsworthy, a leadership and responsibility motivational speaker from New Zealand will be the keynote speaker, opening the summit and setting the tone for the day at 8:30 a.m.

The summit takes place at Wells Conference Center. Media are welcome to attend. Contacts at the summit are Carla Ritchie and Sharon Wilson-Barker, co-directors of the National Center for Student Aspirations. An agenda follows:

Developing Leaders with Moral Courage Summit

Tuesday, November 30, 2004

8 am -- 2:30pm

Wells Conference Center

University of Maine

8 a.m. -- 8:30--Registration and Refreshments

8:30 -- 9:15--Dave Goldsworthy -- Keynote Speaker

9:20 -- 11:30--Session I -- Break-out groups

- Values Reflection
- Defining Moral Courage
- Decision Making Process

11:30 -- 12:15 p.m.--Lunch (Includes Values Auction; what are people betting on and battling over?)

12:15 -- 1:40--Session II -- Break- out groups

- Scenarios
- What will you do?
- How will you tell your story?

1:45 -- 2:15--Reflection

2:15 -- 2:30--Closing Remarks & Certificate Presentation

UMaine Rolls Out Public 2005 Public Administration Courses for Augusta

22 Nov 2004

Contact: George Manlove at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine at Orono will offer three graduate level public administration courses in Augusta in the Spring 2005 semester, which begins Jan. 10.

The courses can help working professionals and recent college grads add to their post-graduate education or work toward a master's degree in public administration.

Both the courses and the MPA program, which the university has offered in the Augusta community since 1968, can help move professionals toward new career opportunities, particularly in state and local government, non-profit,

healthcare or public policy fields.

The advantage of the program, says G. Thomas Taylor, chair of the Department of Public Administration, is that students can continue working and attend classes without commuting to Orono.

"It's right in Augusta's back yard," Taylor says. "It's Augusta's best-kept secret. The real important point of an MPA program, at least this one, is that it's set up so you can come in without a lot of prerequisites."

People with degrees from accredited undergraduate colleges or universities may take a class as a non-degree student. Credit may be applied toward an MPA degree, should the student decide to apply later. While registration deadlines are flexible for non-degree students, MPA candidates should call the UMaine Department of Public Administration (207-581-1872) or email: umpubadm@umit.maine.edu by Dec.1, 2004.

"This program is set up for working people in many different professions," Taylor says. "This allows them to explore, and I would say a lot of them stay with us and apply for admission into the accredited program."

With locally offered classes, students can continue graduate studies gradually if that fits better with family, financial or career plans.

The three courses offered in spring of 2005 include Administrative Theory, State Administration and Policy Studies. UMaine faculty in Orono, or adjunct faculty from throughout Maine, will commute to Augusta to offer the classes.

"Our adjunct faculty are professionals working in government, healthcare or other management or policy-making positions," Taylor adds. "It adds a real-world perspective to the course material."

Administrative Theory covers theories of leadership, culture and organizational structure, and will be taught by Carolyn Ball, associate professor of public administration. Prior to her appointment at UMaine, Ball worked in nonprofits, healthcare and state government.

The class will discuss recent examples how organizations change or are created in response to current events, including the creation of the 9/11 Commission and Department of Homeland Security and the recent restructuring of the Department of Health and Human Services -- all involving significant public policy responses.

State Administration, taught by Robert Baldacci, managing director at Pierce Atwood, LLP and brother of Maine Gov. John Baldacci, covers the management, operations and budgeting of state governments, with special emphasis on understanding Maine state government and the role of states in economic development.

Baldacci works actively with state and local governments on economic development projects and has served as chair of the board of the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) and vice chair of the Maine Guarantee Authority.

Policy Studies covers policy development from ideals to practice, with emphasis on the democratic and moral values that affect policymaking. Jay Harper, assistant to the commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services, will teach this course.

Harper previously served as director of the Division of Public Education for the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and has held human services management and policy analysis positions with Massachusetts state government and with nonprofit organizations.

More information about the classes, schedules or applying to the UMaine MPA program is available by contacting Cindy D'Angelo, Department of Public Administration, University of Maine, Orono, 04469-5754, calling (207) 581-1872 or emailing: umpubadm@umit.maine.edu.

Bog Boardwalk has Become a Premier Outdoor Destination in the Bangor Area

20 Dec 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO--The Orono Bog Boardwalk, a 4,200-foot long, four-foot wide ribbon of hemlock boards that starts in the Bangor City Forest, had about 21,000 person-visits from opening day on May 1st to closing day on November 28th, according to founder, University of Maine emeritus professor and outgoing director Ron Davis of Orono. That is an increase of about 5,000 person-visits over last year, when the boardwalk opened six weeks later in the spring.

This year, 79 percent of the visitors came from within 25 miles of the boardwalk, with residents of Bangor, Orono, Old Town, Hampden, Brewer, and Veazie being best represented, in that order. Eleven percent came from other parts of Maine, including its farthest corners. Nine percent came from outside Maine, including 44 other states, and the remaining one percent from 18 foreign countries. Many visiting groups of family and friends were mixtures of persons from nearby and away, indicating that the boardwalk is a favorite place to take visiting family and friends on an outing.

In its first two years of operation, the boardwalk has become a premier destination in the Bangor/Orono area for persons wishing to experience the beauty and fascinating plants and animals of a Maine bog. The boardwalk begins at the forested wetland edge in the Bangor City Forest, and after 800 feet crosses the town line into the University of Maine owned part of the bog in Orono. Along the way, it passes through changing vegetation and environments on its way to the open, peat moss carpeted center of the mile square Orono Bog.

Boardwalk visitors encounter a series of well designed, full color signs with illustrations of common species of bog plants and animals, and explanations to go along with them. Many visitors return to the boardwalk, again and again, to observe the colorful bog and to absorb its tranquil beauty over the changing seasons. The boardwalk is a wheelchair-friendly facility. Benches for rest and contemplation are provided at least every 200 feet.

The facility is operated jointly by the University of Maine, City of Bangor, and Orono Land Trust. There is no charge for use of the boardwalk, but a container is provided for those who wish to leave donations for its upkeep and educational programs.

The 21,000 person-visits in 2004 included over 100 institutional groups. Board walk volunteers guided many of them. Among the groups were classes from schools at all levels, indicating that the bog boardwalk has become an important educational facility in the Bangor area.

These field trips included sixteen University of Maine classes in biology, forestry, geology and wildlife as well as exchange students and groups from scientific conferences. Classes from community colleges, high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, and pre-school day care centers came to learn about bogs and other wetlands. A trip to the bog boardwalk provided a real world experience to reinforce classroom studies. In addition to educational institutions, Boy, Girl, Cub, and Brownie Scout troops, Job Corps, summer camps, and nature and garden clubs visited the boardwalk.

Outings to the boardwalk in 2004 from medical and rehabilitation facilities, institutions for mentally and physically disabled, correctional and behavioral disability centers, senior housing and clubs, physical fitness and other clubs indicate that the boardwalk is a therapeutic and revitalizing experience for many people.

Davis also reports that in 2004 two additional structures were added to the boardwalk facilities. These include a small log cabin for storage of maintenance tools and supplies, education and registration materials, first aid supplies, and an emergency cell phone. A screened porch on the cabin provides shelter for the docents, educational attendants who volunteer to staff the boardwalk during periods of heavy visitor use. Most of the materials for the cabin were donated to the boardwalk by Northeastern Log Homes.

The other new structure is a log outhouse. Most of the materials for the dual entry (one side is wheelchair friendly) outhouse were donated by Northern Log Homes and American Concrete. Both structures were built entirely by

volunteers.

Davis, now 73, will retire as boardwalk director at the end of this year. In 2000, he came up with the idea of building a boardwalk to share his many years of experience in bogs and wetlands with children and adults from the Bangor area and beyond. He and a host of volunteers designed the structure, raised funds, obtained permits, and built the facility in 2002 and early 2003.

He continued his volunteer work as director during the rest of 2003 and all of 2004. He plans to continue as an active boardwalk volunteer. The new director is UMaine Professor John Daigle, who directs and teaches in the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Program. Daigle is a "great choice for new director," says Davis.

The boardwalk is now closed for the season. The planned 2005 opening date is May 1st. A program of nature walks will be held again in 2005. More information about the boardwalk and its programs can be obtained at its website www.oronobogwalk.org or from the director at 581-2850.

Volunteers for docent and maintenance assignments are welcome. Donations may be sent to the Orono Bog Boardwalk Endowment, University of Maine Foundation, 2 Alumni Place, Orono, ME 04469.

UMaine Business School Dean Looks Overseas for Partnerships

13 Dec 2004

Contact: Dan Innis, (207) 581-1968; George Manlove, (207) 581-3756

ORONO--University of Maine Business School students soon will have a few more opportunities for international field work, according to Dean Dan Innis, after his recent participation in Gov. John Baldacci's trade mission to Europe.

Innis represented the University of Maine System as part of a delegation of about 30 Maine business representatives and state business development officials looking to foster better trade opportunities abroad. They visited Germany and Italy during the week-long trip in November.

Innis visited seven universities in five German or Italian cities, looking for exchange and research opportunities with other institutions and European businesses willing to accept UMaine business school students with overseas assignments.

"That was what I was pursuing most aggressively," Innis says, "but I was also looking to find students there who might come to Maine to work with businesses."

Recent revisions in the UMaine Master of Business Administration program require an international business experience, and undergraduates sometimes pursue foreign study projects, exchanges and internships, through the business school or the UMaine Office of International Programs.

"If we send 15 or 20 students to another country, they match with foreign students and break each group into four or five students, and each group goes to a company to solve a problem," Innis says. Problems assigned to student groups traditionally are actual business dilemmas, Innis notes, and the solutions are usually implemented.

Innis visited universities in D

New Wood Composite Seawall at MMA was Team Effort

15 Dec 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, University of Maine Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO--Maine Maritime Academy has teamed up with the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites (AEWC) Center at the University of Maine, Correct Building Products in Biddeford and the Cianbro Corporation in Pittsfield to build a wood composite sea wall at MMA's campus in Castine. The wall was completed November 22 and is the first such structure using Correct Building Products' wood/plastic composite structural members.

The 153-foot long, six-foot high structure replaces a conventional wooden seawall that had deteriorated, allowing soil to erode from a paved boat storage area, according to Jim Soucie, executive director of planning, compliance and facilities operations at MMA. "The existing seawall had been in place for more than twenty years and was in danger of falling into the ocean," says Soucie.

"We don't have any extra room on our waterfront so it was critical that we come up with a long term solution. We also wanted to use materials that would have a long life span and be environmentally safe," he adds.

"We're excited to expand our market presence into seawalls, piers and other marine structures," says Martin Grohman, president of Correct Building Products. The new wall is made of the company's 16-foot long 4x4 composite members that are normally used in CorrectDeck railings. The 4x4s are hollowed out for ease of handling.

Conventional pressure-treated pine posts (NatureWood) were used for the pilings. "About 95 percent of this wall is made of composites. They will not corrode or leach any chemicals into the water. It's environmentally sound," says Bob Lindyberg, manager of technical services at the AEWC.

In 2002, Soucie contacted Lindyberg about the possibility of using the seawall project as a demonstration of new wood composite construction materials. "Lindyberg was very enthusiastic about the project as well as the opportunity to demonstrate a new application for engineered materials when we first contacted him," says Soucie. "One of the obvious advantages of working together was being able to use Bob's expertise and imagination in the use of engineered composite materials. He was instrumental in helping MMA obtain a grant to help with this project."

Olivia Sanchez, a UMaine graduate and AEWC research engineer designed the wall and provided project coordination, managing a team of undergraduate engineering students and working with representatives of Cianbro, MMA and Correct Building Products.

For Cianbro, contributing to the project was a chance to give back to their alma mater (CEO Peter Vigue, Senior Vice President Mac Cianchette and many others at the company are MMA grads) and to advance Maine's economic future. "We couldn't be happier to be a part of this project," says Cianchette. "Maine is home to new companies and a research community that is positioning us for jobs and competitive new products that have great market potential. Replacing aging coastal infrastructure is just one area where we can play a big role in the future."

About half the approximate \$92,000 cost was paid by a Wood and Technology grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cianbro donated equipment, labor and on-site services, and Correct Building Products contributed materials at cost. UMaine also donated indirect costs associated with the USDA grant.

"We received the grant in 2003, and the team worked very well together," says Lindyberg. "Everybody did a great job to get their work done on time. The wall was designed to be very safe and easy to build."

More information about each organization is available on the Internet: Correct Building Products, www.correctdeck.com; Cianbro, www.cianbro.com; Maine Maritime Academy, www.mma.edu; and the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center, <http://www.aewc.umaine.edu/>.

Rollout Set for Statewide Sports Reform Report

22 Dec 2004

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO--The highly anticipated report, Sports Done Right - A Call to Action on Behalf of Maine's Student Athletes, will be unveiled Jan. 6, 2005 at the Augusta Civic Center. Superintendents, school board members, athletic directors, student-athletes and community recreation representatives are expected to attend the event, receive a copy of the report and learn how to use the recommendations to improve sports programs at Maine's middle schools and high schools.

Expected to be a national model, Sports Done Right represents the work of a Select Panel of Maine citizens working collaboratively with the University of Maine and the Maine Center for Sport and Coaching. Through core principles and practices, as well as practices to avoid, the report describes healthy, well-conducted school sports and offers guidelines for developing and conducting such programs. Sports Done Right encourages schools and communities to determine locally if they wish to guide their sports programs according to this document and to sign on to the core principles and practices.

Maine school superintendents have been invited to send a team of representatives from their school district to the Jan. 6 event. During the morning sessions, Sports Done Right co-directors J. Duke Albanese and Robert A. Cobb, and other initiative leaders, will review the highlights of the report and discuss launching community conversations about conducting school sports programs that emphasize the importance of educating and shaping young student-athletes.

Funded by a congressional allocation, the goal of Sports Done Right is to shape a coaching and sports education initiative aligned with timely educational issues, the state's learning standards and overall missions of schools.

Physics Student Up for the Count

22 Dec 2004

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO--Paul Smitherman is counting on radon. The radioactive gas has been the subject of research at the University of Maine and elsewhere for more than 20 years, largely as a potential health risk in homes, schools and work places. No one, however, has yet to satisfactorily explain the behavior of what Smitherman, a U.S. Air Force veteran, calls "the radioactivity right outside your window."

In June, 2004, Smitherman set up a monitoring device outside Bennett Hall on the UMaine campus to monitor radon continuously. Once an hour, day or night, rain or shine, a computer that Smitherman programmed retrieves data from the device and posts it and a graph of daily averages to a website (<http://debroglie.umephy.maine.edu/~paul/>). His advisors are physicists Charles T. Hess and James McClymer.

As of mid-December, radon levels varied between 0.5 picocuries per liter (a measurement of radioactivity) and near 0. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates the average outdoor radon concentration in the U.S. to be about 0.4 picocuries per liter.

"We live in a sea of (natural) radioactivity," says Smitherman, a senior in the Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, "but radon in the atmosphere is not fully understood." While a few continuous radioactivity monitoring stations have been established around the United States such as at Princeton, New Jersey, most such efforts have been conducted for short periods of time.

Because weather conditions are thought to influence radon measurements, Smitherman hopes to shed light on the

relationship between radon and factors such as air pressure, wind speed, relative humidity, temperature and precipitation. He is taking advantage of the department's weather station mounted on the roof of Bennett Hall. Weather data can be seen at <http://phyhost2.umefhy.maine.edu/~Weather/>.

At 41 years old, Smitherman is what admissions offices call a "nontraditional student." Before coming to UMaine, the father of three served a four-year stint as a radar technician in the U.S. Air Force. As a civilian, he has lost jobs in the computer and paper industries in Maine as a result of economic trends. Now, he is studying environmental radioactivity to lay the foundation for a career based in science.

"I like math and really getting into a problem in detail. I feel so lucky to have found myself in a place where I can do that," he says.

Radon is a breakdown product of uranium-238 and exists commonly in the soil and groundwater as an inert gas. Since it doesn't react with other soil chemicals, says Smitherman, it can move through the soil and into the air or into homes where, at high enough levels, it can pose a health risk.

According to the EPA, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. The agency has designated January as National Radon Action Month to encourage homeowners to test the air in their homes. A University of Maine publication, Radon in Water and Air, is available on the Internet at <http://www.physics.umaine.edu/radiation/radon.htm>.

Other sources of natural radioactivity include potassium-40, a common component of soil and food, and cosmic rays. Because radon emits a positively charged alpha particle as it decays, it is relatively easy to detect.

Smitherman would like to continue studying radon in graduate schools. Another challenge, he says, is detecting neutron radiation. Since they have no charge, neutrons can pass easily through most materials. Neutron radiation technology has applications in homeland security where it can be used to inspect cargo.

Women and the Woods Program Seeks Women to Host "Kitchen Table" Gatherings on Woodland Issues

22 Dec 2004

Contact: Vivianne Holmes, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-353-5557, vholmes@umext.maine.edu

ORONO--Women who own forest land have an opportunity to convene informal "kitchen table" gatherings with other women who own and manage forest lands in Maine. The Women and the Woods (WAW) program is seeking women to serve as hosts or facilitators for locally organized meetings throughout the state.

The purpose of these gatherings is to bring women woodland owners together to talk about stewardship, setting objectives, planning, working with a forester and getting access to resources, according to WAW organizers.

Women and the Woods is a program created in direct response to requests from women landowners who suggested they would benefit from a women-only forestry program. Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the program is the result of a creative partnership between the Maine Forest Service, the Women's Agricultural Network (WAgN) of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and Extension's Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine Forest Service staff will hold a free workshop on January 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Georgia Pacific Training Center in Old Town. The workshop will train and support hosts and facilitators in learning to create their own gathering. Volunteers will be asked to hold one gathering focused on land stewardship.

The goal of the Women and the Woods program is to increase the number of women woodland owners who are aware of the options for caring for their forestland in an environment that is supportive of women's preferred learning styles. This includes opportunities for discussion, as well as networking with other women woodland owners and a preference for participatory, hands-on and/or outdoors activities.

This year, Women and the Woods will offer: 1) locally organized women-only network meetings throughout the state; 2) a demonstration day on low-impact harvesting and maple sugaring; and 3) a women-only multi-day conference focusing on all business aspects of woodland ownership including land stewardship, communicating with resource professionals, timber harvesting, estate planning and forest-related tax laws.

People who are interested in hosting or facilitating a gathering in their area and attending the training workshop on January 20 can contact Laura Sebastianelli, Extension adult education program coordinator, at 207-789-5808.

University of Maine Museum of Art Exhibition, Jan. 21-April 2, 2005

20 Dec 2004

Contact: For additional information please call 561.3350

ORONO--The University of Maine Museum of Art is pleased to present two new exhibitions at Norumbega Hall in downtown Bangor: A Maritime Album, an expansive, historical exhibit organized by the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia; and a sculpture installation entitled freezetag by Anya Lewis, originally from Bangor.

A Maritime Album

100 Photographs and Their Stories

Spanning the history of photography and man's evolving relationship with the sea, A Maritime Album provides a rare, revealing view of American maritime culture, industry and society, capturing notable moments in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The vintage photographs that comprise this exhibition depict the complex, often deeply passionate relationships of mariners with their vessels and the sea, providing insight into our history as explorers and adventurers in this vast and unpredictable world. The exhibition showcases 100 black and white photographs of the fishing, sailing, and whaling traditions off international shores as well as naval encounters, shipbuilding ventures and intimate views of daily maritime life.

Photography was invented in 1839 during an age of optimism and growth in the United States. Geographic expansion and rapid industrial development showed a vigorous society on its onward march, and the camera was tailor-made to reflect the accomplishments of the era. Nowhere is this more vividly illustrated than in photographers' documentation of maritime themes. The surviving photographic record, as presented in this exhibition, is powerful testimony to the ways in which the sea has permeated every aspect of national life, from the grand spectacle of naval fleet reviews to the lone fisherman adrift at sea.

A Maritime Album is organized by The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia. The images were selected by photographic historian John Szarkowski, retired Curator of Photography of New York's Museum of Modern Art, and are accompanied with text by Richard Benson, Dean of the Art School at Yale University.

ANYA LEWIS

freezetag

Anya Lewis creates small, sculpted figures and places them in nearly empty, white rooms where they seem to be frozen

in battle with unseen forces. Her installations focus attention on the subtle details of her characters which embody multifaceted emotions: desires, ambitions, frustrations, and fears. In her artist's statement Lewis explained, "As players of the children's game [freeze tag] unfreeze one another by touching, viewers draw upon empathy and intuition to metaphorically unfreeze the characters and explore their ambiguous narratives." To each character Anya Lewis gives just enough information to begin to tell its story, leaving the conclusion up to the viewer's imagination.

Museum of Art

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 9 am - 5 pm. Sunday 11 am - 5 pm.

Admission: \$3.00 per person. No charge for Museum Members and UM students with Maine Card.

Directions

From the North

I-95, Exit 185 (formerly 48) - Broadway, (Bangor, Brewer)

Turn left at light onto Broadway, Rt. 15

At the 4th light (1.2 m), turn right onto State St., Rt. 2

At the light at the bottom of the hill (.1 m), turn right on to Harlow St. (a one-way street)

Merge into left lane, turn left into parking lot of Norumbega Hall.

From the South

I-95, Exit 185 (formerly 48) - Broadway, (Bangor, Brewer)

Turn left at light on to Broadway, Rt. 15

At the 3rd light (1.1 mi), turn right onto State St., Rt. 2

At the light at the bottom of the hill (.1 mi), turn right onto Harlow St. (a one-way street)

Merge into left lane, turn left into parking lot of Norumbega Hall.

Beacon Leaving UMaine for Western Michigan

22 Dec 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO--John Beacon, UMaine's assistant provost and dean of enrollment management, is leaving UMaine to become vice provost for enrollment management at Western Michigan University. Beacon has been at UMaine since 1997. During that time, UMaine's overall enrollment has increased from 9,213 to the current 11,358. The number of new first-time students enrolling at UMaine has increased by 60 percent during his tenure. Departments within Enrollment Management include: admissions, financial aid, student records, academic and career exploration, new student programs and the career center.

"UMaine has benefited greatly from John's leadership in the recruitment, enrollment and retention of students," says UMaine Interim President Robert Kennedy. "While the number of students has increased dramatically over the past seven years, John has managed a process that has allowed UMaine to maintain its academic standards and continue to recruit and enroll outstanding students."

Beacon, who will begin work in Michigan on Feb. 1, has 37 years of experience in higher education. In addition to UMaine he has held leadership positions at the University of Nebraska, Oklahoma State University and Eastern Illinois University and Indiana State University.

"I have been privileged to have worked for UMaine these past eight years. The University has great leadership in

President Kennedy and I will very much miss working with him and many other associates. Enrollment Management is in good hands, as the department directors and coordinators are among the best with whom I have ever worked. My wife and I take many cherished memories of Maine with us, along with friendships that will last us a lifetime," Beacon says. A Western Michigan news release is at <http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2004/12/026.html>.

UMaine Provides Web Training to State

22 Dec 2004

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571; Alan Parks, 581-1236 ORONO--When managers of Maine government's websites needed help using specialized software to make their websites accessible to all users, they turned to The University of Maine's Howard Mosher, UM Webmaster, and Alan Parks, coordinator of dissemination and technology at the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies and chair of UMaine's Subcommittee on Universal Design for the Web. In early December, Mosher and Parks conducted a session for 5 of the state's Web and network managers, training them on the use of Hiawatha Software Company's AccVerify Professional software. Both the university and the state of Maine use AccVerify to check and repair websites so that they are fully accessible according to the federal government's "Section 508" guidelines. websites that are accessible benefit all users, whether they have disabilities or not, but inaccessible websites may keep some users from being able to read some of the content. Since the university has been using AccVerify for many months, it seemed natural for the state Web managers to turn to UMaine for help. After the workshop, Parks noted, "The state Web managers left feeling that AccVerify would be a great tool for all state Webmasters to use. It's clear that it will help the state achieve full Web accessibility quickly." The same holds true for UMaine, which has a self-imposed deadline of April 2005 to make all of its sites accessible. The University's Universal Design for the Web Subcommittee will conduct trainings for anyone at the university on Jan. 6 and Feb. 3. They will cover the elements of universal design for the Web and the use of AccVerify, which is a free tool for anyone who works on university websites. More information about universal design for the Web and the training session is available at: www.umaine.edu/insider/accessibility.

UMaine Writing Center Coordinator Harvey Kail Receives National Award

21 Dec 2004

Contact: Harvey Kail, (207) 581-3829; George Manlove, (207) 581-3756

ORONO--University of Maine Associate Professor Harvey Kail recently received a national honor for his work encouraging student collaborations as coordinator of the peer tutoring program at the UMaine Writing Center at Neville Hall.

Kail received the 2004 Ron Maxwell Award for Distinguished Leadership in Promoting the Collaborative Practices of Peer Tutors in Writing recently at the 21st Annual National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing (NCPTW), held at Centenary College in Hackettstown, N.J.

The award recognizes accomplishment, dedication and leadership in collaborative learning in writing centers, encouraging students to take increased responsibility for their learning and promoting a collaborative peer tutoring environment.

Kail founded the UMaine writing center in 1979 -- one of the first in the country -- a year after he joined the faculty as an associate English professor. What began as an experimental way to improve writing abilities for non-English majors at UMaine has become a successful experiential learning tool for student tutors and a national model, according to Kail. The center helps as many as 600 UMaine students a year, from all academic areas, with the fundamentals of writing,

critical thinking, organization and even tact and diplomacy in giving and receiving written and oral criticism.

Tutors hone their own writing and analytical skills, in addition to developing techniques that bring out the best in peers who take advantage of the writing center services. Many of the students in the peer tutoring program are undergraduates; other tutors are graduate students and center staff.

Student writing tutors get training through a class Kail teaches, ENG 395 -- English Internship, after being nominated for the course by other faculty members.

"It's a great experience," Kail says. "I've heard from about 50 of our past tutors. They can talk in great detail, some from a distance of 15 or 20 years later, about what they learned here and how they applied it to their careers or graduate school and even their family lives."

An educational concept that blossomed in the mid-1980s as America became concerned about the writing abilities of many young people, writing centers now are springing up in Europe, Asia and South Africa, Kail says.

Because students work with one another in a cooperative atmosphere, their shared experiences tend to be relevant and long-lasting. "It's learning that sticks," Kail says. "There's really something that happens to people's relationship to knowledge when they acquire it through helping other people."

In addition to coordinating the writing center, Kail also teaches in the English department, has published on the subject of peer tutoring and composition and is involved with efforts to create and expand writing centers globally. He has also led seminars on peer tutoring in writing centers around the United States and in Germany, Hungary and Greece. Kail is an original participant in the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing, which sponsors annual conferences to bring faculty members together with student tutors from around the country.

Continuing his research in the field, Kail co-founded with colleagues at Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin, a national Peer Writing Tutor Alumni Research Project, which tracks the career development of former tutors from the three universities and shares research and pedagogy with writing centers worldwide.

Kail earned bachelors and masters degrees at the University of Toledo and a Ph.D. at Northern Illinois University. He lives in Orono.

Evidence for Sun-Climate Link Reported by UMaine Scientists

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ORONO - A team led by University of Maine scientists has reported finding a potential link between changes in solar activity and the Earth's climate. In a paper due to be published in an upcoming volume of the *Annals of Glaciology*, Paul Mayewski, director of UMaine's Climate Change Institute, and 11 colleagues from China, Australia and UMaine describe evidence from ice cores pointing to an association between the waxing and waning of zonal wind strength around Antarctica and a chemical signal of changes in the sun's output.

At the heart of the paper, *Solar Forcing of the Polar Atmosphere*, are calcium, nitrate and sodium data from ice cores collected in four Antarctic locations and comparisons of those data to South Pole ice core isotope data for beryllium-10, an indicator of solar activity. The authors also point to data from Greenland and the Canadian Yukon that suggest similar relationships between solar activity and the atmosphere in the northern hemisphere. They focus on years since 1400 when the Earth entered a roughly 500-year period known as the Little Ice Age.

The researchers' goal is to understand what drives the Earth's climate system without taking increases in greenhouse gases into account, says Mayewski. "There are good reasons to be concerned about greenhouse gases, but we should be looking at the climate system with our eyes open," he adds. Understanding how the system operates in the absence of human impacts is important for responding to climate changes that might occur in the future.

Mayewski founded the International Transantarctic Scientific Expedition (ITASE) and is the co-author of *The Ice Chronicles: The Quest to Understand Global Climate Change*, published in 2002 with Frank White. The United States' ITASE office is located at UMaine.

Antarctic locations used in the paper include: Law Dome, a 4,576-foot high ice mound located about 68 miles from the coast facing the Indian Ocean and the site of an Australian research station; Siple Dome, a 2,000-foot high ice covered mound located between two ice streams that flow out of the Transantarctic Mountains into the Ross ice shelf, and the site of a U.S. research station; and two ITASE field sites west of Siple Dome where ice cores were collected during field surveys in 2000 and 2001.

The authors are Mayewski, Kirk A. Maasch, Eric Meyerson, Sharon Sneed, Susan Kaspari, Daniel Dixon, and Erich Osterberg, all from UMaine; Yping Yan of the China Meteorological Association; Shichang Kang of UMaine and the Chinese Academy of Sciences; and Vin Morgan, Tas van Ommen and Mark Curran of the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC in Tasmania.

Since at least the 1840s when sunspot cycles were discovered, scientists have proposed that solar variability could affect the climate, but direct evidence of that relationship and understanding of a mechanism have been lacking.

The ice core data show, the authors write, that when solar radiation increases, more calcium is deposited at Siple Dome and at one of the ITASE field sites. The additional calcium may reflect an increase in wind strength in mid-latitude regions around Antarctica, they add, especially over the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Calcium in West Antarctic ice cores is thought to derive mainly from dust in Australia, Africa and South America and from sea salt in the southern ocean.

That finding, they note, is consistent with other research suggesting that the sun may affect the strength of those mid-latitude winds through changes in stratospheric ozone over Antarctica.

The authors also refer to sodium data from Siple Dome ice cores that have been reported by Karl Kreutz, director of UMaine's stable isotope laboratory. Changes in sodium appear to be associated with air pressure changes over the South Pacific.

Ice core data from Law Dome focus on changes in nitrate and may reflect changing wind patterns over Antarctica. The wind currents that bring nitrate to the continent, however, are less well known than those that carry sodium and calcium.

Researchers in the UMaine Climate Change Institute (<http://www.climatechange.umaine.edu/>) have focused on the relationship between solar variability and climate, particularly the use of isotopes in tree rings and ice cores to provide an indication of the sun's strength. The ice core data reported in the paper demonstrates a direct atmospheric consequence associated with changing solar radiation.

AEWC Center Presents First Annual Director's Awards

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ORONO--Tom and Linda Patrick of West Boothbay Harbor and Robert Lindyberg of Orono have received the 1st

Annual AEW Center Director's Awards at the University of Maine Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center. Director Habib J. Dagher presented the awards December 11 to the Patricks for their support of the center and to Lindyberg for his work as the AEW Center Manager of Technical Services.

Dagher lauded the Patricks for their contributions to the center and to UMaine where they are alumni of the class of 1962 and members of the President's Development Council. Dagher noted that, because of the Patricks' support, the center has realized new funding and forged new partnerships. This support has been instrumental in acquiring \$5 million for a major AEW initiative with the U.S. Navy, Maine Marine Manufacturing, and Hodgdon Yachts, an East Boothbay company, to develop the Mark V.1, a special operations craft.

This project will showcase the AEW Center's research and development (R&D) capacities; it will position Hodgdon Yachts to bid on construction of a new fleet of Mark V.1 craft; and it has the potential to create an industry niche for Maine's boatbuilders.

Lindyberg received a Director's Award for his dedication and assistance to the AEW Center during 2004. Lindyberg's role in securing funding and managing the Mark V.1 project as well as his work strengthening and expanding AEW's industrial partnerships were noted as outstanding contributions during this critical time in the Center's history.

"Linda and I have always been passionate supporters of the University of Maine," said Tom Patrick. "As members of the President's Development council and as small business owners, we saw opportunities to link AEW's international leadership in composite materials to businesses in the state. No better examples of which are a number of projects already underway and others being pursued by the partnership between AEW and Hodgdon Yachts in Boothbay Harbor. For us to be honored, more importantly speaks for the university, its students who work at AEW and the economy of Maine."

Dagher noted that since the Patricks arranged for then UMaine President Peter Hoff and Tom Patrick to speak to a group of Boothbay students, ties between the community and the AEW Center have flourished. This event had two significant results. First, as a result of Hoff's and Dagher's presentations, two Boothbay students, Adam Benedict and Zachary Jones, both made the decision to attend the university's College of Engineering and have been employed as student research assistants at the AEW Center.

A second result of this visit has been a partnership between Hodgdon Yachts and the AEW Center. Hodgdon had previously been contracting with a testing laboratory in Nova Scotia to complete safety and durability testing of its work as required by its insurer. Since Hoff's and Dagher's visit to the community, Hodgdon learned of UMaine's capacities and has been collaborating with the AEW Center in its quality testing program.

Dagher also noted that the Patricks were influential in their advocacy for Maine's June 2003 Jobs Bond Referendum which has funded expanded AEW laboratory facilities adding capacities for resin infusion, wood plastic composites extrusion and special projects in product development. This expansion of AEW laboratories (to 48,000 sq. ft.) houses R&D projects developing a new insulated, composite roof panel system, a new triangular strand lumber product that transforms pulpwood-grade logs into a construction material three times stronger than the original wood, and an oriented strand lumber (OSL) construction product that bonds wood strands together to produce studs, joists, beams and headers for the upscale housing market.

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The AEW Center is an ISO 17025 certified 48,000 sq ft state-of-the-art "one stop shop" for integrated composite materials research, development and testing. The center's nine laboratories provide the State of Maine and beyond with capacities for the development of composite materials and structures from the conceptual stage through research, manufacturing prototypes, and subsequent testing and evaluation. Currently, over 100 AEW employees (including academic researchers, engineers and scientists and other staff, as well as both undergraduate and graduate University of Maine students) are engaged in projects including the design, construction and evaluation of demonstration bridges and piers utilizing composite materials. They also focus on the development of composite materials for marine infrastructure and for disaster resistant housing, research for both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army, as well as development and testing of

consumer products including decking materials, skateboards and an array of home and commercial construction materials. The Center has been granted 8 patents and has 5 more patent applications pending. AEWEC has recently received the Governor's Award for Accomplishments in Maine's natural resource-based industries and an award from FAME for its outstanding example of the integration of business and higher education. The Center is funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Federal Highway Administration, the Office of Naval Research, the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Coast Guard and the Maine Technology Institute. Additionally, AEWEC works with industrial clients on a contractual basis providing product development and testing services.