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Forum to Discuss Issues of Safety in Schools and Society

January 4, 1999

Contact: Kay Hyatt (207) 581-2761

Bangor, Maine -- The Task Force on Safe Schools, a regional collaborative of education and community leaders, will sponsor a public forum on Wednesday, January 13. The purpose of the forum is to hear the concerns and seek the ideas of a broader constituency on addressing issues of incivility and violence in schools and society. The forum begins at 7 p.m. at Wellman Commons, Bangor Theological Seminary.

The Task Force, chaired by Robert Cobb, dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Maine, has spent the past six months examining issues, trends, existing policy and resources, and the barriers schools and communities face in preventing and responding to youth violence.

Cobb will preside over the forum and head a panel of listeners that will include: Senator Mary Cathcart, co-chair of the Legislative Committee on School Violence; James Doughty, superintendent of Bangor Schools; Mark Woodward, executive editor of the Bangor Daily News; Martha Newman, chair of the Bangor School Board; Peter Phair, experiential education coordinator, Care Development; and James Haddix, pastor and teacher, All Souls Congregational Church, Bangor.

Public testimony on issues such as zero tolerance policies, confidentiality and sharing of juvenile information, punitive measures, appropriate interventions, referrals that protect victims and assist offenders and other pertinent comments and suggestions are encouraged, Cobb says.

Those wishing to provide testimony to the panel are asked to sign up at the reception table at the forum. Comments should be limited to 3-5 minutes to allow an ample exchange of views.

The forum is being coordinated by Kenneth Vogt, director of development at the Bangor Theological Seminary and co-chair of the task force's Events Subcommittee.

UMaine Professors Study Ice Storm Media Deprivation

January 4, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The ice storms that left much of Maine without power in January also left people without the mass media that has become so much a part of modern-day life. Two University of Maine professors have studied the impact of this almost total blackout on Maine's population and how the media that remained was used.

Lyombe Eko, assistant professor of journalism and mass communication and Joanne Gula, assistant professor of journalism, surveyed 134 households about the ice storm and the media deprivation that resulted. They have written about their research in a paper that will be presented to the International Communication Association conference next year, *What it Means to be in the Dark in the Information Age: The Ice Storm of '98 and Mass Media Deprivation in Maine*.

Eko and Gula say the modern world has become an information society, characterized by dependence on the mass media and information technology for psychological and social needs and satisfactions. For many, the ice storm pulled the plug on their access to media.

An estimated 800,000 people lost power during the storm for periods ranging from a few hours to two weeks, an estimated four out of five residents. Fifteen of the state's sixteen counties were affected, and Maine was declared a disaster area.

"When the ice storm hit, we saw this as a unique opportunity," says Eko. "Media deprivation is rare, and the last academic study of the near total absence of the mass media was in the 1980's, before the Internet, and we are more dependent on the media now than ever before."

For the study, Eko and Gula first determined whether respondents used the media to meet psychological or sociological needs and to get gratification. Respondents were then asked whether they experienced any discomfort caused by media deprivation. Student volunteers from journalism classes conducted the surveys.

An overwhelming 91 percent of those surveyed said they had lost power and sixteen percent had gone to a shelter. Twenty percent were without a phone for all or part of the period during the ice storm.

"Media loss had some impact on everybody," says Gula. "We looked at a number of different variables, such as political affiliation or socioeconomic status, and there was no demographic difference. The storm was a leveling factor."

The professors found that because people in society are so saturated with the various mass media, a psychological bond is formed with favorite news anchors or characters in shows.

"There is a psychological connection there," says Eko. "When some people were deprived of that, they didn't know what to do with themselves." Very few respondents overall, however, felt overly disoriented because of the near-total media blackout. One of the reasons for this was the radio.

Most electronic media outlets, including the Public Broadcasting System and the Emergency Warning system, were silenced as a result of the storm. The only alternative became local radio stations that transformed themselves into community instruments. Two in particular, WVOM and WWBX played 24-hour a day storm-related programming.

"Radio saved the day. People called in to encourage each other, to inquire about relatives and friends and give on-air tips on various subjects. It became a wonderful communication tool," says Gula. "It allowed people to get in touch with the outside world and find out what was happening."

During the storm, Governor King and members of Maine's Congressional delegation used radio several times to communicate directly to the people of the state. The utility companies also used the radio stations to give updates about the extent of the damage and the time it would take to restore power to customers. Eko and Gula say because of this, radio returned to its original mission, providing information.

“Radio is not the medium that people think of when they need information,” says Eko. “During the storm, though, it stepped in and filled the social need people had and allowed those without power to feel part of a community again.”

UMaine Instructor to Perform Classical Guitar Recital

January 6, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The School of Performing Arts at the University of Maine will host an evening of Spanish classical guitar music in a faculty recital by Keith Crook.

The recital will be held Saturday, January 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall of the Class of 1944 Hall, between the Maine Center for the Arts and the Memorial Union. Admission is \$4 for the general public, free to UMaine students with ID. Discounts are available for seniors, students, children or groups.

Crook will perform a variety of perennial favorites and masterpieces for the classical guitar. All historical periods of this style of music will be represented, a span of 500 years. Selections include "Asturias" by Isaac Albeniz, "Recuerdos de la Alhambra" by Francisco Tarrega, and "Omaggio" by Manuel de Falla.

In addition to the School of Performing Arts, Crook teaches at the University of Southern Maine and the Portland Conservatory. As president of the Down East Society for Classical Guitar, he has been instrumental in organizing nine Classical Guitar Competitions for Maine students. He studied guitar in Spain for seven years and holds B.A. and Master's degrees in guitar performance.

UMaine Professor Releases Ellsworth Community Policing Survey

January 6, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A University of Maine professor will release a community policing survey in Ellsworth to determine citizen views on crime and means to prevent crime.

Carolyn Ball, associate professor of Public Administration, will discuss the survey release at a press conference on Friday, Jan. 8 at 9 a.m. in the Club Room of the Ellsworth Fire Department. Ball and John DeLeo, Chief of the Ellsworth Police Department, will be available for questions.

The survey will be sent on Thursday, Jan. 7 to 350 Ellsworth citizens. Patricia Kontur, a student enrolled in the Master's of Public Administration program, will assist in the analysis of the survey results, which will be available in March.

"The survey is just one tool Chief DeLeo will use to develop community policing in Ellsworth," says Ball. "Besides surveying citizen needs for policing, community policing also involves working with community groups, citizens and other government agencies to solve problems."

Ball says community policing is based on a philosophy already in practice by Maine police departments and in other rural areas of the country in which community members help prevent crime and make people feel safer.

Since 1993, the Public Administration department at UMaine has worked with law enforcement agencies to assess community needs. The Ellsworth survey is a continuation of that partnership. In all, citizens in 55 separate communities, including Ellsworth, have participated in the planning of community policing by responding to the surveys.

Crystal Clear: New UMaine X-Ray Machine Puts Spotlight on Atoms

January 7, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A powerful new machine in the Bryand Global Sciences Building may be the Hubble Telescope of geology and surface science for University of Maine scientists. Purchased with a combination of National Science Foundation and university funds, the device allows scientists to peer deeply into the structure of minerals and other materials.

Known as an x-ray diffractometer, the machine is already playing an important role in basic geological research as well as efforts to develop new sensors and understand how pollution behaves in groundwater. Funding also came from the Laboratory for Surface Science and Technology (LASST), located in the Sawyer Research Building.

“Geological Sciences has worked very closely with LASST throughout the planning, purchasing, and acquisition stages to ensure this x-ray system would meet their needs,” says Martin Yates, laboratory manager in geology. LASST has acquired x-ray components that will enable them to analyze the structure of thin films at the atomic level. Knowing how atoms are arranged is critical to understanding how sensors react with gases, metals and other compounds.

Geologists are using the diffractometer to gather clues about conditions under which minerals were formed, Yates explains. In turn, such information can be used to determine what climates were like or what active geological processes were at work in Maine's past.

The diffractometer was manufactured by Scintag, Inc. of Cupertino, California and shipped to UMaine last July and became fully operational in December.

The device has several unusual features which make it particularly useful for atomic level studies. They include a highly sensitive, solid-state, x-ray detector which monitors the intensity of rays reflected off the sample, and a sample platform which can be rotated and rocked through a wide variety of positions.

A newly developed parallel, x-ray focusing system was also purchased to allow non-destructive analysis of rough materials such as rocks, artifacts, and manufactured materials. Scientists will use it to analyze much smaller amounts of material than would otherwise be possible.

Because x-rays have such short wavelengths, they can illuminate structural details such as the spacing between individual atoms. Without that kind of information, scientists are sometimes unable to distinguish between different minerals which may have the same chemical composition.

“I can determine the chemical composition of a mineral sample using other methods,” says Yates, “but unless I know exactly how the atoms are arranged in the crystal structure, the sample could be any one of several distinct minerals. This machine gives us the ability to identify a mineral without a doubt.”

Scientists can also use the machine to identify minerals in complex mixtures such as marine clays and organic lake sediments.

As are many laboratory machines, the device is controlled by a computer. The operator places a sample into the diffractometer, closes the protective shield and uses a nearby desktop computer to issue commands. Data from the x-ray detector are stored in a computer file for later analysis.

The machine is located on the second floor of the Bryand building and is available for faculty and student projects campus-wide, says Yates. Arrangements for preparing samples and scheduling time for training and

analyses can be made with Yates.

Dense Galactic Superclusters Add New Structural Details to the Universe

Contact: David Batuski, Department of Physics and Astronomy, 207-581-1036, Batuski@maine.edu
Nick Houtman, Department of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, Houtman@maine.edu

AUSTIN, Texas -- Today, at the American Astronomical Society meeting in Austin, Texas, astronomers David Batuski and Chris Miller of the University of Maine, presented evidence of two relatively rare types of galaxy superclusters in a single colossal complex in the southern part of the constellation Aquarius. The complex consists of two long filaments, one of which is the longest such object yet seen, and a dense knot of clusters.

These findings add significantly to the emerging picture of large-scale structure in the present-day universe and provide some well-defined examples of structure that must be explained by processes in the fireball of the Big Bang. Future analysis of the knot of clusters, when studied in detail with three other similar clumps of clusters, may prove that some vast objects may be collapsing within our otherwise expanding universe.

Batuski and Miller conducted their observations at the European Southern Observatory in Chile with Kurt Slinglend, also at Maine, and colleagues from Meudon Observatory near Paris. In 1997, this research team announced their initial finding of the Aquarius supercluster. This filament of clusters appears to extend about one billion light-years in length, making it the longest structure yet seen in the universe.

Since that time, the team has re-analyzed their observational data on the Aquarius clusters. They have also nearly completed observations of a large sample of clusters scattered over much of the rest of the sky and compared structure in Aquarius with that seen elsewhere. They limited their study to the richest of galaxy clusters, those with 50 or more bright member galaxies (the earlier finding had included some poorer clusters). They also focused on dense aggregations of clusters, ones with more than eight times the average space density of such clusters. The work has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

TWO MAJOR RESULTS

Two major results have emerged. One has been confirmation of the existence and significance of the Aquarius supercluster. "Although the dense portion of this previously identified filament extends only about 400 million light-years, it is still the longest supercluster of such rich clusters yet seen," says Batuski.

The study identified a second example of a long (300 million light-years), dense filament of eight clusters, which appears to be loosely connected to the Aquarius supercluster. The finding of two long filaments of rich clusters in close proximity was surprising, since among the 350 observed clusters in the rest of the sky only two other such filaments were found.

The study also confirmed that a particularly dense subset of clusters within the Aquarius supercluster (nicknamed the 'Aquarius knot') has general properties similar to three other exceedingly dense superclusters and leads to the conclusion that a genuine class of such objects can now be studied.

Other astronomers have thoroughly studied a dense supercluster of this new class in Corona Borealis and another called the Shapley Concentration in Hydra and Centaurus. Some of their results suggest that these structures may be on the verge of collapsing under the force of gravity or may already be collapsing. Another supercluster in Microscopium has a similar density of rich clusters, and further detailed observations of all four of these unusual objects should allow for the determination of whether such large regions of space are indeed under general gravitational collapse.

DATA FROM 737 GALAXIES

In the Aquarius observations, the UMaine and Meudon researchers observed 737 galaxies located in 46 clusters. Using the 3.6-meter (140-inch) telescope at the European Southern Observatory in Chile, the team collected light spectra from several of the galaxies that make up each observed cluster. They then analyzed these spectra to determine the cluster redshifts. The term redshift refers to a change in the spectra of light received from galaxies which are speeding away from Earth. Because of the high velocities involved, light from those galaxies is shifted to longer, redder wavelengths. Greater redshift corresponds to greater distances from Earth.

The Aquarius supercluster consists of a string of 14 rich clusters of galaxies running roughly along the line of sight from Earth. They feature a range of redshifts corresponding to distances between 1 billion and 1.4 billion light-years from earth. Poorer clusters (less than 50 galaxies per cluster) appear to fill in and extend the filament to a maximum distance that could be as much as 2 billion light-years.

Previous supercluster discoveries of similar scale include the Perseus-Pegasus supercluster, which is also in the shape of a filament, and the "Great Wall," which is actually a gigantic sheet of galaxies. Structures of this size match up nicely with the smaller features observed in the findings from NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) survey of the remnant microwave radiation from the Big Bang.

The researchers at the University of Maine and Meudon Observatory hope to continue studying this region of unusual superclustering in greater detail. "Eventually," Batuski says, "astronomers will be able to describe the structure in the universe on large scales with confidence. This is important because we think that these scales have been relatively undisturbed since very early times and have much to tell us about conditions in the Big Bang."

Muscle Power: Students Take the Measure of the Human Biceps

January 7, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Applying everyday mechanical devices such as pulleys and levers, a class of University of Maine engineering students has devised new ways to measure the strength of the human biceps. By the end of the fall semester, they had designed and built three new machines which will be used by future students pursuing a new concentration of biomedical engineering courses.

The course, Engineering of Biological Systems, was taught by Rosemary Seymour, assistant professor in BioSystems Science and Engineering. "After we covered details about the muscles, bones and circulatory system, this project allowed them to get into the design process," Seymour says. "Every one of them changed their designs as they went along. This is part of a broader university effort to give students opportunities to do active design work earlier in their educational programs."

The students' biggest challenges were isolating the biceps from other muscles and making their devices compatible with the department's new Instron testing equipment. Isolation is important since other muscles come into play as the arm and shoulder move.

To protect the Instron device, the students had to transform a large force into a small one. The department's Instron is designed to measure small forces such as what it takes to rupture the skin of fresh blueberries. The maximum capacity is 50 pounds, and biceps muscles are capable of generating forces over that limit.

Each of the devices uses a different principle of operation, but the results are similar: the force applied by the biceps muscle is reduced by mechanical means to a level within the Instron's limits

In addition to working with Seymour, students received professional guidance from Angela Green, an occupational therapist at the Brewer Rehabilitation and Living Center, and Robert Lehnhard, associate professor of kinesiology in the College of Education and Human Development.

"Their input helped the students understand the biology, physiology and mechanics of what they had to do," says Seymour..

In December, students described their devices before their peers in class and then demonstrated them in practice in the BioResource Engineering lab. One group used a six-foot long aluminum rod as a lever to apply force to the Instron. Another team designed a system of interconnected pulleys in a box, and third team used a custom-made arm brace with a long rope also run through pulleys.

Next year, students in this course will use the devices for testing and evaluation purposes.

Oratorio Society to Begin Rehearsals

January 7, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The Oratorio Society at the University of Maine will hold its first rehearsal on Monday, Jan. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Choral Rehearsal Room in the Class of 1944 Hall.

Area singers are invited to join the Oratorio Society, conducted by Kevin Birch, a faculty member at UMaine's School of Performing Arts. The ensemble is composed of singers from the community and from the University, both students and faculty. No auditions are required to join the group, but regular attendance at rehearsals is mandatory.

This year, the Oratorio Society will perform Francis Poulenc's "Gloria" and Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" in collaboration with the University Singers on Tuesday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Maine Center for the Arts. Scores are available at the University Bookstore in the Memorial Union.

For more information contact the University of Maine School of Performing Arts at (207) 581-4702.

UMaine to Celebrate Martin Luther King's Legacy

January 7, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine has a full day of activities planned on Jan. 18 to celebrate the life and beliefs of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We will be celebrating all the things Dr. King stood for," says Shannetta Mennenga, interim assistant dean for Multicultural Student Affairs. "Equality for all people, unity. He had a dream that we're still trying to achieve."

The day begins with the 3rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Breakfast from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. at Wells Conference Center. Jim Lucas, nationally-known speaker and performer, will read and deliver some of King's famous speeches and writings.

Lucas, in his one-man show "Reflections", brings to life the words, background and experiences of King with renditions of "I Have a Dream," "I've Been to the Mountaintop," and excerpts from "A Knock at Midnight" and "Letters from a Birmingham Jail." Lucas has also appeared in "The Meeting," a play about the lives, philosophies and times of King and Malcom X.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children under 12 and can be purchased at the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs in the Memorial Union. This event is sponsored by the Greater Bangor NAACP and the UMaine Human Rights Coalition.

A series of films and presentations will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union. Times for the events will be announced later, or call 581-1405 for more information.

The film "Skin Deep" will address the question of whether there is a genetic definition of race or whether the difference between people, so often the basis of racism and prejudice, is really only skin deep. There will be discussion after the film facilitated by Michelle Rosemond, a graduate student in special education.

Dialogues in Diversity, a group of University of Maine students and professionals, will present a program entitled "Multicultural Voices Sharing Their Reality." The group, trained in and concerned about issues of diversity and multiculturalism, will facilitate a discussion, "Free at Last?"

Another film, "Promised Land: Montgomery After Martin Luther King, Jr." is about Montgomery, Alabama, where the civil rights movement started in 1955 with the famous bus boycott led by King. Ten years later, the city was the symbolic goal of the march from Selma to protest restrictions on black voters, when many marchers were beaten by police. In the film, images of those years are interwoven with the experiences of Montgomery's black citizens today. Discussion after the film, "Has King's Dream Been Realized," will be facilitated by Shannetta Mennenga.

A candlelight vigil will be held at 5 p.m. on the steps of the Memorial Union. Rev. Dana Reed, campus minister at the Wilson Center, will lead prayer, sharing and readings.

All films and presentations in the Bangor Lounge are free and open to the public. They are sponsored by the Multicultural Student Affairs Office and the Center for Students and Community Life.

Engineering Students Team Up to Tackle Manufacturing Problems

January 12, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Students in Karen Horton's mechanical engineering technology (MET) classes at the University of Maine are teaming up to tackle problems in modern manufacturing processes. Horton is an assistant professor of MET from Old Town, and her emphasis on teams and communication skills are the right prescription for what manufacturers, engineering firms and other businesses say are the work force needs of the next century.

"The use of teams has become common in engineering technology," says Horton. "Students accept that being taught these skills will enhance their career success. That's the bottom line."

The College of Engineering is promoting team building among students in many areas. The Society for Manufacturing Engineers, a professional association, has emphasized the need for employees to have good interpersonal relations and communication skills as well as basic math and engineering knowledge, Horton notes.

After graduation, mechanical engineering technology students qualify for jobs in the pulp and paper industry, engineering design firms and construction companies. Women and minorities are increasingly being drawn to this traditionally male-dominated work force.

In 1998, Horton received one of ten awards granted nationally to attend a Frontiers in Education Conference to share the latest techniques in engineering education. In addition, she was selected to receive training in team-building exercises developed at Illinois State University.

Instead of using only a lecture format in her classes, Horton divides her MET 270 class into five teams through which students rotate during the semester. Students are challenged to work together on projects, give oral presentations to their classmates and write reports on their work.

Employers have made it clear, says Horton, that graduates need these skills to compete successfully for jobs.

Horton joined the MET faculty in the Fall of 1997 after working for five years at Bath Iron Works in noise, shock and vibration engineering and building Aegis destroyers. Prior to pursuing her master's degree, she spent three years as an engineer at the Naval Coastal Systems Center in Panama City, Florida. She currently serves as the faculty advisor to the student section of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and has a particular interest in encouraging young women to pursue engineering as a career.

Second Annual Career Fair

January 12, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Career Center at the University of Maine will host its second annual Career Fair on Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Wells Conference Center.

Representatives from 76 state and national companies will attend the fair and answer student questions about career choices and opportunities. Students and faculty from all academic disciplines are encouraged to attend.

"I'm very pleased with the response," says Patty Counihan, director of the Career Center. "We have an excellent representation of organizations and it's more than double the size of the fair we had last year."

Counihan says although over half of the organizations attending have jobs and internships to fill, this is not strictly a job fair.

"It's really designed for students to learn more about careers and talk face to face with people who represent different careers and get advice and good information," says Counihan.

Companies and organizations such as National Semiconductor, the Bangor Daily News, Up With People, MBNA New England, Raytheon Systems Company and Bangor Area Visiting Nurses will attend.

John Beacon, dean of Enrollment Management at UMaine, says the fair shows the importance of a career center to a university community.

"Good employment opportunities are a critical piece of the whole picture as to why students attend college," says Beacon. "In these days where a college education is at least a \$50,000 investment, parents and students want to know: what their return will be on the dollars and time they spend in college, the percent of students who find employment after graduation, the starting salaries of our graduates and the kinds of companies that recruit our students."

Beacon says the growing desire by major national companies to attend an annual event like the Jan. 28 fair should show the community that the University of Maine has the caliber of programs and the quality of graduates that companies are seeking to hire and to involve in their internship programs.

"This is a great opportunity for students to both explore careers and look at job openings with major companies and get the facts first hand from the best sources possible - the employers themselves," says Beacon.

Marrs to Perform at Bangor Symphony Orchestra Concerts

January 14, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- A University of Maine faculty member in the School of Performing Arts will perform as a solo percussionist at this weekend's Bangor Symphony Orchestra concerts.

Stuart Marrs, associate professor of music and percussion studies, will perform the solo marimba part of "Uneven Souls" a composition by Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic that was premiered in the U.S. at the University of Maine with the composer playing the solo part.

Marrs will perform the piece at the BSO's Saturday, Jan. 16 Family Casual Concert at 6 p.m. and the Sunday, Jan. 17 concert at 3 p.m. He will be accompanied by members of the symphony's percussion section and members of the Maine Steiners.

The instrumentation for the three percussionists is extensive and the score calls for a few exotic instruments such as the Peking opera gong, darabukka and various multi-tongued slit drums.

Marrs has an extensive international profile, having taught and performed in France, Switzerland, Belgium, Poland, Russia, El Salvador, Bolivia and Costa Rica. Since 1995, Marrs has been teaching both percussion and music history at UMaine.

The symphony will perform segments of Shostakovich's "Symphony no. 5 in D Minor" on Saturday and works of Eastern European composers Zivkovic, Shostakovich and Liszt on Sunday. Call 1-800-639-3221 or 942-5555 for more information or tickets.

Women in the Curriculum Sets Spring Lunch Series Programs

January 14, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program at the University of Maine continues their brown-bag lunch series with a schedule full of timely and provocative topics and a new location.

The series will be held from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Room 109 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building unless otherwise noted.

The purposes of the lunch series are to share with people on campus exciting work being done on women's issues in the community; to interest students in taking Women's Studies and gender-balanced courses; to interest faculty in teaching Women's Studies and incorporating material on women into the rest of their courses; to showcase the Women's Studies scholarship being done on this campus by faculty, students and staff; and to demonstrate to the campus and the community the breadth and depth of intellectual and cultural work done on women's issues.

For directions to the new building, information on parking or other information call 581-1228.

The schedule is as follows:

January

•**Tuesday, Jan. 26:** "Don't Talk About Us Without Us: Women with Disabilities" - Laura Lee Ash, legal intern, University of Maine System and Patty Coleman, associate professor of Social Work. Held in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union

February

•**Wednesday, Feb. 3:** "Dietary Supplements: Why Do Women Need Them or Want Them?" - Mary Ellen Camire, associate professor of Food Science and Human Nutrition

•**Wednesday, Feb. 10:** "Race and Masculinity: Paul Robeson and the Modernist Aesthetic" - Hazel Carby, chair of the African and African American Studies Program, Yale University. Co-sponsored by the Department of Communication and Journalism

•**Wednesday, Feb. 17:** "Revolution or Evolution: Grassroots Activism and the Protection of Natural Resources" - Susan Cockrell, instructor in Natural Resources and Women's Studies, wildlife activist

•**Wednesday, Feb. 24:** "The Female Voice in Late Medieval Love Lyrics: The Historical Contexts and Some New Discoveries" - Linne Mooney, associate professor of English

March

•**Tuesday, March 16:** "Let's Face the Music and Dance: The Cultural Work of Astaire-Rogers Dance Music in Depression America" - Margaret MacFadden, assistant professor of American Studies, Colby College

•**Tuesday, March 23:** "What Constitutes Success? American Business Women in the 1920s" - Candace Kanes, adjunct assistant professor of Liberal Arts, Maine College of Art

•**Tuesday, March 30:** "Gender Issues and the Graduate Experience at UMaine: Results of the Fall 1998 Survey" - Sandra Caron, associate professor of Family Relationships; Scott Delcourt, director of the Graduate School;

Sean Murphy, co-coordinator of the Graduate Center; Tina Roberts, graduate assistant, Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program

April

- Wednesday, Apr. 7:** “I Thought I Was Done: Grandparents Who Parent” - Mary Ellen Camire, associate professor of Food Science and Human Nutrition; Cheryl Chessa, director of Special Projects and Special Programs; Maureen Smith, director of Native American Studies and associate professor of Interdisciplinary Studies; Gail Werrbach, Moderator, director and associate professor of the School of Social Work
- Wednesday, Apr. 14:** “The Power of Feminist Theory: Domination, Resistance, Solidarity” - Amy Allen, visiting assistant professor of Philosophy, Dartmouth College
- Wednesday, Apr. 21:** “Outstanding Women: Assertiveness Through Religion in the Sikh Diaspora” - Stacy Brady, undergraduate honors student; Cynthia Mahmood, associate professor of Anthropology
- Tuesday, Apr. 27:** “Sexual Harassment by Electronic Communication: A New Challenge for Feminism” - Nancy Lewis, social science and humanities reference librarian, co-chair, Council on Women; Rebecca Salsbury, METS/MEOC technology coordinator; John Sherblom, associate professor of Communication; Eva Curry, member, Student Women's Association

Registered Black Angus Cows Donated to UMaine Farm

January 18, 1999

Contacts: Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

Marcy Guillette, 207-866-0083

Jim Weber, 207-581-2774

Tom McKenny, 207-688-4196

ORONO, Maine -- Nine registered black angus cows and two calves arrived at the University of Maine's Witter Teaching and Research Farm in mid-December, a gift from Tom and Holly McKenny their daughter Heather of Pownal, Maine. The animals are valued at \$15,000 and are the latest addition to the farm which is home to the university's growing dairy and horse programs.

Eight of the cows are pregnant and expected to calve in the Spring. The gift included enough silage and hay to feed the cows for a year.

Students and faculty will benefit from the presence of a high quality black angus herd at the farm, says Jim Weber, a veterinarian and assistant professor in the Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering (BSE). Students will use the animals in a livestock management course which will, for the first time in many years, offer hands-on lessons with beef cattle.

Students will also gain from the McKennys many years of experience in raising and showing high quality cattle. The former owners plan to make frequent trips to Orono to consult with Weber and show students how to manage the herd.

"Black angus are recognized as the predominate breed in the cattle industry," says Tom McKenny. "They have the ability to raise good offspring year after year and pass on positive genetics." Black angus beef is well-known for being lean, and the breed is often interspersed with others in commercial herds, says Tom.

Marcy Guillette, the Witter Farm's livestock manager, will supervise the animals. Members of the student group, UMaine Mad Cows, will also show the black angus at county fairs.

Some of the cows come from superior blood lines with registered champions in their lineage. They will provide Weber with new opportunities for using embryo transfer technology to improve the characteristics of the herd.

Black angus were brought to North America from Scotland in the mid-1800s. The McKennys have raised the breed since 1974 when Tom was teaching history and government at North Yarmouth Academy. "I was a city boy," Tom says, "but Holly grew up on a farm and always enjoyed having animals around. It gets into your blood and becomes a way of life."

The family expanded their herd four years later after Tom left teaching to join his family's oil and gas exploration business. He and Holly built a barn and cleared new pasture lands. Their daughter Heather joined a 4-H club and started raising her own black angus. At one point in the 1980s, the family had 70 head of cattle, including both black angus and crossbred animals. They showed their best at fairs from Maine to Maryland and New York.

In 1991, they had the Grand Champion and a Reserve Champion black angus females at the Fryeburg Fair. They also sold beef locally.

When Heather went to college, Tom and Holly scaled back the herd to about 20 animals. They continued to attend shows and buy animals with exceptional traits. In recent years, however, Tom's business has taken more of his attention, and last fall, the decision was made to reduce the herd further.

“We didn't want to send these cattle across the country and not know where they might end up. We wanted them to be taken care of, and it just happened that our veterinarian knew that there might be an opportunity at the university.

“We are really excited to have the rest of the herd in Orono. We see this as a great opportunity for students to work with beef cattle and get to know how a viable beef operation can work in New England. The students we've met are enthusiastic, and they have the chance to learn a lot from Jim Weber,” says Tom.

UMaine Offers Africa Course for Camden Conference

January 18, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine, in collaboration with the Camden Conference, is offering a course that will focus on the history, culture, politics and economic status of modern-day Africa.

"Africa in the Age of the Internet" will meet Jan. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Dexter Lounge at UMaine; March 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Picker Room of the Camden Library and April 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Dexter Lounge. The course curriculum also includes attendance at the internationally acclaimed Camden Conference from Feb. 26-28. The three-credit course will count toward a journalism, political science or education workshop requirement.

UMaine professors Lyombe Eko, assistant professor of journalism and mass communication; James Warhola, professor of political science and Herman Weller, associate professor of education and human development will teach the course.

"The purpose of the course is to provide interested students with an overview of major aspects and trends in Africa," says Warhola. "We hope that people will learn from the course about the diversity, richness and remarkable potential and achievements that Africa and most of all, its people have to offer to the human family."

The course will discuss the issues and ideas explored in this year's Camden Conference on Sub-Saharan Africa, held at the Camden Opera House. Emphasis will be on the historical, cultural, economic, political and international relations realities in Africa.

The conference will feature speakers from both the U.S. and Africa and panel discussions, as well as a keynote address by Margaret Dongo, an independent member of the Zimbabwe Parliament.

"The course will tie in with the conference by enabling interested students to gain academic credit from the University of Maine while expanding their intellectual horizons through interaction with major figures in the field of African affairs," says Warhola.

Roy Salzman, president of The Camden Conference, says the course is one of many Community Extension events planned in the two months prior to the conference. Other events include: exhibitions of African art at the Maine Coast Artists Gallery in Rockport and the Camden Public Library; a concert by the Ladysmith Black Mambazo group at the Camden Opera House; and an African literature course at the Penobscot School in Rockland.

"The basic mission of the Camden Conference is to provide a community forum for the exchange of ideas on key global issues. We chose sub-Sahara Africa because of the general lack of understanding about this vast and increasingly important part of the globe, comprising some 47 different countries and nearly 700 million people," says Salzman. "We so often think in terms of stereotypes when it comes to that area of the world without looking at the complexities and full picture of Africa."

The Camden Conference was begun in 1988 to heighten community awareness of foreign affairs. This is its twelfth annual conference with past conferences covering other significant regions or cultures such as Japan, Russia, China, Islam and last year, Latin America.

UMaine to Add Varsity Women's Volleyball

Jan. 18, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

Joe Roberts at 581-3596

ORONO -- Increased opportunities to participate in Division I varsity athletics will become available to University of Maine student-athletes in the fall of 1999 with the addition of women's volleyball as a varsity sport.

"This announcement exemplifies the University of Maine's commitment to gender equity and to the value of women's athletics," says UMaine Director of Athletics and Recreation Suzanne J. Tyler.

There will be up to 16 players on the volleyball team, with 12 scholarship opportunities. The scholarships will be phased in over four years.

The decision to add women's volleyball was reviewed and recommended by UMaine's Athletics Advisory Board, which consists of faculty, students, staff and members of the community.

UMaine offered varsity volleyball for several years, but eliminated it following the 1983-84 academic year. It is a popular and growing sport around the country and in Maine. In 1998, twelve high school girls' teams were involved in the first year of competition since the sport was approved by the governing body of high school sports, the Maine State School Principals Association.

"Volleyball is a good fit for our program," Tyler says. "The America East Conference has several strong programs and, with wide interest and full institutional support, I believe that we can be competitive very quickly."

The volleyball program is expected to cost \$200,000 during the first year and \$260,000 the next year. The program will be funded from the athletic department's existing share of the University's budget and from funds generated through donations and sponsorships.

The volleyball competition season runs from September through November, followed by tournament play. A search for a coach will begin later this month.

Voronietsky to Perform Piano Favorites in Recital

January 18, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The School of Performing Arts at the University of Maine will host a concert of piano classics in a faculty recital by Baycka Voronietsky on Jan. 31.

The recital will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall of the Class of 1944 Hall, between the Maine Center for the Arts and the Memorial Union. Admission is \$4 for the general public, free to UMaine students with ID. Discounts are available for seniors, students, children or groups.

Voronietsky, an associate professor of piano at UMaine, began her public performances at age seven in Gdansk, Poland. She has performed in Italy, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Morocco and various locations across the United States.

In her recital, Voronietsky will perform "Musical Moment op. 94 #2" by Schubert, "Two Sonatas" by Scarlatti, "Partita BWV 826 in c-minor" by J.S. Bach, "Variations on a Theme" by Brahms and "Appassionata op. 57 in f-minor" by Beethoven.

Voronietsky will also perform "Great World of Light," an original composition by UMaine faculty member Beth Wiemann. Voronietsky will be accompanied by Diane Roscetti, director of the School of Performing Arts on cello and Nancy Ogle, associate professor of music, singing soprano. The song was written as a eulogy for Voronietsky's brother, Michal.

Art Department Hosts Visiting Artist

January 19, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Art Department at the University of Maine will host Elizabeth Dove, the 1999 Elizabeth Warren Graves Fine Arts Fund Visiting Artist, who will present a slide lecture on January 28.

Dove's lecture, "Alternative Ideas in Printmaking Non-toxic Processes and Personal Revisions of the Matrix," will be held at 7 p.m. in 206 Rogers Hall. Dove will discuss her work with the Canadian School for Non-Toxic Printmaking (CSNP) and the school's summer series of workshops, which are attended by printmakers from all over the world.

"This presentation will serve as an introduction to ongoing work with non-toxic printmaking research and will include slides of prints produced at CSNP," says Susan Groce, a professor with UMaine's Art Department. "Using elements of scientific investigation in a completely subjective manner, Elizabeth explores body imagery such as her thumb print pattern and maps of her body's freckles and scars as manifestations of the temporal and eternal."

Dove will be on campus for a week beginning Jan. 25 to collaborate with Groce and print technician Bev Stout from Sheffield-Hallam University in Sheffield, England on non-toxic printmaking research.

This lecture is sponsored by the Elizabeth Warren Graves Fine Arts Fund, an endowment set up in 1993 by Elizabeth Warren Graves in memory of her husband to support the fine arts at the University of Maine.

Forum On School Safety Rescheduled

January 19, 1999

Contact: Kay Hyatt (207) 581-2761

Bangor, Maine -- The public forum on issues of safety in schools and society, canceled January 13 because of inclement weather, has been rescheduled. The Task Force on Safe Schools, a regional collaborative of education and community leaders, will sponsor the forum on Wednesday, March 3, 7 p.m., at Wellman Commons, Bangor Theological Seminary.

The Task Force, chaired by Robert Cobb, dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Maine, has spent the past six months examining issues, trends, existing policy and resources, and the barriers schools and communities face in preventing and responding to youth violence. The purpose of the forum is to hear the concerns and seek the ideas of a broader constituency on addressing issues of incivility and violence in schools and society.

Host Families Needed for Japanese Exchange Students

January 20, 1999

Contact: Harold Brown, Cooperative Extension, 207-942-5916

[Nick Houtman](#), Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H Japanese Exchange Program is looking for Maine families to host a Japanese student for a month-long stay this summer. Students will arrive during the third week of July and stay until the third week in August. Family members are not required to be in 4-H clubs to participate.

Families must have children close in age to the Japanese students. Ages range from 12 through 17. Host families and Exchange students are matched up by similar interests.

The program gives families and students a chance to learn about another culture. Families do not have to plan special activities for the student or incur extra expenses.

The application deadline is April 1. More information is available from the county offices of University of Maine Cooperative Extension. For telephone numbers of Extension county offices, call 1-800-287-0274.

Pakistani Journalist to Speak at UMaine

January 20, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Zafaryab Ahmed, Pakistani journalist and Amnesty International Prisoner of Conscience, will speak at the University of Maine on Jan. 28.

Ahmed's talk, "The Struggle for Human Rights," will be held in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. His talk is part of the Socialist and Marxist Studies Controversy Series. The human rights activist arrived in Maine in December to accept Colby College's first Oak Foundation Human Rights Fellowship.

Ahmed was arrested for sedition in 1995 by Pakistani authorities after writing a series of stories detailing the slave-like working conditions for children in his country. He has been granted a 90-day exit visa to teach and lecture in the United States.

The Socialist and Marxist Controversy Series is sponsored by the Marxist-Socialist Studies Interdisciplinary minor and co-sponsored by the Maine Peace Action Committee, the Memorial Union and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. For more information, call 581-3860. Speakers do not necessarily present socialist or Marxist viewpoints.

Peace and Justice Film Series Sets Spring Schedule

January 20, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Award-winning and thought-provoking films will be shown at the University of Maine this semester as part of the Peace and Justice Film Series.

The films will be shown on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in room 100 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building on the UMaine campus. The series is sponsored by the Maine Peace Action Committee and the films are free and open to the public. A discussion will be held after each film.

The schedule is as follows:

- Jan. 28: "Hearts and Minds"** - Academy Award-winning documentary and best film available on the true nature of the Vietnam war, its background, conduct and lessons for the future.
- Feb. 4: "Does the U.S. Need Nuclear Weapons?" and "Military and the Environment"** - These films provide history of development of nuclear weapons; show how military production of nuclear weapons has contributed to environmental devastation; and give rationale for ban on nuclear weapons.
- Feb. 11: "Hatred"** - Award-winning documentary travels from Nazi Germany to Harlem to the Middle East in order to investigate the connection between hatred on a personal level and hatred between nations leading to mass violence.
- Feb. 18: "The Big One"** - Filmmaker Michael Moore uses humor and tough questioning to wage guerrilla warfare on corporate America. Moore exposes moral bankruptcy of wealthy corporate heads while identifying with American workers.
- March 18: "Fire Eyes"** - Somali filmmaker Soraya Mire explores a culturally explosive issue: socio-economic, psychological and medical consequences of traditional African practice of female genital mutilation.
- March 25: "It's Elementary"** - Film made by Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. Presents ideas for defusing hateful slurs, and footage of teachers teaching inclusive curriculums for all age levels.
- April 1: "Manufacturing Consent"** - Entertaining exploration of political life and times of Noam Chomsky. Chomsky explores most important moral, political and social issues of our time and exposes the media's role of deception on behalf of power.
- April 8: "My Father's Garden"** - This film tells the remarkable story of two farmers: One was a champion of new miracle sprays; the other is a pioneer in the transition to organic farming, proving that sustainable agriculture is a viable alternative.
- April 15: "An Act of Conscience"** - Chronicles the resistance to the seizure of the home of two war tax resisters who refused to pay for war. This struggle ultimately succeeded in returning the home to Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner.
- April 22: "Going Green: How to Reduce Your Garbage" and "Paper Colony"** - "Going Green" shows how to translate environmental concerns into practical daily actions. "Paper Colony" raises questions of how to develop sustainable forests in the state of Maine.

Iranian Filmmaker Mir-Hosseini Visits UMaine to Discuss Islamic Family Law

January 21, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Author and filmmaker Ziba Mir-Hosseini will visit the University of Maine to show and discuss her latest film, which focuses on divorce in the Muslim world.

“Divorce Iranian Style,” a film by Mir-Hosseini, author of “Marriage on Trial: A Study of Islamic Family Law,” and Kim Longinotto, focuses on the stories of three women as they seek to divorce their husbands. The film shows the strong-willed women using reason, charm, pleas for sympathy, anger and disarming wit in the Tehran courtroom during the divorce proceedings, shattering the stereotype of women as passive victims in Muslim society.

The film will be shown on Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in 101 Neville Hall. A discussion with Mir-Hosseini will follow. The event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Departments of Anthropology and Women's Studies.

President Hoff and Others Announce New "Front Door" for UMaine

Jan. 21, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- More than 150 University of Maine alumni and other UMaine advocates gathered this afternoon for a news conference and public announcement of an ambitious \$5.5 million capital campaign to construct and endow Alumni House, an on-campus facility which will serve as home for the University's two independent advocacy and fundraising organizations. UMaine President Peter Hoff and his wife, Dianne Hoff, hosted the news conference in the Bodwell Area of the Maine Center for the Arts.

Calling the campaign "A Place to Call Home," the University of Maine General Alumni Association and the University of Maine Foundation publicly announced plans to construct the new facility at the south entrance to campus, near Chadbourne Hall.

Several prominent alumni joined the Hoff's in unveiling plans for UMaine's new "front door." Honorary National Campaign Chair William Treat (from the UMaine Class of 1940), a former judge, United Nations diplomat and advisor to four U.S. presidents, was joined by P. James Dowe (Class of 1972), president and CEO of

Bangor Savings Bank, chair of the UMaine Board of Visitors and chair of the capital campaign's Maine Division. Progress toward the capital campaign's goals were announced and leadership donors were also recognized. Over 12,000 alumni have contributed to the campaign so far, with more than \$4 million having been raised. A scale model, architectural plans and interior renderings were unveiled at the news conference.

Though the University of Maine will make land available for Alumni House, construction and operation of the facility will be funded entirely through private contributions.

UMaine's planned Alumni House will serve the University's 84,000 living alumni and its many friends. Alumni House will showcase the University and its prominent graduates through a number of unique spaces, including a Leadership Hall and an alumni library/archive. A visitor's center, meeting and function rooms, a Maine Family Room and other spaces will allow the University to build and maintain relationships with alumni and friends, helping to ensure the University's long-term excellence.

The University of Maine General Alumni Association and the University of Maine Foundation are non-profit, independent organizations which exist to promote and support the University of Maine, the state's flagship university.

Leaders of the Alumni Association and the Foundation are optimistic that groundbreaking could occur as soon as the spring of 2000.

UMaine Students Building Concrete Toboggan for Canadian Competition

January 21, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- In a project which combines serious engineering with fun and games, a group of University of Maine engineering students is building a toboggan with lightweight concrete runners to enter the Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race. Their entry will be one of 30 from universities in Canada and the United States.

The race will be held February 3-6 at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. It has been held annually since 1974.

One aspect of the UMaine design has already given the team a boost.

Their entry will easily meet the 300-lb. maximum weight limit thanks to an innovative lightweight concrete mix designed by Keith Wood, civil engineering graduate student from Manchester. The concrete is reinforced with fiberglass rods, and the resulting product is 60% lighter than conventional material used in construction.

"The students have a lot of fun at this event, but they also work hard to get there," says Joan Brooks, project advisor and a research associate emerita in Civil and Environmental Engineering (CIE). Most of the student participants are enrolled in the Construction Management Technology program in the School of Engineering Technology.

In 1994, UMaine took first place in the design category for a sleek, aerodynamic toboggan. This time, the 12 student participants have chosen to model their entry after an 18-wheel truck in the Stephen King directed movie, Maximum Overdrive. They have named their entry Minimum Overslide.

The team is concurrently building the toboggan and raising money, says team captain Cory Verrill of Windham, a student in Construction Management Technology. More than \$3,000 of the estimated \$4,000 budget has already been raised. Members of the Student Chapter of the Associated General Contractors raised a majority of the funds.

The entries will be judged on technical details as well as spirit, presentation, a display and how well the machine performs. Points are earned for maximum speed, minimum braking distance and fastest time down the course.

"The mix of engineering disciplines requires a lot of cooperation and communication," says Andrea Downs, a CIE student from Lee. "Everyone has a specific job to do, whether it is design, fundraising, construction or preparing the required technical report. We're learning to work with new people from other majors. That's something we'll definitely encounter in the workplace but don't always see at the University."

Verrill agrees. "We can read about construction all day long, but the toboggan is tangible experience. We're getting our hands dirty and seeing problems arise and variables change from 'book' teachings to real life situations," he says.

Student participants include the following: Heather Jackson of **Orono** and Chris Wellman of **Milford**, from Mechanical Engineering Technology; Jonathan Jamison of **Orono**, Cassie Magoon of **Harmony**, Ben Robillard of **South Paris**, Amy Anzelc of **Skowhegan**, Jared Williams of **Old Town**, and Cory Verrill of **Windham**, all from Construction Management Technology; Joshua MacDonald of **South Portland**, Nathaniel Smith of **Winthrop**, Andrea Downs of **Lee** and Keith Wood of **Manchester**, all from Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Their advisors are Joan Brooks of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Chuck Gould of Construction Management Technology.

The UMaine entry must meet strict criteria for weight, braking, carrying capacity and safety. The runners must be made of Portland cement based concrete, and the whole machine must weigh less than 300 pounds. It must carry five people and be equipped with a roll bar.

The team maintains a Web site at www.umeciv.maine.edu/asce/students/toboggan.htm. Sponsors as of January 21 included the following: UM College of Engineering; UM School of Engineering Technology; UM Civil & Environmental. Engineering Department; Sargent & Sargent of Hampden; ASCE and AGC Student Chapters; Brooks Technologies; Mr. Don Conrad; Cianbro, Inc.; Atlantic Communications; Civil Engineering Services (CES), Inc.; Lane Construction; Bennett Tire; Nickerson & Oday; Davis Oil; H.E. Sargent of Stillwater; Hughes Brothers; Specrete, Inc.; UM Athletic Facilities; UM Carpenter's Shop; Gagne Precast of Veazie; Michael MacDonald; University of Maine Foundation; George and Jeanene Verrill; Shawn Frank; Knud Hermansen; Tom Sanford; Eric Landis; Aria Amirbahman; Per Garder; Willem Brutsaert; Habib Dagher; Mac Gray.

High School Students to Compete in National Engineering Design Challenge on the UMaine Campus

January 22, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

Note: Media representatives are welcome to cover the event which starts at 9:00 a.m. at Wells Commons. At that time, student teams will be assembling displays, viewing displays by competing teams and discussing questions. The event concludes at 12:45 p.m. The local coordinator is Michael Boyle, UMaine associate professor of mechanical engineering. He is available for interviews today at 581-2144 or early Monday. Interviews with Boyle or students cannot be conducted at the event after 9:45 a.m.

ORONO, Maine -- Students from four Maine high schools will compete in the annual National Engineering Design Challenge on the University of Maine campus Monday morning, January 25. Student teams will demonstrate working prototypes of portable devices which can assist people who have limited mobility and need assistance in getting up out of a chair.

Participating schools and teacher advisors include **Yarmouth** High School, Jerry Sullivan; **Georges Valley** High School, Lisa Damian; **Mattanawcook Academy**, Susan Sieczkiewicz; and **Messalonskee** High School, Kathi King. The winning team will advance to national level competition which is held in Washington D.C. February 23-24.

The schedule for the event on Monday is as follows:

9 - 9:45, students set up displays, view displays of competing teams.

9:50 - 10:20, coordinator reviews events, provides special instructions.

10:20 - 11:30, student teams demonstrate their devices.

11:30 - 12 noon, judges deliberate.

12:00 - 12:15, judges comment on team efforts.

12:15 - 12:45, judges present awards.

The event is sponsored by the Junior Technical Engineering Society, Inc. of Alexandria, Virginia in cooperation with the National Society of Professional Engineers. More information about the competition is available via the Internet at www.asee.org/jets.

Hudson Museum Holds 9th Annual Games Day

January 22, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Elementary school students from across the state will get a chance to travel the world without leaving the University of Maine's Hudson Museum during the 9th Annual Games Day.

Games Day will be held during school vacation on Wed., Feb. 17 from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the museum, located in the Maine Center for the Arts on the UMaine campus.

Children in grades 1-6 will play games from around the world and then join in an international dance party. Favorites from last year will be played again this year, including the Chocolate Eating Game from Germany, in which students try to cut a square of a chocolate bar wearing a hat, scarf and socks on their hands. Another favorite is the Feather Race from Mexico. In this game, students try to run a predetermined course while carrying a feather on a plate. The object is to finish the course without dropping the feather.

Games Day can accomodate 160 registrants, on a first come, first serve basis. To register, call 581-1901. No registrations will be taken after Feb. 12. The cost is \$3 per child.

UMaine Board of Visitors to Meet in Augusta on Tuesday

Jan. 25, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine Board of Visitors will hold its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 1999 in Augusta. The group, which was appointed in late 1997, held its first meeting in January of last year.

The meeting will be held at the Senator Inn and the State House.

The UMaine Board of Visitors, which has 16 members from across the entire state and is chaired by Bangor Savings Bank President and CEO P. James Dowe, was authorized in 1997 by the Maine Legislature. Each of the seven universities in the University of Maine System has its own board.

An agenda for tomorrow's meeting follows:

9:00 a.m. Committee Meetings (*Senate Majority Office, State House*)

- Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
- Advocacy Committee Meeting

9:50 a.m. All Board members gather at State House

(*2nd floor reception area, located behind stairway outside Governor's Office*)

10:00 a.m. BOV Meeting with Governor King in his office

10:45 a.m. Travel to Senator Inn

11:00 a.m. Call to Order

Consider Minutes of Previous Meeting

Committee Reports

- Strategic Planning
- Advocacy

President's Report

Old Business:

- Legislative Update

12:00 noon Meeting adjourns; lunch with legislators

(*Senator Inn*)

1:15 p.m. Depart for State House

1:30 p.m. Gather for meeting with "University Area"

legislative delegation (i.e, 40+ legislators
whose districts fall within a 60-mile
radius of Orono). *State House, Room 436*

1:45 p.m. Area Delegation meeting

3:00 p.m. House and Senate sessions begin

(Board gathers in House gallery;

Speaker Rowe will acknowledge

Board's presence)

3:15 p.m. Board travels to Senate Chamber

(President Lawrence will

acknowledge Board's presence)

3:30 p.m. State House visit concludes

Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Watching Generation More than \$1 Billion in Economic Activity in Maine

January 26, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Hunting, inland fishing and wildlife-associated recreation generate more than \$1 billion annually in direct and indirect economic activity in Maine, and the economic impact reaches deep into the state, particularly in rural Maine, according to a report released today by two University of Maine professors.

“Hunting, fishing and wildlife-associated recreation provide Maine with an important source of jobs, income and other benefits,” the report states. “These benefits are particularly important in rural or remote areas where other sources of income are limited.”

Mario Teisl and Kevin Boyle of the Department of Resource Economics and Policy calculated the figures based on spending made by hunters, inland anglers and individuals who actively participated in observing, photographing or feeding wildlife. These spending figures are reported in the 1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-associated Recreation by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Significant findings from the study include the following:

- Total retail sales associated with all three types of activities amounted to more than \$750 million.
- A total of 17,680 jobs were supported by the money spent by hunters, inland anglers and wildlife watchers, and these wages and jobs generated an estimated \$48.4 million in sales tax revenue and more than \$19 million in state income tax revenue.
- Hunting generated the most economic activity, about \$454 million, followed by wildlife watching (\$332 million) and inland fishing (\$293 million).
- Activities by Maine residents and non-residents were included. The highest participation rate was for wildlife watching, 754,500 people for a total of 2.9 million days. For fishing, participation was listed as 289,800 people for a total of 4.1 million days. Participation in hunting was estimated at 195,200 people and about 3.4 million total days of hunting activity.

The authors applied an economic impact model to measure how retail spending generates economic activity in different sectors of Maine's economy such as food, transportation, clothing, equipment, lodging and utilities.

“The study results indicate that hunting, fishing and wildlife watching all make substantial contributions to Maine's economy through jobs, income and taxes,” said co-author Kevin Boyle. “However the contribution to the general tax revenue of the state is not used to protect and enhance this important resource.”

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is the steward of hunting, fishing and wildlife-associated recreation in Maine. Revenue to support state wildlife management comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and the sale of conservation license plants and the chickadee check-off on state income tax forms.

This past year, sales of resident fishing licenses increased, reversing a five-year downward trend. More than 111,000 Maine residents purchased fishing licenses this year, the highest total since 1993 when 115,000 purchased licenses. Hunting licenses remain stable with approximately 210,000 hunters purchasing licenses in Maine this year. For the past three years, total hunting license sales have hovered between 209,000 and 213,000, and this year's totals are in that range.

Details of the economic impacts of hunting, fishing and wildlife-associated recreation are contained a eight-page report from the Maine Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, *The Economic Impacts of Hunting, Inland Fishing and Wildlife-Associated Recreation in Maine*, staff report 479 from the Department of Resource Economics and Policy.

Pechinski Named Bangor Region Chamber President

January 26, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Sheila Pechinski, associate dean of the University of Maine College of Business, Public Policy and Health, will be named president of the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual dinner tomorrow evening at the Bangor Civic Center.

Pechinski has been a member of the chamber's Board of Directors since 1993 and owns and operates a business consulting firm in Bangor. Pechinski first became involved with the chamber 20 years ago when she was appointed university liaison to the Board of Directors. Since that time, Pechinski has served on and chaired numerous committees, including the budget and strategic planning committees.

"I'm very honored and challenged by this appointment," says Pechinski. "I'm hoping to maintain effective relationships between the business community and the university and to make a difference in the economic environment in our region."

Pechinski has taught at UMaine since 1979, after earning her MBA at the College of Business Administration. She is now responsible for the external relations and outreach of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health.

The president of the Bangor Chamber of Commerce is the voluntary executive head of the 21-town, 950-member organization. The president appoints all officers, directs the focus of the chamber and acts as the organization's ambassador at official functions.

UMaine Dean Named Bangor Region Chamber President

January 26, 1999

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HUD Cuts Will Have Little Effect on Social Work Study of Housing Alternatives for Persons with Mental Illness

January 27, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The School of Social Work at the University of Maine in collaboration with the Maine Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS), has been chosen to conduct a study of the housing alternatives available for people with serious and persistent mental illness.

The two-year study is funded by a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Center for Mental Health Services Administration. Maine is one of eight states to receive this funding.

The study will compare two major housing models used for people with serious and persistent mental illness, continuum of care and supported housing. Maine was one of only two states in the study that had a large enough supply of supported housing to plan a randomized research design. Now, study participants will have fewer housing options, because 40 units of supported housing are no longer funded by HUD.

"There is still enough housing to do the study," says Werrbach. "Maine is still a leader in the supported housing model."

Werrbach will be heading the project evaluation with co-project evaluation director Winston Turner. Students in the Master's of Social Work (MSW) program will also be assisting in data collection and analysis.

"The School of Social work is the major subcontractor for the state to provide the evaluation for and to oversee the the whole coordination of this study," says Werrbach.

The recent cuts in Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding to the state may have a slight effect on the research process.

"The HUD cuts have come at a very unfortunate time in the project," says Gail Werrbach, director of the School of Social Work. "They are not going to imperil the process, but we are going to have to adapt to the changes the cuts make."

The school is now in the process of recruiting approximately 150 people from BMHI, AMHI, other hospital psychiatric units and group homes to take part in the study. The participants will all be people who are ready to move from an institutional setting to an alternative community housing model.

"The current model, continuum of care, takes people with the most serious mental illness and moves them out of state hospitals and into group homes, which are located in the community but still offer a more structured and institutional approach," says Werrbach. "Some people remain in group homes and others are moved into their own apartments in buildings that predominately house people with long-term mental illness and which are supervised by social service agencies and an apartment manager."

The supported housing model is based on the concept of choice for the individual, says Werrbach. "It's based in the belief that folks with serious and long-term mental illness can still make informed choices about where to live and what kinds of services would be helpful to them."

Under this model, the individual has a landlord and a lease and lives in a neighborhood with a small population of people with severe mental illness.

"What happens sometimes in supervised housing is that people end up living in small enclaves where there only social contacts are other people with mental illnesses," says Werrbach. "This new model will allow those with

mental illness to better integrate into the community.”

Winston Turner, a former scientific director at Harvard Medical School, says the students taking part in the process will be interviewing the study participants at length when they move into the housing, at six months and at one year. More informal telephone studies will be done once a month.

“We're really trying to get this all from the participant's point of view as they get into the community,” says Turner. “Because of the rural nature of Maine, we are particularly interested in how this happens in rural areas. In the cities, it's relatively easy to make social contacts and take advantage of services. In the rural communities, a lot of it is done through informal networks and we're interested in how those develop.”

Ultimately, says Turner, the study is a preliminary investigation to determine which type of housing is more effective.

“Theoretically, there should be a cost advantage as well as a social advantage with supported housing because the individuals won't need on-site care and will not be interacting primarily with others who have serious mental illness,” says Turner. “This has risks, because the support won't be immediately down the hall. They will have to contact people when they feel under particular stress. That's the balance we have to look at - cost and impact on the individuals.”

The results from the study will be sent to the Department of Health and Human Services for use in formulation of public policy.

UMaine to Host Career Fair

January 27, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO -- The Career Center at the University of Maine will host its third annual Career Fair on Thursday, Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Wells Conference Center on campus.

Representatives from 91 state and national companies will attend the fair and answer student questions about career choices and opportunities. Students and faculty from all academic disciplines are encouraged to attend.

The number of companies participating in the UMaine Career Fair has nearly tripled since 1998.

UMaine Career Center Director Patty Counihan says although the majority of the organizations attending have jobs and internships to fill, this is not strictly a job fair.

"Another purpose of the Career Fair is to help students learn more about careers by talking face to face with people who represent different careers and get advice and good information," says Counihan.

Companies and organizations such as National Semiconductor, Georgia Pacific Corporation, Hannaford Brothers, MBNA New England, United Way of Eastern Maine, Raytheon Systems Company, Mt. Desert Island Biological Lab and the Peace Corps will participate.

Fan Reception Scheduled for Women's Hockey Team

Jan. 28, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- In recognition of National Girls and Women in Sports Day, the University of Maine Women's Resource Center will sponsor a reception for the UMaine women's hockey team this weekend. The reception, which is open to all fans and interested members of the community, is scheduled for Dexter Lounge immediately following Sunday's game against Colby College.

There is no admission fee for the game, which begins at 3 p.m. The women's hockey team is in its second year of competition as a UMaine varsity sport.

Short Course In Organic Farming Methods

January 28, 1999

Contact: Dick Brzozowski, Cumberland County Cooperative Extension, 780-4205 or 1-800-287-1471

ORONO, Maine -- A four-session short course in organic farming methods will be conducted for commercial vegetable, fruit and herb growers at the new Common Ground Fairgrounds in Unity. It is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays starting February 22, 1999.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association have organized the sessions for farmers and potential farmers. The cost of the entire course is \$60.00 per person. Individuals may register for day-long sessions at \$20.00 per session.

There is a growing market for organic foods in Maine. Participants will learn from scientists and experienced farmers about soil improvements, organic fertilizers, organic pest management, weed control and more. For a registration form, contact the Cumberland County Extension Office at 1-800-287-1471 or P. O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300.

Persons with a disability or other special needs can contact Dick Brzozowski at the Extension office at least 5 days prior to this event.

Women in the Curriculum Lunch Series to Explore Dietary Supplements

January 28, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Dietary supplements and the reasons women choose to use them is the subject of the next Women in the Curriculum Lunch Series program at the University of Maine.

On Wed., Feb. 3, Mary Ellen Camire, associate professor of Food Science and Human Nutrition at UMaine, will speak on "Dietary Supplements: Why Do Women Need Them or Want Them?"

In her talk, Camire will discuss the results of a recent Internet survey on dietary supplements she created with a Women in the Curriculum grant. The survey showed that more women are likely to seek alternative therapies than men, and often do so because of disenchantment with conventional health care.

The talk will be held from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Room 109 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building. For directions to the new location, information on parking or other information call 581-1228.

Communication and Journalism Presents Lectures on Diversity

January 29, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Communication and Journalism Department at the University of Maine will focus on diversity during their Libra Professorship Public Lecture Series.

Three speakers will visit UMaine in February and March to give their views on Communication Diversity and Identity, the theme for this semester's lecture series.

"We emphasize diversity in our department," says Eric Peterson, chair of the Department of Communication and Journalism. "The speakers will talk in several undergraduate and graduate courses while on campus and they will meet with faculty working on curriculum development."

Hazel V. Carby, chair of the African and American Studies Program at Yale University, will speak on "What is this 'Black' in Irish Popular Culture?" on Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Carby is the author of "Race Men" and "Reconstructing Womanhood." Her forthcoming book, "Cultures in Babylon" will be published in the spring of this year.

Carby will also speak at the Women in the Curriculum Lunch Series on Wed., Feb. 10. The WIC talk, "Race and Masculinity: Paul Robeson and the Modernist Aesthetic." will be held in 110 Little Hall from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m.

The second speaker, Carla L. Peterson, is a professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Maryland. Peterson's talk, "Presence of the Past: African American Culture and Race Relations in Historical Perspective" will be held on Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Peterson is the author of "Doers of the Word: African American Women Speakers and Writers in the North" and "The Determined Reader: Gender and Culture in the Novel from Napoleon to Victoria."

Thomas Nakayama, director of the Asian Pacific American Studies Program and associate professor of communication at Arizona State University, will speak on March 16 at 7:30 p.m. Nakayama will speak on "What is this 'White' in Whiteness?" He is co-editor of "Whiteness: The Communication of Social Identity" and writes in the area of cultural studies and rhetoric, focusing particularly on issues of race, gender and sexuality.

The Communication Diversity and Identity series is sponsored by the University of Maine's Libra Professor program. The program is the result of an endowment to the university and allows for guest professors to visit, study and speak at UMaine. All the Libra Professorship talks will be held at 100 Neville Hall.

Fraternity Sleep-Out to Benefit Spruce Run

Feb. 1, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine chapter of Beta Theta Pi fraternity will stage its annual "Sleep-Out" to benefit the Bangor social service agency Spruce Run on Feb. 5 and 6.

Fraternity members have planned a series of events intended to raise awareness of, and money for, Spruce Run. The agency runs a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence and works to inform the public about related issues.

Several local business and individuals have made gifts or pledges to support Spruce Run as part of the effort. UMaine students will sleep outside the fraternity house on the night of Feb. 5, to draw attention to the issue of domestic violence. State Sen. Mary Cathcart (D-Orono) and Rep. Kathleen Stevens (D-Orono) have been invited to speak to the group at 6 p.m. on Feb. 5. The event will conclude at 6 a.m. Saturday.

"We are doing this because domestic violence is a major problem in our society," says UMaine junior Matthew Lord, the event's coordinator. "As a group of male students, the members of our fraternity hope that we can show that men are also concerned about domestic violence. If we are willing to stand up and say that this is a problem, then maybe others will, too."

In addition to the sleep-out, Beta Theta Pi members will hold a raffle, with tickets to be sold at Memorial Union during the week of Feb. 1, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Local businesses have also donated prizes for the raffle.

A similar event last year raised \$3,000 for Spruce Run.

Lunch Presentation to Examine Life of Paul Robeson

February 1, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- In honor of African American History Month, the next University of Maine Women in the Curriculum Luncheon will sponsor a presentation on the life of athlete, singer, actor and activist Paul Robeson by nationally known author and speaker Hazel Carby.

Carby, chair of the African and African American Studies Program at Yale University, will speak on "Race and Masculinity: Paul Robeson and the Modernist Aesthetic" on Wed., Feb. 10 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. The talk will be held in Room 110 Little Hall. For directions, information on parking or other information call 581-1228.

Carby comes to UMaine as one of three Libra Professor speakers for the Department of Communication and Journalism this semester. She is the author of "Race Men" and "Reconstructing Womanhood." Her forthcoming book, "Cultures in Babylon," will be released by Verso in the spring of 1999. Her Libra Professorship lecture will be held on Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in 100 Neville Hall on the UMaine campus.

Participants Needed for Study of Seasonal Affective Disorder

February 1, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Researchers in the Department of Psychology at the University of Maine are looking for volunteers with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), major depression or neither condition to participate in a new project to study SAD. The disorder predominately affects women and is marked by feelings of depression, lethargy, craving for carbohydrates, weight gain and increased need for sleep.

The research will be coordinated by Sandra Sigmon, associate professor of psychology, and two Ph.D. students, Nina Boulard of New York City and Stacy Whitcomb of Newburgh. Participants will receive compensation for an initial screening and assessment lasting about two hours and subsequent tasks which take about one hour.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. The researchers hope to find 20 people for each of three groups.

"We want to compare women with SAD to women with a major depressive episode that is not related to SAD and to a group of women who have not had SAD and do not have a current episode of depression," says Sigmon.

Understanding the similarities between SAD and other types of depression, she says, could lead to new treatments for seasonal depression. Currently, the most commonly prescribed treatment is regular exposure to full-spectrum lights during the winter months.

"There is very little work being done on psychological treatments for SAD. In non-SAD depression, the more typical psychotherapies are cognitive and a behavioral treatments. Both of these have been shown to be very effective in research literature."

"If we find that SAD is similar to non-SAD depression, it would make sense that we might be able to apply these same treatments to SAD. The difference would be that, for people with SAD, we would tailor treatment more to the changing seasons, reactions to it, thoughts about it," she adds.

The research is particularly important for Maine, Sigmon notes. People in northern states like Maine have a higher rate of SAD than people in southern states.

Both Whitcomb and Boulard intend to use the results of the project to complete their thesis projects. To participate, individuals can contact Sigmon at 207-581-2052.

UMaine Professor Conducts Female Infertility Research

February 1, 1999

Contact: Nick Houtman at 581-3777

It's an old and simple question: where do babies come from? In a series of experiments with ovarian cells and hormones, a University of Maine biologist and her colleagues are finding new answers that could shed light on some of the causes and possible treatments of female infertility.

Holly Lavoie, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, studies the complex interaction of the hormones, ovarian cells and genetic processes that are necessary for successful pregnancy. Lavoie received her Ph.D. at the Medical College of Virginia in 1994 in physiology and before coming to Maine in 1998, she conducted post-doctoral research in reproductive endocrinology at the University of Virginia.

LaVoie also teaches undergraduate biology courses such as Endocrinology, Anatomy and Physiology.

Her research focuses on the production of progesterone, a hormone which is as important to pregnancy as food is to life. "If a woman ovulates and the egg is fertilized by sperm, the dividing embryo wants to implant into the uterus. Without progesterone, that won't happen. Progesterone helps maintain the uterine lining so an embryo can implant," she explains.

The ovary takes center stage in Lavoie's research because it makes progesterone. After ovulation, the ovarian cells which nourish an egg early in the menstrual cycle shift into another gear to make the critical hormone. This process of change is called differentiation, and infertility can occur if these cells fail to differentiate properly. Problems in this process are linked to at least two forms of infertility, polycystic ovarian syndrome and luteal phase defect.

Scientists do not know how many women experience these conditions, but they are related to other types of infertility and possibly to other health problems as well. For example, many women with polycystic ovarian syndrome experience insulin resistance. In fact, the ovary produces an important protein known as insulin-like growth factor one, nicknamed IGF-1, which has already been shown by Lavoie and many of her colleagues to be one of the keys to proper cell differentiation.

"The ovary goes through phases where it's developing exponentially. Masses of cells are differentiating. So many things in the ovary have to happen at the right time," says Lavoie. "If this ability to make progesterone is blocked, the uterine lining will shed. The embryo will abort. This is pretty much true in all mammals."

The ovary is not the only actor in the drama. The pituitary gland plays an important role by producing hormones which ovarian cells use to differentiate. Through her research, Lavoie wants to know how growth factors and hormones produced by both the ovary and the pituitary pave the way for the production of progesterone.

"If we can make a breakthrough in the proteins that are regulated by the ovarian growth factors and how they interact with the proteins regulated by pituitary hormones, then we will have made a big step in understanding how the ovary differentiates. It's pretty exciting," she says.

Since human ovaries are not available for research purposes, Lavoie relies on an animal that might seem an unlikely substitute, the pig. It turns out that porcine and human ovaries produce progesterone in a similar fashion.

Maine, however, is not known as a pig producing state, and to get enough pig ovaries for her work, Lavoie travels to a meat packing plant in Moncton, New Brunswick. In slaughter houses, ovaries are considered waste products. Lavoie takes ice chests to the plant and collects up to 100 ovaries at a time as pigs are being butchered.

Back in her lab in Murray Hall, Lavoie isolates ovarian cells and cultures them in order to get what she really wants, the nuclear proteins and RNA.

“I look for proteins that are known to bind certain DNA sequences. Pituitary hormones and ovarian growth factors stimulate proteins to bind to the DNA and turn on genes regulating cell differentiation. Although some of the proteins are known, most are not. So we do a scan. And when you do a scan, you get tons of stuff that supposedly binds to these proteins.

“Whether it's true for the ovarian cell is a different story. That's a very important point. We're trying to say that the ovary regulates this DNA sequence, this gene, in a different way from other cells in the body,” she says.

Lavoie and her colleagues at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center published two articles in the January, 1999 issue of Endocrinology. The articles describe their work on the hormones and genetic factors that affect the ability of ovarian cells to make progesterone.

Last October, Lavoie submitted a grant proposal for \$529,920 to the National Institutes of Health, Ovarian LDL Receptor and StAR Gene Regulation. A decision on that proposal is due this Spring.

UMaine to Attempt to Reclaim World Kissing Record

Feb. 1, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Following a year which has seen two attempts -- one successful and one unsuccessful -- on its world record for having the most people kissing in one place at one time, the University of Maine will try to reclaim that record on Valentine's Day at 4 p.m.

A record 1,420 couples kissed at UMaine's Alfond Arena on Feb. 14, 1996. That record was authenticated by the Guinness organization and has been noted in two editions of the Guinness Book of World Records. The record was surpassed in August of 1998 in Alcala de Henares, Spain, by 1,600 couples. A subsequent attempt on that record -- on New Year's Eve in Columbus, Ohio -- fell short.

"It's nice that we held the record for two years and it's nice that we have the North American record, but it's not good enough," says Sandra Caron of the UMaine Human Development faculty, the primary organizer of the 1996 record-setting smooch, as well as this year's attempt. "The world record belongs in Maine, and we plan to get it back."

The Feb. 14 event will take place about an hour after a women's basketball game between UMaine and the University of New Hampshire at Alfond Arena. The building will be cleared and the crowd asked to re-enter the building, so that an exact count can be verified, in accordance with Guinness regulations. Those wishing to participate in the kiss should plan to be inside Alfond Arena by 3 p.m.

"It will be a lot of fun," Caron says. "You can bring your significant other, a relative or a friend. A kiss on the cheek or lips is acceptable. The kiss can be entirely platonic; it just has to last for ten seconds."

UMaine President Peter Hoff and his wife, Dianne, will lead the kiss. The ten seconds will count down on the Alfond Arena scoreboard.

The teaching assistants from Caron's Human Sexuality class, along with students who are members of the various peer education programs (including Athletes for Sexual Responsibility, The Greek Peer Educator Program, Maine Precaution, and the Peer Educator Program) have taken the lead in providing the organizational staffing for the event. A number of local and national businesses have also donated goods or services for door prizes. Local radio station WKSQ (Kiss 94.5) is a co-sponsor of the event, which will also serve as a fundraiser for the American Heart Association.

WIC Lunch to Examine Life of Paul Robeson

February 1, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- In honor of African American History Month, the next University of Maine Women in the Curriculum Luncheon will sponsor a presentation on the life of athlete, singer, actor and activist Paul Robeson by nationally known author and speaker Hazel Carby.

Carby, chair of the African and African American Studies Program at Yale University, will speak on "Race and Masculinity: Paul Robeson and the Modernist Aesthetic" on Wed., Feb. 10 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. The talk will be held in Room 110 Little Hall. For directions, information on parking or other information call 581-1228.

Carby comes to UMaine as one of three Libra Professor speakers for the Department of Communication and Journalism this semester. She is the author of "Race Men" and "Reconstructing Womanhood." Her forthcoming book, "Cultures in Babylon," will be released by Verso in the spring of 1999. Her Libra Professorship lecture will be held on Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in 100 Neville Hall on the UMaine campus.

University of Maine Graduate Students Host International Forestry Conference

February 2, 1999

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

Sean Murphy, Assn. of Graduate Students 207-581-8823

ORONO, Maine -- Graduate student researchers from eastern U.S. and Canada will present their work on forestry topics ranging from fire management strategies to the effect of forest management on wildlife populations and the use of remote sensing at the 15th annual CONFOR conference in Bar Harbor Feb. 4-7. More than 30 presentations are scheduled.

The conference theme is "Bringing Together the Forest Community." Although the meeting is organized primarily for graduate students to give presentations to their peers, the public is welcome to attend. There is a \$40 per day registration fee for the event which will be held at the Atlantic Oakes-by-the Sea Resort.

Graduate students at the University of Maine are the hosts. "CONFOR is organized for the benefit and participation of other graduate students," says Janet Eckhoff, a doctoral candidate in the department of Forest Ecosystem Science at UMaine and conference coordinator. "It is an excellent opportunity for graduate students to gain experience in giving presentations about their research and to learn about some of the newest research topics. It is also a really fun cultural exchange, bringing Canadian and U.S. graduate students together to present and listen to talks on each other's research work."

Participants will represent four Canadian provinces and five U.S. states. For the past 14 years, CONFOR has been hosted by academic institutions in Canada and the U.S. It was last held in Maine in 1991. "We are very excited over the opportunity to showcase Maine to our international visitors. On Sunday, we will be taking interested students on a tour of Acadia National Park," says Eckhoff.

This year's conference will have poster sessions as well as presentations. Titles for poster and oral presentations may be found at the CONFOR 99 Website, www.umaine.edu/fes/CONFOR/confor_home.htm.

Funding has been provided by the University of Maine and the forest products industry. "We've found that the University and the forest industry have been very receptive to sponsoring this important event," said Richard Cobb, a master's student in Forest Ecosystem Science. "This sort of partnership is crucial to meeting the educational needs of the next generation of environmental scientists."

University sponsors include the Office of Research and Graduate Studies; the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture; the Canadian-American Center; the Industrial Development Office and the departments of Plant, Soil, and Environmental Sciences, Forest Management, and Forest Ecosystems Science. Industrial sponsors include International Paper, the Mead Corporation, Great Northern Paper, Inc., J.D. Irving LTD; and Fraser Paper Co.

Interested individuals should consult the CONFOR Website for registration information or go to the registration table at the conference.

UMaine, Husson and Bangor Area Health Care Agencies Cooperate in Teen Parent Training Program

February 3, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A new program to train teen-age parents to stimulate healthy mental development in their infants has received support from two area funding agencies. Funds from the Penobscot Valley Health Association (\$15,000) and Eastern Maine Charities (\$8,000) will be used to pay for professional supervision of University of Maine and Husson College students in a project coordinated by a Bangor area mental health coalition known as Partners of Underutilized Systems of Health, or PUSH.

The students will visit the homes of teen-age parents and co-facilitate teen support groups under the supervision of Barbara Peppey of Lamoine and a social worker at the Penquis Community Action Program, according to Marcella Sorg, a member of PUSH and a staff member of the Maine Consortium of Partnerships (MCP) project at UMaine. Other grant requests are pending.

The project extends a pilot effort, Transition to Parenting, already being conducted at the Penquis Community Action Program in Bangor. "This is the first fruit of this group's (PUSH) labor," says Peppey. "It provides a learning opportunity for the students and addresses an important social need in Maine."

Infant mental health has become a bigger issue nationwide among mental health professionals, according to Janet Ordway, a Bangor psychiatrist who collaborates with MCP and helped to plan the PUSH project. "If we can get healthy behaviors in infants, those babies will have a better chance of growing up to become healthy adults," she says.

National epidemiological studies have shown that 14-20% of children from birth to 18 years old have mental health problems serious enough to require treatment. In Maine, that would mean that between 42,000 and 61,300 children could have serious mental health problems, according to research published in the journal *Psychiatric Services* in 1996.

The core of the PUSH project, Ordway says, is a nationally tested curriculum known as Partners in Parenting Education or PIPE, a relationship-based curriculum developed at the Prevention Research Center for Child and Family Health, University of Colorado, Denver.

PIPE starts from the premise that stimulating good mental health requires appropriate communication between parents and their infants. Moreover, parents need to understand their baby's needs and abilities at important developmental stages, Ordway adds. Reading and talking to infants are time-tested ways in which parents can promote healthy development, but in some cases, young parents feel they are too busy with other activities.

Through the work of Peppey and other professionals, UMaine social work and Husson psychiatric nursing students will receive training in the PIPE program and work with teen parents to put it into practice. According to Dr. Teresa Steele, professor and the director of the Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing Program (APPNP) at Husson college, the project provides an important interdisciplinary experience for the students. Mental health care professionals often work closely with people in other disciplines, especially in rural areas, she notes.

According to Peppey, the students are learning to address the stresses faced by teen parents, understand their health care issues and make referrals to appropriate health care providers as needed.

The PUSH group is also monitoring the program to determine if, in fact, it is effective. "This is one of several projects in Maine targeting infant mental health, and we feel is important to have a research component to evaluate the results," says Ordway.

PUSH is an informal group which includes representatives from state and local health care agencies, physicians and colleges and universities. Their goal is to improve local mental health services and professional capacity. The group has received support through a grant from the U.S. Public Health service to the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at UMaine.

Capitol Hill Forum to Showcase University of Maine Research

February 4, 1999

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

ORONO, Maine -- Maine's congressional representatives will receive a briefing on the latest University of Maine research and priority projects for the next fiscal year at a forum in Washington D.C. February 10.

Maine delegation members will give brief presentations at the event which will be held 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in room B-340 of the Rayburn House Office Building. Congressman Tom Allen will provide the welcome and introductions.

The UMaine Office of Research and Graduate Studies organized the session. Dan Dwyer, vice provost for research and graduate studies, will give a presentation on the status of university research.

University faculty will be on hand to present information in the following areas: chemical and biological sensors, advanced engineered wood composites, geographic information systems, marine structures, hearing and early language disorders, rural health, student aspirations, and Maine agriculture and forestry.

"We will highlight a number of our research capabilities, which, with increased federal support, could have a significant impact on Maine's economy and quality of life, as well as advance the nation's science and technology objectives," says Heather Almquist-Jacobson, assistant vice-provost for research. "Washington is where the decisions about federal research funding and national science and education policy are made. Maine needs to have a strong voice in those decisions."

Speakers during the luncheon will include UMaine President Peter Hoff, and Rear Admiral Paul Gaffney, U.S. Navy.

Hudson Museum Still Taking Registrants for 9th Annual Games Day

February 4, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- There is still a chance to participate in the 9th Annual Games Day at the Hudson Museum on the University of Maine campus, but children must be registered before Feb. 12.

Games Day will be held during school vacation on Wed., Feb. 17 from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the museum, located in the Maine Center for the Arts on the UMaine campus.

Children in grades 1-6 will play games from around the world and then join in an international dance party. Favorites from last year will be played again this year, including the Chocolate Eating Game from Germany, in which students try to cut a square of a chocolate bar wearing a hat, scarf and socks on their hands. Another favorite is the Feather Race from Mexico. In this game, students try to run a predetermined course while trying to keep a feather on their plate without using their hands.

Games Day can accomodate 160 registrants, on a first come, first serve basis. To register, call 581-1901. No registrations will be taken after Feb. 12. The cost is \$3 per child.

President Hoff, National Commission Call on Higher Education to do More, Better Public Service

Feb. 4, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff and 26 other current and former state university presidents have developed a forward-looking plan aimed at shaping the ways in which public institutions fulfill their public service role and mission in the coming years.

Their open letter to the chief executives of the nation's state and land-grant colleges and universities, *Returning to our Roots: The Engaged Institution*, calls on public institutions to become "engaged institutions" by:

- Responding to the needs of today's students and tomorrow's, not yesterday's.
- Enriching students' experiences by bringing research and engagement into the curriculum and offering practical opportunities for students to prepare for the world they will enter.
- Putting critical resources (knowledge and expertise) to work on the problems facing the communities they serve.

"UMaine and other institutions like it must move from simply offering public service to full engagement -- teaming with others to address the needs and opportunities of our communities, states, and nation," Hoff says. "To do so, we should create real partnerships with local communities, partnerships in which we define problems together, share goals and agendas, develop common definitions of success, and pool or leverage university, public, and private funds.

Hoff serves on the 27-member Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities, a prestigious national panel which was created by a \$1.2-million grant given by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. *The Engaged Institution* is the third of a series of Commission reports, in the form of letters to public university officials, that frame a vision for reforming public higher education and outline actions for change. Graham Spanier, president of The Pennsylvania State University, chairs the commission. John V. Byrne, former president of Oregon State University, is the executive director.

The Engaged Institution report stresses that engagement goes well beyond conventional, one-way notions of public service. "The Commission," says the report, "envision[s] partnerships, two-way streets defined by mutual respect among the partners for what each brings to the table." The report concludes by recommending that:

- The institutions transform their thinking about service so that engagement becomes a priority on every campus, a central part of institutional mission;
- Each institution develop an engagement plan measured against the seven-part template incorporated into this document;
- Institutions encourage interdisciplinary scholarship and research, including interdisciplinary teaching and learning opportunities;
- Institutional leaders develop incentives to encourage faculty involvement in the engagement effort; and
- Academic leaders secure stable funding to support engagement, through reallocation of existing funds or the establishment of a new federal-state-local-private matching fund.

The report also presents 11 case studies that illustrate pioneering ways land-grant and public universities have been working to become engaged institutions.

“Public and land grant universities face a growing public perception, fair or unfair, that we are aloof and out of touch, arrogant and out of date,” says Commission Chair Graham Spanier. “This report provides a strategy for how we can do better -- by creating engaged institutions that serve our communities and the nation through true partnerships, sharing, and reciprocity.”

“Land-grant institutions have a long and rich tradition of public service,” says NASULGC President C. Peter Magrath. “But now that tradition must be extended and reinvigorated in the face of new challenges. This report - with its examples of universities moving beyond conventional extension, outreach and public service to create new forms of engagement -- points the way forward to the 21st Century.”

The Commission concluded that seven guiding characteristics seem to define an engaged institution: responsiveness, respect for partners, academic neutrality, accessibility, integration of engagement into institutional mission, coordination of efforts, and adequacy of resources.

In addition, several common themes or lessons emerged:

- A clear commitment to the basic idea of engagement.
- Strong support for infusing engagement into curriculum and teaching mission.
- Remarkable diversity in approaches and efforts.
- The importance of a clear definition of “community”.

The entire text of *Returning to Our Roots: The Engaged Institution* is available on-line at NASULGC's web site: <http://www.nasulgc.org>. Copies of a companion document, "Third Working Paper, The Engaged Institution, Profiles and Data," are available from NASULGC, (202) 478-6071; fax: (202) 478-6046.

The University of Maine offers a wide variety of public service programs to the people of Maine, including Cooperative Extension, which has staff in each of Maine's 16 counties. UMaine also provides a wide array of educational and cultural outreach programs to the state's communities and public schools.

“As Maine's flagship university, we have a clear mission to be engaged throughout the entire state,” Hoff says. “But in our Kellogg Report, as with Bearworks (the University of Maine's strategic plan, adopted in 1998), we make it clear that all of higher education must aggressively seek new and better ways to link their resources and expertise with the public.”

Founded in 1887, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) is the nation's oldest higher education association. A voluntary association of public universities, land-grant institutions, and many of the nation's public university systems, NASULGC campuses are located in all 50 states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. The association is dedicated to supporting excellence in teaching, research, and public service.

Peace Studies Presents Spring Series

February 5, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- "Roots of Conflict - Seeds of Peace" is the theme of this year's Peace Studies Program Spring Series at the University of Maine. This theme will be explored in a number of lectures and presentations.

The luncheon presentations will be held Monday afternoons in 109 Donald P. Corbett Business Building from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. The afternoon and evening special presentations will be held at various locations across campus.

The Peace Studies Program at the University of Maine focuses on research and study about basic issues confronting humankind such as conflict, violence, social justice and nonviolent conflict resolution. The program works to infuse concerns for peace into the campus and the community, and works with other organizations in Maine to provide information and skills for building a nonviolent society.

All events are free, open to the public and accessible. For more information, contact Peace Studies at 581-2609.

The schedule of events is as follows:

Luncheon Presentations

- Feb. 15: "The Need to Have Enemies and Allies: Perspectives on Ethnic Conflict" - Maureen E. Smith, director of the Native American Studies Program and assistant professor of interdisciplinary studies
- Feb. 22: "Prospects for Peace in Cyprus: The Greek-Turkish Dispute" - Kyriacos Markides, professor of sociology
- March 22: "A Paradise Lost in Kashmir" - Cynthia Mahmood, associate professor of anthropology
- March 29: "Poverty Continues to Plague Women and Families in Maine: Working for Progressive Welfare Policies in this Conservative Era" - Sandy Butler, associate professor of social work. Part of Women's History Celebration
- April 5: "An Indigenous Perspective on Conflict and Peace" - Edward Levy, Mi'kmaq graduate student
- April 12: "Building Local and Global Bridges of Understanding through Children's International Summer Villages" - Katie Greenman, local work program chair of Children's International Summer Villages - Maine
- April 19: "Inspirational Values of the Maine Forest" - Will LaPage, assistant professor of forest recreation management
- April 26: "Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World" A conversation with author and journalist Alan Weisman

Afternoon and Evening Special Presentations:

- Wednesday, Feb. 10: "Nonviolence: The Third Way" Larry Dansinger, coordinator of the Institute for Nonviolence Education, Research and Training (INVERT). 3:30-5 p.m. in 313 Shibles Hall
- Thursday, Feb. 18: "Fighting Fair with Friends (& Others)" An interactive workshop on useful communication/relationship skills presented by Campus Mediation. 4-5 p.m. in 202 Shibles Hall

- Tuesday, March. 30: “Fighting Fair with Friends (& Others)” An interactive workshop on useful communication/relationship skills presented by Campus Mediation. 4-5 p.m. in 202 Shibles Hall

- Monday, April 5: “The Fight for Jobs in Maine's North Woods” A conversation in 107 DP Corbett with Loggers, Legislators and Landowners. A panel discussion with John Baldacci, U.S. Congressman; Bill Butler, former woodsman, current labor and environmental activist; John Hanson, director of UMaine Bureau of Labor Education; John Cashwell, president of the Seven Islands Land Company

- Monday, April 26: “Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World” A special presentation by author Alan Weisman. 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, located in the Class of 1944 Hall between the Memorial Union and the Maine Center for the Arts.

Alfred Leick Awarded National Fellowship

February 8, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Alfred Leick of Orono, University of Maine professor in the Department of Spatial Information Science and Engineering, has been awarded a fellowship in the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping (ACSM).

The ACSM includes more than 7,000 surveyors, cartographers, geodesists, and other spatial data information professionals working in both public and private sectors throughout the world.

Leick was honored for “outstanding accomplishments in the field of surveying and mapping.” He specializes in global positioning system technology and is the author of one of the primary textbooks in that field, GPS Satellite Surveying, published in 1990.

In recent years, his research has focused on mathematical techniques to integrate signals from the U.S. and Russian global positioning systems.

Theatre Workshop Director to Visit UMaine

February 8, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Art Department at the University of Maine will host a talk by Rick Curry, founder and director of the National Theatre Workshop for the Handicapped (NTWH), on Feb. 26.

Curry's talk, "Education in the Fine and Performing Arts for People with Disabilities," will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in 100 Nutting Hall on the UMaine campus. The NTWH is a non-profit organization founded in 1977 to provide persons with disabilities with the communication skills necessary to pursue a life in professional theater with instruction in acting, oral interpretation, music movement, dance, play-writing, technical theater and fine arts.

A Jesuit brother, Curry holds a Ph.D. in theatre from New York University and an M.A. in theatre from Villanova University. He has been an observer for the National Theatre of the Deaf, has worked with the BBC in London, toured handicapped schools in Japan and Israel and participated in programs at Loyola school in India. He is also the author of "The Secrets of Jesuit Breadmaking." All royalties from the book are donated to the NTWH.

Curry's visit is sponsored by the Elizabeth Graves Fine Arts Fund, an endowment by Elizabeth Warren Graves in memory of her husband. The fund is used to support the fine arts at the University of Maine.

Volunteers Sought for Psychological Studies

February 8, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Volunteers are being sought for four different studies of anxiety disorders by faculty and graduate students at the University of Maine's Psychological Services Center. In each case, participants will receive free confidential assessments and recommendations for treatment, according to Jeffrey Hecker, associate professor of psychology and director of the Center.

In each study, volunteers will be interviewed on the phone and then in person. They will receive information about the nature of possible disorders they may have. If they meet criteria for participation in the studies, they will be assigned to an appropriate treatment project which can last up to 12 weeks. All studies involve cognitive behavioral treatment.

Each of the studies is being conducted by students working under Hecker's supervision. His earlier research has focused on panic disorder, a condition marked by unexpected rushes of intense anxiety. He has shown that individuals can learn to cope effectively with that condition through use of a self-help workbook.

In a follow-up to earlier research on that condition, Hecker's current goal is to determine the personality characteristics of people who achieve the best results with self-guided treatment techniques. He will also focus on how they pass through stages of improvement.

Kristin Maki, a doctoral student from Boston, Mass., is studying anxiety associated with social situations such as speaking in public, dating and meeting new people. While cognitive-behavioral treatments have been shown to be helpful for people with social anxiety, Maki's study will be one of the first to examine the efficacy of self-directed treatment.

Elizabeth Kubik, a doctoral student also from the Boston area, is studying obsessive-compulsive disorder. She will evaluate the value of a self-help workbook with varying degrees of therapist assistance.

April O'Grady, a doctoral student from Brigus, Newfoundland, is studying body dysmorphic disorder, a condition which has been recently recognized as a distinct disorder. It is currently thought to affect one and a half to two percent of the population. People with this condition display an intense, obsessive pre-occupation with a feature or part of their bodies.

O'Grady's work will evaluate the relative importance of cognitive and behavioral techniques which are currently used to treat individuals with this disorder.

All treatment sessions will take place in the Psychological Services Center in Corbett Hall on the UMaine campus. Individuals can contact the Center at 207-581-2034 for more information.

UMaine Professor to Speak on Language Rules

February 9, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Philosophy Colloquium Series at the University of Maine continues this semester with a talk by a professor who believes that language rules are not learned, but are intuitive.

James Page, adjunct associate professor of philosophy at UMaine, will speak on "Intuiting Rules" on Feb. 18 at 4 p.m. in the Levinson Room of The Maples on the UMaine campus.

"It is a truism that language is rule-governed," says Page. "The interesting question concerns the source of these rules. One influential line of thought developed is that the source of all linguistic rules must be social practice. I will argue that a speaker can have intuition of abstract linguistic rules whose instances are hardwired into the human cognitive system."

Page received his Ph.D. in the philosophy of mathematics from MIT, where he worked on foundational issues in number theory. He taught at Dartmouth and the University of Kansas before moving to Maine. In addition to teaching, Page is the senior officer of the James W. Sewall Company in Old Town.

King Gift to Support Softball Field Project

Feb. 10, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Bangor authors Stephen and Tabitha King have given the University of Maine \$100,000 to help build a planned softball facility on campus. The gift, which is the most recent of many examples of the Kings' generosity to their alma mater, represents a significant step toward the fundraising goal of \$800,000 needed to pay for the privately financed facility.

"Once again, Stephen and Tabitha have brightened our day with a generous gift," says UMaine President Peter Hoff. "Their commitment to providing opportunities of all kinds for Maine people and UMaine students serves as a wonderful example."

Plans for the facility, to be known as the Kessock Softball Field, have recently been completed. Construction on the field, which will be located beside Mahaney Diamond, could begin this year. The University hopes to have the field ready for play by the 2000 spring season.

The softball field project was announced in July of 1998, when UMaine benefactor Michael Kessock, also a UMaine graduate, donated \$300,000 for the purpose of building a softball facility.

"Thanks to the generosity of the Kings, we are now much closer to our goal of providing another top-quality facility for the use of our student-athletes and the enjoyment of our fans," says UMaine Director of Athletics and Recreation Suzanne J. Tyler. "The new softball complex is the highest priority for new facilities in our gender equity plan."

The softball facility will join the Harold Alfond Sports Arena, Morse Field at Alumni Stadium, Mahaney Diamond and the Stanley Wallace Pool Complex as top-notch athletics facilities available to UMaine student-athletes. The new softball field, which will have lights for night play, will also create opportunities for UMaine to host state softball tournaments and other similar activities.

UMaine to Observe National Condom Week

February 10, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine will hold a series of events from Feb. 14 to Feb. 18 to observe National Condom Week, which was created to remind people about the importance of safer sex.

The week's activities are sponsored by the Peer Educators, a group of students on campus who coordinate and plan programs to educate fellow students about the challenges of campus life.

"We want to raise awareness of the importance of using a condom or other latex device to protect yourself during sexual activity," says Steve Caron, a third-year student involved in Peer Educator Program.

Caron says much of the week is devoted to opening lines of dialogue about sex and condom usage, because it is often a lack of communication between partners that leads to unprotected sexual activity.

During the week, tables will be set up on campus to provide free condoms and information about safer sex. There will also be a condom display to show the statistics on the many different brands of contraception. On Feb. 15 and 16, the tables will be in the Memorial Union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Feb. 17 and 18, tables will be at Hilltop Dining Commons from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The week begins with the "Kiss To Remember" at Alford Arena on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. The event is an attempt to reclaim the world record for the greatest number of couples kissing at one time. Participants are asked to arrive between 3 and 3:30 p.m.

On Feb. 15, the UMaine Peer Educator program will present a program called "Men and Women Sharing" at 8:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall. In this event, men and women are split up into separate groups and encouraged to write down questions about the opposite sex. Those questions are then discussed in a session led by a facilitator.

Also on Feb. 15 Maine Precaution, an acting troupe made up of UMaine students will perform "Everything You Wanted to Know About Sex and Much More" at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Room of Doris Twitchell Allen Village. This show will be presented again on Feb. 18 at 8 p.m. in Kennebec Hall.

People will get to test their knowledge of topics such as anatomy, contraceptives and sexually transmitted infections on Feb. 16 with "Sex Connection," a game show format program which will be held at 8 p.m. in Gannett Hall.

On Feb. 17 the Peer Educators will present "Look What's Going Around" at 7:30 p.m. in Knox Hall. This is an interactive workshop and slide show about sexually transmitted infections.

All events are free and open to the public and sponsored by the Center for Students and Community Life and Campus Living.

Maine Farmers and Agricultural Businesses Can Participate in Leadership Institute

February 11, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Managers and employees of Maine farms and other agricultural enterprises can take advantage of an upcoming leadership program offered by University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

The tenth annual Maine Agricultural Leadership Institute (MALI) will be held at the Black Bear Inn in Orono. Participants will work with political and media experts to hone their policy-making and communication skills. Openings are still available for the three-day program which is scheduled for February 24-26.

MALI presenters will include Don Colson, news anchor with WABI-TV; John Baldacci, second district congressman; LaVon Bartel, director of Cooperative Extension; and Steve Reiling, co-director of the Maine Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. Colson will provide tips on working with the media and conducts interview sessions on camera.

MALI teaches participants how to influence the decisions that shape Maine agriculture. Citizens with concerns about Maine's natural resources including lakes and streams are also being invited to take part.

Space is limited to 40 participants. Registration fees are \$50 for individuals and \$75 for couples from the same business. Corporate sponsorship is provided by: Bayer Corporation, Lunenburg, MA; Maine Department of Agriculture; Maine Farm Bureau; Maine Farmers Exchange, Presque Isle; Maine State Florists' and Growers Assoc.; Maine State Pomological Society; Maine Landscape and Nursery Assoc.; McCain Foods USA; Northland Frozen Foods, Inc.; and the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine.

More information about MALI and an application form are available from John Jemison, Extension water quality specialist, 581-3241.

Community Given Chance to Discuss UMaine Class Book

February 12, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Members of the community will soon have a chance to debate issues and ideas raised by this year's University of Maine class book in a series of discussions held across the state.

Groups will meet in Camden, Orono and Portland for the 1999 Class Book Community Program to discuss "Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong" by James Loewen. The program is sponsored by UMaine's Continuing Education Division.

"What our community program hopes to do is parallel the discussion that's happening on campus," says Barbara Howard, assistant director of the Continuing Education Division and Summer Session.

The program will encourage participants to consider the myths and misinformation of American history as examined in this year's class book. Loewen spent two years at the Smithsonian surveying twelve high school textbooks of American history and "Lies My Teacher Told Me" is a critique of the manner in which those texts presented American history.

The discussions will be led by UMaine staff and faculty: Mazie Hough, staff associate of the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program; Sherman Rosser, executive director of University Recruitment; Maureen Smith, director of the Native American Studies program and assistant professor of Interdisciplinary Studies; Carol Toner, coordinator of the Maine Studies program and Robert Whelan, instructor in English.

The Camden program will meet at the Camden Public Library March 16 and 23 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The Portland program will meet at the Portland Performing Arts building March 22 and 24 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and the Orono discussion will meet March 18 and 25 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the Dexter Lounge of Alford Arena.

All three groups will meet at the University of Maine on March 30 from 1 to 9 p.m. for a public lecture and private dinner with James Loewen, a private tour of Fogler Library and a demonstration of distance learning technology and showcase of the class book web course.

The Class Book Community Program costs \$75 per person, which includes a copy of the book, and participants will earn 1.3 CEU credits. For more information, call the Continuing Education Division at 581-3414.

The class book is selected each year by the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate on the basis of nominations from students, faculty and staff. The goal is to raise the level of discourse on campus by creating common intellectual territory.

Maine Dairy Seminar Scheduled for Waterville

February 12, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Dairy farmers can register for the annual Maine Dairy Seminar which will be held at the Waterville Elks Club March 12. The event is organized by University of Maine Cooperative Extension and will feature presentations on ongoing silage research at UMaine, tips on maintaining healthy udders, and new technology in use on dairy farms in New England and the Midwest.

Leo Timms, a dairy specialist at Iowa State University, will discuss his research on mastitis control, housing and cow comfort. Martin Stokes, UMaine professor of animal and veterinary sciences, will present information about silage additives on the market and his research on their effects on nutrient composition and milk performance.

John Porter, an Extension dairy specialist with the University of New Hampshire, will discuss new technology. He specializes in the design and construction of dairy facilities and recently traveled to dairy operations in the Midwest and Northeast to collect design information and ideas that can be implemented into new and existing dairy facilities.

The seminar begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 3:15 p.m. Registration is \$8 for MDIA members, \$10 before March 5 and \$12 at the door. Fees can be sent to University of Maine Cooperative Extension in care of Nanette Jones, 5735 Hitchner Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469.

AGENDA

MAINE DAIRY SEMINAR

Friday, March 12, 1999, Waterville Elks

MORNING

9:00 Registration, Refreshments and Trade Show

10:00 University of Maine Silage Research Update - Martin Stokes

10:30 Dips, Tips and Myths on Udder Health - Part 1 - Leo Timms

11:30 Introductions and Comments

11:45 Dairy Shrine Awards

12:00 Buffet Lunch and Trade Show

AFTERNOON

1:15 New Technology Used On Dairy Farms Today: A Tour of 58 Farms in New England and the Midwest - John Porter

2:15 Dips, Tips and Myths on Udder Health -Part 2 - Leo Timms

3:00 Questions and answers session with all the speakers

3:15 Wrap up and Adjournment

Vegetable Gardening on a Budget

February 12, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A free one-day gardening workshop for beginners will be held during the first two weeks of April at University of Maine Cooperative Extension offices throughout central and southern Maine. Participants will learn how to plan and care for their gardens, prepare the soil, make compost and grow their own seedlings.

The sessions will begin April 1 at the Somerset County Extension office in Skowhegan. Subsequent sessions will be held April 5 in Farmington, April 6 in Belfast, April 7 in Sanford, April 8 in Ellsworth, April 9 in South Paris, April 12 in Bangor, April 13 in Dover-Foxcroft, April 14 in Falmouth and April 15 in Waldoboro.

Each workshop starts at 8:45 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. Registration is free and must be received by March 15 at the Oxford County Extension Office, 9 Olson Road, South Paris, ME 04281-6402. Call 1-800-287-1482 for more information.

Wiemann to Premiere New Composition, "Vespona," at Faculty Recital

February 12, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- School of Performing Arts faculty member Beth Wiemann will premiere a new work she has composed for five players at a recital on Feb. 22 in the Minsky Recital Hall at the University of Maine.

"Vespona," by Wiemann, an assistant professor of music, will join works by Brahms, Schumann and Bauer in the recital, which begins at 7:30 p.m. The Minsky Recital Hall is located in the Class of 1944 Hall, between the Memorial Union and the Maine Center for the Arts.

Wiemann will be joined on "Vespona" by Elizabeth Downing, coordinator of New Student Programs, on flute; Anatole Wieck, associate professor of music, on violin; Diane Roscetti, director of the School of Performing Arts, on cello; Baycka Voronietzky, associate professor of music, on piano. The piece will be conducted by Louis Hall, professor of music.

Philip Silver, instructor of music, will accompany Wiemann on piano on another piece, "Fairy Tales, for clarinet, viola and piano."

Wiemann studied composition and clarinet at Oberlin College and Princeton University. Her compositions have won awards from the Colorado Music Festival, American Women Composers and Marimolin. In addition to teaching at the University of Maine, she performs as the principal clarinetist with the Bangor Symphony.

Tickets for the recital are \$4 and discounts are available for seniors, students, children and groups. Call 581-1755 or 1-800-MCA-TIXX for ticket information.

UMaine World Record Attempt Falls Short

Feb. 14, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- An estimated 1,000 couples joined in a simultaneous 10-second kiss at the University of Maine's Alfond Arena today, creating a Valentine's Day memory but falling short in an attempt to reclaim a world record.

The world record of 1,420 couples kissing in one place at one time, set at UMaine on Valentine's Day 1996, was broken when 1,600 couples smooched in Spain last summer. Today's event was an attempt to regain that record.

"While we're disappointed that we didn't reach our goal, I think everybody involved has a great time," said Sandra Caron of the UMaine Human Development and Family Studies faculty, the primary organizer of the event. "We had 2,000 people turn out on a beautiful day to participate in a fun event that they'll all remember for a very long time."

UMaine President Peter Hoff and his wife, Dianne, were among those participating in the attempt. The event also served as a fund-raiser for the American Heart Association.

UMaine International Program Director to Conduct Soros Foundation Interviews

February 15, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Karen Boucias, director of the Office of International Programs at the University of Maine, is one of ten people nationwide selected by the Open Society of the Soros Foundation to interview potential scholarship recipients in their home countries.

This is the first time the foundation has chosen university representatives to conduct interviews of students who have applied for Open Society scholarships to study in the United States for one year. Boucias will travel to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for eight days, beginning Feb. 20.

"I'm delighted that the University of Maine is one of ten schools chosen to conduct these interviews," says Boucias. Representatives from American universities will visit a total of 22 countries in central and eastern Europe and Asia.

The Soros Foundation was begun by Hungarian financier George Soros to develop educational programs for young people in eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union. The Open Society scholarships allow students to study in the United States for one year. These students are then expected to return to and graduate from the universities in their home countries.

Boucias has previously worked with the selection committee for foundation scholarships. Once a year, approximately five people meet at the foundation's headquarters in New York city to select scholarship winners for the program.

"We always say we wish we could meet those students because they look so good on paper," says Boucias. "It's going to be a wonderful opportunity to meet the students before we make the final selection in March. It should make the selection meeting more interesting."

The undergraduate exchange program began in 1994 with four countries represented and 34 students. In 1999, there are 24 countries represented and 75 students studying in the United States. There are currently two students from the program attending UMaine and more are expected in the future.

"We have hosted Open Society program coordinators at the University of Maine before, so I think they have a good feeling and understanding about this university at both the undergraduate and the graduate level," says Boucias. "We assign each international student a faculty advisor and provide services for these students so we know they will be well taken care of and have a good academic experience."

Boucias says that participation in this program benefits both the students that participate in exchange programs and the universities that host such programs.

"The world is getting smaller and we all need to be aware of what's happening around the globe and understand people from other countries," says Boucias. "I think the benefit of these exchanges is not only the education but the fact that you do get to meet and know very well people from other countries and they get to know you."

The Office of International Programs is responsible for the undergraduate admissions of international students. The office does all of the immigration advising for the University of Maine and handles study abroad programs and university linkages.

Spirit Rally Set for Feb. 24 at UMaine Field House

Feb. 16, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- A pep rally highlighting the outstanding seasons of the University of Maine women's basketball, men's basketball and men's hockey teams is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 24 at the UMaine field house.

Members of the public are invited to join UMaine students, faculty and staff in saluting the teams as they head into post-season play. All three teams have a chance to advance to NCAA tournament competition.

The rally will begin at 11 a.m. with Black Bear basketball player and professional D.J. Dade Faison providing the entertainment. A program featuring the UMaine pep band, cheerleaders, and players and coaches from each of the teams, is scheduled for 12-1 p.m.

A free lunch will be provided to all who attend the rally.

A spirit contest, featuring prizes to those who show up with the best costumes, noisemakers, banners or other appropriate items, will be judged by members of the Graduate M Club, which is the primary sponsor of the event.

Singer-Songwriter DiFranco to Kick Off Beautiful Project

February 17, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Maine Center for the Arts at the University of Maine will host a concert by singer, songwriter and acoustic guitarist Ani DiFranco on April 16.

The concert will kick off the week-long Beautiful Project, a student-led celebration that seeks to understand cultural standards of beauty and to encourage a broader measure of women's value, beyond their outward appearance.

"She really is an important person for women of my generation," says Willow Wetherall, president of the Student Women's Association, the student-run feminist organization on campus. "Her music and lyrics are very powerful and they present a strong political message against sexism, racism and heterosexism."

Wetherall says DiFranco was a perfect choice to begin the Beautiful Project, because of her achievements in the music industry. Since 1990, DiFranco has released all of her albums under her own label, "Righteous Babe Records," which gives her more creative control over content and marketing. Over the course of her career, the 28 year old musician from Buffalo, New York has released 12 self-produced solo albums. Her latest, "Up Up Up Up Up Up," was released last month to very positive reviews.

"Her strong personal character and the way she has taken control over her career is an inspiration to many women and men. It was the combination of Ani DiFranco's skill as a musician and the power of her personality that made me think she'd be perfect to perform at this year's Beautiful Project," says Wetherall.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. on April 16. Tickets for the general public go on sale Feb. 18 at the Maine Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$21 and can be charged by phone by calling (207) 581-1755 or 1-800-MCA-TIXX. TDD/TTY (207) 581-1888.

UMaine Professor Discovers Female Voice in Medieval Love Lyrics

February 17, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A University of Maine professor will discuss her discovery of some previously unknown examples of women's secular writing from medieval England at the next Women in the Curriculum and Women Studies Luncheon Series lecture.

Linne Mooney, associate professor of English, will speak on "The Female Voice in Late Medieval Love Lyrics: The Historical Contexts and Some New Discoveries," on Feb. 24 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in 109 Donald P. Corbett Business Building.

Very little remains of medieval English women's secular writing, but in her studies Mooney has discovered a poem apparently written by a woman to her royal or noble lover asking him to be patient with the progress of their clandestine relationship and a revision of Chaucer's love poem "Against Women Unconstant," that changes the gender and therefore the accusation of fickleness or infidelity.

Mooney traveled to England on a Women in the Curriculum grant last summer to do further research on the Chaucer revision. In her talk, she will discuss how the discovery of these writings changes the perception of women and women's attitudes towards love and relationship in medieval England.

The talk is free and open to the public. For directions, information on parking or other information call 581-1228.

Greek Peer Educators Video Examines Drinking Hazards

February 18, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Greek Peer Educator program at the University of Maine has developed an educational video that teaches students about the hazards associated with alcohol abuse. The video will be marketed to fraternities and sororities across the country.

"Liquor, Lust and the Law" will premiere at 100 Donald P. Corbett Business Building on Feb. 22 at 4:30 p.m. The 18-minute video depicts various situations that can occur during a "typical" college fraternity party, such as binge drinking or driving under the influence. It then gives tips on how to avoid these sorts of situations.

Sandra Caron, associate professor of family relationships and the founder and director of the program, says her hope for the video is that it will show members of fraternities and sororities taking an active role in dealing with the challenges of student drinking.

"Fraternities and sororities were originally formed to promote leadership among members and to play a vital role in the campus community," says Caron. "The old image of a fraternity or sorority that resembles an 'Animal House' is not only dangerous, but outdated. It's time for Greek organizations to take the lead in creating a new future for themselves and for campuses across the country."

The video features Caron and students in the Greek Peer Educator program, a program that provides information on issues surrounding substance abuse and sexuality through workshops, educational materials and community health fairs. All of the students involved in the Greek Peer Educators are members of a sorority or fraternity.

Recovery Plans for Endangered Species Come Under Student Review

February 19, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Students in a University of Maine wildlife ecology class are getting a hands-on view of how the Endangered Species Act (ESA) works, through a cooperative project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Society for Conservation Biology, an academic and professional association. The class provides the students with a significant role in a national review process being conducted on the adequacy of the species recovery plans written by the federal government over the past three decades.

The class is taught by three professors in the Department of Wildlife Ecology: Raymond O'Connor, Judith Rhymer and Ray "Bucky" Owen, former commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. A total of 15 students in wildlife ecology, biological sciences and resource economics and policy are participating.

"The Fish and Wildlife Service takes this project quite seriously," says O'Connor. "The agency is reviewing its procedures under the ESA, and they will take the students' comments into consideration."

Altogether, about 500 final recovery plans have been written for a total of 926 species of plants and animals.

The UMaine students are reviewing ten plans for plants and animals ranging from the peregrine falcon, which has been restored to locations around the country, including Acadia National Park on Mt. Desert Island, to the greenback cutthroat trout and the Tennessee Purple Coneflower.

The reviews will be guided by exhaustive questionnaires. Students must evaluate the plans on more than 250 points including legal protections, public participation and specific recovery tasks. Student reviews will be posted to a Web site maintained by NCEAS. They will be able to review each other's comments and discuss questions through chat rooms.

In addition to specific recovery plans, students will review recent legal and scientific analyses of the ESA.

"Our goals are for the students to develop a thorough knowledge of the technical details of the ESA, to have an opportunity to think critically about a major area of environmental policy and to contribute to the implementation of the Act," says O'Connor.

Armed with detailed reviews, O'Connor and student representatives will meet with federal officials and representatives of other universities at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) in California in April to discuss the adequacy of the plans. Over the course of the semester, students will share information via the World Wide Web on a weekly basis with officials and students in 18 similar courses being taught at other universities in the United States.

Student Journalists to Convene in March

February 19, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- High school students from across the state will gather March 11 at the University of Maine for the sixth annual student journalism conference sponsored by the Maine Center for Student Journalism.

"Pursuit of Excellence" is the theme for the conference, which will be held in Orono at the Wells Conference Center. This statewide meeting of high school journalists will include workshops and panels led by professional journalists and students. The deadline for conference registration is February 19.

Kris Ferrazza, the Maine Press Association Journalist of the Year, will be the keynote speaker. Ferrazza, assistant editor of the Lincoln County Weekly, was recognized for her coverage of the Maine Yankee nuclear power plant in Wiscasset.

Professional journalists will lead workshops on news, feature, sports and editorial writing, layout and design, interviewing, photography, ethics and a variety of other topics.

"Workshops and panels will generate an open exchange of ideas and experiences among student newspaper staff members and professional and college journalists," says Kathryn Olmstead, associate professor of journalism and director of the Maine Center for Student Journalism.

The day-long event will conclude with presentation of awards to winners in the 1998-99 Student Newspaper Contest. Individual student journalists will be recognized in the categories of newswriting, editorial and opinion writing, review writing, sports writing, feature writing, photography, page layout and design. The James Russell Wiggins Trophy provided by the Ellsworth American will be given to the student newspaper that demonstrates general excellence in all of these categories.

"Titanic" Dinner Planned at UMaine's Stewart Commons

February 19, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Stewart Dining Commons at the University of Maine will be transformed into the first-and-second class dining areas of the luxury liner Titanic for the evening of Feb. 23.

Claire Lint, assistant dining services manager for Stewart, says the dining rooms will be decorated in a nautical style. The Maine Maritime Academy is lending a lifeboat, oars and some anchors to add to the atmosphere. Models and blueprints of the Titanic will also be on display.

The menu at Stewart will mirror that of the one presented to passengers on the Titanic the night of the ship's sinking. The majority of students who visit Stewart for dinner will be served a second class menu of chowder, baked chicken and vegetables, among other selections.

A Titanic trivia contest was held to choose students who will be eating first class fare, such as lamb with mint sauce, baby whole carrots and assorted homemade breads. The twelve students who knew the most about the Titanic will be served in their own dining area.

The dinner will begin at 4:30 p.m. and two screens will be set up in the dining rooms. One will show an A&E documentary on the Titanic sinking and the other will play the recent James Cameron movie.

Free Speech Forum Held at UMaine

February 22, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The challenges of balancing free speech and tolerance in an electronic age will be the topic of a panel presentation and discussion at the University of Maine on Feb. 24.

The Office of Equal Opportunity is sponsoring, "Free Speech/Hate Speech: Where Do We Draw the Line?," on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. in 100 Nutting Hall.

The issue will be discussed by three panelists. The first, Lyombe Eko, is an associate professor of journalism with expertise in mass media and Internet telecommunication law and policy.

Panelist Pat Beard is an attorney with Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer and Nelson, in Portland. She specializes in law regarding education, the media, the First Amendment and Civil Rights. The third panelist, Stephen L. Wessler, is the chief of the Public Protection Division of the Maine Attorney General's Office, which is responsible for the enforcement of civil rights laws.

"The university community must be open to the free discussion of ideas, even controversial ideas" says Silver. "On the one hand, we need to be extremely careful not to infringe on free speech rights, but we also have the goal of creating and sustaining a welcoming climate for people of all backgrounds. How to balance these two goals is of particular concern to this university."

The Office of Equal Opportunity at the University of Maine is responsible for facilitating and monitoring the university's compliance with equal opportunity laws and policies. It is also responsible for investigating complaints and attempting to resolve concerns about of discrimination and harassment within the university and its programs.

Italian National Opera to Perform "Otello" at MCA

February 22, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Italian National Opera will bring "Otello," based on William Shakespeare's tale of love and betrayal, to the Maine Center for the Arts on Feb. 28.

The performance will be held at 3 p.m. at the MCA, which is located on the campus of the University of Maine. This is the second time the Italian National Opera has appeared at the MCA.

The opera is considered Verdi's most powerful and tragic work, a study in evil and jealousy. It tells the story of Otello and how manipulation and mistrust can ultimately lead to destruction.

Tickets are \$38 for orchestra, \$33 for front balcony and \$29 for rear balcony and can be obtained by calling 581-1755 or 1-800-MCA-TIXX.

Maine Farms Can Participate in Open Farm Day

February 22, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Maine farms are being sought for participation in the annual Open Farm Day which celebrates the strength and productivity of the state's agricultural community. The July 25 event is sponsored by Maine farmers and a coalition of agricultural agencies and organizations.

"Less than two percent of the population is involved in agriculture, and Open Farm Day is an important way for farmers to communicate about what they do," says Vivianne Holmes of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension office in Auburn.

Last year, farms drew thousands of visitors who got a first-hand glimpse of how their food and fiber are produced and what farm life is like.

The objective of Open Farm Day is to enhance public awareness. Farmer participating in the event host the public between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and provide an educational experience for visitors. Some farms offer special events such as barn tours, hay rides and demonstrations, and some also sell their products.

Interested farm owners can contact Jane Aiudi, Maine Department of Agriculture, 287-3702, or Vivianne Holmes, Cooperative Extension, 786-0376 or 1-800-287-1458. Farmers must register by March 15.

UMaine Museum of Art Reception at Blaine House Wednesday

Feb. 22, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Mary Herman, the wife of Gov. Angus King, will host a reception for the "Arts in the Capitol" exhibition, featuring 37 works of art from the University of Maine Museum of Art, on Wednesday, Feb. 24 from 2:30 - 4 p.m. at the Blaine House in Augusta.

The museum organized the exhibition, which is made up of recent acquisitions. The works have been on display since Jan. 4 and will continue in Augusta through March 12.

For more information about Wednesday's reception, contact the Maine Arts Commission at (207) 287-2724.

Quebec Foreign Relations Director to Visit UMaine

February 23, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Québec's relationship with Maine is important both economically and culturally. A member of Québec's Ministry of International Relations will visit the University of Maine to discuss this relationship and its implications to the health and prosperity of the region.

Michel Robitaille, director of the United States Division of the Québec Ministry of International Relations, will speak on "Québec-Maine: Partners in International Relations" on Feb. 25 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in 107 Donald P. Corbett Business Building.

Robitaille's talk will be introduced by Severin Béliveau, president of the Forum Francophone des Affaires (FFA), who has played a major role in the effort to join Maine and the global business organization of French-speaking nations.

In his talk, Robitaille will discuss the vitality and the unique nature of the shared heritage between Maine and Québec. Robitaille has had a distinguished career in international relations. He has held key positions in the Québec Ministry of Foreign Affairs for over eight years, serving as the New England desk officer before becoming director of the U.S. division.

"Most Quebecers who are French have family in Maine and New England," says Yvon Labbé, director of the Franco-American Center. "This connection to Québec is very important to us and is a bridge we can use to build a trade relationship."

Earlier in the day, Robitaille will visit Old Town High School. From 12:45 to 3 p.m., he will meet with students in the cafeteria area to discuss cultural heritage. There will be a reception in the D.P. Corbett atrium at 5 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Maine in cooperation with the University of Maine Franco-American Center, the Office of International Programs, the English department, the Honors Program, and the Department of Industrial Cooperation. Community sponsors of the program are the Forum Francophone des Affaires (FFA) USA, Bangor Savings Bank, James W. Sewall Company, Old Town High School, A.G. Edwards and the Maine International Trade Center.

Researchers Map Path of Second-Hand Emotions in Families

Contact: Kay Hyatt
(207) 581-2761

Like second-hand smoke, frequent exposure to negative emotions can have a toxic effect on family members, according to psychologists engaged in a new program of research that provides repeated sampling of mood and experiences.

A recent set of articles published in the February issue of the *Journal of Marriage and the Family* indicates that negative emotions can create a chain reaction of distress that moves through a family and affects the behavior and health of the individuals who are the most susceptible receivers. The researchers have also mapped the path of these emotional spillovers which appears to follow the order of power in the family, from fathers to mothers to children.

The four articles highlight the process of emotional transmission and provide a promising model for understanding the daily passage and subsequent, predictive influence of one's daily experiences and emotions on other family members, according to lead editors David Almeida of the University of Arizona and Reed Larson of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The researchers used a variety of intensive, daily or hourly collection methods including the use of diaries, telephone reports, and pagers to chart family members' immediate accounts of their activities and emotions. Controlled statistical procedures were used to determine patterns of emotions being transmitted from one family member to another.

The process allows researchers to observe the daily ebb and flow of typical family experiences and to gain a glimpse of the conditions that might contribute to or buffer the spreading and receiving of negative emotions, according to Almeida.

"We all have bad days and negative interactions," says Almeida. "This work brings a new awareness that being in a negative mood, being inaccessible or generally grouchy can have a noxious effect on the well-being of our families."

Among findings in the studies:

- o Emotions are most often passed from husbands to wives and from parents to children, possibly reflecting differences in power in families as well as gender differences in empathy and receptivity.
- o Negative emotions, like anger, depression and anxiety, are more likely to be transmitted than positive emotions. None of the studies find evidence of contagious joy in families.
- o Negative emotions appear to be more infectious, potent and have longer lasting effects than positive emotions.
- o Fathers bringing home negative emotions from work that affect other family members emerged as a common pattern. Regardless of family structure, whether one-or-two-parent, women appear better able to contain work stress and, in fact, may strive to have more positive family interactions to compensate for a bad day.
- o In situations where there is clear justification for the negative emotions, families members tend to give one another some slack, and the emotions are less likely to be transmitted. For example, in families where mothers had a chronic pain condition, her negative feelings were less likely to affect others. In couples where one partner was taking the New York Bar Examination, emotional transmission was suppressed during the stressful preparation period but became evident again once the exam was finished.

o In the process of transmission, especially along paths of family power, an emotion can be transformed from sender to receiver. For example, scorn in one person may induce shame in another; anger in a powerful person may create anxiety in a less-powerful family member.

The authors of the papers believe that the repeated daily experience of second-hand emotions from other family members may be a means by which parental distress, anger or depression leads to anxiety, depression or detrimental health conditions in other family members, particularly children.

"We've been studying families for a long time and know that distressed parents tend to have distressed children," says Almeida. "Looking at the daily experiences might explain part of this connection."

With solid evidence that emotional transmission takes place and emerging patterns, such as the significant impact of fathers' emotions and the willingness to indulge justifiable agitation, the next step is to look for conditions and interventions that can limit the spread and modify the effect of negative moods on families.

The set of articles in the journal, the quarterly publication of the National Council on Family Relations, include:

- "Second-Hand Emotions: Emotional Transmission in Families" by Reed W. Larson and David M. Almeida.
- "Transmission of Emotions in the Daily Interactions of Single-Mother Families" by Reed W. Larson and Sally Gillman (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).
- "Emotional Transmission in Couples Under Stress" by Anne Thompson and Niall Bolger (University of New York).
- "Daily Transmission of Tensions Between Marital Dyads and Parent-Child Dyads" by David M. Almeida, Elaine Wethington (Cornell University) and Amy L. Chandler (University of Arizona).
- "Anger Transmission from Mother to Child: A Comparison of Mothers in Chronic Pain and Well Mothers" by Geraldine Downey, Valerie Purdie and Rebecca Schaffer-Neitz (Columbia University).

UMaine Names Vice President for University Advancement

Feb. 25, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Susan Reardon, an administrator with over 30 years experience in higher education, has been named Vice President for University Advancement at the University of Maine. The appointment, which is subject to approval by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, was announced today by UMaine President Peter Hoff.

Reardon will be one of three vice presidents of the 9,500-student, 2,300-employee flagship university of the University of Maine System. She will be responsible for UMaine's development, marketing, and public affairs departments and will work closely with two independent affiliates, the University of Maine Alumni Association and the University of Maine Foundation.

"I am extremely pleased that Susan will be joining our university," says Hoff. "She brings a wealth of experience in several areas of great importance to UMaine, and has first-hand knowledge of the distinct mission and needs of land-grant universities such as ours. Her talents, background, and personality will be great additions to the University."

Reardon has been Vice President for University Advancement and Marketing at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich. since 1995. She has also worked at Virginia Tech University, GMI Engineering & Management Institute, Michigan State University, Iowa State University, the University of Virginia and the University of Michigan. She graduated from the University of Minnesota

"I am very excited to become a member of President Hoff's leadership team," Reardon says. "I'm looking forward to working with the University community and with people throughout the state to move UMaine forward to an even higher level of excellence."

The Vice President for University Advancement position is a new one at UMaine and will replace the vice presidency for University Development, a position held on an interim basis by Virginia Gibson since Robert Holmes left UMaine for the University of Central Florida last summer. Reardon's position was created as the cornerstone of a restructuring plan Hoff initiated to coordinate fundraising, government relations, community relations, media relations, and marketing.

Reardon assumes her new duties April 1.

Hudson Musuem Awarded Maine Arts Commission Grant

February 26, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine is undertaking a project which is funded in part by a \$2000 grant from the Maine Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. This project will allow the museum to draft a strategic plan that addresses the commission's mandate to encourage and stimulate public interest and participation in the cultural and artistic heritage of Maine.

"We've been engaged in long range planning for some time and are now entering a new stage of the planning process," says Stephen Whittington, director of the Hudson Museum. "Long range planning tells you where an organization will go, strategic planning tells you how it will get there."

The strategic plan, says Whittington, will lead to the development of exhibits of high artistic quality and programs which promote cultural diversity. The plan will also help the museum to expand its programs and exhibits to include segments of Maine's population such as Franco-Americans, Native Americans and the state's Asian community.

To facilitate this plan, the Hudson Museum has selected a consultant who will conduct on-site visits to the museum and hold a retreat in May for museum staff, advisory board members and university administrators. After the retreat, the consultant will summarize the data and prepare a draft version of the plan, which will then be reviewed by retreat participants. A final one-day retreat will be held in June to finalize the plan.

The Maine Arts Commission has been helping artists and arts organizations bring more music, dance, poetry painting and other arts activities to the people of Maine. The Hudson Museum, located in the Maine Center for the Arts, is an anthropology museum with a focus on the arts and cultures of traditional peoples around the world.

South Berwick Student Helping Homeless as Part of UMaine's Alternative Spring Break

February 26, 1999

Contact: Molly Haskell at 581-3747

ORONO -- University of Maine sophomore Angela Melanson is spending her spring break working at Emmaus House, a soup kitchen and homeless shelter in East Harlem, N.Y.

Melanson, a sociology major and daughter of Joann and Earl Melanson of South Berwick, is leading a group of 14 UMaine students in everything from building repairs to working directly with the shelter's residents.

The New York trip is one of three spring break trips being attended by almost 45 UMaine students as part of Break Away, a national program that helps colleges plan alternative ways for students to spend spring break.

Other groups are in a Detroit, Mich., working for Save Our Sons and Daughters, an organization founded to help promote peace and to counsel victims of inner-city violence; and in Charleston, S.C., repairing damaged homes in low-income rural neighborhoods with the United Methodist Relief Center.

The student-led trips were funded by a swing dance, bottle drive, sales from exclusive UMaine mugs made by Sandy Houtman of Orono, and an "Adopt an Alternabreaker" drive, in which people receive a postcard from one of the trips in exchange for a donation.

The students and UMaine faculty and staff members began leaving Friday, Feb. 26 and will be volunteering for more than a week.

This is the second year members of LET'S - Learning and Exploration Through Service - have gone on alternative spring break. Last year's group went to South Carolina.

UMaine Lecture to Deal With Facing Evil

March 29, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The existence and nature of evil will be the topic of the next Philosophy Colloquium Series at the University of Maine.

"Facing Evil at the Turning of the Millennium," will be held April 8 at 4 p.m. in the Levinson Room of The Maples. The presentation will be given by Daniel Conway, professor of philosophy at the Pennsylvania State University, and visits the campus as the Philosophy Department Distinguished Visiting Scholar. This event is free and open to the public.

Conway contends that if society is to face evil in the sense of a philosophical confrontation, then people need to face evil in the sense of attributing evil to individual human beings. In doing so, society must beware both of trivializing attributions of evil and reserving attributions of evil for only the most egregious, world-historical displays of malevolence.

He says that evil is becoming increasingly hard to confront in society because of the widespread belief in relativism or because evil is so often attributed to human emotion rather than an objective presence operating in the world.

Conway is the author or co-author of eleven books, including "The Sovereignty of Construction: Studies in the Thought of David Lachterman," "Nietzsche and the Political" and "The Politics of Irony: Essays in Self-Betrayal."

The Philosophy Colloquium Series is sponsored by the Department of Philosophy with support from the Cultural Affairs Committee.

UMaine Orchestra Celebrates French Culture in its Spring Concert

March 30, 1999

Contact: [Molly Haskell](#) at 581-3747

ORONO --The University of Maine Orchestra will present works from its classical repertoire in its spring concert Sunday, April 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Leonard and Renee Minsky Music Recital Hall.

The concert, a celebration of French culture, will include two French pieces: music written by Daudet for the play, "L'Arlesienne," and "L'Arlesienne Suite" by Bizet. The program also includes Mozart's Symphony in g minor, No. 40, one of Mozart's most famous pieces, and "Suite Symphonique" by Mouret - the theme for public television's "Masterpiece Theatre."

The Orchestra will be conducted by Anatole Wieck and will be joined by the Bangor Youth Ballet, choreographed by Heinrick Snyder.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or through the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at (207) 581-1755 or (800) 622-8499.

Students Perform Scenes From Wide Variety of Operas in UMaine Opera Workshop

March 31, 1999

Contact: [Molly Haskell](#) at 581-3747

ORONO -- University of Maine students will present scenes from the great literature of classical and modern opera at the UMaine Opera Workshop on Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Leonard and Renee Minsky Music Recital Hall.

The performers, directed by Nancy Ogle, Francis Vogt and Luke Hedger, will perform scenes from Gounod's "Faust," Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte," Offenbach's "The Tales of Hoffmann," Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel," Richard Strauss' "Ariadne auf Naxos," and Menotti's "The Old Maid and the Thief." They will be accompanied by Alison Moore of Hampden.

The admission fee for this workshop is \$4. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance from the MCA Box Office at (207) 581-1755 or (800) 622-8499.

Milkweed Puppet Theater to Visit UMaine's Hudson Museum

April 1, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- A local puppeteer will visit the University of Maine's Hudson Museum for a puppet show and workshop at the next Just for Kids program.

Nancy Nye, from Thorndike, will bring the Milkweed Puppet Theater to the museum on April 22 at 10 a.m. Nye will present the play "Two Roses and a Burly Bear," then teach a workshop on how to make a paper and rod puppet. This program is for children ages K-6, and parents must accompany K-1 children for the workshop.

"Two Roses and a Burly Bear" is a story adapted from Grimm's fairy tale "Snow White and Rose Red." This tale asks the question: what would you do if you answered the door one snowy night and there stood a wild bear, begging to come in by your fire?

The Milkweed Puppet Theater has been entertaining audiences for over 15 years in schools, museums, festivals and libraries throughout Maine, and is part of the Maine Touring Artists Program.

Call the Hudson Museum at 581-1901 to register. Registration for the puppet show and workshop are separate. The cost for each is \$3.

Steganography: Computer Screen Images Designed to Hide Information

April 1, 1999

Contact: [Nick Houtman](#) at 581-3777

ORONO -- Computerized pictures may become a more commonly used way to transfer sensitive information as a result of research by a University of Maine professor. Richard Eason of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and a Japanese colleague, Eiji Kawaguchi of the Kyushu Institute of Technology, are seeking a patent for their work in the field of steganography.

The term literally means "covered writing." Methods of hiding information have been used for centuries. In ancient Greece, spies hid messages on wax covered boards that were normally used for writing. During World War II, German scientists created microdots that were the size of periods but large enough to contain photographs or other messages.

Today, computer images are as common as e-mail and offer sophisticated opportunities for hiding and transferring information. Such images can appear to us as familiar faces or attractive scenery, but to the computer, they are simply numbers. Eason and Kawaguchi have found a way to manipulate those numbers without distorting the image.

"What we're doing essentially is embedding data inside a picture. The picture that is presented to the viewer looks the same with or without the embedded data, and the file has not increased in size. We think of the picture as a 'vessel image' because it contains the additional data," says Eason.

To accomplish this slight of eye, Eason and Kawaguchi look for areas within pictures that are more complex than others, such as the leaves of a tree or a heavily patterned fabric. The computer sees such areas as complicated sets of binary numbers, and the engineers have found a way to identify how some of the numbers can be changed to accommodate the new data.

Their work is based on pixels, the points of light which create images on computer screens. The color of that light is defined by numbers which are composed of binary digits (bits), but not all the bits for each pixel have equal rank. Some are more important than others in creating the picture on the screen.

Eason's and Kawaguchi's technique leaves the most important bits alone to define the picture on the screen. It takes advantage of the least important bits to accommodate the new data.

To see the embedded data, a viewer would need the software which created it in the first place. The software can also include a unique key which would be necessary to see the data in a given image, similar to encryption technology.

Eason is an expert in software programming and robotics. In previous research, his work with the Dexter Shoe Company led to a patent for a machine which trims soles for shoes.

Eason and Kawaguchi have known each other since Eason's days in graduate school at the University of Tennessee. They have continued to correspond and collaborate on engineering projects, and they have arranged for their students to study on an exchange program in Japan and Maine.

UMaine's Symphonic Band and Concert Band Present Joint Concert

April 1, 1999

Contact: [Molly Haskell](#) at 581-3747

ORONO -- The University of Maine Symphonic Band and the University of Maine Concert Band present a night of music on Tuesday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. in Hutchins Concert Hall at the Maine Center for the Arts.

The Concert Band, under the direction of sports bands director Christopher White, will kick off the evening's entertainment with a unique program of band music including "Fanfare and Salutation" by Roger Cichy, "Blues for a Killed Kat" by Jack End and "Simple Song" by Andrew Boysen Jr.

The Symphonic Band will follow after intermission with a program of band literature selected from the last fifty years. Curvin Farnham, director of bands at UMaine, will lead the Symphonic Band in "George Washington Bridge" by William Shuman, "Blue Shades" by Frank Ticheli and R.B. Hall's "Greetings to Bangor March."

Anatole Wieck, director of the UMaine Chamber Orchestra, will guest conduct the Symphonic Band in Wagner's "Huldigungsmarsch."

The admission fee for this concert is \$4. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance from the MCA Box Office at (207) 581-1755 or (800) 622-8499.

Collins, Throckmorton to Address UMaine Graduates; Honorary Degree Recipients Named

April 2, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO -- Sen. Susan Collins and Bangor Theological Seminary President Ansley Throckmorton will address the University of Maine's 194th Commencement ceremonies May 8 in Alfond Arena.

Collins will speak at the 10:30 a.m. ceremony for students in the College of Business, Public Policy and Health; the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and the Division of Lifelong Learning.

The Caribou native is the 15th woman in history to be elected to the U.S. Senate. Collins serves on the Labor and Human Resources Committee, the Governmental Affairs Committee and the Special Committee on Aging. She is the first freshman lawmaker and the first woman to chair the Governmental Affairs Committee's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Throckmorton will address the 2:30 p.m. ceremony for graduates in the Colleges of Engineering; Education and Human Development; and Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture.

The eighth president of Bangor Theological Seminary, Throckmorton is the first woman to serve in that office, and has used her time to strengthen the life of the institution, both academically and financially. For the past 35 years, she has served as a role model, counselor, mentor and guide for many women involved in church life in Maine. An ordained minister, Throckmorton previously served as general secretary in the Division of Education and Publication with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, United Church of Christ.

Throckmorton is one of two honorary degree recipients at UMaine this May. Also being honored is Ted Mitchell, director of the UMaine Wabanaki Center and faculty associate in anthropology, who retired from the University Jan. 2 after 25 years of service.

Mitchell, a Penobscot, was the first guidance counselor on Indian Island. He began coordinating UMaine's minority student programming in 1974. In his career, Mitchell championed educational opportunities for Native youth and helped draft many of Maine's policies about Wabanaki education. As an advocate for Wabanaki education for students at all academic grade levels, he worked to build and sustain relationships between schools, Native communities and the University of Maine.

Hudson Museum Opens New Virtual Exhibit

April 2, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Visiting the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine is now only a mouse-click away for Internet users.

The museum has recently redesigned its web presence, and added a virtual exhibit. Internet users can now visit the "Brilliantly Beaded" exhibit, one of the Hudson's past temporary collections. The new web page can be found at <http://www.umaine.edu/hudsonmuseum>.

"The virtual exhibit is a permanent record of 'Brilliantly Beaded,' which was a Hudson Museum exhibit last summer. Many museums publish exhibit catalogues to fill this function, but we did not have the resources to do that," says Stephen Whittington, director of the Hudson Museum. "We put existing photographs and exhibit text on-line as a virtual recreation of the exhibit so it would be a resource for students and scholars. The advantage to creating such a virtual exhibit is that it is accessible for free to people everywhere in the world."

The new web page was created by Bonnie Bishop, the museum's graphic designer, and Daan Hendricks, an intern from the Netherlands. In addition to her part-time work for the Hudson Museum, Bishop creates one-of-a-kind books, children's books and does freelance graphic design work. This is the first website she has created.

"My philosophy of web design is basically that a good designer is one who does the most with the least," says Bishop. "When you're doing work for a museum, you want people to look at the objects, so you don't want too much going on in the page."

Bishop says the site is very simple, so almost any browser can download it. Each area of the new web page features the same set of navigation buttons on the left, which guide users to information on collections, exhibits, the museum shop or the virtual exhibit.

The "Brilliantly Beaded" virtual exhibit features pictures and text from the original Hudson Museum temporary exhibit. Visitors to the exhibit can choose to focus their attention on any one of six categories: purses, moccasins, novelties, regalia, contemporary and resources.

This on-line exhibit will soon be joined by other Hudson Museum permanent and temporary exhibits, according to Whittington.

"We plan to put other exhibits on-line, beginning this spring with 'Worldviews: Maya Ceramics from the Palmer Collection,'" says Whittington. "We will probably make excerpts from the museum's permanent exhibits accessible through time, while continuing to create virtual exhibits as records of recent temporary exhibits which have been disassembled. Of course, we feel that even complete virtual exhibits cannot provide the same experience as visiting the Hudson Museum and seeing unique objects from ancient and contemporary cultures."

On-Campus Hockey Celebrations Planned at UMaine

April 2, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

[Lisa McEvoy](#) at 581-1086

ORONO -- Two events -- one Saturday and one Monday -- are planned at the University of Maine, home of the Black Bear hockey team that's in Anaheim, Cal, battling for the national championship.

UMaine's Memorial Gym will open on Saturday afternoon at 5 p.m., for a rally complete with refreshments, banner-making, music and other fun activities. ESPN coverage of the national title game between Maine and the New Hampshire Wildcats will be shown on a 12-foot projector screen in the gym, beginning at 7:30 p.m. This is expected to be the largest gathering of Black Bear fans to watch the game anywhere in the state.

The team will travel back from California on Sunday, arriving in Portland at 10:30 p.m. A bus ride back to Orono will bring the team home in the early hours on Monday morning.

A pep rally is planned for Alfond Arena, regardless of the outcome of Saturday's game, on Monday. Fans are invited to begin arriving at 4 p.m. The UMaine pep band will entertain the crowd until 5:30, when a program featuring comments from UMaine President Peter Hoff and Director of Athletics Suzanne Tyler will begin. At approximately 5:35, Black Bear coach Shawn Walsh and his players will address their fans.

Defining Dietary Fiber No Easy Task

April 3, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- It's not one of the basic food groups, but fiber has become a dietary icon. Magazines and talk show hosts extol its virtues, and the federal Food and Drug Administration recommends eating foods high in fiber to reduce the risks of cardio-vascular disease and colorectal cancer. Nevertheless, the research record contains a few surprises for consumers, says Mary Ellen Camire of the University of Maine's Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition.

The truth about fiber is shrouded in controversy and conflicting studies. In recent years, doubts have been cast on the colorectal cancer fighting benefit of fiber by three major reports that concluded that a high fiber diet did not lower cancer rates. Nevertheless, fiber's reputation still stands for other health benefits. Researchers have demonstrated that fiber can reduce risks of heart disease, hypertension, non-insulin dependent diabetes and a bowel problem known as diverticulitis.

Nutrition is a young science

New experiments by Camire and her students are helping consumers, food processors and government agencies put fiber in proper perspective. "Nutrition really was born this century. People don't realize, for example, that we discovered the vitamins during the past century. We didn't realize the role of fiber in food until the 1960s. The science is young and still evolving," Camire says.

Camire has been studying dietary fiber since her graduate student days at Texas Woman's University in Dallas during the late 1980s. For her Ph.D. dissertation, she studied fiber in corn-based snack foods. After coming to UMaine, she began working on new methods to analyze foods for fiber content.

Such fundamental work is timely because the FDA and the food processing industry do not have a single, comprehensive definition for the term "fiber." "When we first started realizing there were health benefits to fiber, we were measuring crude fiber. We took a food, boiled it in acid, then boiled it in alkali and whatever was left, you said it was fiber. But our bodies don't work that way. Now, we're trying to do things that imitate the body. This is a big controversy," Camire explains.

In laboratory studies, she focused on potato peels which, she demonstrated, can perform like champions in the colon by binding with potential cancer causing compounds and escorting them out of the body.

As part of a group working through the American Association of Cereal Chemists (AACC), Camire helped to develop the modern fiber analysis method which has been adopted world-wide. It is a complicated, time consuming procedure and a major step forward, but it is still not perfect. It still leaves some compounds unmeasured, such as indigestible long-chain sugars which behave like fiber. Today, Camire is working with an AACC committee to devise a single definition for fiber. Interviews are being conducted with academic scientists, industry researchers and government regulators and hope to complete their work by the fall of 2001.

Fiber and phenolics

Just as important, some of the benefits attributed to fiber may actually be linked to associated compounds known as phenolics. In research published in 1995 in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, Camire and her UMaine colleagues Jianxin Zhao, Michael P. Doherty and Rodney Bushway showed that these chemicals also help bind benzo(a)pyrene, a common cancer causing agent in food.

"We're just starting to realize that phenolics are in our foods in gram quantities daily, but we've sort of ignored them," says Camire. "We don't need them to grow. Your hair doesn't fall out if you don't have them. All plant foods have phenolics and some forms are soluble. You get them in fruit juice. It's a separate class of plant molecules.

"It just happens that the way plants grow, phenolics are entwined with fiber molecules. And now we're wondering how much of the benefit of fiber is due to fiber and how much to what's with the fiber. We're seeing more and more work being done on the health benefits of phenolics."

In 1997, Camire received a \$49,316 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study the potential for phenolic compounds to prolong the shelf-life of extruded corn snacks and breakfast cereals. As anti-oxidants, phenolics can slow the breakdown of fats and also reduce the generation of free radicals which can lead to cancer. Hannah Osborn, a Junior from Big Piney, Wyoming, and Ken Viscidi of West Virginia, a Master's student, are expanding those studies to determine if phenolics can affect carbohydrates and the balance between soluble and insoluble fiber in processed foods. That's no small matter for the food industry, Camire notes. Some food production processes such as extrusion can tilt the scales in favor of soluble compounds. Unlike the insoluble forms, soluble fiber may contribute to colorectal cancer by releasing irritating bile acids in the colon.

From the industry's point of view, any production process which leads to demonstrated health benefits can become a new marketing point as well as a health benefit for consumers.

After Camire's 1995 articles were published, industry representatives called her frequently. Camire still gets one or two calls a month from food processors who want to discuss methods for increasing the fiber content of their products.

On the horizon for faculty and students in the department are new studies to identify all of the fiber compounds in breakfast cereals and determine how processing can enhance their benefits. Ultimately, Camire would like consumers, food processors and government regulators to have accurate information about how much fiber and phenolics are in the typical American diet and how they behave in our bodies.

"Right now," she says, "the FDA doesn't have accurate fiber values for a lot of foods. It's just ballparking. We could be very much over or under estimating people's fiber intakes. In regard to such a fundamental part of our diet and human health, we have to have better data to help consumers."

State Odyssey of the Mind Championships Set for Saturday at UMaine

April 6, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Over 600 Maine students representing grades three through 12 will travel to Orono this weekend, April 10, to compete in Saturday's Maine Odyssey of the Mind (OM) State Championships. The competition will be held from 8 a.m. until approximately 5 p.m. at several locations on the University of Maine campus.

Eighty-five teams of five to seven members will compete in one of five categories and, within each category, in one of three age divisions. First-place winners in each category and division will represent Maine in May at the 1999 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, which will be held at the University of Tennessee. Maine's teams will compete against teams from all 50 states and at least 20 nations.

The teams taking part in Saturday's state championships have advanced to that level after winning competitions at one of six regional tournaments held in Maine during March. For months prior to the regional events, over 8,000 students across Maine participated on an OM team with the hope of making it to the state championships and a chance to compete at the world finals.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international, non-profit, school-based program involving over one million students around the world. OM teams are challenged to solve a set of pre-assigned and spontaneous problems with limited assistance from coaches or non-members. Most of the problems require a combination of critical thinking skills, performance and visual arts, engineering and group collaboration. Each team is judged according to how creatively and effectively they address the set of problems presented to them. Teams select one of five problem challenges they wish to tackle.

Maine OM, the organization which coordinates the competitions in state, is run by hundreds of volunteers, many of whom are teachers, parents, and even former participants who because of age are no longer eligible to compete. Financial support for the organization's programs comes from membership fees, with major underwriting provided by the Maine Science and Technology Foundation. Other major sponsors are the University of Maine, University Credit Union, Fort James Paper Co., WABI-TV, Geiger Bros., and Fairchild Semiconductor.

UMaine Accounting Student Awarded McLeod Scholarship

April 6, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A University of Maine student from the Maine Business School has been awarded the Stuart McLeod Society Scholarship from the Institute of Management Accountants.

Jason Inman, a sophomore accounting major from Millinocket, was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship. Only 30 of these scholarships are awarded nationwide to college sophomores in accounting.

The IMA/McLeod Scholarships are to encourage and assist IMA student members to pursue a career in management accounting and/or financial management. In addition to the funds for school, the scholarship provides funding to take the Certified Management Accountants or Financial Management Examination for free.

The University of Maine Business School serves as the primary source of management education, research and service in the state of Maine. Through the integration of research, teaching and extensive interactions with the business community, the Maine Business School develops and communicates knowledge, prepares students for successful careers in a global economy and contributes to the economic development of the region.

Workshop Set for High School Biology Teachers

April 6, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine High school biology teachers can participate in a workshop, "Exploring Molecular Biology Laboratory Teaching Partnerships," at the University of Maine May 3.

The workshop is the second annual workshop designed to share information on current topics in biology, provide resources, and acquaint teachers with UMaine research.

Presenters include UMaine faculty and a representative from the Capital Area Technology Center who will discuss the CATC biotechnology program. Topics include genetic engineering, DNA vaccines and high school biotechnology programs.

There is no cost for the workshop, and a 0.5 continuing education credit is available. Teachers can contact the Dept. of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Molecular Biology for more information at 581-2800.

UMaine Percussion Ensemble Presents Ever-Growing Repertoire at Spring Concert

April 7, 1999

Contact: [Molly Haskell](#) at 581-3747

ORONO -- The University of Maine Percussion Ensemble will focus on the melodic side of percussion in its spring concert, Tuesday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Leonard and Renee Minsky Music Recital Hall.

The ensemble, directed by Stuart Marrs, will play a mixed program including "Rhythm Song" by Paul Smadbeck, the traditional Mexican work "Un Misterio," "Quinteto para Marimbas" by Marvin Araya, "Adagio" by Samuel Barber and "Concerto for Marimba and Percussion Ensemble" by Ney Rosauero with junior percussion major Bryan Cook as soloist. Red Norvo's "Breakfast Breakdown" will feature Marrs on xylophone.

A variety of percussion instruments have notes arranged in the same pattern as the piano, but they are all struck with some type of mallet rather than played with fingers on a keyboard as with the piano, organ or electronic keyboard. The bars of each distinct percussion instrument are made of different materials and are different shapes and sizes.

The family of percussion instruments featured at the spring concert includes the marimba, xylophone, bells, vibraphone and chimes.

Tickets for this concert are \$4 and are available at the Maine Center for the Arts box office at (207) 581-1755 or (800) 622-8499.

Concert and Competition at UMaine to Celebrate 10th Anniversary Celebration of Downeast Society of Classical Guitar

April 8, 1999

Contact: [Molly Haskell](#) at 581-3747

ORONO -- Two exciting guitar events at the University of Maine will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Downeast Society of Classical Guitar Saturday, April 24 in the Leonard and Renee Minsky Music Recital Hall.

A concert by UMaine alumna Monica Mugan, winner of the 1993 Maine College Competition for Classical Guitarists, will be held Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. and the 10th Annual Classical Guitar Competition for High School Students will be held at 1:00 p.m.

Mugan will be performing a concert of solos and duets with her husband, Dan Trueman. After graduating from UMaine, Mugan received her graduate training at the University of Cincinnati's Conservatory of Music where she studied with Clare Callahan. Mugan lives in Princeton, N.J. and teaches at Westminster Conservatory. She also performs in several chamber ensembles.

Trueman, who is pursuing a doctorate in composition at Princeton University, has written duets for guitar and his instruments of choice, the Norwegian fiddle and the electric violin. Several of these duets will be performed at the concert, as well as a new suite by Princeton professor Paul Lansky.

The 10th Annual Classical Guitar Competition for Maine High School Students will feature six finalists from across the state. The performers will compete for an all-expense paid week at the prestigious National Guitar Workshop held at the Canterbury School in New Milford, Conn. The competition's judges include nationally known guitarists and teachers with advanced degrees from the Boston Conservatory, Cincinnati Music Conservatory and Princeton University.

The Downeast Society for Classical Guitar is open to all classical guitar enthusiasts in Maine and introduces people to the classical guitar by bringing high quality instructors, visiting artists and local performances to the area. The president of the Society is UMaine classical guitar instructor Keith Crook.

For more information on the guitar competition and concert, contact Keith Crook at (207) 828-0927.

Tickets for the concert are \$5 and are available at the door.

Papers on Biotechnology Available to the Public

April 9, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A series of six brief papers on subjects in biotechnology is available to the public from the University of Maine. Faculty members in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture have written papers about product labeling, genetically engineered organisms and their use in agriculture, aquaculture and vaccines against disease.

"This information is based on the latest research conducted here at the university and elsewhere," says Bruce Wiersma, dean of the College. "It's important for the public to have objective facts on which to base decisions regarding these issues. The series is part of the university's educational and public service mission to the people of Maine."

Additional papers are being prepared on subjects related to biotechnology in forestry and environmental monitoring.

There is no cost for the publications. The papers are available from the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture, 105 Winslow Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469 or 207-581-3229.

Six Summoned for Post-Game Damage at UMaine

April 9, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO - Six people have been charged with crimes involving property damage at the University of Maine Saturday, April 3, following the men's hockey team's national championship victory.

Four of those charged are currently University of Maine students. Two are students at another institution in Maine. All six received summonses Thursday and are scheduled to appear for arraignment in Maine District Court in Bangor May 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Those charged are:

€John E. Gelsomino, 18, of Sayville, NY, charged with criminal mischief;

€George Gendron, 21, of Auburn, ME, charged with criminal mischief;

€Braden S. Hunter, 19, of Henniker, NH, charged with unauthorized use of property, criminal mischief, and reckless conduct;

€Evan Hafford, 18, of Hampden, ME, charged with unauthorized use of property, criminal mischief, and reckless conduct;

€Jojo Oliphant, 22, of Orono, ME, charged with criminal mischief; and

€Gregory R. Panora, 18, of Stow, MA, charged with criminal mischief.

University of Maine's Department of Public Safety is continuing its investigation and anticipates additional charges against other individuals. So far more than 70 people have been interviewed as part of the investigation, which began immediately following the incident. Investigators are basing their investigation on first-person accounts, witness testimony, videotape and photographs. Investigators are working with the Penobscot/Piscataquis district attorney's office, which will review the charges and determine how to proceed.

Public Safety officials report that both witnesses and those suspected of participation in the incident have been very cooperative with investigators.

University of Maine officials have repeatedly stated that the University will take appropriate disciplinary action against any individual found to have been responsible for damage to University or personal property.

Maine statutes define criminal mischief as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing damage to the property of others without permission. Reckless conduct is defined as recklessly creating a substantial risk of serious injury to another person. Unauthorized use of property is defined as theft that involves knowingly taking a type of moving vehicle without the owner's permission. All are Class D crimes which can carry a monetary fine and up to 364 days imprisonment.

UMaine Chemistry Student Wins National Goldwater Scholarship

April 9, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Marsha C. St.Pierre, a University of Maine sophomore from Mechanic Falls majoring in chemistry, has received a prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship in recognition of her outstanding academic record. St. Pierre was one of 304 recipients out of a nationwide field of 1,181 nominees.

The scholarship fund was established by Congress in 1986 to encourage students to pursue careers in math, science and engineering. St. Pierre's award covers all tuition, room and board costs for the next two academic years.

St.Pierre was valedictorian of the class of 1997 at Oxford Hills High School in South Paris. She came to UMaine with support from a Top Scholar award and last year received an Edward M. Holmes Scholarship. Although she chose to major in biology, she soon discovered a preference for environmental chemistry. In addition to her courses, she works in a research laboratory with Howard Patterson, professor of chemistry, on studies involving pesticides.

"In my thirty years at the University of Maine, I judge Marsha to be one of the best undergraduate students I have had to do research," says Patterson. "She is very intelligent, mature and imaginative in her own questions and ideas about research."

"Helping the environment is the most important thing to me," says St.Pierre. "I learn so much every day I go into the lab. It's a struggle, but it's a good struggle. When the reactions that I run work out, it's such a good feeling."

"This scholarship will help jump start my career by enabling me to complete my undergraduate courses more quickly and begin my Ph.D. program. It's also a recognition of the important research we do here. It's nice to see the University of Maine getting the respect we deserve."

St.Pierre studies the decomposition of pesticides in the environment. Working with Patterson and Sofian Kanan in an Aubert Hall lab, she has found that pesticides such as aldicarb, carbofuran and carbaryl decompose more quickly in the presence of light and a mineral compound known as a zeolite than in light alone. She is participating in experiments to determine the speed of different decomposition reactions involving zeolites.

Her work could lead to new techniques for water supply and wastewater treatment systems.

St.Pierre hopes to develop a career as a university scientist and teacher. She is the daughter of Paul and Rachel St.Pierre of Mechanic Falls.

UMaine Jazz Concert Features Soloists from Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo

April 9, 1999

Contact: [Molly Haskell](#) at 581-3747

ORONO -- Many of the University of Maine's most talented jazz musicians will be soloists in the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo concert directed by Karel Lidral on Thursday, April 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Leonard and Renee Minsky Music Recital Hall.

Mike Tomaro's original, "Altered States" will feature solos by trumpeter Luke Bouchard of Old Town and Mike Scarpone of Colchester, Vt. on tenor saxophone.

"Better Get Hit In Your Soul," arranged by Charles Mingus, will feature solos from Christina Lamare of Lewiston on trumpet, Chris Strange of Windham on alto sax, Tim Hart of Dresden on tenor sax and Darryl Blease of Orono on drums.

"Blue Birdland," recorded by Maynard Ferguson, features solos by Old Town's Jessica LePage on piano, Bronya Hamel of Milford on Harmon-muted trumpet, Marc Heskett of Buxton on alto sax, Dan Labonte of Harpswell on trombone and Scarpone on tenor sax.

The samba "Clockwork," by Doug Beach and George Shutack, features solo work from LePage, Hamel, Strange and Old Town's Trevor Marcho on trombone.

Frank Mantooth's original hard rock composition, "Dangerous Precedent," features solos from guitarist Tom Painter of Rockland, and tenor saxophonists Bryan Cook of South Paris and Scarpone.

Bryan Kidd's "Day Shift," written in an updated 1940s style, will include solos from Blease, Hart and Lamare. "Donna Lee" by Charlie Parker features the saxophone section and solos by Painter, Scarpone, Strange and Labonte.

Cootie Williams' trumpet solo in Duke Ellington's "Harlem Air Shaft" will be recreated by Bouchard, and Barney Bigard's clarinet solo will be performed by LePage. Lester Young's "Lester Leaps In" features solos from Marcho and Scarpone.

Matt Harris' original, "Hands Off," is a gospel rock chart featuring an appearance on saxophone by Lidral.

Tickets for this concert are \$4 and are available at the Maine Center for the Arts box office at (207) 581-1755 or (800) 622-8499.

UMaine Graduate Student Studies Methods for Detecting Pesticides in Food and Water

April 10, 1999

Contact: [Nick Houtman](#) at 581-3777

ORONO -- Donna Eash, a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Maine Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, likes a good challenge. Rock climbing and skiing are two of her current passions, and through her research, she has tackled the intricacies of a demanding new process for detecting pesticides in food and water.

Over the past four years, Eash has mastered the techniques of capillary electrophoresis (CE) in collaboration with her advisor, Professor Rodney Bushway.

Eash, a native of the Manchester, New Hampshire area, became the department's resident expert on the process which is now used in the pharmaceutical, medical and food processing industries. CE offers analytical chemists an alternative to other standard techniques. It uses small sample volumes and avoids toxic organic solvents which can pose a waste disposal problem with other methods.

"The biggest challenge for me has been learning to be patient," she says. "This is relatively new technology, and no one here had used it when the machine arrived four years ago. After the representative from Hewlett Packard set up the machine and gave us the instructions, we had to learn it from the ground up, the theory, the methods, the software, everything."

She admits that on some days, she went home feeling frustrated that the steps she was following weren't working out. "I just had to get over it and come back the next morning and start over," she says.

Eventually, Eash developed and verified new methods to detect hexazinone, known commercially as Velpar, an herbicide which is used in Maine on blueberry barrens and transportation corridors. Velpar has been detected in very low concentrations in drinking water wells and groundwater in Maine.

Other pesticides for which she worked out analytical methods include thiabendazole and malic hydrazide.

Being able to use the latest technology in pesticide detection gives Eash a marketable skill, she says. Her job search includes companies and government agencies, including the FBI, all on the East Coast. Prior to coming to UMaine, she worked as a medical technologist for Concord Hospital in New Hampshire. She received her bachelors degree from the University of New Hampshire in medical technology, and while she was working full time, she pursued her masters degree in clinical laboratory sciences from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

"When I attended UMass-Lowell I worked on oryzanol levels in rice oil. That sparked my interest in a career in the food industry and sharpened my skills in chromatography," she says. "I was looking at Ph.D. programs around the country, and working with Dr. Bushway was the most attractive option for me. I feel so lucky to have him as an advisor. He has supported my travel to conferences to present the results of my research, and he has always insisted that if I did the work and wrote the paper, my name was first as the author."

Eash has also provided assistance to other faculty and students in the department. For example she assisted with a project to analyze concentrations of a cholesterol reducing component of rice oil and worked with a masters student on analyzing levels of tri-poly-phosphate in processed lobsters.

Eash has published her work in four peer reviewed journals: the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, the Journal of High Performance and Liquid Chromatography, Journal of Chromatography, and the Journal of the AOAC International. At the end of March, she made a presentation to the Food and Agricultural Division of the American Chemical Society at the national ACS meeting in Anaheim, California.

In addition to conducting her research, Eash took classes in lipid chemistry from Dorothy Klimis and vitamins in nutrition from Linda Kling. She also found time to become involved in student affairs and is currently the vice-president of the Association of Graduate Students.

UMaine English Department to Host Local Poet

April 12, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Edward Nobles, a Bangor area poet, will visit the English department at the University of Maine on April 15 to read from his works.

The reading will be held in the Writing Center, room 402 Neville Hall from 4-5 p.m. Nobles' poetry has been widely published in such magazines as "The Paris Review," "The Kenyon Review" and "The American Poetry Review." His first book of poems, "Through One Tear," was published in 1997 by Persea Press and was selected as a notable book by the National Book Critics Circle.

Nobles' second book, "The Bluestone Walk," is scheduled for publication in 2000, also by Persea Press. His reading at the University of Maine is sponsored by the English department, with the support of the Lloyd H. Elliott fund. The reading is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served.

UMaine Students Join Penobscot River Expedition

April 12, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Three University of Maine students will be sharing their expertise about the people and environment of the Penobscot River watershed during the seventh annual Penobscot River Expedition in May. The expedition is sponsored by the Penobscot Riverkeepers 2000 of Old Town.

The expedition begins May 10 in Millinocket and ends at Castine June 7. During the trip, the paddling team will meet with school and community groups for educational programs, suppers and slide shows. Student participants include: Tammis Coffin of Old Town, a master's student in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Program, who will lead discussions about cobble beaches; Mary Reed of Unity, a Senior in education, who will discuss Maliseet history and culture; and Maegan Limoges of Old Town, a student in biology who will discuss the use of insects for water quality monitoring. All three students will work with students at points along the trip.

More information about the expedition is available from Karen Francoeur, Orono, 866-3506 or Jo Eaton, Old Town, 827-0369.

Maine's Economy Lagging Behind Nation's, According to UMaine Economist

April 13, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- A University of Maine economist says that despite the current rosy economic picture in Maine, the state's economy is in fact lagging behind that of New England and the rest of the United States.

In "A Rising Tide Does Not Raise All Boats Equally: The Case of Labor Productivity in Maine," James Breece, professor of economics at UMaine, states that the current picture of growth in Maine overlooks the indicator of labor productivity. The paper is available in the current edition of Maine Business Indicators.

"Labor productivity is important because it plays a vital role in Maine's ability to compete in global and national markets," says Breece. "Generally, an increase in labor productivity allows firms to lower costs and raise quality. To be competitive in national and global markets, Maine's labor productivity must at least keep pace with that of its competitors. Unfortunately, this has not occurred."

Labor productivity is the measure of output per worker over a given time period, and is measured by dividing annual real Gross State Product by the annual average number of workers. GSP is the value of goods and services that a state produces after accounting for inflation. Growth in real GSP signifies a higher level of production.

Breece says one way to measure this level of productivity is to measure it as a percentage of the national average. The productivity rate in New England rose significantly from about 93 percent of the national average to well over 107 percent.

"In other words, New England switched from following the nation to leading the nation in terms of productivity," says Breece. "Maine's productivity, though, is nowhere near the national average."

In Maine, productivity has fallen below 80 percent of the national average since 1992, and is now at approximately 77 percent of that average.

Breece says one way to increase productivity is to create more value-added jobs. Value-added jobs are those that add more value to the product. For example, furniture manufacturing adds value to the lumber harvested in Maine's woods. If the state made the harvested wood into furniture for export, it will reap more economic benefit than simply selling the raw material.

Policy leaders could create more value-added jobs, says Breece, by taking such actions as increasing appropriations in research and development, assisting targeting industry and improving the overall business climate to retain and attract more technology-based businesses.

Not all the economic news is gloomy. Some industries, such as furniture and fixtures and paper and allied products, have increased productivity over the last 20 years.

"Clearly, Maine has its shining stars of productive leaders," says Breece. "Maine also has industries that are not maintaining their productive capabilities. If this trend persists, Maine firms may find that they are not competitive in future national and global markets. Additional research is needed on this issue to help identify the causes for this situation."

The Maine Business Indicators, a publication of the University of Southern Maine that contains Maine-oriented articles on economic development and analysis, industry studies and economic public policy. It also maintains the Maine Business Index as a measure of changes in the level of Maine's economy.

For a copy of Breece's paper, e-mail or call [Peter Cook](#) in the Department of Public Affairs at (207) 581-3756.

UMaine College of Business, Public Policy and Health Plans Student Project Exposition

April 13, 1999

Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Student research and creative achievement will be on display for the public at an exposition hosted by the College of Business, Public Policy and Health at the University of Maine.

"Building Strong Communities for a Stronger Maine" is the theme for this event, which will be held on April 30 from 2-5 p.m. in the atrium of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building.

"I believe all of the schools in our college are dedicated to serving the community and building a stronger Maine," says Eric Brucker, dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health. "Our college's makeup is not just an administrative umbrella. The work all of our students do is intended to make a difference in people's lives."

Brucker says for example, the School of Nursing requires seniors to complete class group projects that send them into the community. This year, students organized health fairs in Milo and Pittsfield, conducted a bike safety clinic in Bangor and taught college students about nutrition during World Health Day.

Students in the Maine Business School worked with various companies in internship and advising roles. In one project, students developed international business plans for a Maine manufacturer. In another, students did market research for new product and service offerings.

Research by School of Social Work students discovered a correlation between self-esteem and eating disorders in junior high students. Students also helped elderly residents find information about State Assistance Programs.

The department of public administration has given students the chance to work on projects that deal with such topics as how the natural gas pipeline will affect Maine's economic development, how towns recruit and select employees and community policing.

These and other students will have poster displays at the exposition and will be available to answer questions about the research and work they have done in the community. The event is free and open to the public.

UMaine Faculty Receive Awards for Teaching, Research and Public Service

April 13, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture at the University of Maine recently recognized six faculty members for their research and teaching activities.

Winners were Keith Hutchison of Ellsworth, Outstanding Teaching Award; Kevin Boyle of Hampden, Outstanding Researcher Award; George Jacobson of Orono, Public Service Award; Alan Kimball of Old Town, G. Peirce and Florence Pitts Webber Outstanding Teacher Award; Jody Jellison of Bangor, G. Peirce and Florence Pitts Webber Outstanding Researcher in Forest Resources Award; and Gregory Porter of Bangor, Sustainable Agriculture Award.

Hutchison teaches courses in molecular biology to undergraduates and graduate students and also conducts courses for employees of The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor via compressed video and the Internet. He is known for emphasizing an exceptionally challenging curriculum, an approach which has led to top honors for his students.

Boyle is an internationally known researcher in resource economics whose work on water resources and wildlife valuation has helped to support public policy development in Maine. He has successfully competed for more than \$3 million in research funding. His grant funds have provided jobs for students as well as other faculty researchers.

Jacobson teaches and conducts research in biological sciences, and he has played a key role in raising public awareness of the importance of university based research for the Maine economy. His efforts have also contributed to increasing public interest in the University of Maine System and the Technical College System. For the past four years he engaged citizens, legislators, businesses and others in a dialog about investments in education and research.

Kimball teaches courses in forestry, both to University of Maine students and to professionals in the work place. His lectures and demonstrations reach a wide range of Maine people, including high school science teachers and foresters.

Jellison conducts research on the decomposition of wood by fungi and other biological organisms. She has presented the results of her work to international conferences in Europe, Asia and the United States. She also reviews research proposals in three areas for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Porter directs the Sustainable Agriculture Program at UMaine and conducts research on agricultural systems for potatoes. His research has gained international recognition and generated practical knowledge for Maine's farmers.

UMaine Body Dysmorphic Disorder Researcher Seeks Volunteers

April 14, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO -- University of Maine researchers are looking for volunteers to participate in treatment research related to Body Dysmorphic Disorder, a condition characterized by a preoccupation with a perceived physical abnormality. People with BDD are "intensely preoccupied" with a defect in themselves that is either imagined or significantly exaggerated.

A person might qualify for the study if he or she experiences any of the following:

- Preoccupation with part of his or her own body;
- Thinks he or she has a defect in appearance or bodily functioning despite reassurance from others that no such problem exists;
- Repeatedly checks in the mirror or measures a body part;
- Seeks reassurance from others about his or her appearance;
- Avoids certain activities because of concern about appearances.

"This condition can be extremely distressing to a person who experiences it," says UMaine graduate student [April O'Grady](#), who is leading the research project. "Through this research, we are hoping to help develop more effective ways of dealing with the condition."

The no-fee treatment being offered would involve 2 hours a week for 7-8 weeks. Those interested should contact the UMaine Psychological Services Center at 581-2034.

UMaine Doctoral Student Studies Explanations of Patterns

April 14, 1999

Contact: [Nick Houtman](#) at 581-3777

ORONO -- Anybody who sews, works with wood or enjoys a walk along a beach knows patterns. Repetitive shapes and forms are everywhere, and understanding them has been a driving force for scientists for centuries. For physicist Marty Ytreberg of Argyle, a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Maine Department of Physics and Astronomy, the search for explanations of patterns has led to magnetic fields and an unusual liquid.

Ytreberg conducts his research in collaboration with Susan McKay, chair of the department. He received his Bachelor's degree from Walla Walla College in southeastern Washington and came to UMaine because of its rural setting and diverse physics faculty. His labors produced a significant milestone in March with publication of his first paper in Physical Review E. He also gave a presentation on his research to the Centennial Meeting of the American Physical Society in Atlanta.

Ytreberg works with ferrofluids, substances that are a hot topic in the world of high quality audio speakers. Ferrofluids consist of tiny magnetic particles, such as magnetite, a magnetized form iron-oxide, suspended in a fluid. Oil, kerosene or water will do. The particles are coated with a substance that keeps them from clumping together, and unlike beans in a pot of soup, they never sink to the bottom at room temperature.

These fluids perform their tricks, Ytreberg explains, when they are placed in a magnetic field. "What happens to them is that the particles will start to chain together. If you sit around and wait, say for an hour, you find that these chains clump together and form columns. The columns are all approximately equal in size. They're approximately ellipsoidal or cylindrical in shape, and they're about equally spaced from each other," Ytreberg says. In one word, patterns.

"If you look at the top surface, since the columns are about the same size and equally spaced, you see a hexagonal pattern. But if you increase the magnetic field beyond a certain amount, you can begin to see labyrinth patterns," he says.

What Ytreberg wants to do is to predict what the pattern will look like under any particular magnetic field or with a given volume and shape of ferrofluid. Although the fluids have practical applications in speakers, some types of machinery and even medicine, Ytreberg's studies fall squarely into the realm of basic science. Such studies can have enormous practical benefits, but they are based in curiosity for its own sake.

In Ytreberg's case, the road for his curious adventure is mathematics. With pencil and paper, he works with groups of equations and solves them in order to develop a precise picture of what happens to the ferrofluid. Since the process can get extremely complex, he makes a variety of assumptions to simplify things a bit. In a sense he takes short cuts. By experiment, he explores the mathematical consequences of one assumption after another. The data for his studies come from published reports.

The fuel for these studies is strictly brain power. Although Ytreberg uses a computer to check his calculations, he isn't doing computer simulation which, he says, would not be useful for his particular approach to the problem. Moreover, simulations can be misleading. "One of my favorite quotes is that the problem with computer simulations is that they always give you a result. So you always get something out of the simulation, and you're usually too eager to accept that as true," he says.

In addition to the ferrofluid studies, Ytreberg has also worked with a related area known as reaction-diffusion equations. Solving these complex equations yields more patterns. In fact, some of these patterns are similar to those that have been observed in ferrofluids. No one has yet been able to explain why these similarities exist.

Ytreberg admits that he may not reach his goal but considers his work to be excellent preparation for investigating current topics in physics. "Non-linear physics or non-linear dynamics is a rapidly growing field. Both of these systems I'm working with are highly non-linear. I think I'm preparing myself well for a broad field survey on non-linear physics or condensed matter physics."

Eventually, Ytreberg would like to work in a university as a physics teacher and researcher.

Brown Bag Luncheon to Commemorate New Canadian Territory

April 15, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Hudson Museum and Canadian-American Center at the University of Maine will commemorate the establishment of a new Canadian territory with a brown bag luncheon and speaker on April 27.

On April 1, Nunavut became the third territory to enter the federation of Canada. Prior to this, the most recent change was the province of Newfoundland, which entered in 1949. The new territory is about one fifth the total area of Canada, with a population of 24,000. It will be subject to the Canadian constitution and the charter of rights and freedoms, but because the population is 85 percent Inuit, its territorial governmental structure will reflect Inuit culture.

Genevieve LeMoine, curator of the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum and Arctic Studies Center at Bowdoin College, will discuss the historic initiation of a Native American government in the new territory, focusing on cultural aspects of the change. LeMoine's talk, "Nunavut/Our Land: Inuit Self-Government in Canada" will be held on April 27 at 12:10 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge on the second floor of the Maine Center for the Arts.

LeMoine will present a slide show with her talk that will give a picture of the culture, people and landscape that make up Nunavut. LeMoine will also use the Hudson Museum's Inuit exhibit to present information about Inuit culture to docents before and after the brown bag luncheon.

This event is free and open to the public. Please bring your own brown bag lunch.

Cammermeyer, Paris to Speak During UMaine's Pride Week

April 15, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO - Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer and former Mr. Universe Bob Paris will be the featured speakers during this year's Pride Week celebration at the University of Maine.

Cammermeyer and Paris both made national headlines after disclosing their homosexuality. This year's Pride Week activities at UMaine will be held from April 17 to April 23.

On April 19, Margarethe Cammermeyer will speak at 7 p.m. in 100 D.P. Corbett Business Building. Cammermeyer's talk, "Serving in Silence," is a personal testimony of her struggle against the military's policy on homosexuality.

Cammermeyer was separated from the military in 1992 after telling interviewers that she was a lesbian. She filed suit in Federal District Court to challenge the ban on homosexuals in the military and requested reinstatement. In June 1994, Cammermeyer was reinstated and resumed her previous post of chief nurse of the Washington State National Guard.

While on campus, Cammermeyer will also spend time with faculty and students.

On April 21, Bob Paris will visit the university. Paris is a bodybuilder who has held the titles of Mr. America, World Champion of Bodybuilding and Mr. Universe. In 1989, he revealed to Ironman magazine that he was gay while still an active competitor, and has since become a human rights advocate.

Paris is the author of several books on bodybuilding and gay issues, including "Gorilla Suit: My Adventures in Bodybuilding," "Beyond Built," and "Straight from the Heart." Paris' talk will be held at 7 p.m. in the Damn Yankee, located on the second floor of the Memorial Union.

Pride Week begins with the Wilde Stein Alliance for Sexual Diversity 25th anniversary banquet at Wells Conference Center. The dinner begins at 5 p.m. and is \$10 for the public and \$5 for students. The keynote address at this banquet will be given by Dale McCormick, Maine state treasurer.

On April 22, a vigil will be held on the steps of the Memorial Union at 6 p.m., followed by a Wilde Stein Open House and Maine Speak Out project in the Bangor Lounge.

The Speak Out Project is a statewide effort to educate people about discrimination and prejudice using personal narratives of gays and lesbians living in Maine. The project has presented "speakouts" across the state, in various organizations, churches, schools and businesses.

The week will end in style with a Drag Show on April 23 at 9 p.m. in the Damn Yankee, Memorial Union.

Pride Week is a nationwide commemoration of the 1969 riots at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, when police raided a gay bar and a protest ensued. This incident is often considered the beginning of the modern gay rights movement. The UMaine celebration is sponsored by Student Government, Residents on Campus, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Concerns Committee, East-West Area Board and the Wilde-Stein Alliance for Sexual Diversity.

Women's Sports Advocate to Speak at UMaine on Tuesday

April 15, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO -- Donna Lopiano, the executive director of the Women's Sports Foundation, will make a public presentation at the University of Maine's Wells Conference Center on Tuesday, April 20 at 7 p.m.

Lopiano, a former Division I athletic director at the University of Texas, is one of the country's foremost advocates of and spokespersons for gender equity.

"Donna Lopiano is one of the people most responsible for raising awareness of this issue during the last few years," says Sean Frazier, UMaine's assistant athletic director for Diversity & Student/Staff Welfare. "Her knowledge and perspective are unparalleled."

This will be Lopiano's second visit to UMaine. She participated in a forum on women's sports on campus in 1994.

Civil Engineering Teaching Sculpture to be Dedicated

April 16, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO, Maine -- Students, faculty and professional engineers will gather at the University of Maine at 4 p.m. April 21 to dedicate a new steel "teaching sculpture" on the UMaine campus.

The blue painted structure stands about 15-feet high and demonstrates 20 different types of connections used in the construction of floors, walls, roofs and columns.

"The sculpture promotes civil engineering and helps the students," says Keith Wood, a graduate student and secretary of the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineering. "Seeing these steel joints in place is an effective way to learn."

The structure was built by Megquier & Jones, Inc. of Portland, Maine, and donated to the university. Jaimey Caron, a UMaine civil engineering alumnus, was instrumental in suggesting the idea. He is a member of the Maine Section of ASCE. Civil engineering students and Dana Humphrey, professor of civil engineering, constructed the foundation. The remainder of the materials and labor were donated by Maine businesses including Cianbro, Inc., H.E. Sargent, Wickes Lumber, Parker Danner and Round Rock Concrete.

Representatives of the student ASCE chapter, Maine Section of ASCE and the Structural Engineers of Maine will be present for the dedication.

UMaine Choral Groups Come Together in Spring Concert

April 16, 1999

Contact: [Molly Haskell](#) at 581-3747

ORONO -- Three choral groups from the University of Maine will be united for a spring concert Tuesday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. at Hutchins Concert Hall in the Maine Center for the Arts.

The University Singers, Oratorio Society and the Athena Consort will be joined by instrumentalists from the Chamber Orchestra. The concert, conducted by Kevin Birch, Shannon Chase, Francis John Vogt and Daniel Williams, will feature Poulenc's "Gloria" and Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms."

The solo quartet for "Chichester Psalms" will be sung by Beth Marshall and Matt Small of Windham, Kelly Caufield of Gorham and Jason Plante of Manchester, Conn. They will be joined by soprano Ryan Lena of the Asa Adams School in Orono. Associate professor of music Nancy Ogle will be a soprano soloist in "Gloria."

Tickets for this concert are \$4 and are available through the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at (207) 581-1755 or (800) 622-8499. Students with a MaineCard will get in free.

UMaine Enrollment Running Ahead of Last Year at This Time

April 16, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO -- The enrollment picture at the University of Maine continues to brighten, with confirmations for fall enrollment currently running 21 percent ahead of last's year's pace.

Officials report that so far 583 new students have already confirmed their intention to enroll at UMaine in September, putting the incoming class of first-year students on a pace to enroll the largest class in nearly a decade. On this date last year, 483 students had confirmed their enrollment for the fall, with a total of 1,451 first-year students eventually enrolling by the time school started in late August.

"I am delighted and gratified that more and more students are seeing the University of Maine as their college of choice, a place where they can get a superior education at a reasonable cost," says UMaine President Peter Hoff. "This growth comes while we maintain the same increased academic standards that were adopted a few years ago.

"People continue to learn more about the excellence of our teaching, research, and outreach work," Hoff continues. "Students and their families are recognizing the unique and complete student life experience they can find at UMaine and want to be part of it."

The class that enrolled in September of 1998 was 23 percent larger than its predecessor.

"If this trend continues through the end of the summer, and we have every reason to believe it will, we will moved significantly closer to building UMaine's overall enrollment to more than 11,000 students," says John Beacon, UMaine's dean of Enrollment Management.

UMaine's fall 1998 enrollment was 9,415 students, which represented an increase over the previous year and a reversal of a trend toward declining enrollments at New England colleges and universities. Approximately two-thirds of UMaine students are currently full-time students and nearly 80 percent are from Maine.

Reasons for the increase in enrollment include a more intensive effort to reach out to prospective students, especially high achieving ones, and to call attention to the university as a high quality academic institution with small classes and close personal attention from front-line professors who care deeply about student learning. In addition, Hoff has been making personal visits to schools around the state, promoting educational aspirations and the pursuit of higher education. By the time this academic year concludes, Hoff will have visited 63 of Maine's 139 high schools during the past two years.

UMaine to Pursue Revised Retirement Community Plan

April 16, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO -- Following considerable discussion on campus and after reviewing benefits and drawbacks, the University of Maine has decided against pursuing the development of a retirement community on university-owned property. Both President Peter S. Hoff and Robert Duringer, the university's chief financial officer and the president's designated leader of this project, have concluded that the project as originally conceptualized is not feasible.

The university has decided to pursue an alternative proposal that would allow the university to affiliate with an off-campus retirement community similar in nature to what was originally proposed for campus. Such a facility would be located on privately-owned property in the Orono-Old Town area and would be developed without the need for university land or resources.

The university's objectives for such an affiliation would be basically the same as those outlined for the campus-based proposal:

- € the facility would attract alumni, supporters, retired employees, and others who have an interest in being in close proximity to the university for classes, events, and social and recreational opportunities;
- € it would provide residents with incentives to take part as students, spectators, and/or supporters, enriching the campus community;
- € it would provide learning and employment opportunities for university students by involving them in aspects of the retirement community that pertain to their fields of study and interest; and
- € the affiliation would generate additional revenue for the university through an arrangement that is both prudent and relevant to the university's mission.

Private developers have already indicated an interest in participating in a retirement community venture. Formal, detailed proposals from would-be developers are anticipated. The University intends to share additional information with the campus community and general public once it receives a proposal that appears to satisfy the university's interests and expectations.

Annual Spring Dance Concert Features Talents of UMaine Students and Faculty

April 19, 1999

Contact: [Molly Haskell](#) at 581-3747

ORONO -- University of Maine dancers will present works choreographed by students and faculty at their Annual Spring Dance Concert on Friday and Saturday, April 23 and 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Hauck Auditorium.

The recital, directed by Ann Ross, will feature a variety of dance styles, including modern dance, ballet, jazz, hip-hop and international dance.

UMaine faculty member Kelly Holyoke choreographed jazz and ballet numbers for the concert, Cid Dyjak presents a modern piece and Janet Warner-Ashley of the theater department choreographed and performs in a modern ballet number with dance faculty member Ann Ross. Phillip Silver, instructor of music, and associate professor of music Anatole Wieck will play live music for the dancers.

The concert program features, "Falling," a martial arts-based dance/theater piece by senior Bill Antell, who choreographed, performed and mixed the music for the number. Jennifer Phillips will perform a sultry solo to "Summertime" by Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald as her three-year-old daughter joins her. A hip-hop number will be presented by seniors Marianne Bozza and Merri Bushle to music by Toni, Tone and Brandy. Members of the Swing Dance Club will show off their talents and Hala Chaoui from Lebanon will perform a Middle Eastern Dance. Ann Gleason and Becky Samuels will perform the number they choreographed to Lauryn Hill's hit song, "Tell Him," and Michelle McCann will perform a wacky dance theater piece.

Tickets for this concert are \$8 and are available through the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at (207) 581-1755 or (800) 622-8499.

Sociology Department Offers Thoreau Teaching Fellowship at UMaine

April 19, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Mitali Sen, from the University of Maryland, has gained invaluable teaching experience at the University of Maine as part of a fellowship program offered through the Sociology Department.

Sen is the recipient of the department's second Thoreau Fellowship. The fellowship is a one year teaching residency for a Ph.D. candidate in sociology who has completed all doctoral requirements except the dissertation.

The program was made possible by the Sociology Enhancement Fund, which was started by an anonymous \$100,000 donation in the spring of 1997.

"The fellowship is designed so that one can write a dissertation while pursuing the teaching aspect," says Sen. "The first semester you teach an introductory course, and the second semester you teach things you can specialize in and at higher levels than first-year."

Sen, a graduate of Delhi University and the Delhi School of Economics, says she decided to take the fellowship because of its emphasis on teaching.

"I came from a big university where teaching is rather secondary to research," says Sen. "I've always wanted to teach and have a degree in education, so I was looking for an environment that would foster a culture of teaching excellence and I thought that if the department was offering this type of fellowship then obviously they value undergraduate teaching."

In the fall semester, Sen taught introductory sociology. In the spring, she taught two courses. The first, Evolution, Revolution and the Future, Sen describes as a look at social change through history and whether it is evolutionary or comes about through revolution, or both.

The second course, which had never been offered in the sociology department at UMaine, is Social Dynamics of Technology.

"This class deals with issues about the impact of technology on our lives," says Sen. "It also looks at the social construction of technology, that technology itself is driven by social forces." Sen gives the example of the keyboard used by a majority of computer and typewriter users, the Qwerty.

"It is not the most efficient keyboard ever made, but the reason it stayed popular is because the people that built it were the first to really try marketing and advertising their technology," says Sen. "They used competitions, races and a lot of their resources to get people hooked to this keyboard. The class looks at questions such as how much of our technology is the best and how much was simply marketed the best."

Saundra Gardener, chair of the sociology department, says the fellowship program has been a success, because it works to increase the department's teaching resources and provide students with diverse course offerings.

"We have been very pleased with the outcome of this program," says Gardener. "The fellows have provided our department with numerous possibilities for intellectual growth and stimulation. Students are delighted with the new courses we have been able to offer and the innovative teaching techniques the fellows bring to the classroom."

Gardener says those chosen for the program gain valuable experience in classroom instruction as well as guidance from other sociology faculty. The department has developed a multi-faceted mentoring program for

fellows, which includes classroom observation and monthly departmental meetings to discuss issues related to teaching.

These "Teaching Conversations" include topics such as effective ways to deal with conflict/resistance in the classroom, how to encourage critical thinking skills among students and developing active learning techniques. Each semester, fellows also select a faculty member that they meet with on a weekly basis to discuss concerns and progress on their dissertation.

Two UMaine Professors Receive Fulbright Scholarships

April 19, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Two professors at the University of Maine have been awarded 1998-99 Fulbright scholar grants to study and teach in foreign countries.

John Buoncristiani, professor of mathematics, was awarded a Fulbright to go to Bulgaria as a lecturer in statistics. Richard Blanke, professor of history, was awarded a chance last summer to spend three weeks in Germany as part of a group seminar in German Studies.

Buoncristiani will spend one academic year lecturing in Bulgaria. He will spend the fall semester at Sofia University and the spring semester at the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG). At Sofia, he will be affiliated with the department of economics, teaching and collaborating in research as a statistician.

Buoncristiani says that AUBG has recently expanded its statistics program from three to four credit hours and has opened a new statistics laboratory.

"My hope is that I can teach some statistical techniques that the students there maybe aren't familiar with," says Buoncristiani. "I'm sure the students there are mathematically prepared, because the Bulgarian schools are strong in mathematics. However, the availability of textbooks is not as extensive as it is here, so I'm having new texts shipped over."

Buoncristiani has traveled overseas many times before. He has been a visiting professor in Italy, spent two years in the Peace Corps in Tanzania teaching at the University of Dar Es Salaam and has done consulting work in Ireland.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know new people at the university, the students, and the culture there," says Buoncristiani. "I hope to enrich the cross-cultural and scholarly exchange between Bulgarian universities and the University of Maine and perhaps recruit potential graduate students in mathematics and statistics."

Professor Richard Blanke had a somewhat different Fulbright experience. This is his fourth Fulbright scholarship. In 1984, he spent a year in Germany on a Fulbright research grant.

"It was a grant to attend a summer seminar in Germany," says Blanke. "It was a wonderful time, and we got to visit some interesting places and meet German government officials."

The course, "Germany and Central Europe," was three weeks long, from the end of June to the middle of July. Participants examined the political, social and economic institutions of Germany, in light of their recent history and current development.

The Fulbright Scholarship program was established in 1946 by former Senator William Fulbright of Arkansas. Grants are awarded to American students, teachers and scholars to study, teach, lecture and conduct research abroad and to foreign nationals to engage in similar activities in the United States. Approximately 4,200 grants are awarded annually.

Four-Day Shepherd's School to be Offered by UMaine Cooperative Extension and Maine Sheep Breeders' Association

April 20, 1999

Contact: [Molly Haskell](#) at 581-3747

ORONO -- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Sheep Breeders' Association will present a four-day training event for New England shepherds May 13 to May 16 at the Cumberland Fairgrounds in Cumberland, Maine.

The first day of the Maine Shepherd's School will feature free public tours of local farms with sheep and wool enterprises. Each of the farms in Cumberland, Windham and Brunswick will highlight a different aspect of raising sheep, including record keeping, sheep handling, wool production, accelerated lambing and facilities.

Classroom presentations, practical discussions and hands-on learning activities will fill the remaining three days. Topics for discussion by retired Extension Sheep Specialist Gary Ricketts from the University of Illinois include: sheep nutrition, health, breeding, handling, sheep enterprise economics, the show ring and quality wool production.

All sheep and wool growers will benefit from the shepherd's school, regardless of experience level. Basic sheep nutrition will be addressed first, followed by sessions geared toward appreciation of that knowledge. Hay analysis, ration balancing, and changing feeds to meet production cycle will be among the topics discussed.

The sessions will also focus on producing a quality wool product through genetics, sanitation, feeding, harvesting and storage.

The cost to attend the Maine Shepherd's School is \$105 for the first adult and \$75 for each other adult over 18 years of age from the same farm. Youths under 18 will be admitted for \$50. The course fee includes reference materials for each family, four meals and refreshments, Camper hook-ups on the fairgrounds will be available for \$10 per day. Overnight accommodations at nearby motels and inns are also available.

Contact Extension Educator Richard Brzozowski for more information and a registration form at (207) 780-4205 or by e-mail at rbrz@umext.maine.edu.

UMaine Professors Examine Race Factor in Support for Police Use of Force

April 20, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- A recent paper by two University of Maine sociology professors indicates that racial prejudice plays a factor in determining support for police use of force.

"Racial Prejudice and Support by Whites for Police Use of Force: A Research Note," was written by Steven Barkan and Steven Cohn, professors of sociology at UMaine. The paper has been published in a recent issue of "Justice Quarterly," the official journal of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

"This is just part of a series of articles we've done that have looked at how racial prejudice affects people's attitudes about crime and crime control policy," says Barkan. "In the past, we've looked at the court systems and the death penalty, and this was a natural extension of the subject."

In the article, Barkan and Cohn use data from the 1990 General Social Survey. The survey is a national multi-stage probability sample of the U.S. population that included a special section on racial prejudice. They found that racial prejudice predicated support for police use of excessive force, or police brutality.

"Police are authorized to use force to subdue suspects who are resisting arrest or who are posing a threat to the police officer's safety or that of any other person," says Barkan. "Beyond that, police are not allowed to use force and once a suspect is subdued they cannot continue to use force so we call that excessive or undue force."

Respondents in the survey were asked whether force is warranted in four situations: when a suspect says vulgar and obscene things, when the suspect is being questioned in a murder case, when the suspect is attempting to escape from custody and when the suspect attacks police with fists.

Only 12 percent of those surveyed thought that vulgar statements were enough reason for the use of force, and 10 percent believed being a suspect in a murder case justified force. Barkan and Cohn found a correlation between those who believed these were enough reasons for force and those who showed evidence of racial prejudice in separate questions.

The questions dealing with racial prejudice asked respondents whether they thought minorities were lazy, desired to live off welfare, had a lack of patriotism or a lack of intelligence. The study showed that whites believed minorities were more likely to commit crimes, as well.

"In these surveys, you ask people a lot of questions and find correlations and infer conclusions based on the data," says Barkan. "For example, if whites who favor use of force and the death penalty also show strong signs of prejudice when other factors are held constant, then that prejudice is probably a factor in their opinions."

Many of the responses also dealt with the respondent's views of police in general. Overall, whites tend to think more positively of police than minorities.

"In a democratic society, it is unacceptable for racial prejudice to guide public policy," says Barkan. "Infosar as racial prejudice motivates calls by the public and perhaps by public officials for the harsher treatment of criminals, such treatment is unjustified."

The underlying problem of racism that often fuels such prejudices, says Barkan, can be addressed through education.

"I'm not saying education would make all prejudice disappear, but it would help," says Barkan. "Prejudice has been around for a long time, so we're not going to solve the problem overnight."

UMaine Engineering Students Design Pedestrian City for New England Competition

April 21, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A team of University of Maine engineering students took second place out of 12 teams from universities represented at the annual Tau Beta Pi District 1 Freshman/Sophomore Engineering Design Competition held on April 10th at the University of New Hampshire.

UMaine students involved in the event were Ryan Barnes of Newburgh, Micah Stade of Glenburn, Gregory Bogan of Harmony and Jacob Pelletier of North Berwick.

The competition required students to design a pedestrian city. Underground railways and tree-lined walking paths were included in the UMaine team's entry.

A team from Norwich University in Vermont took first place. Other participants included Boston University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

EEOC Commissioner to Speak at UMaine Tuesday

April 22, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine will host Paul Steven Miller, a commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, as part of the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Program.

Miller's talk will be held on April 27 at 4 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge on the second floor of the Maine Center for the Arts.

Since 1994, Miller has been a commissioner with the EEOC, the federal agency charged with enforcing employment discrimination laws. He was co-chair of the task force to develop an alternative dispute resolution program for the agency, and chair of a special committee charged with enhancing the effectiveness of its litigation program.

Prior to his appointment at the EEOC, Miller worked in the White House on disability policy issues. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and a former professor of law at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, a visiting professor of law at UCLA and Parson Visiting Scholar at the University of Sydney in Australia.

Miller has written many articles on the civil rights of the disabled, including articles on the Americans with Disabilities Act, assisted suicide and genetic discrimination.

Grant Awards Announced for International Archeological Program Administered at UMaine

April 23, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A privately funded international research program administered at the University of Maine has awarded \$87,000 in grants to researchers studying economic and cultural ties among peoples of the ancient world. The projects will be carried out in Europe, the Canary Islands, Latin America, the Mideast and Pacific islands.

The Scientific Committee of the Foundation for Exploration and Research on Cultural Origins (FERCO) met in Tenerife, the Canary Islands on April 16 to make the awards, according to Daniel Sandweiss, associate professor of anthropology at UMaine and the president of the FERCO committee.

Sandweiss is also a member of UMaine's Institute for Quaternary Studies which administers FERCO accounts for research and communications programs. FERCO was established in 1992 with headquarters at the Ethnographic Park of the Pyramids of Guimar in the Canary Islands by Norwegian scientist and explorer Thor Heyerdahl and Norwegian businessman Fred Olsen. Heyerdahl also holds a position as distinguished research associate with the Institute for Quaternary Studies.

The proposals funded by FERCO include, among others, a study of altars in the Canary Islands; excavations in a prehistoric site in Turkey and at an early temple site in Peru; mapping an ancient farming site in southern Arabia; explorations for new archaeological sites on the island of Tobago (Caribbean), in the Peruvian mountains, and on the Korinthian coast of Greece; and chemical tracking of ancient pottery from Pacific islands.

Sandweiss and Heyerdahl met in Peru in the late 1980s and collaborated on excavations at the large pyramid complex at Túcume. They have continued to cooperate on projects including a major FERCO-sponsored international conference on culture and climate at UMaine in 1998.

"FERCO's grant program allows us to further Thor Heyerdahl's vision of archaeology as an interdisciplinary, collaborative science and to support his interest in the possible connections between the different peoples of the world. With FERCO's interest in exploration, we can sometimes support ground-breaking scientific, but potentially risky projects that other funding agencies cannot fund, such as the search for pre-ceramic sites on the shores of Tobago," says Sandweiss.

Other members of the FERCO scientific committee include James B. Richardson, III, professor of anthropology and chief curator of anthropology at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, University of Pittsburgh; Donald P. Ryan of Pacific Lutheran University; and Lic. Vicente Valencia, archeological supervisor at the Pyramids of Guimar, Tenerife Island, Spain. Heyerdahl is the committee's founding president.

Long-distance interactions and ancient use of the world's oceans for travel and trade are among FERCO's highest research priorities. FERCO is supported by Fred.Olsen, S.A., a major Canary Islands corporation which includes the Timex Corporation in Middlebury, Connecticut. Eventually, funds generated by the Ethnographic Park in the Canary Islands will support the foundation's research programs. FERCO supports research to determine the age and origins of the park's pyramids which resemble other step pyramids in Mexico, Peru and ancient Mesopotamia.

The Foundation plans to provide archeologists and other scientists with competitive research funding again in 2000.

Landscape Horticulture Club Cultivates Garden Show Fans

April 23, 1999

Contact [Joe Carr](#), 207-581-3571

ORONO -- UMaine's Landscape Horticulture Club earned the 1999 Gwethalyn M. Phillips Landscapers' Award at this year's Bangor Garden Show. The prestigious award is based on a vote by the participating landscape professionals.

The students also were awarded a certificate of achievement from the Maine Landscape and Nursery Association for excellent use of foliage, variation of color and texture, and overall quality. The student's display caught the attention of their landscape horticulture peers - and the public - at the show for several reasons. Out-of-the-ordinary plant materials hardy enough to be grown in Maine yet easy to propagate were used, including giant zinnias and black-eyed susan vines. A wide brick walkway led to a raised patio with a bench. The display was designed to be interactive, with accessibility into the garden even for visitors with disabilities.

"We knew a lot of persons with disabilities come to the Garden Show and we wanted them to be able to come up into the display and get a taste of what it was like," says Brent Boynton, a senior from Camden, one of the four landscape horticulture majors spearheading the design and creation of the display.

Much of the plant material was donated by alumni of the Landscape Horticulture Program, including Scott Longfellow of Manchester and Bob Bangs of Bangor. UMaine alumnus Michael Zuck of Bangor donated plants and area businesses contributed hardscape.

Planning for the display began last fall. In the week leading up to the Garden Show, April 9-11 at the Bangor Civic Center and Auditorium, the students logged more than 300 hours installing their display. The four leaders - Boynton; senior Mark Smith of Falmouth, Mass.; junior Stacy Ruchala of Rutland, Mass.; and senior Danielle Ferris of Newaygo, Michigan - were assisted by students in a landscape construction class.

The most rewarding aspects of the experience were in working closely together, and in hearing the comments from Garden Show participants and visitors, the students agree.

"The students applied what they've learned in courses on construction and plant materials," says Bill Mitchell, associate professor of landscape architecture and the club's advisor. "Then they got hands-on experience in everything from how and when to plant to personnel and management skills. It is the closest real-life situation students can get without going out and working full time."

Student and Professor to Represent UMaine at National Workshop on Endangered Species

April 23, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Species recovery plans written by the federal government vary widely in how effectively they protect endangered species of plants and animals, according to an analysis by a class of University of Maine students. Steve Campbell, a member of the class and a Ph.D. student from Syracuse, New York, and Raymond O'Connor, professor of wildlife ecology from Orono, will represent UMaine in the first of two national workshops on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in Santa Barbara, California, May 13-15.

The meetings are part of a project being conducted at 18 universities around the country to evaluate species recovery plans written by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the past two decades.

In the first meeting, participants will conduct statistical analysis on the information extracted from the plans. The purpose of the second meeting will be to write up the results. Most participating universities are in the Midwest and West, and those in the East include Cornell, Duke and the University of Tennessee.

At each university, student teams are evaluating the plans on the basis of criteria such as amount of information on the species' ecology and threats, public involvement, proposed management actions, and recovery progress.

The UMaine class is being taken by 15 students in the departments of Wildlife Ecology, Biological Sciences and Resource Economics and Policy. It is taught by O'Connor, Judith Rhymer, and Ray "Bucky" Owen, former commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Campbell has master's degrees in biology and statistics from New Mexico State University. He is beginning his graduate research at UMaine with Malcolm Hunter, professor of wildlife ecology, on the subject of forest management practices and song bird habitat. "We spent a lot of time working through the forms that we used to evaluate the plans," says Campbell. "Each evaluation consisted of more than 2,000 entries. It was a tedious process but also a necessary one to get the information we needed."

The UMaine students evaluated recovery plans for ten wildlife species including the greenback cutthroat trout and the peregrine falcon. Each member of the class evaluated at least two plans. Campbell worked on recovery plans for the Cape Fear shiner (a freshwater fish in North Carolina) and a Hawaiian plant species.

"We found a considerable amount of variation in the quality of the plans," says Campbell. "Some were excellent and contained good information, and others were poor. The most important measure of success, of course, is the species' recovery. However, we found that the quality of the plans as measured by the evaluation forms might not always be associated with the likelihood of successful recovery. We need to keep this in mind during the analysis stage."

The goal of the project is to make recommendations for improvements in recovery plans. The final report may be published in the journal *Conservation Biology*.

Hudson Museum Receives Pieces from Pei Collection

April 26, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine has received 21 pieces from the collection of world-renowned architect I.M. Pei and his wife Eileen.

The majority of the pieces in the gift are from the Sepik River region in New Guinea. They include a small waisted drum, standing male and female figures, trumpets and bowls used in rituals and dance shields. Pieces from Indonesia and Africa are also included.

"This gift strengthens our collections in all of these areas," says Stephen Whittington, director of the Hudson Museum. "It's always wonderful for a museum to receive a donation from someone so well known."

Pei is the designer of over 50 buildings around the world, including the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland and Phase II of the Grand Louvre in Paris, France. More than half of his projects have received major awards. In 1993, Pei was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President George Bush.

Pei's decision to choose UMaine for his donation came as a result of his relationship with Ambassador Nicholas Salgo, who is on the Hudson Museum's advisory board. The Ambassador and his wife, Josselyn, and the Peis took a trip to the Sepik River region of New Guinea together in 1980. Recently, the Salgos hosted a reception at their Manhattan home to introduce citizens of New York to the Palmer Collection, the Hudson Museum's premier assemblage of Precolumbian artifacts from throughout the Americas.

School of Nursing to Hold Pinning Ceremony

April 26, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The School of Nursing at the University of Maine will hold its annual Pinning Ceremony on May 7.

The ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Hauck Auditorium in the Maine Center for the Arts with a processional by the 77 students who are candidates for a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

Speakers at the event include Peter S. Hoff, UMaine president; Eric Brucker, dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health and nursing students Christopher Gooley, Christopher Irish and Darla Coombs. The nursing pins will be presented to the students by Therese Shipps, director of the School of Nursing.

The Pinning Ceremony signifies for the students the completion of all requirements in a rigorous program. In advance of the actual granting of the degree, the students are presented with a School of Nursing pin. This pin is always designed exclusively for the particular school by representatives of the early graduation classes and selected faculty and staff.

The ceremony itself is planned each year by a committee composed of students and representatives of the school. There is significant student involvement in the planning and coordination of all aspects of the event.

UMaine Student Receives Summons for Damage

April 26, 1999

Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO - Jacob Pratt, 21, of Newcastle, Me. has been charged by UMaine Public Safety officers with having been involved in property damage at the University on Saturday, April 3, following the men's hockey team's national championship victory. This brings the total number of people charged in connection with this incident to ten.

All ten are scheduled to appear for arraignment in Maine District Court in Bangor May 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Pratt, who is a UMaine student, has been charged with criminal mischief.

The University of Maine's Department of Public Safety is continuing to investigate the matter. Dozens of people have been interviewed as part of the investigation, which began immediately following the incident. Investigators are basing their review on first-person accounts, witness testimony, videotape and photographs. They are working with the Penobscot County district attorney's office, which will review the charges and determine how to proceed.

Alumni Association to Host Reunion Weekend

May 17, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Alumni Association is inviting University of Maine graduates back to their alma mater for a weekend of activities and memories.

The Annual Reunion Weekend will be held this year from May 28 to May 30 and will feature a full schedule of events for members of the classes of 1932, 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969 and senior alumni.

"This weekend is open to any alumni that have graduated from the University of Maine during these years, regardless if they are dues paying members" says Susan Aitken-Poulin, director of Alumni Activities. "We to encourage alumni to become members of their association because through their memberships and donations they help current students through scholarships and endowments."

The weekend's activities begin on May 28 with events for the senior alumni, anyone that's graduated from 1919 to 1949, although alumni from all other classes are encouraged to attend. Registration will be in the Dexter Lounge of the Alford Arena at 10 a.m. That day, the alumni will be invited to attend campus tours, and open houses at the Page Farm and Home Museum and Fogler Library. That evening, there will be a Senior Alumni Dinner Dance hosted by the Class of 1944 and a Class of 1949 50th Reunion Banquet.

On Saturday, May 29, various reunions will be held as well as campus tours and receptions at the Hudson Museum at 10 a.m. and the UMaine Museum of Art at 2 p.m. The 1999 Reunion Banquet will be held that evening at 6 p.m. at Wells Conference Center for all alumni. That evening, there will be a recognition ceremony of Class Reunion Giving Achievements.

Sunday morning, May 30, all alumni are invited to a Celebration Breakfast where alumni service and career awards will be presented by Maria Fuentes, UMaine General Alumni Association Chair. Peter Hoff, UMaine president, will present an update on the university's pursuit of excellence, and alumni can relive their years on campus with the video shown at President Hoff's 1997 inauguration.

Throughout the weekend, alumni will have the chance to go back to the classroom with lifelong learning experiences. On Friday at 2 p.m., "Building for the Future," a Fogler Library open house reception will invite alumni to experience a tour of the newly renovated library, followed by a visit to the computer classroom for a chance to explore the resources of the digital library.

A "Back to School" Reunion Seminar will be held at 2 p.m in the Class of 1944 Hall. Thomas Blanding, noted educator, author and researcher, will provide a tutorial guide through Henry David Thoreau's "The Maine Woods."

Saturday, alumni are invited to tour the University of Maine's Hudson Museum. Two new exhibits, "World Views: Maya Ceramics from the Palmer Collection," and "Downeast Maine: A World Apart" will be on display. Stephen Whittington, the museum's director, will give a tour at 10:15 a.m.

The Page Farm and Home Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the Museum of Art will feature a reception from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The weekend is sponsored by the University of Maine General Alumni Association. For more information, call 581-1134.

New Wetlands Report Provides Foundation for Conservation Efforts

May 17, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - Over the past 20 years, two University of Maine scientists have crisscrossed thousands of acres of Maine's soggiest, most inhospitable terrain in a project which will have long-term conservation benefits.

Ronald Davis of Orono, Dennis Anderson of Stetson and Davis' students have walked, driven and flown from the rolling hills of southern York County to the western mountains, the Down East coast and industrial forests of northern Aroostook. Their mission is to systematically paint a detailed picture of the state's organic wetlands, also known as peatlands, one of Maine's most poorly understood natural resources.

Last December, the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station published some of the researchers' comprehensive data for 108 peatlands in "The Flora and Plant Communities of Maine Peatlands." Another report is planned on the nearly 1,100 peatlands which Davis and Anderson have surveyed on the ground, on air photos and from the air.

By compiling information about peatlands from one end of Maine to the other, Davis and Anderson have created a foundation for ongoing efforts by the State and non-profit organizations to conserve peatlands as part of Maine's natural heritage.

Indicators of climate change

Their latest studies are focusing on the factors that affect plant growth in peatlands, how these areas are affected by climate and what sorts of changes may be expected if regional temperatures and precipitation patterns shift. Because of their dependence on temperature patterns and water levels, peatlands are sensitive indicators of climate, says Davis. That work is currently proceeding in Caribou Bog just west of Orono and Old Town.

Peatlands are saturated wetlands in which peat accumulates slowly, year after year. In Maine, these growing mounds of partially decayed plants range in depths from a foot or less to as much as 30 feet. They are inhabited by unusual plant communities including species such as mosses, pitcher plants and black spruce trees that have been stunted in their growth.

"We use a large database to develop the standards about what is rare, what is common and where peatlands are distributed," says Davis. "We also score peatlands using other criteria such as diversity, the numbers of plant species and hydrologic features.

"The scores are used for a ranking, which is a conservation evaluation. It amounts to a recommendation about what peatlands should be protected from development, which ones are exemplary or unique on the basis of these features, as opposed to those which seem to be more run of the mill. Although I don't think we want any of our wetlands to be disturbed, this system gives some guidelines."

Just as important scientifically, this extensive wetlands survey has generated new information for research.

"Before we started this, the distribution of peatland types in Maine was very poorly known," says Davis. "The vegetation, the plants, the floristic composition, the distribution of the flora are now much better documented.

Peatland complexes

"One of our major conclusions is that scientific classification systems of peatlands based on vegetation don't work very well. This is well known in northern Europe. Large peatlands are complexes. One peatland may

contain as many as 17 vegetation types. In Maine, we have also discovered types of peatlands that have large continental distributions in Eurasia and Canada but that were unknown here."

Two undergraduate students, Brian Frappier from Manville, Rhode Island and Sara Bercume from Windham, Maine are currently completing research with Davis and Anderson to understand why some plants, such as black spruce, grow rapidly in some parts of a peatland and slowly in others. They are also interested in the relative ages of peatlands. Although some areas of peat may be deeper than others, says Davis, they all may have accumulated over the same period of time. Differences in depth, he explains, are the result of variations in how quickly old leaves and stems decay in a particular location.

Monitoring water levels, chemistry

In the south unit of Caribou Bog, Davis, Anderson and Andrew Reeve of the UMaine Department of Geological Sciences have established eight monitoring stations. Each one consists of hydrologic monitoring wells that have been sunk to varying depths in the peat and plots for tracking various vegetation characteristics. The scientists keep track of water levels and collect water samples on a regular basis. The samples are analyzed for chemical characteristics such as plant nutrients and acidity. They also plan to conduct experiments to determine how changes in water flow or nutrient concentrations affect the decay process.

This spring and summer, the research team is establishing ten more stations in the central unit of the Bog. Eventually, they intend to have a network which reflects the full range of depths of peat and a wide range of hydrologic conditions.

The researchers chose Caribou Bog because it is representative of Maine's peatlands and is conveniently close to Orono. "Caribou Bog is a good middle ground because it typifies a large area Maine in terms of plant diversity. It is twelve miles long from north to south. You can see a tiny portion of it from I-95. It extends from Bangor and Veazie all the way up to Hudson and Alton," says Davis.

Underlying the bog, says Davis, are layers of lake sediments and marine clay. The clay was left by sea water which flowed into central Maine after the end of the last ice age. It appears, he adds, that the center of the bog filled with freshwater when the sea retreated to the present day coastline about 12,000 years ago.

Davis has taught courses in ecological subjects at UMaine since the 1970s and wetland courses since the 1980s. He has also specialized in the study of environmental history and acid rain through the study of lake sediments. His studies of lakes and wetlands have taken him to other parts of New England as well as the Caribbean and Asia. His research has been supported by the Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Science Foundation.

Anderson came to UMaine in 1977 to work with Davis as a research assistant and presently holds the rank of associate scientist. He specializes in plant ecology and has emphasized the statistical analysis of large ecological data sets. He worked briefly for the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon before settling in Maine.

"Our relationship has been really productive," says Davis. "As the years have gone along, Dennis has taken up more and more of an independent role as a researcher."

"Dennis' statistical expertise has been very useful not only to our program but to at least 15 graduate students and numerous faculty in the department over the years. He's been a very valuable resource for the department."

Winners of Math Talent Search Named at UMaine

May 18, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine Tackling extra problems in mathematics brought rewards to Maine middle school and high school students on May 17 at the University of Maine.

The Maine Mathematics, Science and Engineering Talent Search awarded prizes and scholarships to 25 students in grades six through 12 for earning the highest point totals for the year. Points were earned for the originality of their solutions and the number of correct answers.

About 800 Maine students participated in the Talent Search this year. Eva Szillery of the UMaine Dept. of Mathematics coordinates the program and says that it will be offered again in the 1999-2000 school year. She expects that about 2,000 students will participate.

Teachers who worked closely with their students and encouraged them to tackle the extra-curricular math problems were also recognized.

Students in the Talent Search receive ten problems by mail every five weeks during the school year. They can submit answers to as many problems as they like. The following students and teachers were recognized:

GRADE SIX: Robert England of Milford received the top student prize. He is home schooled by his parents, James and Kathy England. Jenny Jorgensen, sixth grade teacher at Harrison Middle School in Yarmouth received an award for bringing the most six graders from one school to the program.

GRADE SEVEN: Parker Eason of Orono Middle School received the top student prize. His teacher is Dan Chapman.

GRADE EIGHT: The top student prize was received by Randy Clifford, from Mattanawcook Junior High School in Lincoln. His teacher is Dawn York. Second prize was received by Scott Wheaton of Orono. Joseph Cheng, Orono Middle School, and Cassandra Gauvin of Levant received awards of recognition. Cassandra is home schooled.

GRADE NINE: Da Chang, Mount Desert Island High School, Bar Harbor, received the first place prize. Laurie Williams is his teacher. Jesse Mynahan, from Edward Little high School in Auburn received second place. His teacher is Mary Ellen Harvey. Donna Lisnik, ninth grade teacher at Presque Isle High School, received recognition for inspiring the most students in one ninth grade class to participate in the Talent Search.

GRADE TEN: Tim Monk of Pittsfield, a student at Maine Central Institute, took first place. His teacher is Mrs. Mailhot. Second place went to Keith Lane, Durham, a student at Freeport High School. His teacher is Karen Cashman. Recognition was also given to Tera Egeler, James Hathaway and Ben Martin, from Presque Isle High School. Their teacher is Jennifer Barnes.

GRADE ELEVEN: Joshua Yardley of Bangor High School received the first place award, and a classmate, Robert Kotredes, took second. Their teacher is Steven Godsoe. Yardley received scholarship offers from the UMaine College of Engineering and the Department of Mathematics. Matt Daigle from Soldier Pond, attending Fort Kent Community High School, won a third place award. Matt is the student of Roland Collins. Also receiving recognition awards were Freddie Jandreau of Fort Kent Community High School, Chris Neboshinsky of Brunswick High School, and Silviu Antonescu, a Romanian exchange student from Thornton Academy in Saco.

TWELFTH GRADE: Kirill Tsybin, a Russian exchange student Brunswick High School took first place. His teacher is William Audette. Kirill received a full tuition scholarship from the University of Maine and additional scholarships from the Department of Mathematics, College of Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. Crystal Carr, a student at Erskine Academy in South China, received the second place award. Her teacher is Lewis Purinton. A recognition award was received by Ognjen Nikolic, a Bosnian exchange student at Thornton Academy. His teacher is Craig Clark.

Lessons From Ireland the Focus of June 14 Economic Conference

May 19, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO, Maine -- Several people who have played important roles in the revitalization of Ireland's economy will be at the Augusta Civic Center on June 14, to share insights and lessons with leaders of Maine's business, government and education communities at the Governor's Economic Development Conference.

The conference has been organized and will be presented by the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at the University of Maine and the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine. Gov. Angus King is expected to participate throughout the day and will make a summary presentation at 3:15 p.m.

"Historically, Ireland's economy has lagged behind much of the European Union," says Deirdre Mageean, a UMaine professor who is the conference chair and interim director of the Margaret Chase Smith Center. "By following a carefully developed plan aimed at making a successful transition from a natural resource-based economy to an education and knowledge-based economy, Ireland has earned the distinction of having the fastest-growing economy in the industrial world. Since 1990, the Irish economy has grown by more than 60 percent, compared with around eleven percent in the United Kingdom and a European average of about 15 percent. The Irish experience can serve as a model for Maine to examine and, perhaps, follow."

The conference will open at 8:30 a.m., with a keynote address by Kieran McGowan, the former executive director of Ireland's Industrial Development Authority, scheduled for 8:45. A key figure in the transformation of Ireland's economy, McGowan will talk about "Economies in Transition: Lessons Learned from Ireland."

Annrai O'Toole, the executive vice president chief technical officer of IONA Technologies, a very young successful high-tech Irish business, will be the lunchtime speaker. IONA Technologies was named Irish Company of the Year for 1998 by the Irish business magazine Business and Finance and was picked as one of Europe's leading entrepreneurial organizations by Europe 500.

The conference will also feature 90-minute breakout sessions at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The sessions, which will include speakers from Ireland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Boston and other locations, will focus on:

€ Investing in Education/Human Capital

Moderator: Steven G. Rowe, Speaker of the House

€ Managing Innovation for Economic Growth

Moderator: Tish Tanski, Director of Industrial Relations, The Jackson Laboratory

€ Strengthening Maine's Tourism Foundation

Moderator: Barbara Whitten, President/CEO, Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Portland

€ Capitalizing on Maine's Atlantic Connections

Moderator: Charles Colgan, professor of Public Policy and Management, University of Southern Maine

This will be the 25th Governor's Economic Development Conference, an event which was founded by UMaine president Arthur Johnson in 1973. It is intended to bring Maine policy leaders and decision-makers together to gain insights and to share ideas about improving the state's economy.

Several of the conference participants have indicated a willingness to talk with reporters in advance of the event. Mageean, who is a native of Ireland, is also available for interviews. To arrange interviews or to request a complete schedule for the conference, call [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571. Those interested in attending the conference should call the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at (207) 581-1648. On-line registration is also available at <http://www.umaine.edu/chasesmith/GEDCRegistration.htm>

UMaine Professors Comment on New Israeli Prime Minister

May 19, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The recent election of Ehud Barak as Israel's new prime minister will have a significant impact on Israeli politics and the peace process, according to two University of Maine professors.

Barak, the Labor party candidate, defeated current prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, of the Likud party, by a large margin, taking 55 percent of the vote to Netanyahu's 43 percent.

Alexander Grab, a native of Israel and professor of history, says that in part, Netanyahu's defeat can be attributed to his halting of the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. "The peace process basically stalled under Netanyahu," says Grab.

Netanyahu has been unwilling to give up the occupied territories of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which had been seized by Israel during the Six-Day War in 1967. Grab says that the peace process should lead to the return of those territories to Palestinian sovereignty and the establishment of a Palestinian state in those areas.

Bahman Baktiari, a professor of political science at UMaine, agrees.

"The election of Ehud Barak is a signal by a large majority of Israelis that they want to live in peace with their Palestinian neighbors," Baktiari says. "It was also a personal repudiation for Netanyahu, whose confrontational style embittered allies and adversaries alike and drove into opposition those who once formed the upper ranks of his cabinet."

Both professors say that Barak's work has only begun.

"Barak now has 45 days to form a government. He has to build a coalition with other parties in the Knesset in order to establish a government," says Grab. "After he has constructed a government, he will go before the Knesset to present his new government."

"Barak still needs to exercise caution in selecting the correct coalition if he wants to be remembered as the savior of the Middle East," says Baktiari. "The new parliament's composition will have a vast influence over Barak's ability to govern. His Labor party won only 27 of 120 seats, and the Knesset's makeup is very fractious. Over 10 parties have representation now, and all have strong ideological goals."

Grab says that the large mandate Barak received in the elections shows that many Israelis are ready to support the peace process.

"There are still quite a few people who have reservations about the establishment of a Palestinian state, but I think the majority of Israelis believe that such a state is inevitable," says Grab. "The formation of such a state is indispensable to achieve peace between Israel and the Palestinians."

Both professors agree that the now-stalled peace process will gain momentum with the departure of Netanyahu. Baktiari says there are still a few obstacles to the peace process.

"Barak has the support of the international community, particularly the Clinton administration and it seems that the Palestinian leadership is looking forward to working with him," says Baktiari. "Now can Barak lead Israel toward a peaceful and secure future? Yes and no. American presidential elections next year will leave Barak in a suspended mode and the crisis in Kosovo is sapping the energy out of the Clinton administration's diplomatic initiatives. The road to peace will not be easy."

UMaine School of Social Work to Celebrate Anniversaries

May 19, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The School of Social Work at the University of Maine will celebrate two anniversaries this summer. It has been 20 years since the undergraduate degree program was first accredited and 10 years since the first MSW students were admitted into the graduate program.

Classes in social work and social welfare have been available at UMaine since the 1950s. The classes were first taught by members of the sociology department. In 1972, under the guidance of Julia Watkins, the social work major was developed.

During the 1970s the curriculum expanded to become a professional program, and a group of social work students formed the Social Work Action Committee in 1977, which backed the move toward accreditation of the undergraduate program. The BASW program was granted initial accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in 1979 and has been fully accredited ever since.

The two-year graduate program leading to a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree was approved by the Board of Trustees in 1987; the school was fully accredited as a two-year Graduate of Social Work Program by the CSWE in 1991 and re-accredited in 1995.

To celebrate, the School of Social Work will hold a Symposium and Reception on June 2 at the Black Bear Inn in Orono. An awards presentation and symposium address will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m., followed by a social hour. At 6:30 p.m., there will be a dinner reception.

The keynote address will be given by King Davis, the visiting Libra professor for the college of Business, Public Policy and Health. Davis has been a professor of public mental health policy and planning at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work since 1984.

He is a former commissioner of the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. As commissioner, he ran a statewide behavioral healthcare system, comprised of 15 hospital facilities and 40 community service agencies. Davis has published extensively on health policy, managed care and administration.

The CSWE is a national association that sets and maintains policy and program standards for social work curricula in the United States. It is the sole accrediting organization for social work education, and membership in the National Association of Social Workers and social work licensing laws in most states require graduation from a CSWE-accredited program.

Consumers Will See Information Labels for Electricity

May 20, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- There are labels for everything we buy, from clothes to long-distance telephone service. In the near future, electricity customers in Maine and elsewhere will see new information labels developed on the basis of a research project involving the University of Maine, a Maine-based non-profit organization and three federal agencies.

As of March 1, 2000, Maine consumers will have the chance to buy electricity as a separate item on their monthly utility bill. To help them decide, Mario Teisl, a UMaine economist, and two graduate students have been testing consumer reactions to different types of labels that bear information about sources of power.

The results of their research are providing the basis for label information that will become standard for all New England Power Pool states, including Maine.

The labels will enable consumers to see at a glance what fuels are used by generators to produce electricity and what portion of their fuels comes from renewable sources. Maine law requires electricity providers doing business in the state to generate at least 30 percent of their power from renewable sources.

"Labels are like waving a flag. They're a signaling device," says Teisl. "What researchers have found is that labels have different impacts depending on what consumers already know. If you know nothing about the information on the label or if it's not important to you, you tend to ignore it. For labels to have their desired effect, education has to come first."

Working with Teisl on his electricity labeling studies are two master's degree students, Jason Weiss of Cottage Grove, Minnesota, and Huaping Rong of Shanghai, China.

Teisl specializes in the impact of health and environmental information on consumer behavior. He received his master's degree in 1990 from UMaine and his Ph.D. in 1997 from the University of Maryland. Before returning to UMaine in 1998, he worked for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and was a liaison to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Collaboration with federal agencies

The project began in a working group with representatives of three agencies (FDA, EPA and the Department of Energy) and the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) in Hallowell. Teisl did most of the focus group research and was one of three people who designed a survey of consumer opinion at shopping malls. The other two were Alan Levy, chief of the Consumer Studies Branch at FDA and Brian Roe, formerly of FDA and now at The Ohio State University.

With grants from the RAP, the EPA and the National Science Foundation, Teisl and his colleagues developed several label options and assembled small groups of people to provide feedback. Since the issue has implications for consumers elsewhere, they also tested labels on shoppers at malls in eight cities around the United States.

"We showed people alternative options for labels and asked them which product they would buy," says Teisl.

In general, the researchers found that people preferred basic information about electricity sources. They tended to be skeptical of symbols such as seal-of-approval logos that might certify electricity as meeting certain standards. In some cases, people regarded such seals as an indicator of higher prices.

"Another potential problem with seals-of-approval," Teisl has written in an article to be published in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, "is that they do not provide an objective basis for comparing marketing claims. As a result, customers may have to sift through environmental claims that are vague, unverifiable and misleading."

While consumers may take environmental performance into account in electricity purchases, says Teisl, they will be more concerned with prices and contract terms. Billing and electricity distribution will still be handled by local utilities such as Bangor Hydro or Central Maine Power, just as local telephone service is managed by Bell Atlantic.

Power generation usually represents about 25 to 30% of a monthly bill, Teisl says. Remaining charges pay for the distribution system. As a result, the impact of deregulation on the ultimate prices people pay for electricity is uncertain.

"The EPA wants to avoid the kind of situation that has occurred with deregulation in the long distance telephone industry," Teisl explains. "In that case, with all the special pricing plans and restrictions, it's very difficult for consumers to determine if one service really is less expensive than another."

Teisl has also received grants to study food safety and forest products labeling issues.

Yankee Woodlot Forestry Camp Set

May 21, 1999

Contact: [Leslie Hyde](#) at (207) 832-0343

LINCOLNVILLE, Maine -- Registrations are now being taken for the annual Yankee Woodlot Forestry Camp which will be held October 25 - 29, 1999 at the Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center in Lincolnville, Maine. This program, which now boasts more than 250 graduates from all across Maine and as far away as Tennessee, is sponsored by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Tanglewood with assistance from the Maine Forest Service and the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM).

The registration is \$250 for Maine residents, \$325 for non-residents, and includes all meals, lodging and educational materials.

The goal of Yankee Woodlot Forestry Camp is to help landowners, loggers, land managers and others learn the basic skills needed to manage a woodland for profit and/or pleasure. Through the Forestry Camp, participants learn about forest ecology and the techniques of managing woodlands for the multiple benefits of improved wildlife habitat, recreation, forest products, biodiversity, aesthetics and long-term sustainability. According to Leslie Hyde, Extension educator, the course provides plenty of hands-on experience and sufficient information for participants to develop a plan for managing their forest, taking into account the ecological conditions of the forest.

Participants in small groups are assigned to a 23-acre parcel of woodland and challenged to develop a management plan that takes into account their needs and desires, and the ecological conditions of the forest. The camp features expert presenters and uses the new self-guided Trees Trail through the Yankee Woodlot Demonstration in the Tanglewood forest. The days are filled with an exciting blend of forest exploration, presentations, discussion and forestry work. During the five days, participants will learn how to make a compass map, read aerial photographs, recognize wildlife habitat, evaluate soils, identify trees and shrubs, and conduct a timber inventory.

Evenings include special guests and plenty of time for discussions, viewing videotapes or just relaxing. Faculty and staff are available for personal consultation throughout the week. One participant said "A terrific hands-on week. I'm still bursting at the seams from the information, great food, and companionship." Participants are housed in separate wood-heated cabins. Showers and wash facilities are located a short walk from the cabins. Delicious, well-balanced meals are served family style in the main dining hall.

The Forestry Camp is a follow-up to the ten-part Yankee Woodlot television series, produced by Maine Public Broadcasting Network and Cooperative Extension. The television series has helped to make people aware of the many values we receive from the forest. Yankee Woodlot videotapes are available for viewing at camp.

For more information contact Extension Educator Leslie Hyde at the Knox-Lincoln County Cooperative Extension Office, PO Box 309, Waldoboro, ME 04572-0309. Phone: 1-800-244-2104 (Maine only) or (207) 832-0343. TDD: 1-800-287-8957.

UMaine Upward Bound Continues Tradition Of Building Success

May 26, 1999

Contact: [Kay Hyatt](#) (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Upward Bound will mark its 34th year at the University of Maine this summer when 145 high school sophomores, juniors and seniors served by the federally funded college preparation program launch into six weeks of academic study and career exploration. The campus residential summer experience runs June 26-August 5.

The majority of the students (100) are in the Classic Upward Bound general academic support and enrichment program, which serves low-income students throughout the school year in 12 high schools in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock and Waldo counties. The summer educational experience includes daily classes centered around an integrated curriculum of math, science, English, foreign languages and literature, and courses in career development and the college selection process. They also have the opportunity to work or job shadow someone in a career of interest.

The 45 students in UMaine's Regional Math-Science Center, beginning its eighth year, come from high schools around New England. Their summer academic experience includes accelerated classes focusing on math, science and/or computer science, as well as research opportunities in the sciences with UMaine faculty.

The longevity, quality and success of the Classic Upward Bound program was recently recognized with a \$2.7 million, five-year funding award from the U.S. Department of Education. Only grant proposals ranked in the top 10 percent are funded for five years, instead of the usual four-year cycle.

Upward Bound funding provides one of the highest possible returns on taxpayer dollars -- educational opportunities that give low-income students the advantage to pull themselves and their families out of poverty -- according to Linda Ives, director of UMaine's Upward Bound program. This year, 94 percent of students who complete the program have been accepted and plan to go on to four-year colleges. Most of them are the first in their families to attain higher education.

Grants, foundation, corporate and community contributions provide pre-college research grants, recognizing the individual research projects and intensive academic work of students entering college in the fall. These grants help students, who forego summer jobs in order to improve their chances of successfully entering and completing college, with essential, and often unexpected, first-year costs.

On campus, Upward Bound students will be working with the latest computer software provided through an on-going partnership with Microsoft. Each year, Microsoft donates hundreds of software packages to selected Upward Bound programs around the country. Software such as Front Page, Encarta 99, Graphics Studio, Publisher 98, Office 97 and Windows 98 is shipped to Upward Bound programs for use during the summer experience and for distribution to participating Upward Bound high schools, where it is available for all students.

UMaine's Upward Bound program, one of the first Microsoft partner programs, serves as the software distributor for participating schools throughout New England. The estimated fair market value of the 1998-99 software donation which UMaine Upward Bound received and oversees is nearly \$225,000.

The Upward Bound students learn to use the state-of-the-art software during their summer experience, then go back to their schools as advocates and agents of technological change and instruction, Ives explains.

Nearly 600 Upward Bound programs are in operation at universities and colleges throughout the United States. Upward Bound programs at UMaine are administered by the College of Education and Human Development.

UMaine Bureau of Labor Education Releases Guide to Employment Law

May 28, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine's Bureau of Labor Education has released "A National Guide to Employment Law," a user-friendly guide to the multitude of laws that cover American workplaces.

The UMaine Bureau of Labor Education was chosen by the National Institute of Standards and Technologies, an office of the U.S. Department of Commerce, to write the new publication, which was printed by the University of Maine Printing Services.

"This publication was made possible through the National Institute of Standards and Technologies (NIST). They approached us because they were familiar with a book we've done for 26 years about Maine state employment law," says John Hanson, director of the Bureau of Labor Education. "In a sense, they commissioned us to do this book and make it useful for national consumption."

Hanson says the book is a summary of the important laws that affect workers across the country. The book is divided into six chapters, each of which covers a different area of law. The areas covered in the first five chapters are: employment discrimination, occupational health and safety, work-related injuries and diseases, unemployment compensation and collective bargaining. The last chapter covers general employment laws, such as drug and alcohol testing or the Family and Medical Leave Act, that do not fall into any specific category.

The main body of the book is written in a question-answer format, and uses plain language to explain the often perplexing world of employment law.

There are also five appendixes that provide additional information on general employment law, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and an overview of worker's compensation and unemployment compensation in the U.S.

"This book is intended for the non-professional, the person that doesn't know a lot about which public policies govern the workplace but want and need to know more," says Hanson. "In no way is this publication intended to make experts out of anyone, but it is, as the title suggests, a guide so they get some sense of the policies and know where to go for more information."

Hanson says the book can also be a useful resource for small employers that simply do not have the resources to keep up with all of the changes that take place in employment law.

"One of the most exciting aspects of employment law is that because it's part of the political process, it's always changing," says William Murphy, assistant director of the Bureau of Labor Education. "This guide can be an effective resource for directing people to the appropriate agency of government and seeking competent legal help from attorneys and others."

The issues of workplace discrimination and workplace safety are discussed in the first two chapters, says Hanson, because these are two issues that American workers are particularly concerned about.

"These two issues tend to be hot button issues," says Hanson. "Just from our experience here and in conversations we've had with our colleagues around the country, they occupy a greater proportion of time and attention than other issues."

Hanson says it is a credit to the state and its leadership that NIST picked a department of the University of Maine to write this book.

"We take heart in the fact that the government could have gone anywhere to do this and they came to Maine," says Hanson. "We often think of Maine as being the tail that is constantly being wagged by the national dog. The reality is that the nation has looked to the state as a leader for presenting a usable book on employment policies and practices and on the whole area of labor-management relations."

Copies of "A National Guide to Employment Law" cost \$8 and are available from the Bureau of Labor Education. Call (207)581-4124 or email labored@maine.edu for more information.

Bangor Student Receives Liberace Scholarship

June 1, 1999

Contact [Joe Carr](#), 207-581-3571

ORONO -- Rob Ford of Bangor grew up in the company of guitarists. Ford's father had an innate sense of "how the music worked" and plucked guitar in his spare time. His stepfather learned to play by ear and performed in local bands.

In high school, Ford picked up his own guitar. Even then, it was not to play rock or New Age like his peers, but rather blues and classical.

"While everyone else played in bands, I was learning the solo repertoire," says Ford. "Most often, I played excerpts from Paganini suites on electric guitar."

When Ford graduated from Bangor High School, he left the music behind. He spent the next four years as a self-employed entrepreneur in Annapolis, Md.

It took the death of his father to bring Ford home and back to the music that is now his life.

"My Dad inspired me to go to college for music. When he died seven years ago, college became a focus in my life. His death showed me that life slips by so easily. Today, he still inspires me to write," says Ford, who recently completed a composition for two guitars in honor of his father, "The Mornings Ride."

"He had such a deep passion for music," says Ford. "That love of music connects me with the experiences in life that I've gone through."

Ford received a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Maine in 1998. He will complete his master's work next May - a decade after graduating high school.

Most recently, Ford was awarded a \$5,000 Liberace Scholarship. He is the fifth UMaine student to receive the competitive national award in the last six years.

"I've come a long way for a person who didn't do very well in high school to graduating summa cum laude as an undergraduate and now maintaining a 4.0 grade point average in graduate school," he says. Since enrolling at UMaine in 1993, Ford's talents have catapulted him into what he sees as a career in music, teaching and performing after he earns a Ph.D.

Ford's natural talents allowed him to successfully audition for classical guitarist and UMaine music instructor Keith Crook. But to be a disciplined performer, Ford says he had to "step up and work extra hard" as a nontraditional student in order to reach academic milestones, like a perfect score on a recent comprehensive exam.

Three years ago, Ford and two other classical guitarists formed the 20th Fret Guitar Trio. The Trio - Richard Kenefic of Trenton, N.Y., a UMaine December graduate now teaching music at Maine Central Institute; Joshua Wohlforth, a senior music major from West Collingswood, N.J.; and Ford - last year won the Arcady Music Festival competition. The group subsequently toured with Arcady, performing a multimovement piece for three classical guitars by Gagniani. The warm responses to their music from large audiences foreshadowed the group's growing popularity.

"Our success is due to Keith's insight about music as a world-class player," says Ford. "He encourages ensemble work and ours works well together. An example is a performance we gave for a party of 80 people, who sat and

watched us for three and a half hours. They walked away with a deeper appreciation for the music and how much goes into making these performances come to life."

The Trio performs a repertoire of guitar works ranging from the Renaissance to the 20th century. Ford is particularly drawn to works like those for three guitars by Haydn that "captures the ethos of the composer."

"The fact that we can play anything is the result of having extensively played classical," says Ford. "Classical teaches you the technique and develops your ear."

"I have a deep passion for the music," says Ford. "It gives you a certain focus that takes you outside everyday life and to a higher level of thinking. It is crisp, clean, sophisticated and technically challenging."

Cooperative Extension Offers Assistance to Farmers in Meeting New State Manure Management Rules

June 1, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering assistance to Maine farmers who are developing state required manure management plans. According to Richard Kersbergen of the Waldo County Extension office, animal manures are an important source of nutrients which can reduce the need for farmers to buy fertilizers.

Farmers must file a plan by January 1, 2001 if they have livestock totaling more than 50,000 pounds. Plans must be fully implemented by October 1, 2005.

Farmers must also file a plan if they bring more than 100 tons of manure per year onto their farm or have had a verified complaint regarding manure handling.

"I take a long-term view and call these plans an opportunity to improve management skills on Maine farms," says Kersbergen. "With good, sound nutrient management data, producers can improve crop yields and reduce fertilizer costs."

The plans will also help reduce runoff into streams and lakes, he adds, and provide farmers with a strong defense in case of pollution complaints.

"Maine's nutrient management law deals with how farm generated nutrients are stored, managed and utilized," says Kersbergen. "It is important to realize that under Maine's law, a plan is a living document that incorporates not only intended uses of manure, but also includes actual recorded data of how nutrients were applied."

Among the elements of a manure management plan are regular soil and manure analyses and provision for at least 180 days of manure storage. The plans must also address manure application, soil erosion, odor and insect control and a nutrient budget or calculation of nutrients brought to the farm as feeds and fertilizers and taken away in agricultural products.

"Cooperative Extension hopes to have several programs in place to help producers write their own plans," says Kersbergen, who works with the Department of Agriculture to write training and certification materials. "A computer program will be available soon to help with calculations. I hope to help organize numerous training sessions throughout the state to facilitate the process."

Extension offices now have fact sheets on soils and soil testing through the University of Maine soils lab. A new fact sheet series on manure testing and utilization is also available. If farmers have questions, they can call Kersbergen at 1-800-287-1426 or email at richardk@umext.maine.edu.

Maine Rural Development Specialist Receives National Award

June 1, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - Maine Rural Development Council Executive Director Robert Ho of Northeast Harbor will receive the 1999 U.S. Department of Agriculture Honor Award for "Reinventing Government" on June 9 from Secretary Dan Glickman in the nation's Capitol. He is one of two recipients being honored that day for their innovative efforts to promote economic development in rural areas.

The Maine Council has been an affiliated program of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension since 1991. Ho was appointed director as part of his position as Rural Economic Development Specialist for Cooperative Extension.

For this prestigious award, the Maine State legislature extended to Ho its recognition and congratulation in a joint senate-house resolution on May 27. Senator Marge Kilkelly of Lincoln County, a MRDC Executive Committee member, sponsored the resolution.

Co-sponsors of the resolution included Speaker John Rowe of Portland, Senate President Mark Lawrence of York County and Senate Majority Leader Chellie Pingree of Knox County, as well as Senator Jill Goldthwait of Hancock County and Representative Bob Stanwood of Southwest Harbor.

Ho will receive the award in recognition for his leadership of the Maine Rural Development Council over the past several years. He is being cited by Secretary Glickman for his efforts to build bridges to traditionally underserved groups, especially tribal communities in the state, as well as his efforts to create of a statewide rural development plan. He has helped to coordinate economic development planning with the Piscataquus County Economic Development Council and to develop a statewide telecommunications policy.

"In truth, this award is not a personal one," Ho says. "The honor belongs to community development practitioners and service providers throughout the state. Their vision and innovations have always inspired and charted the work of the Maine Rural Development Council."

The mission of the Maine Rural Development Council is to bring key rural stakeholders from across the state together to collaborate in developing comprehensive, long term approaches to building vibrant rural communities. Such collaboration assures that Maine's limited rural development resources will be used more strategically. Ho has demonstrated repeatedly how this approach can work for the benefit of all rural Maine.

Maine Federal Highway Administration District Director Paul LaRiviere and Western Mountains Alliance Executive Director Deb Burd are the Maine Rural Development Council chair and vice chair respectively.

For further information about the Maine Rural Development Council, please visit its Website at <http://www.mrdc.umext.maine.edu>.

Texas Instrument Scholarship Awarded to UMaine Student from Old Town

June 1, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Joshua Griffin of Old Town has received a Texas Instrument Scholarship Award at the University of Maine on the basis of his academic achievement and his interest in micro-electronics.

The scholarship provides \$3,000 in tuition support per academic year through the Spring, 2003. Griffin is the son of Michael and Valerie Griffin of Old Town and a graduate of Old Town High School.

The scholarship carries opportunities to work in the communications laboratory in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering on research related to analog-to-digital signal processing. Griffin will also have the possibility of summer employment with Texas Instruments in Dallas, Texas.

Texas Instruments Incorporated is a global semiconductor company and the world's leading designer and supplier of Digital Signal Processing Solutions, the engines driving the digitization of electronics. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, the company's businesses also include materials and controls, educational and productivity solutions, and digital imaging. The company has manufacturing or sales operations in more than 25 countries.

UMaine, Penobscot Nation and Bangor Court Systems Collaborate on Alternative Sentencing Program

June 1, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Criminal offenders convicted in Maine courts now have an alternative to jail time or fines. Judges can now sentence offenders to spend time in a literature discussion group.

The University of Maine, the Penobscot Tribal Court and the Bangor Court system are joining together to offer an alternative to traditional punitive sentences. The Changing Lives Through Literature program will offer a series of eight weekly meetings at the Honors Center on the UMaine campus. This will be the first time that the two court systems have collaborated.

"People will be sentenced to this program in lieu of other punitive actions," says Gary Growe, chief judge of the Penobscot Nation Tribal Court. "I think this program appeals to offenders on a different level than punitive measures because it provides them an opportunity to think about their relationships with others and authority in ways they have not before."

This program began in 1991 as the creation of Robert Waxler, a professor of English at the University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth. Waxler and Judge Robert Kane started with a group of eight men, ranging in age from 18 to 45. These men had 146 convictions between them.

Waxler says the group was required to read and discuss a series of books, including "Seawolf" by Jack London, "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck and "Sula" by Toni Morrison. He says that through reading and discussing literature, the often isolated participants have a chance to regain their own voice and communicate on a deeper level than they would normally.

"Before these meetings, many of these guys thought they had lost their voice and identity and they didn't think anyone would listen to them," says Waxler. "This program helped them believe they could once again become a part of society."

Grove and George Tomer, director of the Tribal Court, brought the program to Maine after seeing Waxler give a presentation about it at a conference in Virginia Beach.

"I thought it sounded interesting, so I started communicating with Waxler and getting more information," says Growe. "The tribal court doesn't get enough people to generate a discussion group, so I began to enlist the cooperation of the state courts and started talking to district and superior court judges."

Grove says his hope for the program is that it will show criminal offenders different ways to solve problems.

"I did a lot of criminal defense in the past and saw that the court spent a lot of time figuring out how to punish people and little time drawing out their positive qualities," says Growe. "Many people who commit crimes have very fixed responses in how they approach problems. In this program, people will see alternatives to their fixed responses."

The course will be taught by Margaret Lukens, an associate professor of English and at the University of Maine. Lukens specializes in Native American literature, 19th century American literature and multicultural studies.

Lukens is concentrating on Native American authors for this first class. She is using the novel "Ceremony" by Leslie Silko, "Aboriginally Yours," a collection of short works by Henry Red Eagle and an anthology of Native American literature edited by Gerald Vizenor.

"I was interested in this program since I first heard about it," says Lukens. "It provides a great opportunity to teach in the community. I've taught Native American literature at the university for seven years and this literature always seems to have a transformative effect on people." The course will meet in the Honors Center next to the Memorial Union on the University of Maine campus. Holding the classes in a university environment is essential to the success of the program, according to Lukens.

"This is a chance for people to respect themselves. It's hard to feel self-respect when you've been handed a punitive sentence such as jail time or a fine," says Lukens. "These classes are held in an academic setting, a place designed for self-improvement and inquiry."

Tomer and Growe will attend most of the classes, and Lukens also plans to invite guest speakers, including a Native author. This will help the participants in the group to feel their opinions count even with those who sentenced them.

Waxler says the program was evaluated in 1993 in which 32 program participants were compared with 40 men in a comparison group. The two groups possessed a similar makeup. However, program participants in the study group possessed a higher risk in their criminal backgrounds and a higher ration of violent offenses than the men in the comparison group.

The two groups had very dissimilar outcomes. Over the course of the study, 18 percent of the program participants were convicted of new crimes while 45 percent of the comparison group were convicted.

"This program demonstrates the power of literature to make a difference and change lives," says Waxler.

Lukens has the same hope for the Maine program.

"Literature gives us a chance to experience emotions, both our own and those of other people," says Lukens. "It gives us a window into other people's lives. Discussing literature can help people understand others by giving them an opportunity to listen and be listened to."

High School Girls Statewide Discovering Math 4 ME

June 2, 1999

Contact [Joe Carr](#), 207-581-3571

ORONO -- The fourth annual Math 4 ME for high school girls will be offered at the University of Maine a month earlier this summer than in previous years.

The program focusing on mathematics, gender equity and life skills will be held July 11-17. Math 4 ME emphasizes the connection between gender equity and girls' interest and success in math. It is sponsored by the UMaine Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Women's Resource Center.

More than 20 girls from throughout Maine are expected to attend the week-long residential program that features daily math explorations on topics ranging from probability and symmetry to graph theory. In addition, the daily schedule includes sessions on subjects such as diversity, safety, women's health, gender equity, women in politics, and careers in math and science. While on campus, the girls have opportunities to take part in recreational and cultural activities.

The goal is to provide challenges and opportunities for mathematically talented girls by exploring math outside the traditional classroom curriculum. Workshops are delivered in a collaborative, innovative setting by instructors who serve as role models, addressing issues of importance to girls planning to study in math or math-related fields.

The philosophy behind Math 4 ME is based on a commitment to change the common experiences for girls in mathematics. Girls' experiences with math often involve classroom and curriculum inequities, coupled with gender bias and stereotypes in society. Math 4 ME incorporates gender equity - responding fairly to the different needs of boys and girls - so that girls have a space where their needs and concerns are heard and treated fairly. Registration for the program is \$350; a limited number of scholarships are available. Girls in grades 9-12 are eligible to enroll.

To register for Math 4 ME or for more information, contact the Women's Resource Center at the University of Maine, 581-1508.

Outstanding Undergraduate Students Selected to Spend the Next Ten Weeks With UMaine Scientists in Research Labs

June 4, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 581-3777

ORONO, Maine - Summer vacation will turn to microscopes, computers and other high tech machinery for some of America's top undergraduate students who will spend the next ten weeks at the University of Maine. A total of 28 students from Maine and other states will be conducting research with faculty in science and engineering laboratories with support from two multi-year grants totaling an estimated \$529,971 from the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program.

The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for undergraduates to participate in basic research leading to further interest in research as a career. The University of Maine has been awarded NSF-REU funding for single or multiple-year programs since 1972.

Students will be working in laboratories in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), the Laboratory for Surface Science and Technology (LASST) and the newly constructed Advanced Engineering Wood Composites Center (AEWC). In addition to the University of Maine, students are coming from Cornell, the University of Miami, Alfred University, Winona State University, the Milwaukee School of Engineering, West Virginia University, and Brandeis.

John Vetelino of ECE and LASST and Eric Landis and Habib Dagher of AEWCC are the coordinators of UMaine's two REU programs. Vetelino is in the 18th year of hosting undergraduates and has received NSF support through 2004. Landis and Dagher are in the second of a three year program.

As junior colleagues partnered with UMaine faculty in some of the state's top research facilities, the NSF-REU students will work in such fields as:

€ communication devices;

€ microprocessor and instrumentation applications;

€ microsensors for chemical and biological agent detection, combustion control, liquid and biological sensing, food quality and freshness, and respiratory distress;

€ growth and characterization of thin film materials;

€ structure and performance of wood composite materials.

The students were selected from several hundred applications for the highly competitive programs at UMaine. To be eligible, they had to have promising academic and research records and faculty recommendations. Most are entering their junior or senior years.

"The students who were chosen for the program are highly motivated, very bright, focused and hard working," says Vetelino. "It's interesting to see the contributions they make. Faculty or graduate students are often focused in one direction or another. With the innocence of these undergraduates comes a certain expectation that certain research ideas may not be impossible, which often leads them to ask questions of extreme relevance. Such new ideas add interesting dimensions.

"Some directions identified by undergraduates in this program have led to significant research and research contracts. For instance, the first work done in the sensor area at the University of Maine was done by an NSF-REU student who was working with me in the late '70s-early '80s. Currently the sensor area at the University of

Maine is funded by a multi-million dollar government research contract. This is an example of how the learning in NSF-REU is not a one-way street."

Landis notes that REU students in wood composites will aim to produce a research paper suitable for publishing in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Such papers are typically the hallmarks of work that has been accepted by the scientific community for high quality.

The National Science Foundation initiated the Research for Undergraduates Program in 1962. The following year, Vetelino worked as an NSF-REU student at the University of Rhode Island.

"The longevity of the program at UMaine speaks to the overall success," Vetelino says. "The main thrust of the NSF-REU program is to get undergraduate students involved in state of the art research so that they might be motivated to go on to graduate work and become mainline players in fostering major technological breakthroughs."

UMaine Student Has One of Top Food Science Papers in U.S.

June 4, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A research paper by Hannah Osborn, a Senior from Big Piney, Wyoming in the University of Maine Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, has been accepted by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) as one of the five top undergraduate projects in the country.

Osborn will give a presentation at the IFT national meeting in Chicago July 27. She is eligible for cash prizes which are awarded by the organization for the top three papers.

Her paper is titled "Effect of Phenolic Compounds on Dietary Fiber in Extruded Oats." It reports the results of her laboratory studies of oat cereals fortified with additions of naturally occurring phenolic compounds. She is concerned with interactions between phenolics and soluble and insoluble dietary fiber compounds such as lignins, starches and sugars.

Food industry interest in phenolics stems from the ability of those compounds to act as antioxidants in the body and retard the oxidation of fats. Antioxidants include a wide range of compounds, such as vitamin C and vitamin E, which can protect health by removing free radicals from the body. Free radicals play a role in cancer and heart disease. Food manufacturers cannot currently add phenolics to their products, although consumers can purchase some so-called "functional foods" which are high in phenolics.

Working with Mary Ellen Camire, associate professor of food science, Osborn added five different phenolic compounds to extruded oat cereals and then statistically analyzed changes in dietary fiber. She found that four of the five phenolic compounds led to no significant change in the amount of fiber. However, with one type of phenolic, a compound called catechin, the amount of insoluble lignin increased from 1% in an unextruded sample to 10% in an extruded sample.

"The data from this study indicate that food manufacturers can safely add most phenolic compounds or phenolic-rich botanical materials to their extruded foods to reduce lipid oxidation, and therefore improve the health benefits of their product, without altering dietary fiber composition," says Osborn in her paper. Osborn also suggests that more research could provide a clearer picture of the reactions which occur between phenolics and dietary fiber.

Osborn, who would like to conduct research in the food industry, credits her interest in food science to nine years she spent in 4-H clubs in her hometown. "I did a lot of cooking in 4-H, but I also had a lot of interest in chemistry," she says.

She was attracted to UMaine because the university has one of the few IFT-certified food science programs in New England. She plans to graduate in December and enroll in a Ph.D. program.

MRDC Sponsors Maine Tribal Delegation at First Nations Conference

June 9, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - A Maine delegation of nine tribal community leaders, joined by five service providers, attended the First Nations Development Institute's 10th Annual Oweesta Conference in Scottsdale Arizona from June 4 through June 8.

The annual Oweesta (the Mohawk word for money) conference is a premier Native American training and development event designed to strengthen indigenous development efforts. Each year at the conference, tribal business and financial leaders, as well as community development practitioners, gather from around the nation to share tools and techniques about how best to create and retain wealth on the reservations.

As part of its continuing effort to outreach and assist tribes with their development efforts, Maine Rural Development Council organized the 1999 Maine Oweesta delegation with funding from its members as sponsors. These are Maine Department of Economic and Community Development; Maine Department of Transportation Office of Equal Employment Opportunity; USDA-Rural Development; USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service; Eastern Maine Development Corporation; Fleet Bank; and Sunrise County Economic Council.

Members of the Maine delegation included: Susan Hammond, Edith Norwood, and Elizabeth Sockbesin of Penobscot Indian Nation; Eric Altvater and Vera Francis of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point; Tina Farrenkoph of the Houlton Band of Maliseets; Russel Dennis and Anthony Dedam of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs; Natalie Rapp of Daughters of First Light; Gerald Nicholas of Wabanaki Mental Health; Deborah Felder of Maine Initiatives; Deb Burd of Western Mountains Alliance; Janice Kremin of USDA-Rural Development; and Richard Baird of USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For further information about the work of Maine Rural Development Council, an affiliated program of UMaine Cooperative Extension, visit its web site at <http://www.mrdc.umext.maine.edu>.

UMaine Names New Leader of Student Affairs Division

June 11, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Me. -- Richard D. Chapman, dean of students at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Penn., has been named vice president for student affairs at the University of Maine. The appointment, which follows a national search, was announced today by UMaine President Peter S. Hoff.

"Dr. Chapman comes with an impressive list of academic and administrative achievements," Hoff says. "His areas of expertise fit well with our philosophy of creating educational opportunities within all aspects of campus life. Dr. Chapman will play an important role in helping us reach our goals

of enriching and expanding the UMaine student experience." At UMaine, Chapman will be responsible for a wide variety of operations that have a direct impact on the University's approximately 9,500 students, such as residential life, dining services, the UMaine Center for Students and Community Life, student employment and Cutler Health Center. He will replace Mark Anderson, who has served as interim vice president for the past academic year following John Halstead's departure to become president of Mansfield University in Pennsylvania.

"I have heard exciting things about the positive direction of the University of Maine, and I'm pleased to have been chosen to become part of the administrative team," Chapman says. "All of the important indicators--such as enrollment, state support, and morale--seem to be headed the right way at UMaine. This momentum creates a variety of challenges and opportunities for us to provide a positive learning and living community for the students."

Chapman, who graduated from Hamilton College in 1969 and earned a doctorate in Higher Education Management and Policy Studies from the University of Virginia, began his career as assistant dean of students at State University of New York College of Technology at Morrisville in 1970. He stayed there until 1980, serving as a counselor, teacher and as director of Student Services, a post he held from 1975-80. Chapman worked as director of the University Counseling service and as a faculty member at the University of the South from 1980-93, when he was named to his current post at Bucknell. He also has held adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and at Colgate University.

Chapman's research interests include the evaluation of student service functions, student leadership development and functions, the integration of college curriculum and extra-curriculum to meet the developmental tasks of students, and conflict resolution/mediation skills training. He also has been a frequent presenter on a variety of student services topics at national meetings of student life professionals.

Allagash Campsite Survey to Determine Human Impacts

June 15, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Jennifer Collenburg of Old Town, a Senior in the University of Maine Parks, Recreation and Tourism Program, is surveying campsites in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in a cooperative project with the Maine Department of Conservation and the Maine State Planning Office.

Collenburg works with John J. Daigle, assistant professor of recreation, in a program that provides undergraduates with research experience. The State Planning Office and the Department of Forest Management are providing financial support for her work.

Collenburg and Daigle are visiting campsites and collecting data on such factors as the slope, area of boat landing, percent of bare ground within the campsite area, number of scarred or damaged trees, number of trees with exposed roots, location and condition of fire pits, picnic tables, and toilets.

The information will be used to classify campsites on a scale of low to high impact. In addition, they will use a global positioning system (GPS) unit to locate specific points for re-evaluating campsite conditions in the future.

Located within the 300,000 acres comprising the North Maine Woods, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway provides high quality opportunities for backcountry water travel experiences for canoeists, kayakers, motor canoeists, and motor boaters. The Waterway plan directs that the watercourse be managed to preserve "wilderness character" and to provide opportunities for secluded watercourse travel and camping.

This research aims to provide information for decision-making and to establish a framework for future recreation research projects.

New Educational Partnership Shares Responsibility, Resources to Improve K-12 Teaching and Learning

June 15, 1999

Contact: [Kay Hyatt](#) (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- A new partnership forged on common goals and needs unites the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development and seven area school systems in a commitment to improve teaching and learning by bridging the gap between educational theory and classroom practice. The collaborative network, based on sharing and strengthening resources and expertise, links all areas of teacher preparation and continuing development.

Officially established in a June 14 signing ceremony, the Penobscot River Educational Partnership: A Professional Development Network (PREP: PDN), represents the merger of two area groups of educational leaders with similar and often overlapping school improvement objectives. The new, common-goal partnership is the result of two years of cooperative work to create the structure, programs, commitment and flexibility to challenge traditional educational strategies and address future challenges.

PREP: PDN schools and districts include: Brewer; Bucksport; Old Town; SAD 22 (Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport); Union 87 (Orono, Veazie); Union 90 (Alton, Bradley, Greenbush, Milford); the Indian Island School; and the UMaine College of Education and Human Development.

Union 90 Superintendent A. Keith Ober, who was among the school chiefs signing the agreement, described the initiative as the most "extensive level of partnering" and "most involvement between public schools and a university" he has seen in his educational career. The partnership's primary purpose is to enhance the learning of K-12 students by continually improving teaching and related aspects of the educational experience. To attain their goal, members have committed to a collaborative process that, among other initiatives, calls for:

- o continuous assessment of learning
- o monitoring, evaluating and adapting educational innovations
- o providing continuing professional development of practicing teachers
- o guiding the professional development of the next generation of teachers
- o conducting systemic inquiry and research to address critical issues of teaching and learning

The Network schools provide a supportive base and realistic setting for UMaine Education majors to do field experiences and student teaching and to apply course theory in the classroom, under the guidance of experienced teachers and University faculty who teach together and separately, both at the schools and on campus.

The partnership structure is framed around a steering council, a community advisory forum and four committees - Systematic Inquiry and Research, Professional Development, Teacher Preparation, and Resources and Support.

A core group of more than 40 university/public school faculty and administrators has been actively involved in the planning and organizational process. Already, the Network has piloted professional development and other programs, surveyed teachers about needs and current practice, applied for grants, sponsored seminars on timely topics such as curriculum and assessment, shared the work of a technology consultant, sponsored a research conference and published three editions of a newsletter, among other collaborations.

The PREP: PDN will continue its work through the summer and launch the new school year at its September 20 meeting.

Young Writers to Hone Skills at UMaine Camp

June 15, 1999

Contact: [Kay Hyatt](#) (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Some of the state's top writing teachers will lend expertise and encouragement to help students develop composition skills and polish their prose during the first Young Authors' Camp scheduled July 12-16 at the University of Maine. Sessions for third through 12th graders will be led by exemplary teachers who have completed the rigorous requirements of the Maine Writing Project at UMaine, the state's official National Writing Project site.

The program, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to noon, is designed to get students started writing, keep them interested, and develop and improve skills in a fun and supportive atmosphere, according to Jeff Wilhelm, UMaine associate professor of literacy and founder and director of the Maine Writing Project. In addition to working on skills, participants will explore different genres of writing, compose for creativity and information, experiment with electronic texts, and publish and share their writing.

The camp kicks off with an orientation session on Friday, July 9, where participants will have the opportunity to meet and work with internationally acclaimed writer and master writing instructor Ben Brunwin of England.

Information about the Young Authors' Camp, sponsored by the Maine Writing Project and the UMaine College of Education and Human Development, is available by calling (207) 581-2438.

The Maine Writing Project is one of 158 official National Writing Project sites in 46 states. The NWP is a federally funded professional development program dedicated to the improvement of instruction in the nation's schools, particularly through composition as a powerful way of learning in all curricular areas. The three-year-old Maine program, which recently received an \$18,000 NWP grant, was cited by national reviewers as "impressive" and its plans for coping with the unique circumstances of Maine teachers as "concrete and comprehensive."

ORONO, Maine -- Discipline plans, community consensus and strategies for preventing and dealing with student behaviors that strain the capabilities and resources of school and teachers will be examined during a July 12-16 institute at the University of Maine. Sponsored by the College of Education and Human Development in response to increasing concern over school safety and its impact on teaching and learning, the Challenging Behaviors Institute will highlight the importance of common, consistent behavioral expectations in the community, school and classroom.

Headed by faculty members Walter Harris and James Artesani, specialists in student behavior and management, and SAD 63 guidance counselor Elena Kimball, the institute focus will be on: safe schools, preventative strategies and responding to violence; schoolwide discipline plan development, implementation and evaluation; classroom management, behavior identification and intervention techniques; and teaching social skills and self-control.

"Community values shape expectations for school behavior and must be clear before effective policy and procedures can be developed," says Artesani. "The key is consistency between schoolwide, classroom and individual expectations and rules that all students and educators understand and that the community supports."

[illegible]

UMaine Bureau of Labor Education Releases Guide to Employment Law

June 16, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine's Bureau of Labor Education has released "A National Guide to Employment Law," a user-friendly guide to the multitude of laws that cover American workplaces.

The UMaine Bureau of Labor Education was chosen by the National Institute of Standards and Technologies, an office of the U.S. Department of Commerce, to write the new publication, which was printed by the University of Maine Printing Services.

"This publication was made possible through the National Institute of Standards and Technologies (NIST). They approached us because they were familiar with a book we've done for 26 years about Maine state employment law," says John Hanson, director of the Bureau of Labor Education. "In a sense, they commissioned us to do this book and make it useful for national consumption."

Hanson says the book is a summary of the important laws that affect workers across the country. The book is divided into six chapters, each of which covers a different area of law. The areas covered in the first five chapters are: employment discrimination, occupational health and safety, work-related injuries and diseases, unemployment compensation and collective bargaining.

The last chapter covers general employment laws, such as drug and alcohol testing or the Family and Medical Leave Act, that do not fall into any specific category.

The main body of the book is written in a question-answer format, and uses plain language to explain the often perplexing world of employment law.

There are also five appendixes that provide additional information on general employment law, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and an overview of worker's compensation and unemployment compensation in the U.S.

"This book is intended for the non-professional, the person that doesn't know a lot about which public policies govern the workplace but want and need to know more," says Hanson. "In no way is this publication intended to make experts out of anyone, but it is, as the title suggests, a guide so they get some sense of the policies and know where to go for more information."

Hanson says the book can also be a useful resource for small employers that simply do not have the resources to keep up with all of the changes that take place in employment law.

"One of the most exciting aspects of employment law is that because it's part of the political process, it's always changing," says William Murphy, assistant director of the Bureau of Labor Education. "This guide can be an effective resource for directing people to the appropriate agency of government and seeking competent legal help from attorneys and others."

The issues of workplace discrimination and workplace safety are discussed in the first two chapters, says Hanson, because these are two issues that American workers are particularly concerned about.

"These two issues tend to be hot button issues," says Hanson. "Just from our experience here and in conversations we've had with our colleagues around the country, they occupy a greater proportion of time and attention than other issues."

Hanson says it is a credit to the state and its leadership that NIST picked a department of the University of Maine to write this book.

"We take heart in the fact that the government could have gone anywhere to do this and they came to Maine," says Hanson. "We often think of Maine as being the tail that is constantly being wagged by the national dog. The reality is that the nation has looked to the state as a leader for presenting a usable book on employment policies and practices and on the whole area of labor-management relations."

Copies of "A National Guide to Employment Law" cost \$8 and are available from the Bureau of Labor Education. Call (207)581-4124 or [email](#) for more information.

Survey Indicates Public Support for Forest Land Purchase

June 18, 1999

Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Broad public support exists in Maine for purchases of commercial timberland to be held for multiple uses, including some tree harvesting, according to a University of Maine survey. The survey was conducted in 1997 by Kevin Boyle and Mario Teisl of the Department of Resource Economics and Policy.

The results are noted in a new publication, *Public Preferences for Timber Harvesting on Private Forest Land Purchased for Public Ownership in Maine*, from the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station. Funding for the survey was provided by the U.S. Forest Service, the Experiment Station, the Northern Forest Alliance and the Natural Resources Council of Maine.

Although the survey was not related to recent state referenda on forest practices, the results provide insights for the development of forest management proposals that are desirable in the eyes of Maine citizens, the authors write.

A total of 2,500 adults responded to the random mail survey which asked how they would vote on a hypothetical proposal to buy a 23,000-acre parcel of land in the unorganized territories. About 45 percent of those who received the survey responded.

The survey posed questions related to citizens' preferences for one of four different management plans. Among the elements of the plans were the extent of tree harvesting, the density of access roads, setbacks from wetlands and the disposal of logging slash such as branches and tops.

The responses indicated preference for a plan which allowed some tree harvesting on half the parcel, restricted roads to no more than one per mile and left substantial numbers of healthy and dead trees after harvesting.

The authors also asked the respondents to indicate how much money they would be willing to pay in state taxes for parcels managed according to these desired practices. Those responses were used to calculate an average household willingness to pay which, the authors conclude, amounts to \$444.

Taking a more conservative estimate of \$100 per household, the authors estimate that voters would approve spending about \$21 million for purchases of commercial forest land.

In an attempt to determine public attitudes about forest harvesting, the authors asked questions about how knowledgeable people feel about forest management and how well Maine's forest lands are managed. The results indicate that 39 percent think that Maine's forests are composed of "mostly areas of standing trees with a few harvested areas," and 33 percent that they are "an even mix of areas of standing trees and harvest trees." Five percent think that Maine's forests are composed of "vast harvested areas."

About 27 percent of the respondents reported that they own forest land in Maine, and ten percent reported that they are members of organizations such as Maine Audubon, the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine and The Nature Conservancy. Eight percent were employed in the timber or paper industry.

Boyle specializes in techniques for measuring natural resource values and has conducted studies on hunting and fishing in Maine as well as property values related to water quality in lakes and ponds. Teisl focuses on the use of information in making policy decisions and has studied issues related to food safety and electricity.

Historically Significant Landscape Designs Donated to UMaine; Gift to be Formally Announced on Wednesday

June 22, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO -- The donation of the professional landscape designs of Ellen Louise Payson, a pioneer of American landscape architecture who was prominent during the "Golden Age of American gardens," to the University of Maine will be formally announced at a ceremony and news conference on Wednesday, June 23.

The event is scheduled for 1 p.m. at the beautiful Lyle E. Littlefield Ornamentals Trial Garden on the UMaine campus.

Payson was a Maine native who lived from 1894-1977. In 1933, she was one of five professionals honored as "Hall of Fame" members by House & Garden Magazine.

The collection of 500 original drawings, blueprints and photographs to UMaine is being made through the generosity of Payson's family, which will be represented on Wednesday by Dr. Hugh Payson Robinson of Falmouth, and his wife Patricia. Louise Payson was Dr. Robinson's aunt. The collection will be housed in the Special Collections section of the university's Raymond H. Fogler Library; it will be accepted at Wednesday's ceremony by UMaine president Peter S. Hoff.

Also participating in tomorrow's event will be UMaine benefactors Robert and Catherine Barrett III of Bar Harbor and Palm Beach, Fla., David B. Melchert, a principal of the Stroudwater Design Group, a landscape architecture and design firm located in Yarmouth, and Patricia Boothby, a landscape architect who is Melchert's wife.

Media kits which include a detailed news release, photos and more information on the collection and those involved in the donation will be available at Wednesday's event. A news release and photos from the ceremony will be on the World Wide Web by approximately 3 p.m. on Wednesday at

<http://www.ume.maine.edu/~paffairs/releases/releases.html>. -30-

International Wood Composites Conference Slated for Bar Harbor

June 22, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - The latest research on advanced engineered wood composite materials and structural applications will be presented by academic and industrial scientists at an international conference at the Regency Hotel in Bar Harbor July 5-8. Among the topics to be discussed are an overview of the wood composites industry and new research results on composite bonding and structural applications.

Speakers will come from throughout the U.S. as well as Japan, Cuba, Canada, India and Switzerland. Among the speakers are Habib Dagher, director of the University of Maine Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center; Douglas Barno, director of the Market Develop Alliance of the composites industry; Tom Williamson, executive vice-president for engineered wood systems for the APA-Engineered Wood Association; and Douglas Gardener, Stephen Shaler, William Davids, Beckry Abdel-Magid, Eoin Battles, Barry Goodell and Robert Lopez-Anido of the University of Maine AEWEC.

The meeting will include a tour of the newly constructed AEWEC facility on the UMaine campus in Orono July 5. Formal sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. July 6 in Bar Harbor and conclude at 1:00 p.m. July 8.

The meeting is sponsored by the Advanced Engineering Wood Composites Center at UMaine with support from the National Science Foundation, the Forest Products Society, the Society for Wood Science and Technology and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Payson Collection Will Preserve and Showcase "America's Golden Age" of Landscape Design; Collection to be Housed at the University of Maine

June 23, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, MAINE -- She is considered a pioneer of American landscape architecture. Her prominence in what is known as the "Golden Age of American gardens" was acknowledged in some of the leading publications of her time. And as a woman practicing a craft and profession in what historically had been a male-dominated field, she helped redefine the character and qualities that established the distinctiveness of American gardens and estates.

Ellen Louise Payson -- known to friends, family, and clients simply as Louise -- was one of a small group of women credited with a legacy of design excellence in the field of American landscape architecture. Though she maintained a relatively low profile in her professional and personal life, her artistry and creativity earned her praise from colleagues and clients alike -- and, in more recent times, from those engaged in the revival of classical American landscape design.

A recent donation of Payson's professional designs will elevate her profile among students, historians, professionals and hobbyists with the creation of the Ellen Louise Payson Collection at the University of Maine. Among its benefits, the Payson collection will complement other research and educational endeavors conducted through the university's Landscape Horticulture program, including a collaborative project being undertaken in Bar Harbor, Maine based on designs of the legendary Beatrix J. Farrand.

The Payson collection, currently being catalogued, will be housed in the Special Collections section of the university's Raymond H. Fogler Library, the state's largest library.

Louise Payson

Born in Portland, Maine in 1894, Louise Payson gained widespread recognition during the 1920s and 1930s as an accomplished landscape architect and as a professional who, by virtue of her gender and the times, challenged and changed the nature of her profession. In 1933, she and five other women were honored as "Hall of Fame" members by House & Garden magazine. According to the magazine, Payson was selected "for the soundness with which she applies to her gardens the principles of landscaping and architecture . . . and for the sympathetic feeling for varying material which her work always shows."

The Payson name is well known in Maine for a variety of reasons spanning generations. Since the mid-1800s, Payson family members have played prominent and influential roles in the fields of medicine, finance, religion, commerce and philanthropy in Maine. Louise Payson's prominence in landscape architecture may have been a digression from the traditional family professions, but she nevertheless developed a national reputation that led to features on her work in publications such as House Beautiful, House & Garden, and Home and Field.

"Louise Payson is considered one of America's most distinguished landscape architects," says David B. Melchert, a principal of the Stroudwater Design Group, a landscape architecture and design firm located in Yarmouth, Maine. "She was one of a small number of professionals who defined the aesthetics of garden and estate design in the U.S. during the first half of the 20th century. Her work unquestionably influenced America's tastes."

Creation of the Payson Collection

For decades the whereabouts of much of Payson's original plans, drawings and other works were unknown. It wasn't until shortly after her death in 1977 that family members discovered a sizable collection of originals stored in a large chest at a family home in Portland.

Through the generosity of her family, much of Louise Payson's work will soon be available to students, scholars, landscape architects, gardeners, historians and others seeking to understand her influence and significance in American society. On June 23, 1999, Louise Payson's nephew, Dr. Hugh Payson Robinson of Falmouth, Maine, and his wife Patricia formally announced the donation of over 500 of Payson's original drawings, blueprints and photographs to the University of Maine.

"The University of Maine is honored to be selected as the new home of the Louise Payson Collection," says University President Peter S. Hoff, who formally accepted the donation at the June 23 ceremony in the university's colorful Lyle E. Littlefield Ornamentals Trial Garden. "The Payson name is extremely well known and respected in Maine for the family's long history of accomplishment and generosity. Thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Robinson, the university has added a remarkable collection of human creativity and achievement to its holdings."

While available to the general public, the Payson collection will be of particular interest to students and faculty of the university's highly respected Landscape Horticulture program, which offers both bachelor's and master's degrees. That academic program is already actively engaged in the study and recreation of the American-style landscape architecture by another pioneer in the field, the legendary Beatrix J. Farrand (1872-1959), who, like Payson, worked and resided for part of her life in Maine -- Farrand in Bar Harbor, Payson in Portland and Windham.

"My wife and I have strong feelings about preserving the work of my aunt," explains Hugh Robinson. "Our family has long admired her unique style and her influence on both her profession and on American culture."

"We had several reasons for wanting to donate her collection to the University of Maine -- its reputation for excellence in its Landscape Horticulture program, the outstanding library and library resources available to scholars and citizens alike, and the fact that, as proud residents of Maine, we thought that having her collection at the state's land-grant university was the right thing to do," Robinson adds.

"The Payson Collection is a special example of design excellence of one of the country's leading female professionals in the history of landscape design," says Melchert, who first reviewed the Payson collection and advised the Robinson family of its cultural, scholarly, and professional significance. "With the development and expansion of use of computer-assisted design, the form of graphic expression featured in the Payson Collection is quickly disappearing."

Instrumental in the Payson donation was The Bar Harbor Institute, a non-profit organization which provides programs and scholarships for students at the University of Maine. Principals of the Institute include its founders, Robert and Catherine Barrett III of Bar Harbor, Maine, and Palm Beach, Fla.

Melchert became familiar with the Robinsons' collection of Payson's work several years ago. He recently brought the collection to the attention of the Barretts, who have a strong interest in landscape architecture and in the University of Maine. Previously the Barretts established a scholarship fund for landscape horticulture at the University of Maine in memory of Beatrix J. Farrand, whose former property in Bar Harbor, Maine, abuts the Barretts' oceanside estate known as Atlantique. Currently the Barrett Fund is supporting what amounts to a living landscape horticulture research lab on the grounds of Atlantique, in conjunction with the university, Melchert, and Melchert's wife, Patricia Boothby, who is also a landscape architect.

"The University of Maine has carved out a special interest in the works and achievements of women landscape architects," says Robert Barrett, who serves as president of The Bar Harbor Institute. "Maine has been blessed with daughters such as Beatrix Farrand and Louise Payson, and for over 50 years the university's faculty in Landscape Horticulture have taught the lessons of the 'Golden Era' in its classrooms, greenhouses and gardens. With its increased access to the works of Beatrix and Louise, the university continues to expand understanding

and respect for the historical place of these and other women as highly successful leaders, artists, and role models."

Note: A [special Web page](#) has been created, to display and make available to news organizations photographs from the June 23 formal announcement of the gift of the Payson Collection to UMaine.

Psychologists Closer to Understanding the Roots of Childhood Aggression

June 24, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Childhood aggression has taken a more dangerous turn in recent years, but its roots have been a concern of psychologists for decades. Schools, playgrounds and neighborhood streets have long seen the push and pull of the bullies and the meek. In a series of studies over the past decade with school children in Maine and Illinois, Cynthia Erdley, associate professor of psychology at the University of Maine, has taken a close look at why some children use force to get their way while others shrink from such behavior.

She has already demonstrated that a child's goal priorities, such as winning games, having fun or developing personal relationships, are good predictors of whether or not a child will behave aggressively. The results of her and her colleagues' studies, she says, could help teachers, guidance counselors and even parents to understand and address childhood aggression.

Erdley's work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *Social Development*, *Developmental Psychology*, and *Child Development*. She also has authored a book chapter on childhood aggression in the context of peer relationships.

"I'm looking at social-cognitive factors such as goal priorities. Some kids give high priority to retaliation goals. I also look at self-efficacy perceptions," she says. These perceptions include beliefs about how good a child is at being aggressive. Another factor is whether or not a child thinks that aggression is a legitimate response.

"Then there are familial factors. How much conflict is there in the family? What lessons is a family teaching? I also want to understand better the differences between male and female aggression," she adds.

"I think psychologists understand a lot about what factors are related to aggression, but even so, I don't think you can predict something like which adolescent is going to pull a gun at school. My ultimate goal is to better understand what underlies aggression so we can design better interventions."

Erdley began studying childhood aggression during graduate school at the University of Illinois in the late 1980s. She came to the subject with a fascination about children's behavior. "I did a lot of babysitting as a teenager. I think that was where some of my inspiration comes from," she says.

In 1986, she graduated from Gettysburg College Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in psychology. At Illinois, she worked closely with Steven R. Asher and Carol S. Dweck, developmental psychologists who have since co-authored some of Erdley's published papers.

It was also at Illinois that Erdley began conducting research in public school classrooms. The university had hired a former school superintendent to make arrangements for graduate students to work directly with teachers and their students.

"I didn't know how good I had it," she says. Now, Erdley and her students make such arrangements themselves with superintendents, principals, teachers and sometimes school boards. Parental permission and the assent of the children are also obtained in all cases.

Difficulties arise because fewer schools agree to participate in such studies than when she first came to Maine in 1992. As a result, she and her students sometimes struggle with smaller than ideal sample sizes.

Nevertheless, she finds students to be intrigued by her studies. "We have a great time with the kids. A lot of times they're very interested to know that we're from the university.

"One time I was in a classroom that had just been studying the scientific method. They knew what a hypothesis was and about the methods used to do a study. They were asking me all about that, and I told them that they are the subjects in my study. I didn't tell them my exact hypothesis, but I told them one that could make sense.

"It was really fun that they could make the connection. We always do some rapport building before we start. At the end we thank them for helping out and ask if they have any questions. Some just want to know if they can go to lunch, but with others, we've had some interesting discussions."

Although Erdley makes efforts to maintain confidentiality, students often ask their friends how they answered the questions. "We give our little speech about privacy, but they're kids and they'll whisper, 'what did you write?' to their friends."

At UMaine, in addition to pursuing her work on factors underlying children's behavioral choices, Erdley is currently collaborating with Douglas Nangle on research examining how children's friendship experiences relate to loneliness and depression.

University of Maine Fact Sheets Available

June 30, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A series of fact sheets about University of Maine programs for people involved in business, agriculture, education, family life and natural resources is available to the public from Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station. The series is titled "Your Money's Worth."

The fact sheets briefly describe activities that benefit Maine people in a wide variety of ways. Among the efforts listed are Extension's Senior Companion Program, which helps elderly people who prefer to live in their own homes, and the Grow-A-Row Program which helps gardeners to grow extra produce and donate it to local food pantries.

The Experiment Station conducts research on agriculture, aquaculture and forestry. The fact sheets describe accomplishments by scientists such as the development of a new high quality dairy herd at UMaine's Witter Teaching and Research Farm and new feeds for lobsters held in pounds.

The fact sheets are available at no charge from Rhonda Frey, Extension marketing coordinator, 207-581-3195.

Student Testing Fruit Juices and Herbs

July 7, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- One of the latest ideas in fruit juice products is getting an evaluation by a French student in the University of Maine Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition this summer.

Catherine Hulne of Lorient, France, is testing consumer reactions to mixtures of medicinal herbs with cranberry, orange and grapefruit juices as part of a four-month internship with Mary Ellen Camire, associate professor in the department. Among the herbs she is testing are ginseng, St. John's wort and ginkgo-biloba.

All three herbs are sold as food supplements for their health benefits. Hulne is focusing on how the addition of these herbs changes the taste and appearance of the three juices. Nutrition and health issues are outside the scope of her work.

Hulne is a full time student in Montpellier, France, at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique (ENSA) which specializes in agriculture and related natural resource topics. Internships are a compulsory part of the curriculum, and she came to UMaine as a result of an Internet search for food science sensory evaluation programs in the United States.

"Six weeks is the minimum, but I am staying until the end of August to do my study and travel," she says. She sends periodic reports back to her professors in France via e-mail.

She would like to travel to the Great Lakes region after completing her research.

"Food product development is a growing area in the French economy," Hulne says. "I would like someday to work in research and development or marketing." She has already developed crop management specifications for the country's second largest distributor of fruits and vegetables, Creno.

Hulne is evaluating fruit juice mixtures for color, sweetness, acidity and levels of phenolic compounds. Phenolics are a class of compounds which includes antioxidants. Using the department's sensory evaluation lab, she also gives consumers samples of juices with and without herbs. Consumers are not told which samples are mixed with herbs, but they are asked to report any differences in color, taste and other factors.

"This is the first time I have done a sensory evaluation study," she says. "It's a good combination of research and marketing."

Hulne comes from a family of five. Her 19-year-old sister is currently serving an internship in a bank in France, and a 12-year-old brother is looking forward to summer vacation. Her mother teaches French in a secondary school, and her father runs a manufacturing company which produces large industrial equipment.

Donald Zillman Appointed Interim Provost at UMaine

July 9, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571 ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine today announced the appointment of Donald N. Zillman, the Edward Godfrey Professor of Law at the University of Maine School of Law in Portland, as Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, effective July 12, 1999.

Zillman served as dean of the University of Maine School of Law from 1991 until 1998. Prior to coming to Maine, he was professor of law and director of graduate studies and, earlier, director of the Energy Law Center at the University of Utah. He also has been a member of the faculty at Arizona State University and has held visiting professorships at the United States Military Academy at West Point and the University of Southampton, United Kingdom.

The coauthor of five books and author of over 50 book chapters, journal articles, and monographs, Zillman also has served on the editorial board of the Journal of Energy and Natural Resources Law and in leadership roles in other professional organizations. He received the Burlington Northern Award as Outstanding Teacher at the University of Utah in 1988. Zillman earned his bachelor's and J.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin and his L.L.M. from the University of Virginia.

In announcing Zillman's appointment, UMaine president Peter S. Hoff said, "We are honored to have a person of Don's caliber willing to assist the University during the transition in this critical position. Don brings extensive experience at land-grant, research universities, a strong background in and commitment to the humanities and liberal arts, and an outstanding scholarship record to this important assignment."

The vice president for academic affairs and provost position became vacant earlier this month with the retirement of John Alexander. A national search has already been reopened, and Zillman will serve in an interim capacity until a permanent appointment is made.

"I am delighted to be given the opportunity to work on behalf of the state's flagship university," Zillman said. "I am looking forward to being able to assist the advancement of higher education in the state of Maine. The cause is one that is near and dear to my heart."

UMaine to Hold Women's Business Conference

July 9, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Maine Business School at the University of Maine invites women business leaders from across the state to attend the first annual Women's Business Conference on Saturday, July 24.

The conference, "Responding to Change," will be held in the Donald P. Corbett Business Building, next to the Maine Center for the Arts on the UMaine Campus. It is an all-day event, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"We're hoping to attract women in two categories - those interested in starting a business and those who already own or manage a business," says Sheila Pechinski, associate dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health.

Pechinski says that women who are starting a business can benefit from the conference because it will enhance their understanding of their new enterprise. Women who are already established in the business world, says Pechinski, can learn how to grow and make improved decisions in regards to their company.

The highlight of the conference will be a panel of three businesswomen who will discuss their experiences as they confronted major professional changes. Julia Comeau, president and founder of WorkSource; Sarabel Hironymous, president and founder of OdeSa., Inc; and Marilyn Moss, president of Moss, Inc, will speak during the luncheon.

Jean Deighan, president of Deighan and Associates, investment advisors, will give the keynote address. Deighan will open the conference program at 8:30 a.m. and speak on "How to Evaluate Retirement Plans for Your Business." In her speech, she will share her many years of experience managing retirement plans for organizations throughout the state.

Attendees of the conference will also have the chance to learn from members of the Maine Business School faculty on subjects such as marketing, record keeping and entering the global marketplace.

The cost is \$45 for the all-day conference, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, call Sheila Pechinski at the Maine Business School at 581-1960 or email at spechin@maine.edu.

University of Maine Press Releases "Russian Voices on the Kennebec" in Conjunction with Richmond Days

July 9, 1999

Contact [Joe Carr](#), 581-3571

Jay Robbins, 737-4306 or 737-2239

ORONO -- Alexandra Sherbakoff, 88, of Richmond, Maine, lives alone with her cat and her memories. The rooms of her house, the only one she's ever owned, are adorned with Old World icons and mementos, including a photo of Tsar Nicholas II and his family.

For four decades, Sherbakoff has lived in the heart of Maine's first Russian settlement which, in its heyday in the late 1960s, was the largest rural Russian-speaking community in the United States. Through the years, she has been among the remarkable Russian voices on the Kennebec River. Now, a window into her life and the lives of other members of Maine's "unlikely colony" is provided in a new book by Robert Jaster, published this month by University of Maine Press. The book's release coincides with the town's annual Richmond Days observance, July 22-24. In addition to a parade, art show, fireworks and a tour of historic homes, Jaster will give a talk about the three years of research behind *Russian Voices on the Kennebec: The Story of Maine's Unlikely Colony*.

"The myth about Maine is that it is a monolithic culture," says Michael Alpert, director of the University of Maine Press. "The reality is Maine has a complex and interesting history. In this case, people who needed a safe haven found it in Richmond.

"*Russian Voices on the Kennebec* is not just about them but about Maine as a tolerant society," says Alpert. "In other parts of the country, groups like this with problematic backgrounds would not have been welcome. But here, they lived out their lives on their own terms. That says a lot about Maine."

Jaster was living in Rockport when he first heard about Richmond in the early 1990s. He attended a Russian Orthodox service at St. Alexander Nevsky Church in town and "started talking to a few people." Each person led him to someone else.

He interviewed more than 50 residents for *Russian Voices*. Many of the photos were supplied by Freeda Witham, a former writer for the *Kennebec Journal* and *Richmond Bee*, who took a special interest in the Russian community through the years.

"What struck me most were their individual stories that were funny and fascinating, tragic and harrowing," says Jaster, an Ohio native who received a master's degree in Soviet-Russian studies at Columbia University and spent 15 years as a Soviet foreign policy analyst for the State Department's Office of Economic Research in Washington, D.C. "For most, there was a tremendous contrast between their lives before and after settling in the Kennebec Valley. They were professors, lawyers, well-known actors who could be found farming or sewing in a shoe factory. Their tradition of thrift and hard work fit in with Yankee values. And like Mainers, the Russians were family-oriented, often depending on family support and loyalty to survive.

"There also were great differences between émigrés who left Russia in 1918-22, before Russia fell under Communist rule, those who fled the Soviet regime in World War II and the new Russian-American generation," Jaster says.

One of Jaster's favorite interviewees is Alexandra Sherbakoff, whose life in Richmond spans all three generations. Sherbakoff was born into Russia's upper class that was loyal to the Tsar. During the Bolshevik revolution that ushered in communism, she and her family fled to Yugoslavia. There, Sherbakoff met her husband-to-be, already a renowned actor. After they married, she too had a successful stage career.

During World War II, the Sherbakoffs were forced into German labor camps. By the end of the war, they were again fleeing, this time ahead of advancing Soviet armies. In Munich, the couple lived in a camp for displaced persons.

The Sherbakoffs arrived in New York City in 1948. A decade later, they moved from the city to what was by then a thriving Russian colony in Maine.

Her husband worked in a bakery; she worked on a factory production line. The couple organized a group to perform Russian music and drama. They also established a community center where residents could come together over coffee and Russian newspapers. And when they needed to feel closer to their homeland, the Sherbakoffs, like so many of the Russian settlers, always found comfort in their Russian Orthodox faith.

"When we think of Russian immigrants, we think of industrial cities with long-established Russian neighborhoods and jobs for newcomers," says Jaster, who started his research on Richmond's Russian community in 1993 for this, his fourth book. "Yet here was this remote, rural area with no Russian church, no other Russian settlements within 150 miles, few jobs, and only one or two Russian-speaking families as late as 1951. However, within a few years, thanks to the efforts of Baron Vladimir von Poushental, some 300 families settled in Richmond, Pittston, Dresden, and other towns and villages along the valley.

"Poushental discovered the Kennebec Valley while on a hunting trip. It was Poushental, a former pilot in the Tsar's army prior to Communist takeover and establishment of the Soviet Union, who moved to Pittston, bought up abandoned dairy farms, and advertised in Russian-language newspapers for his countrymen to join him in Maine."

Many of the first wave of settlers in the Russian colony were White Russians loyal to the Tsar and the Russian Empire. An old-age home for the eldest of the veterans was established in a Richmond mansion. The mansion also served as the first Russian Orthodox chapel until the construction of St. Alexander Nevsky Church in 1960.

The émigrés provided the community's foundation, including strong links to the past through ethnic-based activities. They celebrated Russian holidays, including the Tsar's birthday, and held anti-Communist meetings. At the height of the enclave, there were three churches. Summer visitors included former Russian nobility, including Vera Romanoff, the Tsar's niece. Tolstoy's grandson bought a house on Richmond's Pleasant Street and Solzhenitsyn traveled from his Vermont home to visit friends in the area.

While the first families farmed the land, Poushental maintained a thriving real estate business that attracted a growing influx of Russians in the 1950s and 1960s. Unlike some older immigrants who continued to cling to Old Country customs and celebrations, the younger generations were more interested in finding jobs, raising families and building new lives in America.

By the 1970s, the American-born children of the refugees were coming of age and maintaining minimal links to their ethnic and cultural past.

"From an historical perspective, the settlement has simply followed the normal evolutionary path of most immigrant communities in the U.S. for the past 150 years - a metamorphosis from being a vigorous, self-sufficient ethnic enclave to American mainstream in two generations," says Jaster, who now lives in Monterey, Calif. "What for older generations was a shared and intense experience in loss of homeland, language and a distinct cultural identity became simply a part of family history for new generations.

"At the same time, this is a unique community and won't be repeated," Jaster says. "It is an experience that is an important part of local and American history."

Upward Bound Annual Blood Drive is Monday

July 12, 1999

Contact: [Kay Hyatt](#) at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine Upward Bound program will hold its annual blood drive Monday, July 19, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. in Memorial Union. Upward Bound students conduct the blood drive, in cooperation with the American Red Cross, as a public service each summer. Donors from the community are welcome.

Upward Bound is a federally funded educational opportunity program for high school students from low-income, first-generation college families. Participation is year-round with service to students in their schools, as well as the six-week summer residential program at UMaine. This year, 94 percent of students who completed the program have been accepted and plan to go on to four-year colleges.

Thornton Named to UMaine Alumni Association Post

July 13, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO -- Donna K. Thornton of Brewer has been selected as the new Annual Fund and Membership Director for the University of Maine General Alumni Association (GAA). Among her duties will be oversight of the GAA's annual fund and membership services.

"We are extremely pleased to have such an outstanding fund-raiser, who is very well known in the local community and statewide, join our organization," says Jeffery Mills, president of the GAA.

Thornton has served for four and one-half years as director of corporate planning and development at Community Health and Counseling Services, a nonprofit home health and mental health agency based throughout northern, eastern and central Maine. Her responsibilities at CHCS included directing the agency's resource development, government relations, community relations and corporate planning efforts. Thornton previously worked as property operations manager for Fransway Realty Trust in Bangor.

Currently serving her third term as mayor of Brewer, Thornton has been active for nearly two decades in endeavors involving economic and municipal development. In addition to her mayoral duties, Thornton is vice chair of the Maine Development Foundation and vice chair of the Maine Partnership. She is a member of the East-West Highway Association, the Eastern Maine Development Corporation, the University of Maine Foundation and the Brewer Economic Development Corporation.

In 1997, Thornton received an American Hometown Leadership Award from the Wal-Mart Foundation and the National Center for Small Communities.

A native of Presque Isle, Thornton holds a bachelor's degree in public management and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Maine. She is a graduate of the Maine Development Foundation's Leadership Program.

More information about the M.Ed. in Instructional Technology is available by calling the College's graduate office at (207) 581-2444 or visiting its web site: <http://www.ume.maine.edu/~cofed/>

UMaine Student From Howland Receives DOE Grant

July 13, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A University of Maine undergraduate student has received funding from the U.S. Department of Energy to attend the Faculty and Student Undergraduate Research Education Conference at Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago, Illinois.

Megan Hutchinson, a Senior from Howland majoring in electrical engineering will attend the meeting July 16-17. Two other UMaine undergraduates, Jessica Wentworth of Dover-Foxcroft and Jason Amsden of Hampden, also received funding but are unable to attend the meeting.

The conference brings undergraduates together to discuss their research, tour one of the nation's premier national laboratories and hear about employment opportunities.

"I'm excited to see what other students are doing and how they compare to what we're doing in Orono," says Hutchinson who is also employed as an engineer at Sensor Research and Development in Orono. Hutchinson is working on a federally funded project to develop a sensor system to detect chemical and biological warfare agents.

She is a graduate of Penobscot Valley High School.

UMaine Graduate Students to Make History in Hawaii

July 15, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- A group of graduate students from the University of Maine will visit Hawaii in early August to present a comprehensive historical analysis of the famous Smuttynose Island axe murders of 1873.

Graduate students Sherry Abbott, Anu Dudley, Elisabeth Hill, Lynne Manion, Kevin Marsh and Cynthia Richardson will participate in the American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch annual meeting, which will be held on the island of Maui from August 5-8.

"The presentation is significant because it represents an unusual collaborative approach to history, and because it examines an event that, until now, has been dealt with only in the popular press," says Anu Dudley, a graduate student in history.

The case involved two Norwegian immigrant women who were murdered in their home on Smuttynose Island, in the Isles of Shoals off the Maine-New Hampshire coast. The crime received a great deal of sensational coverage at the time, and continues to be the subject of lore and legend in the region. Although a German immigrant fisherman was executed for the murders, doubt still lingers to this day regarding his guilt.

The project began last spring in a research seminar taught by Paula Petrik, professor of history. The students in the seminar examined the history behind the Smuttynose murders. They traveled to New Hampshire to read some of the original documents associated with the case and worked as a team to collect information about the social, legal and scientific factors that influenced the trial's outcome.

The results of this research will be published as a book, with each student writing one of the chapters. At the Hawaii conference, students will read papers on each of their specific topics.

Subjects covered in the presentations include an overview of the historical significance of the murder case, an examination of the forensic medicine aspects of the investigation and trial, a discussion of how the trial may have played a role in the ending of Maine's death penalty, an analysis of how the murders affected the remaining Norwegian immigrants' assimilation into American culture and discussions of nineteenth and twentieth century popular and literary portrayals of the murders.

Farmers and the Public Invited to Free Tour of Sustainable Maine Farms

July 16, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Farmers and the public are invited to tour three mid-coast Maine farms that have been designated as "sustainably integrated farms" by the Maine Sustainable Agriculture Society (MESAS), a state-wide agricultural organization.

The tour will run from 1:00 to 5:15 p.m. August 2. It is sponsored by MESAS and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, a federal program of the USDA.

Participants will meet at the Goranson Farm in Dresden, a mixed vegetable operation. Vans will be provided to take tour members to two other growers, the Spears' Farm in Nobleboro, a dairy and vegetable operation and the Hidden Valley Farm in Alna, a mixed vegetable operation. A social time and free barbecue will be held at the Goranson Farm after the tour.

Farmers and other members of the public can register by calling Pamela Feist at the University of Maine in Orono, 581-3154. The deadline is July 28.

Canadian-American Center Sponsors Field Trip for Teachers

July 19, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Teachers from Maine's primary and secondary schools are invited to join the University of Maine's Canadian-American Center for a field trip to Fredericton, the provincial capital of New Brunswick.

Canada Close Up will be held from Oct. 7-9 and will be led by Betsy Arntzen, the Can-Am center's education outreach coordinator.

"This trip will give teachers a 48 hour infusion of information and experience in Canada," says Arntzen. "It's designed so a teacher only needs to take one day off from school and one day off from their personal time on the weekend."

Arntzen says the trip can accommodate eight to ten K-12 teachers who wish to get a concentration of Canadian history, geography, culture and current events. Participants will stay in either a dormitory at the University of New Brunswick or an area hotel.

While in Fredericton, the teachers will tour the Legislative Assembly, take a tour of the city and visit the King's Landing living history museum, where employees will share ways to teach Canadian history in an interactive fashion.

In addition, two UNB professors will provide presentations in a workshop format around the theme "Whose History are We Talking About?" Alan Sears of the faculty of education, and Gail Campbell of the history department will explore how to make connections as well as draw distinction between New Brunswick and Maine as well as among ethnic groups.

At the end of the trip and on the way home, teachers will be given a chance to brainstorm ways that they can incorporate what they have experienced into a learning results-based curriculum.

The trip is \$50 per person and there are CEU credits available. For more information or to reserve a place, contact Betsy Arntzen at (207) 581-4225.

Maine High School Students Writing Software, Making and Breaking Concrete

July 19, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- High school students from throughout Maine are writing software programs, making concrete, studying computerized maps and exploring engineering career options as part of this year's Young Scholars Program in the University of Maine College of Engineering.

A total of 26 boys and girls are participating in the program which began July 11 and will conclude with student presentations to their peers on July 23. John Field and Bruce Segee, faculty members in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), are the coordinators.

Two Maine companies - Fairchild Semiconductor and National Semiconductor in South Portland - are providing financial support along with the UMaine College of Engineering and ECE. During the first week, students made field trips to National and Fairchild as well as Quadric Systems, Inc. They will visit Sensor Research and Development in Orono this week.

The Young Scholars Program has been held annually on the UMaine campus since 1991. Participants this year include:

Bangor: Eric Bell, Ryan Morehouse

Bowdoin: Nicole Niles

Brewer: Nicole Davis, Timothy Delisle, Erin Faucher

Brunswick: Joseph Caldwell

Calais: Tommy MacMannis

Cape Neddick: Jennifer Chadbourne

Dennistown: Thomas Coleman

Dover-Foxcroft: Sarah Bellemare

Ellsworth: Evan Dudzik

Falmouth: Matthew LaBruzzo

Farmington: Susan Hastings

Freedom: Jonah Brugger

Hallowell: Peter Duvalis

Houlton: Chris Corey

Lincoln: Kendra Rideout

Portland: Mark Howison

Rumford: Alissa Waite, Kimberly Hubbard

Thorndike: Jeremy Kupferman

Topsham: Raija Suomela

Westbrook: Justin Carmichael

West Paris: Tricia Hadley

More information about the program is available via Internet at <http://ysp.eece.maine.edu/ysp/about.htm>.

Marriage of Fiber-Reinforced Polymers and Engineered Wood Boosts Multi-Billion Dollar Industry

July 22, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

Editors: For follow-up, see contacts at each organization listed at the end of this news release. See photos at www.umaine.edu/mainesci/Dagher-MOU.htm

ORONO, Maine - Four leading engineering, technology and marketing organizations have signed an agreement to jointly support research and commercialize the results in a new generation of advanced FRP/engineered wood composite materials that combine wood and fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) composites.

The agreement was signed in Bar Harbor, Maine at the First International Wood Composites Conference on July 6 by representatives of the University of Maine Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center (AEWC), the USDA Forest Products Laboratory, APA-The Engineered Wood Association and the Market Development Alliance (MDA) of the FRP Composites Industry. Key objectives in the agreement include coordinated research and development as well as evaluation of materials that meet the needs of the wood industry for new products.

"This agreement signifies a true commitment from both the FRP composites and wood industry for joint development activities," says Habib Dagher, director of the AEWC. "Our research has already demonstrated the potential for this technology to lower costs, increase efficiency and improve the performance of structures. Our goal is to demonstrate the reliability of new applications and move as quickly as possible to the market place."

"The new FRP/engineered wood composites technology is expected to create a 'family' of products that will permit the wood industry to make more effective use of increasingly scarce high-grade wood resources," says Ted Humphrey, chairman of the MDA. "FRP and our technologies will also allow wood producers to employ lower strength grades of wood that are not presently allowed by contributing increased tensile strength to their products. For example, researchers at the University of Maine have shown that adding only 1% by volume of FRP composite to selected areas of engineered wood structures can increase product strength by up to 46%."

Provisions of the agreement address issues such as disclosure of proprietary information, exchanges of personnel and review of technologies proposed for evaluation. The four organizations also agree to maintain an information database of FRP-wood technologies and applications.

Engineered wood products include panels such as plywood and oriented strand board as well as glued laminated wood beams, laminated veneer lumber and I-joists. Some of these products have been used as structural materials for over 100 years. Research leading to the reinforcement of some of these products can be traced back to 1917 when the USDA Forest Products Laboratory first proposed designs for reinforced wood products. Since then, researchers have sought new ways to blend the resilience and strength of wood with the benefits of glass and carbon fibers.

Since 1992, the production of plywood and oriented strand board has increased over 25% and is expected to reach 38.75 billion square feet in 1999. Wood I-joist production is expected to increase 15% and laminated veneer lumber (LVL) 17% this year.

Signing the two-page agreement were James Ward of UMaine, Ted Humphrey of the MDA, David Rogoway of APA-The Engineered Wood Association and Thomas Hamilton of the USDA Forest Products Laboratory.

The agreement does not mention specific research projects or financial commitments by the organizations. Those arrangements will be covered by separate agreements among the consortium partners.

Speakers at the wood composites conference in Bar Harbor pointed to a variety of practical applications including commercial building construction, pallets, bins and containers, furniture, concrete forms, bridges, utility poles and truck and rail car liners where FRP/engineered wood composites may have market opportunities.

Since 1988, the number of engineered wood manufacturing plants in North America has more than doubled with many of these located in the Southeast and Northwest United States and across Canada.

Among the goals of wood and FRP composites researchers are:

- € stronger products made with low grade wood species;

- € standardized testing protocols to evaluate new products;

- € more efficient use of wood fiber;

- € new structural systems that maximize the properties of FRP/engineered wood composites;

- € knowledge of how wood, adhesives and FRPs perform over a range of environmental conditions and stresses.

The Consortium Partners

The Advanced Engineered Wood Composites (AEWC) Center at the University of Maine conducts research on new applications and structural properties of wood composite systems. The AEWc has 20 faculty and staff and has earned more than \$8 million in public and private sector funding. Contact Habib Dagher, University of Maine, 207-581-2138; hd@umit.maine.edu; or see their website at www.umaine.edu/aewc/.

APA/The Engineered Wood Association is a nonprofit trade association representing plywood, oriented strand board, glued laminated timber, wood I-joists, laminated veneer lumber, and other engineered wood composites manufacturers in the U.S., Canada and abroad. Its primary functions are quality auditing and testing, research and development, and market support and development. It is projected that approximately 38 billion square feet of plywood and OSB will be produced in 1999 and glulam, I-joists and LVL (laminated veneer lumber) are all expected to achieve significant production gains over the next 4 years. Contact Tom Williamson, APA-The Engineered Wood Association, 253-565-6600, tom.williamson@apawood.org, or see their website at www.apawood.org.

The Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) is a national federal laboratory which conducts wood, paper, and composites research. It is a part of the USDA Forest Service research organization. Research focuses on conservation of wood fiber including use of low value material, efficiency in processing and use, durability, and recycling, and technologies to reduce environmental impacts in wood processing and use. Contact Michael Ritter, 608-231-9200, mritter@facstaff.wisc.edu. The FPL website can be reached at <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/>.

The Market Development Alliance (MDA) of the FRP Composites Industry is a nonprofit trade association comprising material suppliers, fabricators and consultants in the fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) composites industry. The MDA is the leading force for business growth in the composites industry. The mission of the MDA is to develop new opportunities for the composites industry by partnering with government, academia, and end-user industries to grow the markets for FRP composites. The FRP composites industry in the U.S. produces approximately 3.7 billion pounds of materials per year in diverse markets including transportation, marine, corrosion-resistant equipment, consumer products and aerospace/defense. Since 1993, the MDA has been focused on developing structural applications for FRP composites in civil engineering. For additional information about the MDA contact John P. Busel, 914-381-3572, fax 914-381-1253, email: jbusel@mdacomposites.org, website at www.mdacomposites.org.

Summer Food Safety Tips from Cooperative Extension

July 22, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Summer is here and barbecue season is in full swing. As Maine people cook outdoors, they need to handle meat properly to avoid foodborne illness. Here are a few tips from University of Maine Cooperative Extension fact sheets to help Mainers enjoy a safe cookout season.

Marinate raw meat, fish or poultry in the refrigerator, not on the counter or picnic table.

€ If you pre-cook meat to save time on the grill, keep it stored in the refrigerator until you're ready to grill it, or take it directly to the grill from the stove. Never let it sit out.

Never eat raw or undercooked hamburgers made from meat or ground poultry. Harmful bacteria, such as Salmonella and E-coli, may be present.

Serve hot, grilled foods immediately. Put cooked foods on clean plates. Don't reuse plates that held raw meat or poultry. Remember to keep cold foods cold (below 40 degrees F) and hot food hot (over 140 degrees F).

Clean the grill after each use.

Refrigerate any leftovers promptly (within two hours of cooking). If it's left out for a long period, it will spoil. When in doubt, throw it out!

For more information or fact sheets on food safety, contact county University of Maine Cooperative Extension offices. Call 1-800-287-0274 for the phone numbers of county offices. Some food safety fact sheets are also available on the Extension website: <http://www.umext.maine.edu>

UMaine Folklife Center Begins Cultural Directory Project

July 26, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO --The Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine, in collaboration with the Bangor Region Arts Council, has begun the process of creating a comprehensive listing of the Greater Bangor region's diverse cultural resources.

The project has been awarded a grant from the Maine Arts Commission and will conduct surveys of the 24 communities in the area this summer. The directory will document the area's cultural resources in such categories as individual artists, arts presenters, arts education and traditional artists.

"This is the largest cultural directory project so far in Maine because it includes so many communities with such rich cultural diversity," says Anu Dudley, the project's director and a doctoral history student at UMaine.

The towns which will be covered in the survey are Alton, Bangor, Bradley, Brewer, Carmel, Clifton, Dedham, Eddington, Glenburn, Greenbush, Hampden, Hermon, Holden, Hudson, Kenduskeag, Levant, Lucerne, Milford, Newburgh, Old Town, Orono, Orrington, Penobscot Nation, Veazie and Winterport.

Following the project format established by regions in the state that have created their own cultural directories, the project will hold a series of arts and culture town meetings to work with community members to learn about the cultural resources of each community.

"In these meetings, we're going to be talking to townspeople and finding out how they want their community represented," says Dudley. "We have a lot of work to do to learn about all the traditional artists in the area, like wood carvers, basket makers, storytellers, fiddlers and quilters. These are the people we hope to identify in our field work this summer."

UMaine graduate students trained in oral history fieldwork will conduct the summer survey. The fieldwork for this project is partially supported by a technical assistance grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

"We have big plans for this directory," says Dudley. "In addition to listing and providing information about the artists, we will provide essays on history and culture in the communities covered." Pauleena McDougall, associate director of the Maine Folklife Center, says that oral histories and vintage photographs from the center's archival collection will be used to enrich and illustrate the directory.

The students on the project will complete the town surveys by the end of the summer, and hope to have the directory available to the public in the spring of 2000.

Susan Jonason, chair of the Bangor Region Arts Council, says the directory will fulfill multiple goals.

"We want this to be an exciting promotion for our region, to show what a culturally rich place it is," says Jonason. "We also want it to be a resource for people who want to hire artists, attend cultural events or take lessons." Jonason chairs the steering committee for the project, whose members include representatives from the fine and traditional arts communities, arts presenters and arts in education.

Individuals who have information about traditional artists and other cultural resources in these communities are encouraged to call Anu Dudley at 581-1822.

UMaine Writer Documenting 10-Year Run of the Orono Orioles

July 27, 1999

Contact [Joe Carr](#), 581-3571

ORONO -- When Scott Peterson saw a team photo of the Orono Orioles during the Orono Historical Society's "Museum for a Day" at the public library, it sparked his imagination as a writer and a baseball aficionado.

For the past year, Peterson has combed local historical records and archives for further details about the 12-member team that captured the hearts of hometown fans from 1914-24. Now he's hoping that anyone with information about the team and the All-American pastime as it was played during that decade will contribute to his fact-finding mission.

"Ultimately, I would like to write about what I'm finding," says Peterson, a UMaine English instructor since 1995. "I see this as a way of getting at Orono history from 1914-24. Not only did the Orono Orioles play on a neighborhood field in the heart of Orono now known as 'The Tough End,' but a lot of the players come up in other contexts as the movers and shakers of the day."

His research is offering him ideas for non-fiction, creative non-fiction, and fiction projects: "With regard to creative non-fiction, I could write about my present interfacing with the past. Fiction-wise, the local newspaper archives for 1923 are missing and I'm thinking of using that interruption in the historical record as a window into a fictional season. If I add this to the local lore of how the Orioles scrimmaged with the Boston Red Sox, I might have the basis for a good novel."

Peterson has been a baseball fan since first grade. "My dad, who's still a big baseball fan, got me started," he says. "Plus, I lived in a neighborhood in Galesburg, Ill., with a lot of baseball fans. We played from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. with an hour off for lunch." As a writer, Peterson has tapped his memories of growing up in the Midwest to develop small town settings and characters, often including at least one with a passion for the game. "I'm interested in the game itself and the idea of it as America's pastime," says Peterson, who has a master's degree in English, with a concentration in creative writing, from Texas A&M; University.

"From my early research on the Orono Orioles, I get a sense of a town that supported the team and had a lot of pride in it. The players lived in Orono, working for the railroad or in clerk jobs, practicing two nights a week to prepare to play other town teams and the semi-pros in the area.

"That was one of the issues - whether the town could get behind the team and salary the players so they could go semi-pro," Peterson says. "But even without salaried players, this team went to other communities and played good games."

In the heyday of the Orono Orioles, 1919-20, the team was playing a dozen games each summer. The grandstand was rebuilt to double its size and accommodate 400 spectators. Box scores ran not only in the then Old Town Enterprise but in the Bangor Daily News.

In the hopes of recording and one day retelling the story of the Orono Orioles, Peterson is looking for photographs and documentation of the team, recollections of the games of days gone by and anecdotes of small town baseball. He is hoping to learn more about the Orono Orioles in a broader context, using baseball as a way of getting at social and cultural history.

"We need to record these stories so others can enjoy them," Peterson says. "This was a neat time in which to live and a special thing that the town got behind this unpaid baseball team playing for the love of the game. These guys were avid baseball players. Maybe they are the best examples of the game's truest purists."

Peterson can be contacted through the Orono Historical Society, c/o Alice and Charles Smith, 566 Forest Ave., Orono.

Organic Feed Grain Facility Could Stimulate Organic Dairy and Poultry Industries in Maine

July 29, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#) , 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- An organic feed grain facility located in central Maine could be financially successful and help stimulate organic dairy and poultry industries in the state, according to a new report from the University of Maine.

The availability of such feed grains is crucial to a network of 30 dairy farms that have received organic certification by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), according to Stewart Smith, one of six co-authors of the report and a professor of sustainable agriculture in the UMaine Department of Resource Economics and Policy (REP).

Other co-authors are James Leiby, Hsiang-Tai Cheng, Thomas Allen, Jennifer Hill and David Grant, all of the REP Department. Their work was funded by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

The 43-page report is titled "The Feasibility of an Organic Grain Milling and Handling Facility in Central Maine" and is available free from the Maine Agricultural Center on the UMaine campus, 1-800-648-0597 (in Maine) or 207-581-3204.

Demand for organic grain is expected to be highest in the dairy and poultry industries. In 1997, a group of Maine dairy farmers began selling organic milk to supply the Stonyfield Yogurt Co. in New Hampshire. They received a price that was about 30% higher than prices paid for conventional milk, but their profits were reduced by the higher costs of organic grains. The cost of feed can represent as much as half the cost of producing milk, according to Smith.

In interviews with representatives of Maine livestock industries, the authors found additional interest in buying organic grains among producers who raise poultry but not beef or pork.

Maine farmers can currently purchase organic feeds from two sources, one in Vermont and a farm-based facility operated by Greg Harriman in Waldo County. Both facilities buy organic soybeans and corn from the Mid-west.

Smith and his colleagues calculated the annual costs of renovating an existing warehouse, buying and maintaining milling equipment, paying employees and borrowing money. They base their calculations on a model facility located on a railroad line and large enough to meet current and future demand.

Their financial analysis posed three possibilities: 1) demand would remain unchanged; 2) new demand from the poultry industry would increase the organic grain market; 3) demand would grow according to a MOFGA projection of a 50% increase in organic milk production in Maine by 2002. The report concludes that under the first two possibilities, the facility would benefit farmer users but would not be profitable for outside investors. However, under the third possibility it would benefit users and provide attractive returns to investors.

The report also describes the financial impact of different ownership structures such as a farmer owned corporation or an agricultural cooperative.

Solar Eclipse Can Be Seen From Maine

August 3, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](mailto:nick.houtman@maine.edu), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - Early risers in Maine will have a chance to see a solar eclipse August 11 if the weather cooperates. Alan Davenport, director of the Maynard F. Jordan Planetarium at the University of Maine, has written a 1,100-word feature story describing the event. The story is posted on the World Wide Web at <http://www.umaaine.edu/mainesci/Davenport.htm>.

Images posted with the story include diagrams of the Moon passing in front of the Sun at maximum coverage, the path traced by the eclipse from the North Atlantic to India, and the Sun, Moon and Earth system.

"Maine residents and vacationers alike may one day recall this as the summer of the reluctant Sun after a near miss with a solar eclipse," writes Davenport. "Although the summer heat has kept us scrambling for shade, water and air conditioning this year, the Sun will tease us and appear to delay its rise that day. That morning at 5:32, the Sun will rise while a total eclipse is in progress. The partially eclipsed Sun will be a sliver at sunrise which coincides with the maximum covering."

Satellite Data Shed Light on Penobscot Bay

Aug. 5, 1999

Contact: [Nick Houtman](#) at (207) 581-3777

ORONO -- Every day, satellites pass over Maine and the Maritimes, scanning the environment below and beaming the information back to Earth. Since 1986, electronic images have been accumulating like pictures in a family album. For scientists like Andrew Thomas, associate professor in the School of Marine Sciences (SMS), this image record has become a valuable research and teaching tool for describing the Gulf of Maine environment.

Thomas is a specialist in remote sensing technology and director of the Satellite Oceanography Data Laboratory (<http://wavy.umeoce.maine.edu/sodl.htm>) in SMS. He uses satellite images to understand how temperature and circulation patterns in the world's oceans change from season to season and year to year with consequences for marine ecosystems. Such changes can explain, at least in part, the constant ebb and flow of salt water species. His projects range from the North and South Pacific and the South China Sea to the Gulf of Maine.

Satellite data can fill in "one piece of the puzzle" for biologists who need to understand, for example, why lobster populations rise and fall or what causes blooms of harmful algae, says Thomas. While biologists may be prime users of his results, the images of temperature patterns in ocean waters have also intrigued fishermen and other citizens interested in how water temperatures change from year to year.

Penobscot Bay

Lately, Thomas and his colleagues have been taking aim at Penobscot Bay and the Maine coast. The research team includes the Island Institute in Rockland and the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Boothbay Harbor. At UMaine, Huijie Xue, Neal Pettigrew, Bob Steneck and Joe Kelley, all faculty members in SMS, also work on the project. They have employed students who are learning to organize and analyze the data. The project is funded by a four-year grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to the Island Institute.

Penobscot Bay is the heart of Maine's lobster industry. It has one of the world's most productive lobster fisheries and accounts for about half of Maine's total lobster haul. Historically, parts of the bay are thought to have provided spawning beds for cod, although local cod populations were fished out earlier in this century.

"Of real interest to us is whether or not this piece of the coast is oceanographically behaving like the coast east and west of us, and whether our study years are average conditions," says Thomas. "You can get a good handle on the big picture in space and time with satellite data."

Thomas' lab receives images (called "scenes" in the trade) directly from the satellites each day using a tracking dish and ground station in Libby Hall. These data are supplemented by historical data supplied by scientists at the University of Rhode Island, where they adjust the satellite images to account for changes in satellite technology and atmospheric conditions. They also correlate the data with information from ships and buoys.

"For historical studies, looking for subtle changes over time, this is a very good data set," says Thomas. To date, Thomas has received all scenes from 1990 to 1995. By this Fall, he expects to have data for the decade starting in 1986.

Once the data arrive from URI, Thomas combines the daily scenes into monthly, seasonal and yearly averages, compares them against each other and looks for significant anomalies. The results to date haven't contained any big surprises. "The dominant seasonal pattern is that in winter, the coldest water is in-shore and there's a gradient to warmer water off-shore. In summer, this flips around. The coldest water is off-shore and the warmer water is

near shore, due to the Eastern Maine Coastal Current. With the satellite data, we're looking at changes in the strength and spatial pattern of this, from year to year."

Just as the Gulf Stream brings warm water north along the East Coast, the Eastern Maine Coastal Current brings cold water southwest along the Maine coast from the Bay of Fundy to Mt. Desert Island, where it often veers offshore toward the open Gulf.

Colder in 1992

The satellite images clearly reveal temperature differences from year to year. "1992 looked like a really cold year, and 1990 and 1994 looked fairly warm. For example, you can really see how much colder it was in 1992 off Owl's Head than it was in 1990. And you can see the positions of various frontal features and how strong they were," says Thomas.

"It looks like the Eastern Maine Coastal Current was stronger and surface temperatures were colder, extending further to the west into the vicinity of Penobscot Bay in 1992 than in 1990," he adds.

Such results can give scientists important clues about the forces at work. Temperature trends that are consistently up or down across the entire region, for example, suggest that large-scale regional, not local, factors are the cause. On the other hand, local weather or circulation factors can cause temperature trends to vary from place to place. "What goes on near-shore may not be what happens off-shore," says Thomas, "and the same goes for areas to the east and west along the coast."

The circulation pattern in Penobscot Bay is also starting to become apparent. "Penobscot Bay has two major channels. Oceanographically, the eastern channel behaves much more like the outer part of the bay than the western channel. The western channel is usually distinguished by a fairly strong frontal zone that seems to separate water off shore of Owl's Head with that closer to Vinalhaven.

"This is of interest because according to Bob Steneck (SMS professor studying lobster population trends), different lobster settlement patterns occur in each area. Surface temperature plays a major role in when these guys settle."

Over the next two years, scientists will expand the temperature record and probe it to determine what patterns are most closely associated with ecological changes such as shifts in lobster or sea urchin populations. "It may not be absolute temperature that's the important thing for a particular species or particular behavior. It may be the relative position of a frontal zone or perhaps the timing within the season of a particular event or something like that. It may be where the coastal boundary of the Eastern Maine Coastal Current was that year," Thomas explains.

Ultimately, because they are indicative of circulation and seasonal variability, the temperature patterns measured by satellites are an important scientific tool. Numerical modelers will use temperatures to improve their equations and test their results as they attempt to mimic natural systems more closely.

"It's a matter of making careful observations and being able to make some predictions based on a reasonably wide set of standard deviations. A case in point, we're getting much closer with the El Nino simulations in the Pacific. In the late 1980s, the models were waffling around, but with the latest El Nino (1997-98), a couple of the models did quite well with predicting how well it would hit certain areas.

"Our overall goal is to use satellite data to their fullest potential for ecological management. As we work toward better predictions of abundance of future fisheries and potential harvests, they provide a unique view of the environment. Satellite data won't answer all the questions, but by combining these data with in-situ measurements and numerical modeling, better answers to many of our monitoring and management questions can be found."

UMaine Names New Director of Center for Teaching Excellence

August 9, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO --James Berg, program and marketing director for the Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning, has been named director for the Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of Maine.

"The University of Maine is fortunate in having a faculty composed of hundreds of talented teachers, " says Douglas Gelinas, vice provost for undergraduate education. "But just as a good coach can help a talented athlete perfect her skills, the Center for Teaching Excellence will be able to help talented professors perfect their talents and try new teaching techniques."

The establishment of the Center is a result of the BearWorks action plan started by Peter S. Hoff, president of the University of Maine. BearWorks is a blueprint for developing and improving UMaine over the next several years.

As director of the center, Berg will be responsible for developing a series of programs and workshops with the goal of building upon the teaching skills of both new and established faculty members. Berg will also work with graduate students and teaching assistants, helping them develop their skills as lecturers, discussion leaders and evaluators of student work.

"The University of Maine is building a number of successful initiatives to improve student learning. The Center for Teaching Excellence will catalyze those efforts for faculty and teaching staff," says Berg. "The center will be a great resource for any UMaine community member who has an interest in improving student learning. With the involvement of the whole community, the center will be responsive to the needs of the university and its faculty, staff and students."

Berg earned a Ph.D. in 20th century English literature from the University of Minnesota in 1996. At Minnesota, he served as visiting lecturer for the 1996-97 academic year. As a graduate student, he was awarded a senior teaching fellowship from the department of English to recognize excellence in teaching. Berg also served on the local steering committee for Preparing Future Faculty, a program of the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the Council of Graduate Schools funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

At his most recent position, Berg was responsible for organizing conferences on assessing student learning, teaching in the disciplines and cooperation between student affairs and faculty affairs. He developed a series of workshops for department chairs on supporting faculty and improving learning in their departments. In addition, Berg oversaw special programs for tribal colleges and historically African-American colleges and universities that are affiliated with the Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and learning.

Berg's scholarly interests include 20th century British and American literature, film, composition and pedagogy. He is co-editor, with Chris Freeman of St. John's University (Minnesota), of "The Isherwood Century: Essays on the Life and Work of Christopher Isherwood," which will be published early next year by the University of Wisconsin Press.

UMaine Conference Centers on K-5 Literacy Instruction, Research

Aug. 12, 1999

Contact: [Kay Hyatt](#) (207) 581-2761

ORONO -- More than 360 educators will gather at the University of Maine next week to examine the latest teaching techniques and share information about how best to get youngsters off to a strong start in reading and writing. The 1999 Seamless Transitions K-5 Literacy Conference brings together all the educators involved in a child's early and primary learning experiences - Reading Recovery, special education and classroom teachers - to emphasize the importance of providing consistency and a team approach in expectations and instruction.

This is the first year the conference has expanded to include grades 3-5 in addition to K-2, emphasizing the importance of continuing reading and writing instruction and support throughout the primary years.

Sponsored by the Center for Early Literacy at the UMaine College of Education and Human Development, the conference will feature state and national literacy experts presenting topics ranging from strategy and standards to assessment and the latest research on phonics and whole language.

"We want to emphasize that both teachers and students should be expected and helped to reach their full potential," says Paula Moore, UMaine assistant professor of education and director of the Center for Early Literacy. Moore also heads the Reading Recovery program at UMaine which trains teacher leaders and oversees delivery of this short-term, early-intervention process that helps low-achieving first graders become independent readers.

The conference opens at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 17 with a keynote address by literacy and instruction specialist Diane DeFord of Ohio State University. Clemson University professor, professional storyteller and author Joe Yukish gives the luncheon keynote on Wednesday, Aug. 18. His presentation is expected to begin about 12:30 p.m. in Wells Conference Center. Other conference events take place in the Donald P. Corbett Business Building.

Hudson Museum to Display "Images for Eternity"

August 13, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Hudson Museum will display artifacts that show the spiritual side of ancient Mexican culture in a new exhibit curated by the museum's director and a University of Maine graduate student.

"Images for Eternity: Mexican Tomb Figures and Retablos" begins September 21, 1999 and runs until May 14, 2000. The exhibit consists of fifty West Mexican ceramics, dating from about 200 BC to AD 500 from the William Palmer Collection and fifty retablos, images of miraculous events and saints painted on tin panels during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Stephen Whittington, director of the Hudson Museum, curated the tomb figures portion of the exhibit. This exhibit draws on research done by Robert B. Pickering of the Denver Museum of Natural History department of anthropology. Pickering analyzed and documented the Hudson Museum's collection of over 550 West Mexican tomb figures, focusing on the characteristics of each one.

Through this analysis, Pickering compiled typological information, which can be applied as a framework for analysis of other West Mexican ceramic collections and offers insights into the cultures that made these objects.

The retablos portion of the exhibit has been curated by David Shoemaker, a Ph.D. candidate in the department of Art at UMaine. Shoemaker draws on the research of Gloria Frasier Gifford, a Tucson conservator and expert in the field, and upon his research interest in retablos and their connection to and influence on the artists of the twentieth century, particularly the Mexican muralist movement.

The exhibit will be located in the temporary exhibit areas on the first level of the Museum and on the walls of the Museum's ramp system which lead from the first to third levels.

William P. Palmer III, a UMaine alumnus, gave the Hudson Museum's Palmer Collection to the university in 1982. There are over 2,000 Mesoamerican artifacts in the collection.

Maine Business School Looks to the Future of Commerce

August 16, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO --The Maine Business School at the University of Maine has reintroduced a course of study that focuses on the emerging technologies of the business world.

This fall, students will have the opportunity to concentrate their major in the area of management information systems (MIS), which teaches students how to design, develop and implement systems that support an organization's planning, control and decision making processes.

The MIS concentration was offered in the past, but was eliminated in 1994 during the university downsizing. This year, in addition to traditional MIS courses such as Network Design and Applications and Database Management Systems, the curriculum will feature a new course to the University of Maine, electronic commerce.

"This should be an exciting course," says Peter Tarasewich, assistant professor of MIS with the Maine Business School. "It's actually a fairly new course to any university, and one that people desire to know more about."

The e-commerce course will be an elective and will be offered in two sections this semester. It will focus on the consumer-to-business applications of the field.

"The concept of electronic commerce has been around a long time. Traditionally, it's been thought of as a business-to-business application and used for things such as electronic data interchange," says Tarasewich. "I'll probably spend a week on that part of it, because it's necessary and part of the economy, but I don't think it's where a lot of the attention is right now."

Tarasewich says he hopes to make the course very hands-on, and spend most of the class time on web site development, marketing, security and transaction processing.

"Part of any MIS course is learning how to set up a web site and work with HTML," says Tarasewich. "Even if it's something that's relatively simple, it allows students to get some experience using HTML, which is an important business skill."

HTML, or Hypertext Markup Language, the computer code used to create web pages.

As the business world becomes more dependent on technology, the job market for students with a business degree and MIS concentration grows.

"Traditionally, there are positions like systems analysis and design or programming," says Tarasewich. "People who have the technical skills can go into telecommunications support system administrator positions. There's also going to be a call for people experienced in e-commerce."

The Maine Business School has two faculty members for the MIS concentration and expects to hire another faculty member this year. Other concentrations offered by the school are accounting, finance, marketing and management.

Hudson Museum Announces "Just for Kids" Schedule

August 17, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO --The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine has a full schedule of entertaining education planned for the area's youth in its "Just for Kids" programs.

"Just for Kids" programs are intended to introduce children and teens to the museum environment and teach them about native and ancient cultures.

In the programs, the children visit museum exhibits, then participate in games and activities related to what they have learned. All programs are held in the museum and pre-registration is required. Call 581-1901 for registration information.

September 11

Just for Kids: Storyteller Gussie Vaughn

Gussie tells outrageously funny tales from the Appalachians.

All ages will enjoy this program.

10:00 a.m.

\$3.00

October 2

Just for Kids: Paint a Personal Hero

View the Mexican retablos, paintings of saints and miracles, in our Images for Eternity exhibit. Learn from guest artist Maria Rave how to paint a personal hero in the retablo tradition.

Ages 7-14.

10:00 a.m.

\$3.00

October 30

Culturefest

The Hudson Museum will be hosting UMaine's "Culturefest" throughout the building. See country/culture exhibits, participate in children's activities, sample international foods, and watch the talent and style shows.

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Free.

November 6

Just for Kids: Storyteller John Bear Mitchell

Hear Native American singing, drumming, and storytelling of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy cultures.

All ages.

10:00 a.m.

\$3.00

Note: If you are signing up for the animation workshop (listed next), be sure to also sign up for this program. The animation workshop will be based on one of John Bear Mitchell's stories. The fee for this program will be included in the animation workshop fee.

November 6 and November 13

Just for Teens: Introduction to Animation

Learn to create an animated character using paper cut-outs. You'll get to see your character on video. The animation will be based on a story told on the morning of November 6 by John Bear Mitchell. See above.

Ages 12 and up.

12:00-4:00 p.m. on both days.

\$20.00

December 4

Just for Kids: Penobscot Birchbark Crafts

Learn to make a birchbark canoe or picture frame with guest artist Rick Love.

Ages 6-14.

10:00 a.m.

\$3.00

January 15, 2000

Just for Kids: Make a Transformation Mask

See how the people of the Northwest Coast made a mask that turned an eagle into a person.

Learn to make your own transformation mask.

Ages 6-14.

10:00 a.m.

\$3.00

Assistance Available for Farmers Hit Hard by Drought

August 18, 1999

Contact Rick Kersbergen, Extension, 800-287-1426

[Nick Houtman](#), Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension and other state and federal organizations have formed a task force to assist livestock farmers most severely affected by the summer drought. In parts of Maine, the hay crop has been significantly reduced, and dry conditions have caused pastures to dry up and forced producers to begin feeding forages normally reserved for winter.

The task force met early this week to discuss plans for assisting producers in locating and transporting hay and other forages. Extension has an existing database of forage for sale throughout the state and maintains this "Hay Directory" on a web site (www.umaine.edu/livestock/hay.htm).

Other participating organizations include the National Guard, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Bureau and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association.

Producers who have feed to sell can contact the Waldo County Extension Office at 1-800-287-1426 (in Maine) or (207) 342-5971.

Producers who need to purchase feed can access the web site or call any county Extension office to receive a hard copy of the directory. MOFGA has recognized the emergency situation for their organic producers and will arrange for special affidavits for hay that meets certain criteria to be fed to organic certified animals (call 622-3118 for specific details).

The National Guard has offered assistance as requested by Governor King to critical need farms by providing transportation of feed on a case by case basis. Farmers who are seeking this assistance can call Rick Kersbergen at 1-800-287-1426. Extension, FSA and NRCS will evaluate the severity of each case before requesting National Guard support. The Emergency Task Force will continue to monitor the situation to help producers as best they can with impacts from the extremely dry weather.

Plot of Genetically Modified Corn Destroyed at UMaine

August 19, 1999

Contact John Rebar, Coop. Extension, 207-581-3191 or
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A half-acre plot of corn being used for weed control research was destroyed at Rogers Farm in Orono, owned by the University of Maine, sometime late August 18 or early August 19. The corn is a genetically modified variety designed to resist the non-selective herbicide Roundup.

The UMaine Department of Public Safety is investigating destruction of the plot as an act of vandalism.

John Jemison, Cooperative Extension water quality specialist, was using the corn, which is approved for use in Maine, to determine the effects of different timing and application rates of Roundup. Non-selective herbicides kill many varieties of vegetation, says Jemison, such as annual and perennial grasses and broadleaf weeds that reduce yields in farm fields. Roundup is moderately effective and does not leach into groundwater or persist in soil or plant tissues, he adds.

"Our goal is to provide reliable agronomic and environmental information to Maine's small family farms. This plot is one of 14 studies we're doing this summer, and the loss of this plot means that we won't be able to give our farmers information about this weed control option," says Jemison.

The corn was not grown for human consumption, he adds. Most of the corn grown in Maine is processed as silage for farm animals.

Some early results from the study were reported to participants in a Sustainable Agriculture Field Day at Rogers Farm July 22. The day included descriptions of studies of corn cultivation techniques, herbicide applications, row width in soybean fields and the use of dairy manure on potato fields.

According to evaluations received from Field Day participants, research on the benefits and potential problems with genetically engineered crops was identified as a high priority for Maine agriculture.

Roundup ready corn can be useful in some circumstances, Jemison notes, but it is not a "silver bullet" for farmers who need effective, low cost weed control methods. Planting conditions, weather and soil type affect the performance of all herbicides, he says.

Roundup works by inhibiting photosynthesis in plants. The genetically modified corn has the ability to conduct photosynthesis in the presence of the herbicide.

Farmers in Maine generally prefer to apply herbicides early in the season before corn plants emerge from the soil, says Jemison. Since Roundup must be applied directly to plants, it is effective later in the growing season and provides farmers with another, flexible weed control option with less surface water pollution potential.

One of the concerns about the use of genetically modified crops, Jemison says, is the potential for cross pollination with other plants. Organically certified crops, he adds, need to be protected from that possibility. "If we can't assure organic growers that we can protect their crops from cross pollination with a genetically modified variety, then I'd be the first to say that we shouldn't use it in Maine," he says.

The goal of Jemison's research is to determine if use of the chemical and the corn provide adequate, economical weed control. His work is financed by Cooperative Extension with additional minor support from chemical companies. Seed for the trial was donated by the DeKalb Seed Company, a subsidiary of the Monsanto Corporation. His results are open to the public, and he describes his findings at farm field days, at scientific conferences and in published scientific papers.

As Extension's water quality specialist, Jemison also conducts efforts to reduce water pollution problems at farms and identify water quality problems in groundwater, streams and lakes.

Effect of Imported Salmon on Prices for Farm-Raised Maine Salmon

August, 23, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#) at 581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Imported salmon from Chile and Canada have a dampening effect on prices for Maine raised Atlantic salmon, according to research in the Department of Resource Economics and Policy at the University of Maine. In calculating the factors that affect import prices of fresh Atlantic Salmon from year to year, researchers conclude that imported salmon comes close to saturating the U.S. market.

As a result, says Hsaing-Tai Cheng, associate professor of resource economics and policy, a drop in prices would not lead to a corresponding increase in sales and revenue. "It means that if salmon producers lower their prices to sell more salmon, they would lose money," says Cheng.

Cheng and Tuo Wang of Sichuan Province, China, a master's degree student, wrote the report which is titled "Analysis of Farm Raised Atlantic Salmon Imports and Prices."

In 1998, Maine generated almost 88% of the farm-raised Atlantic salmon produced in the United States. Over the last decade, the state's production has increased from about 1 million pounds to 29 million pounds worth about \$60 million.

Maine's farm-raised salmon revenues made it the state's second most valuable fishery in 1998. The lobster fishery had revenues of about \$137 million, and sea urchins were valued at \$17 million.

Meanwhile, imported salmon from Chile and Canada have made significant inroads into the U.S. market. From 1995 to 1998, imports of whole salmon and filets grew from 125 million pounds to 303 million pounds. Salmon filets captured a larger share of the market over that time. They accounted for about 18% of the import market in 1995 and 45% in 1998.

Cheng is continuing to analyze economic factors in the salmon industry. Support for his work has come from the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, and he is seeking additional funding from the public and private sectors.

U.S. salmon producers sued Chilean exporters in 1997 for dumping salmon on the U.S. market.

The report is due to be released as an Experiment Station publication this fall.

UMaine to Greet New Students

August 26, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine has planned a full schedule of activities for the campus' newest students Sept. 3-6.

This year, UMaine will hold a ceremony to formally welcome the new students. A University of Maine Convocation will be held on Sept. 3 at 4 p.m. in the Hutchins Concert Hall at the Maine Center for the Arts.

Donald Zillman, interim vice president for academic affairs and provost, will be the Master of Ceremonies and Peter S. Hoff, UMaine president, will give the University of Maine welcome.

Gary Thorne, sports commentator for ESPN, will be the keynote speaker and will deliver an address entitled "Passion and Compassion."

Thorne graduated from UMaine in 1970 and the University of Maine School of Law in 1973. From 1977 to 1986, Thorne covered the UMaine Black Bear Hockey team, and currently serves as a play-by-play commentator for ESPN's National Hockey Night.

In his address on the college experience, Thorne will tell the students that the next four years can be the best time in life. He will speak on the importance of attending classes, staying current with homework and exploring academic programs and career options. Thorne will also speak about the lighter side of college - getting involved with student organizations, keeping healthy and staying physically active.

The convocation is only one of many activities planned for the students on Friday. The day will begin at 8 a.m. with the opening of the residence halls and new student registration. All new students will be required to register in the Memorial Union, where they will be given a detailed schedule of the weekend's events and information about campus life.

Faculty, staff and current UMaine students will be on hand to assist the new students with their belongings as they move into the residence halls. Most of the day will be spent allowing the students to become familiar with the university and settle into their rooms.

That evening at 6:30 p.m., following the convocation, there will be a spirit rally at Harold Alfond Sports Stadium to cheer on the Women's Field Hockey team as they play Fairfield.

On Sept. 4, the new students and other members of the campus community are encouraged to attend the Maine State Fair held on the UMaine Mall at 11 a.m. Games, food and information about campus life and student organizations will be available. This year, all of the food provided by Dining Services will be Maine-produced.

Upper-class students will return to campus Sept. 6 to move into the dormitories. College and administrative offices will be open that day and various information sessions will be held on campus.

That evening, all students are invited to a "Dive-In" movie pool party at the Wallace Pool in the Memorial Gymnasium, where "Jaws" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" will be shown.

All members of the campus community are invited to swing on Sept. 5 and 6. On Sept. 5, swing dance demonstrations and lessons will be held from 1-5 p.m. in the All Purpose Room of the Memorial Gymnasium. The next night, Sept. 6, everyone will have a chance to show off what they learned when a live swing band will perform in the All Purpose Room for a swing dance from 6-9 p.m.

Classes begin on Sept. 7 at 8 a.m.

New Ten-Year Agreement Between UMaine and Coca-Cola Offers Long-Term Benefits to University Programs

Students, Faculty, Staff to Help Decide How New Resources are Allocated

Aug. 27, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine announced today that it has selected the Coca-Cola Company as its exclusive beverage provider and is entering a formal ten-year partnership that will generate more than \$3 million for the University.

According to UMaine's Chief Financial Officer, Robert A. Duringer, the new agreement is the result of a year-long competitive process directed by a committee made up of University students and staff members. It covers soft drinks, sports drinks, juices and bottled water.

Duringer explains that the agreement basically continues the contractual relationship that the university has had with Coca-Cola for several years.

"For years most of the beverages sold on campus have been Coca-Cola products," Duringer says. "The added benefit of this long-term agreement is that we will have significantly more funds to direct to academic programs and student life."

Competing drinks have been sold alongside Coke products in two campus convenience stores and Memorial Union, but all vending machines and fountains in cafeterias and elsewhere have long dispensed only Coca-Cola products.

Duringer adds that the bid process for the beverage rights was approached in a manner similar to the bid process for other campus needs and services.

"Arrangements like these are very common at universities around the country," Duringer says.

Over the course of the ten-year contract, Coca-Cola will pay UMaine \$1.8 million in cash, and will guarantee a share of its campus vending machine revenues of nearly \$1.2 million. In addition, Coca-Cola will provide goods and services, product discounts, customized ongoing promotions and support for campus events.

"We see great potential for this partnership," says Russ Perry, general manager of Coca-Cola's Bangor operation. "We are proud to be the beverage supplier to Maine's state flagship university and look forward to helping the University generate funds that enhance the activities and resources offered to students, faculty and the community."

With the agreement in hand, the university will be deciding how the revenues will be allocated, says Duringer. Several suggestions will be considered, including using portions of the money for classroom and library improvements, student scholarships, and partial funding of a campus fitness center. Duringer cautions, however, that no decisions have been made, and that university administrators will be seeking opinions from the campus community.

"President (Peter) Hoff has made it clear that we need to use this money for purposes that benefit students," Duringer says. "Whatever ideas are offered will be weighed according to how much they add to the campus community and to the student experience."

Duringer adds that UMaine officials will soon announce a process for gathering campus input regarding how the money might be spent. A series of campuswide discussions on allocation ideas will take place during the fall semester, he says.

Coca-Cola products are distributed locally from the Bangor operation. Perry says his company, which employs 60 people full-time and 18 people part-time, will add three employees -- two full-time and one part-time -- as a result of the agreement.

Duringer says the agreement will have no impact on employment at UMaine.

UMaine's Hudson Museum Seeks Docents

August 27, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine is looking for community members willing to volunteer time at the Hudson Museum, the state's gateway to exploring the diversity of human experience.

The museum, which is located in the Maine Center for the Arts, presents exhibits and programs on the cultures of the world to school children and to the public. Volunteer museum docents have the important job of interpreting exhibits and supervising the activities that bring those exhibits to life. Individuals are sought who have an interest in world cultures and enjoy working with groups, ranging from school children to adults.

Training sessions are required for Hudson Museum docents. They are scheduled on Sept. 9, Sept. 16, Sept. 23, Sept. 30, Oct. 7 and Oct. 14. from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1-2 p.m. Topics covered include Native Americans of Maine, the Southwest and the Northwest Coast, the Inuit, and Precolumbian and Contemporary Mesoamerican peoples.

Information about these cultures and the exhibits will be presented, and methods of presentation will be provided. Once training is completed, docents are expected to lead at least twelve tours over the course of one year.

For more information about volunteering at the Hudson Museum, call Irene Jackson, Hudson Museum education specialist, at 581-1915 or email her at Irene.Jackson@umit.maine.edu. Information about the Hudson Museum can be found on the web at <http://www.ume.maine.edu/hudsonmuseum>.

"A Midwife's Tale" Selected as 1999-2000 Class Book

August 25, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The diary of Martha Ballard will be required reading for the incoming class at the University of Maine this year with the selection of "A Midwife's Tale" as the class book for 1999-2000.

The author, Laura Thatcher Ulrich, is a historian who took the diary of Ballard, a midwife who lived in Hallowell at the end of the 18th and into the 19th century, and fleshed it out with her own research into that era. The book contains excerpts from Ballard's diary, followed by Ulrich's text.

"Her wonderful work opens a window into a very different world," says Gloria Vollmers, associate professor of accounting and chair of the academic affairs committee of the Faculty Senate, the committee that chose the book from the many submitted by members of the UMaine community. "The committee enjoyed the book tremendously for a variety of reasons and hope that those who must and those who simply elect to read it will agree."

The book deals with the medicines, herbs and other cures of the day and the evolution of the growing distinction at the time between the midwife and the doctor. It also deals with subjects such as the roles of men and women, the laws of the time and the barter system that Ballard and many others operated under to receive compensation for her services.

"Martha works harder and longer and under far more miserable conditions than probably any of us ever will," says Vollmers. "This book is not a page-turner, but each chapter is fascinating, filled with interesting stories about a past that is gone forever but which, we hope, is worth remembering."

The class book is required reading in all English 101, "College Composition", classes, and is intended to provide a common subject for dialogues across campus. Each first-year student will receive a complementary copy from the Academic Affairs office.

Ulrich, the book's author, will visit campus in the spring. A web-based course based on the class book, INT 491 "A Midwife's Tale and the Social Web" will be offered beginning January 2000. This is the second year that an Internet course has been offered through the distance education department.

The course will investigate the concept of a 'social web' as introduced in the class book. The social web is a phrase used in the book to describe how the late 18th century community of Hallowell was woven together by the intricate social relations documented in Ballard's diary.

An interdisciplinary group of faculty will teach the course, led by James Toner, director of distance education and Kristina Passman, chair of the department of modern languages and classics and Carol Toner, coordinator of the Maine Studies program.

This year, UMaine will once again offer the Class Book Community program, which will meet in three locations across the state to discuss ideas and issues raised by "A Midwife's Tale." The groups will meet in Orono, Portland and in a mid-coast location to be announced. The community discussions were offered last year and 27 people participated, many of them parents of first-year students.

Other activities related to the book, including a panel discussion and a movie series, will also be offered throughout the year.

This is the eighth year of the class book program at the University of Maine.

Thorne to Speak at UMaine Convocation

August 30, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

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Hudson Museum to Host Lecture Series

August 31, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine has set the schedule for its 1999-2000 Museum Lecture Series.

The museum has invited four experts in the study of Mexico to talk about their areas of research, in conjunction with the special exhibit "Images for Eternity: Mexican Tomb Figures and Retablos." This series is held in the Bodwell Lounge of the Maine Center for the Arts and all lectures are free and open to the public.

The first lecturer will be a researcher with intimate knowledge of the museum's William P Palmer III Collection. Robert Pickering, chair of the Department of anthropology and curator of anthropology at the Denver Museum of Natural History will speak on Oct. 8 at 3:30 p.m.

In his lecture, "Bugged by Ancient Figurines: A Forensic Method of Determining Authenticity", Pickering will discuss techniques he has developed for authenticating West Mexican ceramics (200 BC - AD 300) through the presence of puparia, which are insect casings found on the ceramics' surfaces. Pickering has studied pieces from the Palmer Collection since 1997.

These casings can be used to generate dates for the pottery, as well as offer clues to the micro-environments of the shaft tombs in which they were found. Although this particular topic is a forensic approach to an archaeological problem, Pickering will gear his presentation for a general audience. A reception will follow the lecture.

Gloria Frasier Giffords a private conservator from Tucson, Arizona will speak on Nov. 1 at 2 p.m. on "Holy Faces for Spaces: Popular Mexican Religious Paintings of the 19th Century."

Giffords' lecture will focus on retablos, folk paintings of saints and miraculous events. She will also discuss the Day of the Dead (Nov. 2) and its relationship to the production of retablos and other religious imagery. Giffords has published extensively and has curated several exhibits on this topic.

The third lecturer will be Joseph Mountjoy from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, who will speak on March 31 at 2 p.m. His talk, "Tombs, Temples and Teuchitlan Traditions: A View from the Wild West" will focus on a central issue for archaeologists and anthropologists - what characteristics define cities, states and civilizations and what type of evidence of these characteristics appears in the archaeological remains from West Mexico.

Mountjoy will discuss his research in the Mexican state of Jalisco, providing his perspective on shaft-and-tomb mortuary customs, ceremonial architecture and external relationships during the development of the Teuchitlan tradition (AD 200 - 700).

The final lecturer will be Patricia Rieff Anawalt, director of the Center for the Study of Regional Dress, Fowler Museum of Cultural History at UCLA. Anawalt will speak on "The Ecuadorian Presence in West Mexico: Cloth, Clothing and Spondylus Shells" on April 14 at 3:30 p.m.

Anawalt's research concludes that extensive cultural interaction occurred between West Mexico and Ecuador in Precolumbian times and that evidence of this contact can be seen in West Mexican tomb figures. She has analyzed the clothing depicted on West Mexican ceramics and found striking parallels to Ecuadorian-style clothing.

Anawalt contends that Ecuadorian traders sailed to West Mexico to procure *Spondylus* shells (spiny oyster shells) and exchanged luxury goods from Ecuador, such as cloth and clothing, for them. Contact between these cultures is also manifested in the adoption of new technologies such as metalworking and the production of ceramic figures.

This lecture series is funded by UMaine's Cultural Affairs Committee, the dean of cultural affairs and Libraries, the dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Anthropology Department, the Institute for Quaternary Studies and the Hudson Museum.

UMaine Welcomes Largest Class in Eight Years

Sept. 2, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO -- When the University of Maine begins fall semester classes next Tuesday, its largest class of first-year students since 1991 will begin its studies. The Class of 2003 numbers 1,647 students, marking the second consecutive year of dramatic increases in first-year student enrollment at Maine's flagship university.

"This new group of students represents a 15 percent increase over last year, and a 42 percent increase over two years ago," UMaine President Peter S. Hoff said at his annual new academic year news conference, held this morning on the University's picturesque Mall under sunny skies. "Along with the dramatic increase in enrollment, we have maintained our high academic standards," he added, noting that the new students' average SAT score is 1,087, virtually the same as each of the last two years. That number is 71 points above the national average and 73 points above the state average. "We take a lot of pride in the fact that our students' SAT scores consistently and significantly exceed the state and national averages," Hoff said.

Beginning his third academic year as UMaine's president, Hoff noted that the members of the class bring other significant qualifications, including a demonstrated level of self-motivation indicated by participation in a variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities in high school.

"We expect that kind of involvement here as well," he said. "It cultivates leadership skills, promotes self-discipline, enriches the campus community, and broadens the learning experience in numerous ways."

UMaine's overall student enrollment this year is expected to grow to 9,700, up from 9,451 a year ago. The University's residence halls will be at capacity, with 3,232 students living on campus this fall.

Hoff also noted that UMaine will be joined by 26 new faculty members this year, joining a group numbering 620 described by Hoff as "the largest collection of teachers, scholars and researchers found anywhere in Maine."

He also welcomed four new administrators beginning their first academic year at UMaine: Interim Provost Donald Zillman, Vice President for University Advancement Susan Reardon, Vice President for Student Affairs Richard Chapman and College of Engineering Dean Larryl Matthews.

"Our goals are simple, but challenging -- to serve the needs of Maine and its people; to generate and disseminate new knowledge; to provide responsible stewardship of University resources; and most of all, to prepare our students for life, careers, citizenship, and change in the 21st century," Hoff said.

Dry Conditions Affect Highmoor Apple Crop

September 3, 1999

Contact [Joe Carr](#), 207-581-3571

ORONO, Maine -- This year's hot, dry weather has reduced the size of the apples at the University of Maine's Highmoor Farm in Monmouth, according to John McCue, farm manager. Early varieties are being harvested, he says, and while the average size is down, the number of apples appears to be up.

Through the summer, McCue has been monitoring the crop response to each rainfall. The fruit increased substantially in size following each rain event, but growth has tapered off later in the season, he says.

This year's apple crop is one to two weeks ahead of last year's, says McCue. McCue is available for interviews today or Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 1-800-924-5258.

Secretary of State Albright to Speak at UMaine

Sept. 6, 1999

Media Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO -- Two top-ranking members of President Clinton's cabinet -- Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Secretary of Defense William Cohen -- will visit the University of Maine on Thursday, Oct. 14 for UMaine's second annual William S. Cohen Lecture.

Albright will present the lecture; Cohen will make introductory remarks.

The lecture series is a function of the University's William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce, established within UMaine's College of Business, Public Policy, and Health in 1997. Cohen, a former faculty member in the College, donated his collection of papers chronicling his 24-year Congressional career to UMaine's Fogler Library at the time the center was established.

The annual Cohen lecture was established to bring to campus a distinguished speaker in international policy and commerce. Cohen himself delivered the first lecture in the series in March of 1998, before a capacity audience at the Maine Center for the Arts.

This year's event, tentatively scheduled for the Maine Center for the Arts, is set for 1-2:30 p.m. on Oct. 14. Additional details will be announced in the near future.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Leverages \$1.4 Million for Higher Education Awards to Teens

September 8, 1999

Contact: Cooperative Extension - Susan Jennings, Oxford County office, 1-800-287-1482;

Rhonda Frey, Orono, 207-581-3195

Public Affairs - Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension has been selected as an AmeriCorps Education Awards Program that will engage 1,200 young people ages 17 and up in service to benefit communities. As a result of their volunteer efforts during the next two years, the young people will qualify for post-secondary education awards with a total value of \$1.4 million.

The amount of each award will reflect the number of hours of community service performed by each volunteer. Young people will have opportunities to do two terms of service and receive a maximum of \$1,181.25 for 450 hours in one year, or \$2,362.50 for 900 hours over two years.

A broad range of community service activities qualify volunteers for higher education awards. Participants may volunteer in the areas of education, the environment, human needs, health or safety needs, or any combination of those areas.

For example, a teen who volunteers at a summer camp, works in a water quality monitoring project, mentors another younger child through their school or church, or does community service for academic credit through their high school, can include all of these activities to earn funds. Participants may be involved in one project or many.

The goal of the program is to recognize the value of youth service and help Maine youth go on to higher education.

Teens can get an orientation packet from county Extension offices, schools and service organizations that work with youth. The packet contains details and application materials, including information about the Corporation for National Service, the Maine Commission for Community Service, AmeriCorps and UMCE.

Each participant, or team of participants, needs a local advisor/supervisor who will document the local needs and the hours the teens work to address those needs. Participants will keep a record of their service work and have it verified by the advisor/supervisor who will send it to the Extension contact people listed below.

The Southern Maine Extension 4-H Youth Team will be responsible for reporting results of the volunteer activities. When a commitment of hours is completed, the volunteer will receive a certificate of completion. The certificate must be submitted to a college or other institution of higher education, and educational award funds will be sent directly to the school.

The Extension 4-H team will accept teens into the program based on availability and completion of the requirements. Placements will be taken on a first come, first served basis for the two-year duration of the program until funds are expended.

Information and orientation packets are available from the Southern Maine team of Extension 4-H youth professionals. Youth who live in the counties below should contact the Extension Educator listed.

Androscoggin or Sagadahoc Counties, should contact;

Bob Elliott, Extension Educator

133 Western Ave., Auburn, ME 04210-4927 Tel: 1-800-287-1458 e-mail: relliott@umext.maine.edu

Kennebec, Franklin, Aroostook, Somerset or Waldo Counties, contact: Karen Hatch-Gagne, Extension Educator
125 State St., Augusta, ME 04330-5692 Tel: 1-800-287-1481 e-mail: karenhg@umext.maine.edu

Oxford, Piscataquis & Washington Counties, contact:
Susan Jennings, Extension Educator
9 Olson Rd., South Paris, ME 04281-6402 Tel: 1-800-287-1482
e-mail: susanj@umext.maine.edu

Cumberland or Penobscot Counties, contact:
Julie Kosch, Extension Associate
PO Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300 Tel: 1-800-287-1471
e-mail: jkosch@umext.maine.edu

York, Knox, Hancock or Lincoln Counties, contact:
Jon Prichard, Extension Educator
RFD 2, Box 1678, Sanford, ME 04073-9502 Tel: 1-800-287-1535
e-mail: jonp@umext.maine.edu

UMaine Professor Discusses India-Pakistan Conflict

September 10, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- It's not often that a University of Maine professor finds herself at the business end of an AK-47 rifle while conducting research. Cynthia Mahmood recently found herself in just this situation while visiting military camps in Kashmir.

Mahmood, a professor of anthropology, studies ethnic and religious conflict. In 1997, she was granted the rare opportunity to visit Kashmiri mujahideen who are fighting an insurgency in the Himalayan mountain range.

The Kashmir conflict is part of the long-standing hostility between the countries of India and Pakistan. The two countries have not fought a war since 1971, but tensions have been running high after last year's nuclear tests and the recent downing of a Pakistani jet by India's military.

"The current conflict is the unresolved business of decolonization," says Mahmood. "The current insurgency started in 1989, but the conflict has really been going on since 1947 when India became independent from British colonial rule."

At the time, Kashmir, which has a Muslim majority, was expected to join Pakistan. The ruler of Kashmir at the time, Hari Singh, was a Hindu and signed an agreement with India. Kashmir is now a semi-autonomous state in that country.

"There have always been problems between the Muslim majority Kashmir state and the Hindu majority in India," says Mahmood. "If you ask the Kashmiri mujahideen what they want, they will say a free and fair plebiscite on Kashmir's future so they can decide what type of government they want."

Some of them have strong anti-American sentiments, which Mahmood discovered when entering one of the mountain camps.

"One of the Kashmiris there only knew enough English to point his AK-47 at me and say 'We like Saddam Hussein. USA, no,'" says Mahmood. "Looking back at it now, I feel it must have been scary but at the time it wasn't. I told him that I'm critical about a lot of things in the U.S., too and maybe we should discuss it."

The tension was broken, says Mahmood, when the Kashmiris escorting her told the soldier that she was in the camp to write a book.

Mahmood adopted what she calls a strategy of calculated vulnerability to deal with the sentiment against America.

"I trusted them, and made them see me as their guest. To be a guest is a very honored status in their society," says Mahmood. "I knew they would offer all hospitality and never harm a guest, especially a female guest."

This strategy was put to the test on Mahmood's first night with the Kashmiris when they asked her whether she would rather spend the night in a hotel, or at the camp.

"Although every bone in my body was saying hotel, I somehow told them that I would be honored to stay with them. They found me a room that had a little sliding bolt on the door. Of course, my inclination was to slam the door and put the bolt on," says Mahmood. "I wanted to show them that I was placing my whole self, my life and my honor with them, so I purposefully left the door ajar."

She says knew the strategy worked when the Kashmiris began calling her sister. Although she gained the trust of these Kashmiris, she was always careful not to show complete agreement with their cause.

"At every point I could, I told them that I wasn't Muslim, I wasn't part of their movement and didn't agree with everything they believed, so they wouldn't later feel betrayed." says Mahmood.

In her visit, Mahmood says she found that many of the militants are young, and not concerned with the big-picture politics of the conflict. Instead, most of them have a personal reason for fighting.

"Those guys who look so fearsome on television are young fellows who are fighting back because their sister was raped, not because they know anything about the politics," says Mahmood. "They've just heard of the atrocities going on and to them it's a matter of honor."

Many of these human rights violations are committed with the Indian government's knowledge, says Mahmood, which only inflames the passions of the Kashmiris more.

"All of the major human rights organizations have produced reports about how bad things are in Kashmir. There are some Hindu nationalist death squads operating in the country, and Kashmiri militants have killed a lot of Hindus in return," says Mahmood.

"Atrocities have been committed on all sides of this. From my point of view, it's the continuing human rights abuses that fuel it. No matter what kinds of macroscopic decisions are made between governments about the cease-fire, people remember that their daughter was raped or their neighbor was slaughtered."

Mahmood has written numerous papers about the human rights abuses in India. Her most recent, "Disappearances in Punjab and the Impunity of the Indian State" was co-written with Ram Narayan Kumar, a human rights worker in India.

"I've continued to work with Kumar, and over the past year he and other workers in India have been gathering evidence of illegal cremations and extra-judicial executions in Punjab that would prove human rights atrocities have occurred," says Mahmood.

Mahmood says that India is not a popular human rights cause, because often Muslims and Sikhs are not seen as 'worthy victims' by a majority of people, and her research is intended to gain a better understanding of why these groups use violence.

"Many in this country have no sympathy, because these people are thought of as religious fundamentalists and terrorists," says Mahmood. "A lot of the people in Pakistan and Kashmir have taken up arms because they don't think their voices have been heard." In this country, Mahmood says, the problem is often made worse by the demonization of those who follow the Muslim religion, either through portrayal in the news media or in movies.

"They are caricatured. It's a mistake to think that by trying to understand them you are somehow condoning what they do," says Mahmood. "You can't try to talk about how to reduce this type of violence without trying to figure out why they think violent acts are justified."

Area Children Invited to Attend UMaine Art Program

September 14, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- A new session of Artworks, an art program for community children offered by the University of Maine, will begin Oct. 15.

Students from the department of art will teach the class, which provides children an opportunity to explore their world through art and experience a variety of media and visual expressions.

Eleanor Weisman, assistant professor of art and art education, says the program not only gives children a chance to experience art, but gives art students a forum to develop teaching skills.

Classes are held on Friday afternoons from 3:45 to 5 p.m. The first class will be held on Oct. 15 and the course will continue through Dec. 10. Artworks will not be held on Nov. 26 due to the Thanksgiving holiday, and be cancelled on days the university closes due to winter storm conditions.

Artworks will be held at Carnegie Hall, Merrill Hall and Wells Conference Center on the UMaine campus.

The class sections are organized by grade levels and an art student is assigned to each section. The UMaine students are responsible for organizing a curriculum and teaching the course each week.

The students teaching Artworks are all juniors majoring in Art Education, and their participation in the program is a required part of the Introduction to Curriculum course.

At the end of the course, an exhibit of the children's art will be set up on the second floor of Carnegie Hall, and a reception will be held for parents.

A \$20 course fee will be charged for supplies used during the class. For more information on the course, contact Eleanor Weisman at the University of Maine at 581-3293. The application deadline is Oct. 4. Due to the need for limited enrollment, acceptance into Artworks will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Albright Lecture at UMaine Rescheduled

Sept. 15, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO -- To accommodate a change in Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright's schedule, her upcoming address at the University of Maine has been rescheduled. It is now set for Wednesday, Oct. 13 at 9 a.m. at the Maine Center for the Arts on campus. That is one day earlier than was previously announced.

Albright will present UMaine's second annual William S. Cohen Lecture, which is a function of the University's William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce, established within UMaine's College of Business, Public Policy and Health in 1997.

Secretary of Defense Cohen, who donated his collection of papers from his 24-year Congressional career to UMaine's Fogler Library when the center was established, will also participate in the Oct. 13 event, providing introductory remarks.

Tickets for the event are available on a first-come, first-served basis, free of charge. For tickets, call (207) 581-1516.

Bell Atlantic Gift Boosts UMaine Technology Training for Teachers

Sept. 16, 1999

Contact: At UMaine Kay Hyatt (207) 581-2761

Wayne Garthwait (207) 581-2419

At Bell Atlantic Peter Reilly (207) 797-1335

ORONO, Maine -- Technology is changing the way the world communicates and how teachers teach and students learn in Maine classrooms. A new partnership to further expand the digital bridge from classroom to a transformed society was announced today by the Bell Atlantic Foundation and the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development.

Bell Atlantic's \$100,000 grant will expand the College's capacity to model the best use of technology in its own instruction and to prepare teachers who are technologically competent and confident. The Bell Atlantic grant is targeted at developing educator expertise in the effective use of the broadband, interactive ATM telecommunications network.

Robert Cobb, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, and Edward Dinan, state president and CEO of the Bell Atlantic Corporation, announced the partnership in Augusta during a working session of the Maine Distance Learning Project Advisory Committee. This panel is comprised of administrators of the 27 schools committed to developing ATM sites in 1999-2000.

The Bell Atlantic award will extend the work of the Maine Distance Learning Project, through the College, by providing professional development to educators and exposing UMaine students studying to become teachers to exemplary educational practices using the ATM network. ATM enables instantaneous transport of voice, video and data exchange between connected sites. The College is one of five original pilot sites established three years ago to test equipment and innovative use of the new network.

Cobb and Dinan point out that Maine's technology infrastructure is one of the best in the nation, noting that Maine is the first state to have all digital phone switching systems, to link all schools and libraries to the Internet and to widely deploy high-speed ATM switches.

The emphasis must now shift to effective educational use of these resources, Cobb said. "In partnership with the private sector, we can teach practicing educators to take advantage of Maine's infrastructure and also guarantee that our new teachers will be more sophisticated in the application of existing and emerging technology to increase student learning," he said.

Controversy Series Announces Fall Program Schedule

September 17, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Socialist and Marxist Controversy Series has prepared a full season of luncheon talks sure to ignite debate at the University of Maine.

This fall, the series will welcome a special speaker on Oct. 21. Patricia Ireland, national president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), will give a talk entitled "NOW Comes to Maine: Overcoming the Attack on Reproductive Rights." Ireland will speak at 12:30 in Room 100 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building.

The controversy series is presented on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union, unless otherwise noted. The public is invited to attend and take part in the discussions.

The series, which is in its 16th year, was created to present topics and perspectives that are ignored or repressed by the dominant power structure, according to Douglas Allen, professor of philosophy and the series' coordinator.

The Socialist and Marxist Controversy Series is sponsored by the Marxist-Socialist Studies Interdisciplinary Minor and co-sponsored by the Maine Peace Action Committee, the Memorial Union and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Speakers do not necessarily present socialist or Marxist viewpoints.

Fall Schedule:

Sept. 30

Radicalism Goes to the Movies: The Unknown Hollywood Left

Paul Buhle, Brown University and New York University, author of "Marxism in the United States" Buhle will also speak on "Bureaucracy, Race and Gender" on Sept. 29 at 3:15 p.m. in 107 D.P. Corbett.

Oct. 7

Woman and Globalization

Leslie King, UMaine professor of sociology

Oct. 14

South Africa: One Step Forward, but the Struggle Continues

Jennifer Davis, executive director of the Africa Fund and one of the leaders of the anti-apartheid struggles for peace with justice. Davis will also give the Schonberger Peace and Social Justice Lecture on "Facing the New World Order: Continuing African Struggles for Popular Participation, Human Rights and Economic Justice" on Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in 100 Nutting.

Oct. 21

NOW Comes to Maine: Overcoming the Attack on Reproductive Rights

Patricia Ireland, national president of the National Organization for Women (NOW)

This talk will be held in Room 100 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building.

Oct. 28

Prospects for Israeli-Palestinian Peace

Alex Grab, UMaine professor of history

This talk will be held in the North Lown Room of the Memorial Union.

Nov. 4

Kosovo, Serbia, NATO and the United States

Jovanna Davidovic, student from Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Michael Howard, UMaine professor of philosophy

Douglas Allen, UMaine professor of philosophy

Nov. 11

So How Well is the College Curriculum Recognizing Social and Economic Class? Bring Your Own Experience!

Peggy McIntosh, associate director, Wellesley Center for Research on Women, Distinguished Libra Professor

Nov. 18

Why Justice is Good for Our Health

Norman Daniels, professor of philosophy at Tufts University and author of "Seeking Fair Treatment: From the AIDS Epidemic to National Health Care Reform." Daniels will also speak on "Democratic Equality" Nov. 18 at 4 p.m. in the Maples Building.

Dec. 2

Alice Walker on Nihilism and Freedom

Angela Cotton, Emory University, on a New England Board of Higher Education Fellowship at the University of Maine

Dec. 9

Panel and Discussion of 1999-2000 Class Book : Laura Thatcher Ulrich's "A Midwife's Tale"

WIC Luncheon to Explore College Curriculum

September 17, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Many colleges around the country have made recognition of race and gender issues a priority in forming new programs. A speaker for the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program lunch series will examine the progress that schools have made.

"So How Well is the College Curriculum Recognizing Race & Gender? Bring Your Own Experience!" will be held on September 21 from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge on the second floor of the Maine Center for the Arts. McIntosh will also speak on "Dismantling Privilege Systems" 7:30 p.m. in Room 100 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building in a talk cosponsored by the Peace Studies program.

Peggy McIntosh, associate director of the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women, will give a talk and lead a discussion on the subject of curriculum diversity.

McIntosh is the founder and co-director of the national Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity Project on Inclusive Curriculum and consults widely throughout the U.S. and world with faculty and staff who are creating gender-fair and multicultural curricula.

McIntosh has taught at the Brearley School, Harvard University, Trinity College, the University of Denver, the University of Durham and Wellesley College. She is the co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Women's Institute and has been consulting editor to "Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women." McIntosh is a visiting Libra Professor at the University of Maine.

The talk is free and open to the public. For more information, or to request an accommodation, call the WIC/WST program at 581-1228.

UMaine Business School to Hold Forums on Future of Commerce

September 20, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Recognizing the growing need for all Maine businesses to prepare for a rapidly changing technological environment, the Maine Business School at the University of Maine is offering its first-ever series of business forums entitled "Emerging Business Issues for Maine."

Each month on the first Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Black Bear Inn in Orono, presentations will be offered by experts in their fields on topics impacting the future of Maine's economy.

The Maine Business School serves as the primary source of management education, research and service in the state.

"This series offers an opportunity for us to share the expertise of our faculty with the community at large and benefit from that interaction. Our faculty are doing cutting-edge research and preparing students for the business environment of the future," says Eric Brucker, dean of the Maine Business School.

On Oct. 5, Robert Strong, professor of finance and author of textbooks adopted by some of the country's most prestigious business schools, opens the series with a presentation focused on the "dot.com phenomenon." Immediately following the breakfast and presentation, there will be an opportunity for discussion and interaction.

For reservations, call 581-1973. There is a \$10 charge for each meeting.

Mental Illness Awareness Week to be Held at UMaine

September 21, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine will hold a series of events to provide information to the campus and the community about mental illness Oct. 4-6.

This is the fourth year of Mental Illness Awareness Week on campus and this year's theme is "From Discovery to Recovery." Martha Eastman, assistant director for Community Development with the Center for Students and Community Life, says she hopes people will come out to learn the truth about mental illness.

"Our message is that we need to understand mental illness and be compassionate," says Eastman. "Many people who live with mental illness are still able to get a college education and be productive members of society."

Eastman says when people see violence reported in the media, such as the Capitol shootings or the church shootings in Fort Worth, Texas, it reinforces the misconception among the public that all people with mental illness are violent.

There will be an informational table set up in the lobby of the Memorial Union Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Oct. 4, a special play will be presented in Hauck Auditorium, Memorial Union. "My Sister's Sister" is a drama about growing up, seeing the world and along the way misplacing a sister who has schizophrenia. Tickets are \$15 and can be ordered through the Maine Center for the Arts box office at 581-1755 or 1-800-MCA-TIXX.

All month, an art exhibit entitled "Nothing to Hide: Mental Illness in the Family" will be on display in Hauck Auditorium. This photo and text exhibit presents photographs and interviews with 20 families whose lives are affected by mental illness.

All programs are free (except the play on Monday evening) and open to the public. The week's events are sponsored by the Center for Students and Community Life and over 22 departments across campus. For more information or special accommodation, call Martha Eastman at 581-4194 (TTY: 581-6125). CEUs and Certificates of Attendance are available for all events.

Schedule of events:

October 4

12:15 - 2 p.m.

Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union

Panel discussion: "Maine on the Cutting Edge: Policy Innovations and Medical Changes"

Katherine Bubar, M.S.W., J.D., Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS)

Susan Wygal, acting commissioner for DMHMRSAS

Becky Hayes Boober, regional executive manager, Department of Human Services (DHS) Legislative Committee Staff Member

Michael Frey, Social Security Administration representative

Moderator: Gail Werrbach, director, UMaine School of Social Work

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union

Panel discussion: "Everything You Wanted to Know~Ask the Experts!"

Psychologist - Doug Johnson, Ph.D., UMaine Counseling Center

Psychiatrist - Judy Birk, M.D., Acadia Hospital

Social Worker - Leslie Devoe, M.S.W., LCSW

Nurse - Deborah McMahon, M.S., R.N.N.P.

Moderator: Jeff Hecker, associate professor, UMaine department of psychology

2 - 5 p.m.

FFA Room and Lown Room, Memorial Union

Job fair featuring statewide mental health agencies

5 - 6:30 p.m.

Peabody Lounge, Memorial Union

Community supper

6:30 - 7 p.m.

Hauck Auditorium Lobby, Memorial Union

Dessert reception sponsored by the Center for Community Inclusion

7 - 9 p.m.

Hauck Auditorium

Play: "My Sister's Sister"

October 5

10 a.m. - 12 noon

Hauck Auditorium

Video of play "My Sister's Sister"

12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

Hauck Auditorium, Memorial Union

Panel discussion: "Current Issues in Infant & Children's Mental Health"

RoseAlma Senatore, director of Children's Services, Community Health and Counseling Center

Nancy Larson, LCPC, St. Michael's Center

Janet Ordway, M.D., DMHMRSAS

Moderator: Sydney Thomas, associate professor of education, UMaine College of Education and Human Development

October 6

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

FFA Room, Memorial Union

Depression Screening for students, employees and the community provided by the University of Maine

Counseling Center

12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union

Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Center luncheon:

"Women's Journeys through Labeling, Stigma and Mental Illness"

Barbara Lehmann, associate professor, UMaine School of Social Work

2 - 3 p.m.

Totman Lounge, Memorial Union

Discussion: "Succeeding with Mental Illness"

Jill Johnston, critic and author

Moderator: Martha Eastman, Center for Students and Community Life

Testing the Waters Program Receives Governor's Award

Sept. 21, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A University of Maine environmental education program that is currently working with schools along the Kennebec River has received a 1999 State of Maine Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for efforts in the Penobscot River watershed.

"Testing the Waters: Discovering the Penobscot River Watershed" was coordinated last year by the UMaine Water Research Institute. UMaine was one of only two organizations in the environmental education category. This year's awards were presented in Augusta Sept. 21 by Governor Angus King and Martha Kirkpatrick, Commissioner, Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Other organizations receiving awards include Maine businesses for their achievements in pollution prevention and environmental leadership and The Chewonki Foundation of Wiscasset for environmental education.

Testing the Waters coordinators are Mary Ann McGarry, College of Education and coordinator of Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) in the WRI, and Betty Lee and Steve Kahl of the WRI. Mike Handley, WRI assistant laboratory manager, assisted with water sample analysis and data interpretation.

The program features a hands-on water quality stewardship experience for middle school and high school students. Testing the Waters was funded by the 1998 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Northeast Region Environmental Education Grants Program and the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund.

This year's Kennebec River program is scheduled to get underway with a workshop on the UMaine campus September 27. Twenty teachers from schools along the Kennebec have already indicated interest in participating. "Students will be involved in directly monitoring the Kennebec during an exciting time," says McGarry. "Removal of the Edwards Dam has brought national attention to the river, and we'll be looking at water chemistry as well as learning about biological and geological changes."

Teachers and students will also receive information about water resources careers and water research facilities at UMaine. All activities will be correlated with Maine's Learning Results which specifies what Maine students are expected to know at each grade level.

The Kennebec project has been funded by a \$5,000 grant from the U.S. EPA, and contributions of equipment and expertise from the U.S. Geological Survey, Trout Unlimited of Maine, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Threatened Species Program and Modular Media, Inc. of Searsport.

The Governor's Award for environmental excellence is the second received by WRI. In 1998, the WRI received the New England EPA Environmental Merit Award for innovative efforts on numerous environmental topics including environmental toxics, acid rain, lake eutrophication, and groundwater chemistry.

UMaine to Host Discussion on Globalization

September 21, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- A panel of experts from around the state will meet at the University of Maine to talk about the ideas presented in the controversial book, "The Lexus and the Olive Tree."

The discussion will be held on Oct. 4 at 2 - 3:15 p.m. in the Soderberg Lecture Hall located in Jenness Hall and is co-sponsored by the William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce and the academic affairs office.

Panelists for the discussion are Allen Fernald, Downeast Magazine; Perry Newman, Maine Trade Center; James Brown, formerly of the New York Times; and Tom DeMarco, a Camden area business executive.

"The Lexus and the Olive Tree," is by New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman. The work presents his view of the issue of globalization. Globalization is the consequence of an increasingly interconnected economic world that cuts across political boundaries, ideologies and culture. Economic events in one country change life in other countries.

In the book, the Lexus is the symbol of the modern globalized world, and the olive tree is the symbol of the more traditional ways to which cultures cling. The next century will be shaped, says Friedman, by what cultures choose to embrace - the Lexus or the olive tree.

"Friedman's work has been widely praised, and occasionally vigorously criticized, by opinion leaders around the world," says Donald Zillman, interim vice president of academic affairs and provost. "The book is certainly be one of the crucial works of the end of the century, and we look forward to a stimulating discussion involving businesspeople, international trade experts, journalists and others."

The lecture is free and open to the public.

English Department to Present Poetry Reading

September 27, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The English department at the University of Maine will host poet Robert Rehder for a poetry reading that will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 5.

Rehder will read from his many works at the Ulrich Wicks Reading Room in 304 Neville Hall at 3:30 p.m. Rehder is currently professor of English and American literature at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland.

His latest book of poems, *The Compromises Will be Different*, was published in both Britain and the United States.

Rehder's writings have appeared in a number of periodicals, including *New World Writing*, *The Yale Review*, *The Carleton Miscellany*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Agenda*, *Stand* and the *Artforum*. He has been awarded the Croll Poetry Prize (twice), an American Academy of Poets Prize and a Borestone Mountain Poetry Award.

Currently, Rehder is working on several scholarly works including *The English Lyric from Shakespeare to Stevens* and *The Motive for Metaphor*.

Former Foreign Service Officer to Discuss China

September 27, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Officials from Maine will soon embark on a trade mission to China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. To better understand the issues involved, the World Affairs Council of Maine, in conjunction with the University of Maine Business School, has organized a brown bag luncheon. The guest speaker will examine the issues that China's leaders face as the international community approaches the 21st century.

The Lunch and Learn program, "Understanding China Today: China, Taiwan and Hong Kong Trade and Other Issues" will be Oct. 6 from 12 noon - 1 p.m. at the Dexter Lounge in Alford Arena. The program is free and open to the public.

Matthew Ward, a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Foreign Service, is the featured speaker. Ward will discuss the forces that shape decision-making in Beijing and will address the role of trade and other factors on policy development. He will also discuss issues affecting living conditions, global peace and security from a China perspective.

Ward has lived and worked in China and Taiwan, teaching Chinese politics to diplomats on assignment to those countries. A former adjunct professor of Chinese politics at the University of Southern Maine and an expert on issues of economic restructuring and reform in China and Eastern Europe, Ward has worked directly with China's leadership.

Ward was recently appointed program director of Refugee and Immigration Services at Catholic Charities of Maine. He is also the program chair of the World Affairs Council.

UMaine Receives Major National Grant to Spur Science Education in Local Schools

September 28, 1999

Contact: Nick Houtman at 207-581-3777 ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine has received a three-year, \$1.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation to expand science education in Maine's public schools. Students and faculty will use the money to develop and conduct programs in four area school districts and make curricula available to other schools statewide.

UMaine was one of 20 successful applicants out of 157 nationwide. A group of UMaine faculty and public school teachers from Orono, Veazie, Old Town, Indian Island, Milford and Bradley met for almost two months to lay the groundwork, says Susan Brawley, UMaine professor of plant biology, who coordinated the effort.

"We want to involve the best UMaine science students in working with teachers and their pupils," says Brawley. "It's exciting to let these students, who are at the cutting edge of their disciplines, take their enthusiasm for science to our public school classrooms."

The program is a major NSF initiative. NSF Director Rita Colwell cited it in remarks to Congress this summer. "There is no group of people that should feel more responsible for science and math education in this nation than our scientists and engineers and scientists- and engineers-to-be," she said. Among the program goals are improved learning opportunities for public school pupils, professional development activities for teachers and strong partnerships between higher education and public schools.

The grant will enable UMaine graduate level science students to work with teachers and their pupils in a variety of subject areas, such as: Classifying Living Things, the Hydrological Cycle, and Forestry and Pulp and Paper Studies. Teachers, science students and UMaine faculty will meet prior to the start of the Fall, 2000 semester in a "Science Camp" to work on experiments and complete curriculum development.

The program has been designed to improve science education by meeting the goals of Maine's Learning Results. The Learning Results, an educational policy passed by the Maine State Legislature in 1997, specifies what public school students are expected to know at each grade level.

"I'm excited to have university science students coming to work side-by-side with my kids," says Susan Eaton, third and fourth grade teacher at Indian Island School who helped to design the program. "I do general teaching in science, but these lessons will be hands-on and much more specific. I think it's going to work out very well."

Tom Perry, Superintendent of Schools in Orono and Veazie, says the university students will be important as role models. "The program is a great opportunity for our kids to get exposed to upper level students with strong expertise in scientific areas. We also know that science is one of the big areas in which we are facing teacher shortages in the near future. We're hoping that some of these students will consider education as a career."

The project will expand on curricula already taught in each school and provide teachers with access to new equipment and information. It does not replace existing science activities in the schools.

Ten UMaine graduate students, who will be known as NSF Graduate Teaching Fellows, will be selected for the program on the basis of their academic performance, their research and their demonstrated ability to communicate scientific concepts. Two undergraduates will also be chosen. They will receive instruction in teaching methods before they spend one to two days per week in public school classrooms. In addition to their teaching duties, they will continue their own university-based research as part of their degree programs.

Weekly seminars are planned to discuss educational strategies and curriculum development.

Other UMaine faculty who helped to write the grant proposal are Barbara Cole in Chemistry; Mike Vayda in Biochemistry, Microbiology and Molecular Biology; Steve Norton in Geological Sciences; and Susan Hunter in

Biological Sciences. Faculty members from other university departments, including the College of Education and Human Development, will be participating in the project.

After the three-year project is completed, organizers hope to continue scientific collaboration between the university and public schools. Ideas for the future include a regular summer science camp for public school teachers, a lecture series for high school students and an endowment to support student serving as science aides in the schools the schools.

UMaine Folklife Center Offers Historical Calendar

September 29, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Folklife Center at the University of Maine has created a sixteen-month calendar using pictures from its extensive historical archives.

The photos are all taken from the center's collection, and relate to life and work in the lumber industry. Other pictures have coastal and farming themes.

"The calendar is intended to be a sampler of the kinds of pictures we have," says Stephen Green, an archivist at the Folklife Center. The calendar is printed in forest green ink on cream colored paper with a comb binding and was produced by Gossamer Press in Old Town.

The calendar is available from the Maine Folklife Center, located in South Stevens Hall, for \$5. There is a \$1.50 shipping and handling charge if applicable. To order a calendar or for more information, call Bethany Haverlock at 581-1891.

Wabanaki Cultural Awareness Program Planned

Sept. 29, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Maine Rural Development Council (MRDC), an affiliated program of University of Maine Cooperative Extension, will host a Wabanaki Cultural Awareness Conference on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 1999 at the Sockalexis Arena on Indian Island. Expected to attend the event are some 100 representatives of Maine's 20 federal and state agencies that provide services and/or resources to Maine's tribal communities. A group of state legislators will also attend the conference.

"The purpose of the conference is to deepen participants' understanding of Maine's tribal culture and history, develop respect for differences of values and viewpoints, and learn how to build a common work agenda," says Robert Ho, executive director of MRDC.

Presenters will include Fred Moore, Bill Altvater and Donald Soctomah of the Passamaquoddy Tribe; Chief Brenda Commander of Houlton Band of Maliseets; Chief Bill Phillips of Aroostook Band of Micmacs ; and Sub-Chief Ann Pardilla and Jim Sappier of Penobscot Indian Nation.

Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission members Evan Richert of the State Planning Office and Fred Hurley of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will address the conference on the subject of state perspectives. Commission Chair Cushman Anthony of Portland and Executive Director Diana Scully will moderate conference sessions.

Among agencies to be represented are USDA- Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service; Small Business Administration; Housing and Urban Development; Maine Departments of Education, Human Services and Transportation; and Cooperative Extension.

Legislators expected to attend include Sen. Mary Cathcart of Orono and representatives Jane Saxl of Bangor, Patricia Jacobs of North Turner, Laura Sanborn of Old Town, Douglas Alhearne of Madawaska, Joseph Brooks of Winterport, Sumner Jones of Pittsfield, and Thomas Bull of Freeport.

For more details and registration information, contact Cate Wnek at 581-3190 or cwnek@umext.maine.edu.

Africa Fund Director to Give Schonberger Lecture

September 30, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine will host a talk by a woman whose work on behalf of South Africa helped end that country's system of government-sanctioned discrimination.

"Facing the New World Order: Continuing African Struggles for Popular Participation, Human Rights and Economic Justice" is the subject of the 1999 Schonberger Peace and Social Justice Memorial Lecture. The lecture is on Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in 100 Nutting Hall and will be given by Jennifer Davis, executive director of the Africa Fund and the American Committee on Africa.

Davis will also speak that afternoon from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. for the Socialist and Marxist Luncheon Series. Her talk, "South Africa: One Step Forward, But the Struggle Continues" will be held in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union.

Davis has been in her current positions since 1981. She has played a key role in building public understanding of African issues and has actively advocated U.S. policy that helped overturn the apartheid government.

The Africa Fund has focused on supporting democracy and self-determination in countries ranging from Nigeria to South Africa. Davis' direction led the Fund to sponsor observers at elections in Namibia, Mozambique and South Africa.

The Fund has also initiated a program to link various constituencies in southern Africa with their counterparts in the U.S., including state and municipal elected officials, religious and union leaders and women's rights activists. The Africa Fund has also launched a project to educate congregations of various faith communities to advocate for better U.S. policy on Africa justice issues.

Born in South Africa, Davis graduated from the University of Witwatersrand. While still living in South Africa, she became active in the struggle against apartheid. She was forced into exile in 1966 and settled in New York. She is now a U.S. citizen.

The Howard Schonberger Peace and Social Justice Memorial Lecture was established by the family and friends of the UMaine history professor after his untimely death in 1991. The series is intended to honor Schonberger's commitment to both scholarship and social justice.

Albright Lecture at UMaine "Sold Out"

Oct, 1, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The 1,600 seats available for the Oct. 13 University of Maine lecture by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright have all been spoken for, the University announced today. The tickets were offered at no cost, on a first-come, first-served basis.

The talk, scheduled for Hutchins Concert Hall in the Maine Center for the Arts, is the second installment in UMaine's William S. Cohen Lecture series, named for the former UMaine faculty member and current U.S. Secretary of Defense, who will make introductory remarks at the Oct. 13 event.

The lecture series is a function of the University's William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce, established within UMaine's College of Business, Public Policy and health in 1997.

The Oct. 13 lecture will be broadcast live around the state on Maine Public Television.

Earth Science Week Open House and Field Trip at UMaine

October 4, 1999

Media contact: [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to an open house at the University of Maine Department of Geological Sciences in celebration of Earth Science Week, October 10-16. The event will be held in the Bryant Global Sciences Center from 1-3 p.m., Friday, October 15.

"The public will learn how researchers are deciphering how the Earth works," says Daniel Belknap, professor in the department.

A field trip will be led to the Kenduskeag Stream at 3:30 p.m. to explore Bangor's geological record and local evidence for phenomena such as global tectonics, climate and sea-level change and the Earth's carbon cycle. Contact the department at 581-2159 for more information.

National Organization for Women President to Speak at UMaine

October 4, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), will speak at the University of Maine on Oct. 21.

In two separate talks, Ireland will address the issue of abortion rights as it relates to women in Maine. Both talks are free and open to the public.

The first talk, "NOW Comes to Maine: Overcoming the Attack on Abortion Rights" will be from 12:30 - 1:45 p.m. in Room 100 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building. This talk is part of UMaine's Socialist and Marxist Luncheon Series.

In the evening, Ireland will speak on "Voting for Women's Lives" at 7 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall, located in the Class of 1944 Hall. This event is sponsored by the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program. The UMaine Women's Resource Center and Peace Studies Program are co-sponsors of the event.

Ireland has been the president of NOW since 1991. She had served as executive vice president and treasurer since 1987. Prior to that, she was a partner in a major Miami law firm and served as legal counsel to Dade County and Florida NOW for seven years. Ireland received her law degree from the University of Miami Law School in 1975.

New Genetics Ph.D. Program Links Research Institutions in Orono, Bar Harbor and Portland

Oct. 4, 1999

Scientific contacts:

Keith Hutchison, UMaine, 581-2827

Barbara Knowles, The Jackson Laboratory, 288-6000

Dr. Edward Lovett, Maine Medical Center Research Institute, 761-9090

Brian Hodgkin, University of Southern Maine, 780-5585

Media contact: [Nick Houtman](#), UMaine Dept. of Public Affairs, 581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- When Mike Vayda, professor in Biochemistry, Microbiology and Molecular Biology, gives a lecture in his graduate level course, BMB550 Mechanisms of Gene Regulation, only about half of his 15 students are located at the University of Maine campus in Orono. Most of the rest are in Bar Harbor, and at least one is in Portland. Moreover, several of the lectures will be given by scientists at The Jackson Laboratory and Maine Medical Center Research Institute (MMCRI).

The course is the latest in a series of cooperative ventures in a new molecular genetics program involving UMaine, The Jackson Laboratory, MMCRI and the University of Southern Maine. These organizations are laying the groundwork for a molecular biology degree program giving students new opportunities to work and study with scientists and laboratories in each community.

Early efforts began last year with molecular genetics courses taught last year by UMaine faculty members Keith Hutchison and Robert Gunderson through a video conferencing network. The Maine Science and Technology Foundation recently gave the effort a boost with a \$261,081 grant to establish new videoconferencing facilities through the Internet2 system.

Each organization will contribute additional funding for renovations to house the new conferencing equipment.

Additional funding has been provided by the University of Maine Office of Research for first-year stipends for three graduate students per year over the next three years. Stipends after the first year are expected to come from research and training grants.

"The potential for this arrangement is huge," says Vayda who led discussions among the partners last year. "Each institution brings strengths that complement the others. At UMaine, we focus on natural resources. Our mission has been to support the state's economy, and it's natural that our research look at fish, forests and agriculture. The Jackson Lab is one of the world leaders in mammalian genetics, and researchers there, at MMCRI and USM focus on human health. Together, we can provide students with a breadth of education and laboratory experience that matches the best programs in the country."

"This arrangement also is a wise use of the state's limited resources," he adds. "We need to collaborate. We can't afford to duplicate programs."

The effort, known as the Cooperative Ph.D. Program in Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology, will include courses taught cooperatively by scientists at each organization. Students will be traditional undergraduates and graduates at UMaine and USM as well as staff members at The Jackson Laboratory and MMCRI. Researchers at the Foundation for Blood Research in Scarborough have also contributed to the program. Other organizations, such as the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Boothbay Harbor, Maine's biotech companies and private and technical colleges could become members in the future.

Coordinating the program at UMaine are Keith Hutchison, professor in Biochemistry, Microbiology and Molecular Biology, and Harold "Dusty" Dowse in Biological Sciences. Barbara Knowles at The Jackson Laboratory, Lucy Liaw at MMCRI and Brian Hodgkin at USM are in charge of arrangements their respective institutions.

Links will also be created through joint faculty appointments at UMaine. Participating faculty in the Applied Immunology Program at USM will become cooperating faculty members at UMaine, and scientists at The Jackson Laboratory and MMCRI will be faculty associates. The designations provide those scientists with access to Fogler Library and open up opportunities for graduate students, says Hutchison.

In addition to cooperatively taught semester courses at UMaine and USM, the program could include workshops and short courses taught on a regular basis at The Jackson Laboratory and MMCRI.

Students will receive their degrees through already established Ph.D. programs in UMaine academic units.

UMaine Students Shine in National Competition

Oct., 4, 1999

Media Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Two University of Maine students placed in the top five in the National Collegiate Game of Logging Championships, held last Friday in Nelsonville, Ohio. For the second consecutive year, UMaine had the best team score in the competition.

Paul Larrivee, Jr., a senior from Gray, finished in second place, just one point behind the competition's winner. Eben Webb, a UMaine junior from Manchester, came in fourth.

The Game of Logging is a program, founded by world-famous chain saw expert Soren Ericksson, aimed at developing and demonstrating safe and productive chain saw use techniques. The competition requires precision use of chain saws to safely fell, limb and cut trees into forest products.

Larrivee and Webb are among the UMaine students who have received their training as student employees of the University Forests Office, which manages the 12,000 acres of woodlands the University owns. Robin Avery, the operations manager of the University Forests and Michael Thurlow of Lee, the 1998 Professional Game of Logging Champion, accompanied the students to the finals.

UMaine student Dan Bartlett of Pittsfield won the competition last year. The 1996 champion, Eric Hoar, was also a UMaine student.

UMaine to Host Marching Bands

October 4, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Many more than seventy-six trombones will be on hand to lead a big event as the University of Maine hosts the Maine State Marching Band Championships on Oct. 30.

The event starts at 4 p.m. and will end around 10 p.m. at Morse Field on the UMaine campus. Over 1000 students from 15 high schools will compete in the event, with each school having a 15 minute time slot.

There will be awards in each of two competing divisions and an open division. Sections such as percussion, winds and color guard will be given awards as well.

The Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band will perform an exhibition for the students at the conclusion of the competition.

"This event is a great opportunity to bring nearly 1000 students to our campus and show them what exciting things there are going on at the University of Maine," says Christopher White, director of the Maine Marching Band. "They will be guests at our wonderful new stadium and be able to hear our band perform and become more familiar with the campus."

Tickets are \$5 for general admission, \$8 for reserved seats. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance through the competing bands.

Terry Anderson to Highlight Peace Week Events

October 6, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Journalist and former Mideast hostage Terry Anderson is the featured speaker for Peace Week at the University of Maine, to be held from Oct. 25 to 29.

This year's theme is "Roots of Conflict, Seeds of Peace." Some of the events will explore the topic of forgiveness as it relates to international as well as personal relations.

"This week is organized to focus the university's attention on issues of peace. We try to present different ideas and hope people will think about them and share their thoughts," says Barbara Blazej, coordinator of the Peace Studies Program. "We encourage people to attend because we would like to have many different voices and perspectives at the events."

Anderson's talk, "The Search for Forgiveness: Returning to the Den of Lions" is on Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Maine Center for the Arts. In the program, Anderson will translate his experiences as a hostage into an exploration of the empowerment of change and the mental and emotional tools that help turn negatives into positives.

In 1985, Shiite Muslims took Anderson hostage in Beirut while he was on assignment as the chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press. He was held with six Americans and Britons for six and a half years. In that time, Anderson relied on his ability to adapt and persevere to survive physically, emotionally and mentally.

Anderson is currently the Scripps visiting professional at the Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University in Athens. His book, *Den of Lions*, describes his time in captivity and his 1996 return to Lebanon with his wife.

Maine author Robert Taylor, a former U.S. Army captain in Vietnam, will give a luncheon talk, "Voices of War Pleading for Peace" on Oct. 26 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge of the Maine Center for the Arts. Taylor is the author of *The Innocent*, a novel about the Vietnam War as experienced by a gay man.

On Oct. 28, Dr. Ifeoma Ikenze, a Nigerian born physician and homeopathic practitioner, will speak on "Holistic Health: Medicine for the 21st Century." This talk will be held at 7 p.m. in 101 Neville Hall.

Ikenze is the founder and director of the Elizabeth Medical Clinic for Pediatrics and General Homeopathic Medicine in Kentfield, California. Through her medical practice and her continuing studies, Ikenze searched for ways of treating patients, not just to cure a disease but to heal the whole person.

Ikenze says that people need to think holistically about medical care, that the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical unity of the individual needs to be emphasized.

Books on peace will be sold in the lobby of the Memorial Union on Oct. 25, 26 and 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Copies of *Den of Lions* by Terry Anderson and *The Innocent* by Robert Taylor will be available. All events are free, open to the public and accessible, for more information, contact Peace Studies at 581-2609.

The Peace Week schedule is as follows:

Monday, October 25

"Preparing for the 21st Century through EcoPeace Initiatives"

Luncheon talk by Emily Markides, L.C.P.C, former director of UMaine Peace Studies

12:15 - 1:30 p.m. Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union

"The Language of War" and "Gun Society"

Movie presentation

3:30 - 5 p.m. 101 Neville Hall

"The Search for Forgiveness: Returning to the Den of Lions"

Keynote Presentation

Terry Anderson, author, journalist, former Mideast hostage

7:30 p.m. Maine Center for the Arts

Tuesday, October 26

Breakfast conversation with Terry Anderson

8:30 - 10 a.m. Dexter Lounge, Alford Arena

"Voices of War Pleading for Peace"

Luncheon talk

Robert Taylor, former U.S. Army captain in Vietnam; author of *The Innocent*, a novel on the Vietnam War as experienced by a gay man

12:30 - 1:45 p.m. Bodwell Lounge, Maine Center for the Arts

"Dreamworlds II"

Movie Presentation

3:30-5 p.m. 101 Neville Hall

Wednesday, October 27

"On the Ball: Women and Sports after Title IX"

Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program Lunch Series co-sponsored by Peace Studies

Tracey Flynn, assistant athletic director for compliance and senior women's administrator

Nellie Orr, UMaine assistant professor, kinesiology and physical education

Emily Ellis Throckmorton, Bangor area businesswoman and UMaine Sports Hall of Famer

12:15 - 1:30 p.m. Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union

"Affluenza"

Movie presentation

3:30-5 p.m. 101 Neville Hall

Thursday, October 28

"Prospects for Israeli-Palestinian Peace"

Socialist and Marxist Studies Luncheon Series

co-sponsored by Peace Studies

Alex Grab, UMaine professor of history

12:30-1:45 p.m. North Lown Room, Memorial Union

"Conversation on Forgiveness"

Campus conversation/panel discussion

Robert Whelan, UMaine lecturer in English, Vietnam veteran

Tom Ewell, director, Maine Council of Churches, leader of the Restorative Justice Movement in Maine

Nasser Rohanni, religious refugee from Iran

and other guests

3:30-5 p.m. Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union

"Holistic Health: Medicine for the 21st Century"

Special presentation

Dr. Ifeoma Ikenze, Nigerian-born physician and homeopathic practitioner

7 p.m. 101 Neville Hall

Reception to follow sponsored by the Sociology department

Friday, October 29

"The Poet Robert Hayden: A Voice for Racial Unity"

Poetry Reading and discussion

Lynn Ascrizzi, 1999 Robert Hayden Poetry Fellow

12:15 - 1:30 p.m. Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union

UMaine Folklife Center Showcases Culture of Prince Edward Island

October 6, 1999

Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine holds its second annual Folk Traditions Festival Nov. 5-6 to celebrate the cultural heritage that the state shares with Canada's Maritime Provinces.

This year's festival features the Prince Edward Island traditions of storytelling, song, music and dance.

The festival starts on Nov. 5 with a storytelling session. "Songs, Stories and the Island Community" with Sandy Ives, the retired director of the Folklife Center and friends from PEI, will be held from 12-1:30 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union.

"An Evening from Prince Edward Island" concert will be held at 8 p.m. on Nov. 5 in the Minsky Recital Hall, located in the Class of 1944 Hall. Performances by Crowbush, Hold the Haggis and friends will fill the night air with the sounds of music and stories. The cost is \$10 per ticket.

Crowbush consists of storyteller and poet Frank Ledwell, singer/songwriter Allan Rankin and fiddler Roy Johnstone. All three are recognized in their individual fields, and together they complement each other to make a unique and exciting group.

Crowbush has performed extensively on PEI in small community halls, churches and schools, and the group performs a special historical vignette at the Strathgartney Homestead during the summer months and their stories and music have been a hit with conventions and conferences.

Hold the Haggis is made up of singer/songwriter Margie Carmichael, piano player and singer Wendell Boyle, fiddler Roy Johnstone and multi-instrumentalist Steven Sharratt. The group creates a show mixing old homespun favorites with original songs and humor.

The next day, there will be a series of workshops in the Class of 1944 Hall. Participants can learn the Prince Edward Island style of fiddle and mandolin techniques, piano and guitar accompaniment, step dance and traditional song. Workshops will be held at 1-3 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. Each workshop will cost \$5.

In the evening, a traditional Ceilidh of song and celebration will be held in the Wells Conference Center. The celebration begins with a catered buffet supper at 6 p.m.

From 7-9 p.m., Crowbush and Hold the Haggis will perform, along with local talent, audience members, workshop participants and guests.

At 9 p.m., The Chiasson Family will play for a dance. The Chiassons are from the east side of PEI and play in the Scottish (Cape Breton) traditional style. JJ Chiasson, an accomplished young fiddler, leads the group. He is accompanied by family members, who play and step dance.

For dinner and performance, the cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. For performance only, the cost is \$10 per adult and \$4 per child.

For tickets and information on the Folk Traditions Festival, contact the Maine Folklife Center in South Stevens Hall at (207) 581-1891, or on the world wide web at www.umaine.edu/folklife. The center can also be contacted through email at folklife@maine.edu.

Albright Lecture to Require Early Arrival

Oct, 7, 1999

Media Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Due to the normal security procedures related to the Oct. 13 University of Maine appearance by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and U.S. Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen, all 1,600 people entering the Maine Center for the Arts to attend the event will pass through metal detectors and are encouraged to arrive early. The lecture, the second installment in UMaine's William S. Cohen Lecture Series, is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.; doors will open at 7:30.

Those attending the event will not be allowed to carry backpacks, nor will the use of cameras or recording devices be permitted. The lecture will feature an address by Albright and introductory remarks by Cohen.

"We have been overwhelmed by the positive public response to this event," says UMaine Public Affairs Director John Diamond, co-chair of the lecture planning committee. "As with any event of this magnitude, we have a few unusual issues to manage, but will make every effort to make the experience as convenient and enjoyable as possible."

The event will be broadcast live around the state on Maine Public Television.

Lakes and Streams Taking Time to Recover from Acid Rain

October 7, 1999

Media contact: [Nick Houtman](#), Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Scientific contact: [Steve Kahl](#), Water Research Institute, 207-581-3286

ORONO, Maine Lakes and streams in Maine and other parts of North America are taking more time than expected to recover from the effects of acid rain, according to reports published this week in the journal *Nature* and issued by the Water Research Institute (WRI) at the University of Maine. Nevertheless, according to Steve Kahl, resident of Old Town and director of the WRI, some signs already point to a modest recovery.

Kahl is a co-author of the paper in *Nature*, "Regional trends in aquatic recovery from acidification in North America and Europe 1980-95." He is a primary author of the WRI draft report to the EPA, "Recent trends and aquatic effects related to acidic deposition in Maine."

Scientists define recovery of a lake as the return to pre-industrial levels of acidity and other chemicals which counteract acidity. So-called "acid neutralizing capacity" is an indicator of a lake's chemical health. It results from the natural weathering of rocks and soils.

The paper in *Nature* compares recovery in 205 lakes and streams in five regions of North America and three in Europe. The authors conclude that while recovery is occurring in Europe, four of the five North American regions have not yet shown strong signs of returning to pre-industrial conditions. It is possible, they add, that the supply of acid neutralizing chemicals in rocks and soils has been depleted by decades of acids in precipitation.

Kahl concludes that some Maine surface waters have actually continued to acidify in the past decade despite a decline in sulfuric acid in precipitation. The sulfuric acid trend is an intended goal of the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 passed under the leadership of then Senate majority leader George Mitchell of Maine. Nevertheless, several factors have so far prevented the expected recovery in lake acidity.

Those factors include variations in climate; continuing elevated levels of nitrogen compounds, such as nitric acid, in precipitation; declines in acid neutralizing capacity in watersheds; increases in naturally occurring dissolved organic acids; the short duration of data collection relative to the watershed processes that influence acidity.

Some signs in Maine point to a modest recovery, says Kahl. They include reduced levels of aluminum in lakes that are sensitive to acid rain and slight increases in acid neutralizing capacity in sensitive lakes.

Elevated acidity has been shown in laboratory and field experiments to have negative biological effects such as reduced fish spawning and toxicity to aquatic organisms from increases in dissolved aluminum.

Maine Women in Agriculture Conference in Waterville

October 7, 1999

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

Or Vivianne Holmes, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1458

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine Women's Agricultural Network (WAgN) and University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Auburn office, are co-sponsoring a Women in Agriculture Risk Management Conference on November 18 at the Holiday Inn in Waterville. While the intended audience is women in agriculture, all farmers and people in agricultural businesses are welcome.

Linda Smith-Dyer, deputy commissioner for Maine Department of Agriculture, will give the welcoming address. Other presenters include farmers and agricultural specialists.

During this all day conference, farmers and owners of agricultural-based businesses will learn more about production, marketing, financial, legal, and human resource risks faced by farmers in their day-to-day decisions.

"Cutbacks in U.S. farm program benefits and changes in the world economy have left New England farmers facing high costs of production and low commodity prices," says Vivianne Holmes, Cooperative Extension. "Changes in the economy, new technology and biotechnology, urbanization of farm land, globalization, changing tax structure, and general changes in the policy environment all add to the complexity and risk of farming."

The meeting is co-sponsored by the Agriculture Risk Management Agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Pre-registration is due by November 5. The cost is \$5 (\$10 at the door) and covers a handbook and lunch. Individuals can contact the Cooperative Extension office in Auburn for registration forms at 1-800-287-1458.

UMaine Scientists Publish Details of West Antarctica Ice Sheet Collapse in the Journal Science

October 7, 1999

Media Contact: [Nick Houtman](#), Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777 ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine scientists with expertise in glacial geology and computer science are co-authors of two articles published in the journal Science this week. The articles reveal new details about collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) and suggest that complete disintegration may be inevitable.

Brenda Hall and George Denton of the Dept. of Geological Sciences are co-authors of "Past and Future Grounding-Line Retreat of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet." Harold Borns, Jr., also of Geological Sciences, and James Fastook, Dept. of Computer Science, are co-authors of "Measurements of Past Ice Sheet Elevations in Interior West Antarctica." All are members of the Institute for Quaternary Studies at UMaine.

The WAIS has been thinning and retreating since the height of the last Ice Age about 13,000 years ago. It sits on land below sea level and covers about 360,000 square miles, more than three times the size of New England and New York state combined. Complete collapse is estimated to take about 7,000 years at the present rate of ice retreat. The WAIS contains enough ice to raise sea levels 15 to 20 feet.

The analysis by Hall, Denton and colleagues at the University of Washington concludes that present-day retreat of the WAIS was set in motion by events at the end of the last ice age and is likely to continue. They base their work on examination of ice flows and radio-carbon dates from sea floor sediments.

The lead author is Howard Conway, a University of Washington research associate professor of geophysics, and two other co-authors are Edwin Waddington and Anthony Gades, also of UW.

The article by Borns, Fastook and their colleagues combines glacial geologic evidence from Mount Waesche, an Antarctic volcano, with the results of a computer model of the ice sheet to get a better picture of how the thickness of the WAIS has shrunk since the end of the Ice Age. They conclude that the ice sheet has shrunk at least 45 meters (146 feet) and as much as 85 meters (276 feet) from its highest level on the side of the volcano about 9,000 years ago.

The lead author is Robert P. Ackert, Jr. of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). Other co-authors are Mark D. Kurz of WHOI; David J. Barclay of the State University of New York at Cortland; Parker E. Calkin of the University of Colorado; and Eric J. Steig of the University of Pennsylvania.

Research for both reports was supported by grants from the National Science Foundation.

Science is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Canada Week Events Scheduled at UMaine

October 8, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO --International Week at the University of Maine is a time when the campus community celebrates world cultures. One of the cultures featured is Maine's closest international neighbor.

Canada Week events take place at UMaine from Nov. 2 to Nov. 5. The week's activities begin with a Canadian Studies luncheon talk by the 1999 Canadian Studies Distinguished Lecturer, Marc Boucher.

Boucher is the U.S. National Affairs Director for the Quebec government. His talk, "Quebec and Canada: Nation-Building in the North?" is on Nov. 2 from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge of the Maine Center for the Arts. Please call Betsy Arntzen at 581-4225 if you plan to attend this lecture.

Prior to his current posting, Boucher spent two years as director of the Quebec Government Office in Atlanta. He has served as director of the office in northwestern Europe, as well as director of offices in central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Before entering international affairs, Boucher taught at the University of Maine, where he was the assistant director of the Canadian-American Center.

Food historian Sandra Oliver will speak on the history and importance of food to Maine and the Maritimes on Nov. 4. Oliver is the author of "Saltwater Foodways," an analysis of coastal New England's culinary, maritime and social history.

Oliver will present "Down East Food: Its Historical Importance" from 1-1:45 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge. A presentation on "Maritime Mincemeat" follows at the Page Farm and Home Museum from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

That afternoon, in the Bodwell Lounge, K-12 teachers are invited to attend a Canada-in-the-Classroom after-school workshop on "Researching Canada." School librarian Kristin McIntire and 6th grade teacher Bob Chaplin from the Connors-Emerson School in Bar Harbor will present the results of their work developing a sixth-grade unit that focuses students on learning and practicing research skills rather than mere information gathering. This workshop is free and CEU's are available.

On Nov. 5, author and poet George Elliott Clarke will give a reading and lead a discussion about his poetry from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Writing Center, 402 Neville Hall.

Clarke currently teaches African-American literature at Duke University. He was raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia and attended college at the University of Waterloo, Dalhousie and Queen's University. Clarke has studied black literature in many world cultures, but gives special attention to his regional Nova Scotia. His books include "Fire on the Water" and "Saltwater Spirituals and Deeper Blues."

The week's events are sponsored by the Canadian-American Center at the University of Maine. Co-sponsors for event include the American Association of University Women: Penobscot Branch, with support from the Maine Humanities Council, the English department and the Maine Folklife Center. All events are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

Schedule of events:

Tuesday, November 2

"Quebec and Canada: Nation-Building in the North?"

Canadian Studies Luncheon Distinguished Lecturer

Mark Boucher, U.S. National Affairs director for the Quebec government

12 noon - 1:30 p.m.
Bodwell Lounge, Maine Center for the Arts

Wednesday, November 3

Presentations by UMaine faculty and graduate student Canadianists Canadian Lecture Series Brown Bag Lunch
12 noon - 1:30 p.m.
Bodwell Lounge, Maine Center for the Arts

Thursday, November 4

"Acadians in Maine" Lecture
Don Cyr, adjunct faculty at UMPI and director of the Maine Acadian Culture Project
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Page Farm and Home Museum

Maritime Luncheon
All invited, reservations required
\$10/person - RSVP to dining@maine.edu by Nov. 1
12 noon - 1 p.m.
Bodwell Lounge, Maine Center for the Arts

"Downeast Food: Its Historical Importance"
Sandra Oliver, food historian and author of "Saltwater Foodways"
1:00 - 1:45 p.m.
Bodwell Lounge, Maine Center for the Arts

"Maritime Mincemeat"
Presentation and demonstration
Sandra Oliver, food historian and author of "Saltwater Foodways"
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Page Farm and Home Museum

"Researching Canada" - a pilot middle school program
Canada-in-the-Classroom After School Workshop for K-12 teachers
Kristin McIntire; Bob Chaplin, Connors-Emerson School, Bar Harbor
3:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Bodwell Lounge, Maine Center for the Arts

Friday, November 5

"Songs, Stories and the Island Community"
Storytelling and Song session
Sandy Ives, retired director of the Maine Folklife Center and friends from Prince Edward Island
12 noon - 1:30 p.m.
Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union.

Poetry reading and discussion
George Elliot Clarke, poet, editor, playwright
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
The Writing Center, 404 Neville Hall

[illegible]

Lecture to Address Controversial Art

October 8, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The recent opening of an exhibit in New York City has raised a lively debate about the role of controversial or shocking art in our society. A visiting lecturer at the University of Maine will speak on effectively teaching about this type of art in educational settings.

"Teaching Controversial Art" is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Oct. 21 in 206 Rogers Hall. Art educator William Wightman will present an overview of historically significant controversial imagery, an analysis of student written responses and pedagogical strategies for productive, meaningful and sensitive inclusion of controversial art in undergraduate non-art major curriculum.

Currently, Wightman teaches art methods, art survey for non-art majors and histories of contemporary art and art of women at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado. For the past decade, he has been researching classroom talk in the presence of controversial art imagery, analysis of art instruction by teachers and has tried to develop a methodology to assess instructional practices.

This talk is sponsored by the Department of Art, the Elizabeth Graves Fine Arts Fund, the Cultural Affairs Committee, the Arthur R. Lord Trust, the Class of 1934 Fund and Patrons of the Arts.

1999 Maryann Hartman Award Recipients Named

Oct. 11, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- Maine women with strong records of public service will be recognized for their achievements at the 14th Maryann Hartman Awards ceremony at the University of Maine on Nov. 4.

This year, the three women who will be honored are: Donna Loring, for her representation of the Penobscot nation and her work with Maine women veterans; Glenna Smith, for her lifetime of teaching and publishing and her leadership of elders in Northern Maine; and Esperanza Stancioff, for her grassroots environmental activism for the Gulf of Maine.

The ceremony, which is sponsored by the UMaine Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Programs, will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Nov. 4 in Wells Conference Center. Admission is free.

The Maryann Hartman Awards were created in 1986 to celebrate the contributions of Maine women locally and nationally in a wide range of endeavors. The award is named after Dr. Maryann Hartman, a former associate professor of speech communication and distinguished educator, feminist, scholar and humanist who died in 1980.

Profiles of the three award recipients:

Donna M. Loring of Richmond has spent over twenty years working and advocating for Maine Indian communities at a tribal, state and federal level. She serves as the Penobscot Nation's representative to the Maine State Legislature and the Coordinator of Tribal, State and International Relations. This past March she was commissioned as Aide de Camp by Governor King -- becoming the second woman to hold that position. A Vietnam War veteran, she chairs the Legislature's Advisory Commission on Women Veterans. She is a member of the executive committee of ALANA, a grassroots organization that works to enhance opportunities for people of color in Maine, and a member of the University of Maine System's Diversity Task Force. She is also involved in creating economic development opportunities for Maine people of color through ALANA collaborations with Vietnam and South Africa.

Esperanza J. Stancioff is a water quality biologist and director of the Clean Water Program of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. She has made significant contributions to statewide environmental stewardship and marine education. Under her leadership, a model program of grassroots citizen involvement in pollution monitoring and prevention was created. Stancioff has overseen the organizational and technical development of water quality, phytoplankton and marine habitat programs in northern New England. She has also authored and produced important documentaries, field guides and training materials to promote understanding and concern for the marine environment. Stancioff's work will have a lasting impact on the management and preservation of the state's important cultural resources.

Born in Ashland, and later moving to Presque Isle where she taught at the high school for over 40 years, Glenna Smith has always encouraged students to trust in their own creativity. Involved in drama at PIHS, after retirement she wrote six plays. Two of these plays achieved recognition throughout New England. Becoming published only after the age of 65, her poetry has appeared in "Maine Speaks." She occasionally writes for "Yankee Magazine." Smith's column, "The Old Country Woman," regularly appears in "Echoes," a northern Maine journal. She teaches life-writing skills through the local Elderhostel program. Smith has also been a board member of the Aroostook Agency on Aging, and helped to organize a Senior Achieving Greater Education (SAGE) program at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. In 1999, she received an honorary degree from UMPI, and an Exemplary Older Person Award from the Maine Department of Human Services.

Girls Sought for Nutrition Study

October 11, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A nutritionist at the University of Maine is seeking adolescent girls in the Bangor area to participate in a three-year study of calcium intake and bone mineralization. Susan Sullivan, assistant professor in the University of Maine Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, and Dr. Clifford Rosen, a specialist in osteoporosis at St. Joseph's Hospital, are conducting the study to determine how diet and the accumulation of calcium in bones vary between winter and summer.

Previous research indicates that girls accumulate calcium in rapidly growing bones between the ages of 10 and 14, says Sullivan. "Up to half of the bone mass in females is achieved during those years. After that growth of bone mass levels off dramatically," Sullivan says.

Rosen has conducted research with elderly women and found that a loss of calcium in bones accelerates during the winter months. In the upcoming study, volunteers will receive an analysis of their diets relative to the latest nutritional standards. Twice a year, they will fill out questionnaires on diet, health and physical activity and have a simple blood test and measurement of bone density. They will receive \$50 for each set of tests.

The study is tentatively scheduled to start in March, 2000. The objectives of the study are to document seasonal bone growth and changes in density as well as intake of calcium and vitamin D, which aids calcium absorption.

To be eligible, participants need to be between the ages of 9 and a half and ten and a half years old. They cannot take supplements, smoke, have an eating disorder or be planning winter vacations for longer than one week.

Individuals can contact Sullivan at (207) 581-3130.

The Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/20000126054605/http://kramer.ume.maine.edu:80/~paff...>

Albright/Cohen Lecture at UMaine Live on Internet

Oct, 12, 1999

Media Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Wednesday's University of Maine lecture by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, with introductory remarks by U.S. Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen, will be available live on the World Wide Web.

The address is <http://www.ume.maine.edu/ced/live/>

This will be UMaine's second William S. Cohen Lecture, part of a series established within the University's William S. Cohen Center for Public Policy and Commerce. The center was established within UMaine's College of Business, Public Policy and Health in 1997. Cohen, a former faculty member in the College, donated his collection of papers chronicling his 24-year Congressional career to UMaine's Fogler Library at the time the center was established.

Wednesday's lecture begins at 9 a.m. in the sold-out Maine Center for the Arts. It is expected to last approximately 90 minutes.

The Web broadcast is being managed and arranged by the staff of UMaine's Continuing Education Division, a unit within the University's Division of Lifelong Learning.

The event will also be broadcast live around the state on Maine Public Television.

Public Invited to UMaine Lecture on Cloning

October 12, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to the bi-annual Staples Lecture in Biochemistry at the University of Maine. Kathleen R. Foltz, a molecular biologist at the University of California, Santa Barbara, will give a presentation on How Dolly Came to Be: A Historical Perspective on Cloning.

Her talk will be given in room 102, Murray Hall at 9 a.m., October 21.

She will also give a research seminar at 3 p.m. October 20 in the same location. Her topic will be Signaling Mechanisms During Egg Activation.

Foltz conducts research on the chain of molecular events started by the union of a sperm cell and an egg. She uses the red sea urchin as a model system for her work. Her goal is to describe the biochemical pathways leading from binding of egg and sperm cells to the early stages of embryo development.

Foltz received her Ph.D. from Purdue University and has worked at UCSB since 1992. She received a Presidential Faculty Fellowship from the National Science Foundation in 1995 and has been recognized with awards for her teaching and research.

The Staples Lecture is made possible annually by a gift from Basil Staples, a graduate of UMaine's Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Molecular Biology, and his wife Jeanette. Basil Staples holds several patents as a result of his work with the Eastman Kodak Company of Rochester, New York.

Teacher Workshop Offered During Canada Week

October 15, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Canadian-American Center at the University of Maine offers educators an opportunity to learn new ways of taking Canada into classrooms across the state.

"Visiting Canada" a Canada-in-the-Classroom Afterschool workshop, will be held on Nov. 4 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge, on the second floor of the Maine Center for the Arts.

School librarian Kristin McIntire and 6th grade teacher Bob Chaplin from the Connors-Emerson School in Bar Harbor will present the results of their work developing a sixth-grade unit that focuses students on learning and practicing research skills rather than mere information gathering.

The workshop is free, and CEU credits are available. For more information or to register, contact Betsy Arntzen, outreach coordinator at the Canadian-American Center at 581-4225 or email at barntzen@umit.maine.edu.

UMaine and MBNA Announce New Education Center for Belfast

New Facility to be Named for Former UMaine President Hutchinson

Oct. 15, 1999

Media Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

BELFAST, MAINE -- The University of Maine announced today that it will establish a new education center in Belfast to provide opportunities to pursue a college education, professional development, lifelong learning, community education, and cultural programming for the citizens of the midcoast region.

MBNA, through its MBNA Education Foundation, is providing the building and land for the new center, which will be located on Route 3 in Belfast, contiguous with MBNA's Northeastern Regional headquarters. UMaine will provide the faculty and will manage the facility under a lease agreement with MBNA. The new facility will be called The University of Maine Hutchinson Center of Belfast, named in honor of former UMaine President Frederick E. Hutchinson.

"Expanding UMaine's presence in the midcoast region is consistent with the University's statewide teaching, research, and outreach mission," explains University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff. "The Hutchinson Center will enable the University to become more deeply and productively involved with the midcoast community, and will serve as a valuable educational, cultural, and community resource."

"As an employer, MBNA has encouraged and supported educational and professional development opportunities for the men and women it employs," Hoff continues. "Among its many benefits, the Hutchinson Center will expand those opportunities for the citizens and communities of the midcoast region."

Construction plans for the new 19,500-square foot building will be submitted for approval to the City of Belfast within two weeks. MBNA expects to complete the project in the summer of 2000. Preliminary plans call for the facility to include eight classrooms, a 124-seat auditorium, and a state-of-the-art telecommunications system.

Hoff says that UMaine expects to begin offering degree and non-degree courses in Belfast at the Hutchinson Center starting in September 2000. Many of the courses offered at the Hutchinson Center will award credit towards baccalaureate and graduate degrees. In addition, UMaine will offer non-credit courses designed to provide professional development or personal enrichment.

Initial course offerings are expected to include pre-MBA and MBA courses, liberal arts, social and behavioral sciences, education and other courses related to general education and specific degree requirements, as well as courses offered through distance technologies.

Furthermore, a Hutchinson Center Advisory Board will be created to work with the university to identify and respond to the region's community needs and interests. Along with the center's educational components, the university will coordinate a wide variety of outreach programs, such as special exhibits of the university's museums; regional, state and national conferences; musical and theatrical performances; Cooperative Extension programs and events; and special faculty and guest lectures.

Hoff says the type of collaboration between the university and outside entities exemplified by the Hutchinson Center project is becoming a more common aspect of UMaine's engagement with the people and communities of Maine.

"More and more, the University of Maine is entering into partnerships to fulfill our mission as Maine's flagship university," Hoff explains. "Examples of such partnerships are evident across the state -- in our work with K-12 education; through research and development projects underwritten by the state and federal governments and by

the private sector; and in our work with Maine's forestry, agriculture, and marine industries, helping them grow, develop, and maintain their competitiveness."

Hoff adds that the new partnership with MBNA is mutually beneficial.

"It provides us with the facilities we need to provide new learning and cultural opportunities for the people of midcoast Maine, allowing us to help further promote education and the development of a strong and vibrant community," he explains. "I see MBNA's commitment to this project as yet another way it is demonstrating support and gratitude to midcoast Maine, a region whose citizens have become so important and meaningful to MBNA's success."

MBNA officials cite the positive working relationship with UMaine and its students and graduates as a major reason for deciding to donate and support the Hutchinson Center.

"Over a seven-year period, MBNA's relationship with the University of Maine has expanded across a broad spectrum, including academics, an endorsed credit card program with the university's alumni association, cultural affairs, and recruiting," said Shane Flynn, vice chairman and chief executive officer of MBNA Marketing Systems. "This new center not only expands a terrific university but will help to provide a better educated workforce, which is good for business and the community."

MBNA currently employs more than 350 University of Maine graduates and students, he notes.

According to Flynn, MBNA's support for the new Hutchinson Center extends the company's commitment to education in Maine. Through the MBNA Education Foundation, Maine students have been awarded nearly \$2.5 million in scholarships to attend colleges and universities in the state. Another \$2.2 million in grants have been awarded to schools in the state to fund innovative education programs.

MBNA Corporation, a bank holding company and parent of MBNA American, N.A., a national bank, has more than \$67 billion in managed loans. MBNA, the largest independent credit card lender in the world, also provides retail deposit, consumer loan, and insurance products.

Located in Orono, the University of Maine is the flagship university of the seven-member University of Maine System. Among Maine's 15 public universities, colleges, and academies, UMaine awards approximately 43 percent of all four-year degrees, 64 percent of all master's degrees, and 100 percent of all Ph.D.s and Ed.D.s. UMaine has a student population of approximately 9,700, including nearly 600 students from Knox and Waldo counties. Seventy-seven UMaine employees and approximately 3,000 alumni reside in the two counties.

Maine Bound to Hold Equipment Sale

October 18, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Maine Bound, the university's outdoor and adventure program, will hold a outdoor and equipment sale on Oct. 23.

The consignment sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the canoe barn, located in the parking lot across from the Maine Center for the Arts. There will be canoes, kayaks, bikes, packs, wetsuits, tents and other equipment available for purchase.

Articles to be sold can be registered at the canoe barn on Oct. 22 from 3 to 9 p.m. or Oct. 23 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. No firearms will be accepted.

Maine Bound is the outdoor program of the University of Maine. The adventure programs offered by Maine Bound provide opportunities for people to develop and excel in their personal outdoors and adventure skills. The university-based leadership program teaches students how to instruct and guide others in a professional, state-of-the-art manner that maximizes learning while minimizing risks.

Public Invited to Archeology Week Lectures

October 18, 1999

Contact: [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The accomplishments of recent research on Maine's pre-European people and an ongoing archeological dig along the Maine coast will be discussed during two public presentations at the University of Maine on Saturday, October 23. Both talks will be held in room 107, Donald P. Corbett Business Building.

At 1p.m., David Sanger, UMaine professor of anthropology will discuss The Archaeology of Pre-European Maine: Accomplishments and Future Directions. At 2 p.m., Alaric Faulkner, UMaine professor of anthropology, and David F. Klinge, graduate student in history, will discuss Trading at the Acadian Frontier: New Discoveries at the Richard Foxwell House 1633-1636.

"A hundred years of research in Maine has provided a basic framework for human presence since about 11,000 years ago, shortly after the end of the last Ice Age," says Sanger. "Although we have a general picture, a review of available evidence will show we have much to learn about the pre-European time period before we can construct a detailed history.

"Some of the conclusions reached through archaeology may be controversial today, challenging as they do generally accepted wisdom and traditional knowledge. With time and more research they may be altered or dismissed. Through slides of local excavations and artifact collections, some of the highlights are illustrated, together with some suggestions for future research."

The Foxwell House project, under the direction of Alaric Faulkner, historical archaeologist in the Department of Anthropology, has identified the trading house and dwelling of Richard Foxwell, an early trader from Dorchester, Massachusetts, who relocated to the St. George River in Cushing, Maine in the early 1630s. It is one of the earliest 17th century European sites yet excavated in Maine.

Shakespeare's "The Tempest" Promises Classic Adventure

October 18, 1999

Media Contact: [Misty Edgecomb](#) at 581-3745

ORONO, Maine -- Tom Mikotowicz stashes groceries in his University of Maine office. Of course, the nonperishables on his shelves seem far less odd when you consider that the theater professor has spent practically every evening since the semester began in Hauck Auditorium, directing university students in a performance of William Shakespeare's "The Tempest," so the show will be ready for its Oct. 22 opening.

"I think the trick with any of Shakespeare's plays is to make them come alive," Mikotowicz says. "The fact that it's not a contemporary, realistic play and that they have to learn a classical style makes it challenging, even intimidating to some students."

And "The Tempest," one of Shakespeare's highly regarded, but less frequently performed later works, has a complex, philosophical plot that cannot be pigeonholed into tragedy or comedy. "Plays are not simple things," Mikotowicz says. "That's what's nice about a masterpiece like 'The Tempest.' You can't possibly learn everything in it just by reading it."

"The Tempest" is deeply thoughtful, with a plot that revolves around the internal and external conflicts of a curious character ensemble including a sorcerer and nobleman (Prospero), a poetic man-beast (Caliban), and an indentured spirit (Ariel).

"Really, the interplay between the civilized and the wild is the heart of the play," Mikotowicz says. "The play has so many ideas in it - and it does it all on an enchanted island with lots of magic," he says.

Though Mikotowicz has hoped to direct "The Tempest" for decades, when he reviewed the piece this summer, he was surprised by its parallels to themes in today's popular entertainment, particularly fantasy-adventure computer games called "Myst" and "Riven." So on the eve of the millennium, Mikotowicz, costume designer Jane Snider and set designer David Adkins incorporated the ideas of technology and science fiction into Shakespeare's 17th century work. What if the fantastic occurrences that visitors to the island interpret as magic were actually a form of improvised technology its inhabitants have developed?, Mikotowicz asks.

Adkins designed a formidable revolving set that recreates a prison-island from "Riven." Rocky cliffs that seem to be an immense petrified tree trunk are topped by a crude tower and backed by a screen of vegetation. Ancient elemental symbols glow from the peak of Prospero's tower, visible from each of three sections of the enchanted island that appear in turn as the huge turnstile revolves, Adkins says.

Snider took her inspiration from the 19th century science fiction of H.G. Wells and Jules Verne, dressing the storm-tossed mortal characters - sailors and noblemen - in old-world formality imbued with some futuristic elements. But for Caliban and Ariel, Snider's welcome task is to create magic. "They get to be something otherworldly," she said. Caliban uses a great deal of sea imagery and so he developed into a half-man, half-fish inspired by Verne's fishes, a leatherback turtle and a ray, she said. Ariel, an "electric spirit" seems to be pure energy, patterned with human nerves and glowing with a blue luminescence. "When Ariel hides, we'll be aware of her presence," Snider says.

Mikotowicz continues the media theme in his direction by encouraging his actors to bring out the conflict, the inconsistencies of characters' natures. Caliban is portrayed as the savage, yet he speaks in higher language than any other character, he says.

Prospero continuously battles between intellect and raw emotion. "The constant question is, 'Will he do the right thing?'," Mikotowicz says. But the good and evil; the romance, comedy and suspense of "The Tempest," is classic Shakespeare, he says. "All theater is really an adventure game," Mikotowicz says.

"The Tempest" will be performed as a part of the Maine Center for the Arts' classical series, Friday, Oct. 22, Saturday, Oct. 23, Friday, Oct. 29 and Saturday, Oct. 30 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 24, Saturday, Oct. 30 and Sunday, Oct. 31 at 2:00 p.m.. Admission to Hauck Auditorium for "The Tempest" will cost \$8.

Volunteers Sought for Study of Panic Disorder and Asthma

October 18, 1999

Contact: [Nick Houtman](#), Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Diana Dorhofer, Dept. of Psychology, 207-581-2031

ORONO, Maine -- Middle aged women who suffer from asthma, panic disorder or both are being sought as volunteers in a study at the University of Maine. Diana Dorhofer, a graduate student in the Department of Psychology, is planning to conduct a study of potential connections between the two conditions this fall.

Volunteers will be paid \$15 for their participation in the study which is expected to take two to three hours of time for each individual who qualifies. Dorhofer will interview volunteers and have them fill out questionnaires. They will then participate in three activities to determine their reactions to various situations. Dorhofer will also measure each volunteer's lung function.

"Previous studies have shown that people with asthma are much more likely to also have panic disorder," she says. "I'm focusing on psychological factors that are correlated with both."

About one to two percent of the population has panic disorder, a condition which can cause the sudden onset of fear, shortness of breath, increased heart rate and perspiration. Between seven and 24 percent of asthma sufferers also have panic disorder.

Dorhofer is working in collaboration with Sandra Sigmon, associate professor of psychology. All activities will be carried out in Little Hall on the UMaine campus.

Individuals can contact Dorhofer at 581-2031.

Camden Conference Comes to UMaine

October 19, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- University of Maine students enrolled in a web-based course will attend this weekend's Camden Technology Conference without leaving the campus.

Through broadcast technology, students will participate in the "Pop!Tech: Popular Culture in the Digital Age" conference at the Soderberg Center for Distance Education in Jenness Hall. The conference will be held Oct. 22 - 24 at the Camden Opera House. Speakers for the conference include Gov. Angus King, Noel Paul Stookey from the folk group Peter, Paul and Mary and MIT Professor Henry Jenkins, an expert on popular culture and what it means to a society.

The conference will focus on the question of popular culture and the tension that exists between its messages and the messages given by established institutions such as the government and religion.

The conference broadcast is part of a web-based course, "Pop!Tech: Popular Culture and the New Technologies," sponsored by the UMaine Continuing Education Division and taught by Kenneth Nichols, assistant professor of public administration; Welch Everman, professor of English and Judy Hakola, lecturer in English.

Hudson Museum Events to Focus on Mexican Art

October 19, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine has its sights set on Mexico this fall as it presents a number of programs related to "Images for Eternity," an exhibit of tomb artifacts and spiritual paintings.

The Museum will sponsor a teacher workshop on "The Arts of Mexico" on Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. In this workshop, Hudson Museum staff will show how the artifacts of a civilization can teach about that culture's people, beliefs and daily lives.

Irene Jackson, education specialist at the Hudson Museum and Randy Fein, ceramic artist, will lead the workshop. Educators will receive a curator's tour of the exhibit, and will participate in separate focus sessions for upper elementary, middle school and high school teachers on how to integrate the exhibit into their curricula. Fein will present a hands-on project that will explore the connections between creativity, culture and meaning.

On Nov. 1, Gloria Frasier Giffords will give a lecture entitled "Holy Faces for Holy Spaces: Popular Mexican Religious Paintings of the 19th Century." In her talk, Giffords will focus on the creation, meaning and cultural significance of retablos, paintings on tin panels of saints and miraculous events. She will also explore the Day of the Dead and its relationship to the production of retablos and other religious imagery.

These events are based upon "Images for Eternity: West Mexican Tomb Figures and Retablos," an exhibit consisting of 50 West Mexican ceramics, dating from about 200 B.C. to A.D. 500. The ceramics are drawn from the Hudson Museum's own William P. Palmer III Collection. The exhibit also features 30 retablos, painted during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The exhibit is located in the temporary exhibit areas on the first floor of the Museum and on the ramp panels that go from the first to the third level. Stephen Whittington, director of the Hudson Museum and David Shoemaker, a Ph.D. candidate in the department of Art, are the exhibit curators.

Kennebec Watershed Schools Testing Water Quality Oct. 22

October 20, 1999

Media Contact: [Nick Houtman](#), Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Program Contact: [Mary Ann McGarry](#), Water Research Institute, 207-581-3107 (W), 207-827-4582 (H)

ORONO, Maine -- There is more to flowing water than meets the eye. On Friday, October 22, teachers and students along the Kennebec River will find that out by testing water quality from Bath to Moosehead Lake.

They are gathering a snapshot of the watershed by collecting water samples concurrently on one day and sending the samples to the Water Research Institute at the University of Maine for analysis. Students will study the data and use them in projects that meet state education standards in math, science, and social studies. Students will learn about pH, chlorine, phosphorus, nitrate, and other chemical concentrations along the river.

The Testing The Waters project won the Governor's environmental excellence award in 1999 and is coordinated by Mary Ann McGarry of the UMaine Water Research Institute and College of Education.

Twenty one teachers and their students are participating in the project sponsored by the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Water Research Institute.

"The Testing The Waters project teaches students to become environmental stewards of their natural resources and enables them to integrate real data into the classroom," says McGarry.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES AND SCHOOL CONTACTS:

Hyde School in Bath, 9:00 a.m., Christina Rimelspach, 443-7165 Lawrence High School at Mill Island Pond in Fairfield, 1:15 p.m., Susanne DeMott, 453-4209

Hall Dale High School at Vaughn Brook (Kennebec Tributary), 1:00 p.m., Richard Tosch, 622-6211

Embden and Solon Schools, 11:00 a.m., Lesa Weggler and Donalie Burbank, 566-7302 and 643-2491, respectively

Good Will Hinckley, 9:10-9:50 and 10:40-11:30, Janet Mauga, 453-2540 Gardner High School, mid-morning, David Felch, 582-3150

Valley High School, Bingham, before 11:30, Kathleen Chase, 672-3300

Salmon Genetics at Heart of Endangered Species Listing Debate; Maine Sea Grant Project Seeks to Provide Scientific Answers Using DNA Studies

October 20, 1999

Contact: [Ben Sherman](#), Sea Grant National Media Relations, (O) 202-662-7095

ORONO, Maine -- Irv Kornfield, a Sea Grant research scientist and professor of zoology at the University of Maine, knows he is on the hot-seat. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are proposing a plan to place eight river runs of North Atlantic salmon in Maine on the Endangered Species List. The listing would supplant an existing voluntary state of Maine conservation plan with federal regulations.

Whether that happens may depend, in part, on what Kornfield and his scientific team find in a newly funded \$100,000 NOAA Maine-New Hampshire Sea Grant research project that will seek to answer the fundamental question, "Are there truly any 'wild' salmon in Maine rivers?"

Kornfield will undertake a two-year study to help define the genetic distinctiveness of salmon in the rivers of federal concern: the Narraguagus, Pleasant, Machias, East Machias and Dennys in Washington County; the Sheepscot and Ducktrap rivers in mid-coast region; and the Cove Brook, a tributary of the Penobscot River, below Bangor.

What Kornfield will find is uncertain. "We don't have any idea of how it will turn out - it could be either way. We certainly recognize that a great deal will be resting on this study. The answer, in part, lies on how one views the longtime program of using hatchery raised salmon to stock Maine's rivers," says Kornfield.

According to Lewis Flagg, Deputy Commissioner of the Maine Department of Marine Resources, stock enhancement has a long history in Maine. Flagg says that, between 1871 and 1995, 96 million North Atlantic salmon of hatchery origin have been placed in Maine rivers. He welcomes Kornfield's study saying, "I think the project is an excellent one in that it will shed light on a good deal of misinformation, and help eliminate some of the uncertainties about the North Atlantic salmon that are part of this discussion."

Kornfield is a nationally-recognized expert in using DNA genetic markers to determine how much genetic variation passes from one generation to the next and the population sizes needed to maintain that diversity. Among his work are studies to determine genetic differences between wild and farm-raised salmon and where genetically pure salmon reside in Maine.

The problem, Kornfield explains, is that "the fish that formed the base of hatchery brood stock for the rivers in question came from Maine's Penobscot River. The genetic stock from those fish now has been distributed, through the stocking program, throughout the regions' population of salmon. All rivers now contain genetic material in their salmon that initially came from one river, the Penobscot."

Maine officials recognized that problem in the early 1990s, and since 1992 have established a "river specific" stocking program, using only descendants of fish taken from each river. Kornfield says that is a step in the right direction, but points out that a local stock may not be truly "native" due to earlier non-river specific stocking. His goal will be to create a family tree of those salmon.

"Given that the original Penobscot River fish have not been genetically studied in detail as a source population, it is difficult to evaluate genetic information from around the state in an objective manner without going back in time to trace the genetic lines," says Kornfield.

To do that Kornfield must first do a detailed genetic DNA analysis of the Penobscot River salmon, something that has not been done. That genetic characterization, of the Penobscot River salmon, will be then bench marked

in its genetic strands against a population of North Atlantic salmon in Newfoundland which has not been subject to hatchery stocking and should be a true "wild" stock.

One of the ways Kornfield establishes genetic benchmarks is through the use of dried fish scales that may be archived by various agencies or available from trophy mounted fish. To Kornfield, the scales are like dusty unread books in an old library waiting for new readers to discover their contents. Using DNA technology Kornfield can "read" the DNA sequences from the old scales and compare them to sequences taken from recent generations. The result indicates how much genetic variation passes from one generation to the next.

Once those benchmarks have been established, Kornfield, using computer modeling of stock reproduction, should be able to do a series of simulations, based on random fishery samples, to see if he can produce the patterns of genetic divergence that are now observed in each of the eight rivers' salmon.

"If we find that the same patterns emerge then we can demonstrate that the smaller river salmon are in fact derivatives of the stocked fish from the Penobscot," says Kornfield. "If the patterns do not match what we are now seeing in genetic sampling, then we will indeed have distinct strains of wild fish in these rivers."

The study will be conducted over a two-year period, but Kornfield hopes his lab will have preliminary trend results by next summer.

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Young Writers to be Recognized

Contact: [Kay Hyatt](#) at (207) 581-2761

ORONO - Young writers will be highlighted during the joint conference of the Maine Writing Project and the Maine Council on English/Language Arts taking place Oct. 22-23 at the University of Maine.

Students from this summer's first Young Authors' Camp gather for a reunion meeting and receive anthologies of their work from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Wells Conference Center. The public is invited to share in the activities and enjoy musical entertainment by the Maine-based eclectic band Evergreen from 8-9 p.m., also in Wells. More than 80 third through 12 graders participated in the camp, conducted as a public service by Maine Writing Project Fellows.

Also on Friday evening, Maine teachers of English/Languarts will honor the state's four high school students who have been recognized by the National Council of Teachers of English for Achievement in Writing. Each year, high school all over the country are invited to nominate a limited number (based on school size) to compete for the award. In the spring, the nominated students write for about 90 minutes on an impromptu topic, which changes year to year, according to Patricia Burns, state coordinator of the project and professor of English at UMaine.

Recieving the awards will be Tristan J. Dewdney, Skowegan Area High School; Burt Helm, Waterville High School; Anne L. Murphy, Mt. Ararat High School; and Rebecca K Givner-Forbes, Falmouth High School.

The students will be recognized just after the convention banquet Friday evening; each will read briefly from his or her work. Also recongized will be students nominated by their teachers for the achievement awards: Ian Ausprey, Washington Academy; Jamie Brandi, Gray-New Glouster High School; Robin McCarthy, Waterville High School; Erica Mullen, Catherine McCauley High School; Marlana M. Solebello, Mt. Ararat High School; and Corinne R. Weiner, Gray-New Glouster High School.

Winter Parking Rules to Take Effect at UMaine

Oct. 22, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine's winter overnight parking ban will be in effect from November 1, 1999 through May 1, 2000, according to the UMaine Department of Public Safety.

All faculty, staff and commuter parking areas are closed to overnight parking during this period every year. No vehicles may be parked in these lots between midnight and 6:00 A.M.

Those with questions should either consult a parking map or call the parking office at 581-4047 or the Public Safety dispatcher at 581-4040.

Vehicles parked in violation of the ban will be towed at the owner's expense.

Ancient Cultures of Mexico and Central America to be Focus of UMaine Conference

October 25, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Ancient cultures of Central America and Mexico will be the focus of research presentations by graduate students and faculty from universities throughout New England and New York at the Northeast Mesoamerican Conference, Oct. 30-31, on the University of Maine campus.

The Northeast Mesoamerican Conference is co-chaired at UMaine by Steve Whittington, director of the Hudson Museum, and David Shoemaker, an Individualized Ph.D. student in Latin American art history. Registration is \$25; \$20 for students.

Presentations will range from technical reports on Maya writing to general surveys of topics such as body modification in Mesoamerican cultures. Scholars, students and members of the public with an interest in Mesoamerican civilizations are expected to attend.

This is the first time the annual Northeast Mesoamerican Conference has come to UMaine. Last year it was held at Boston University. The conference will include a meeting of the Northeast Mesoamerican Epigraphy Group, where Whittington will make a presentation on Mesoamerican writing on artifacts in the Hudson Museum.

The conference, like other regional meetings held at UMaine in recent years, provides opportunities to let scholars outside Maine gain first-hand knowledge of the Palmer Collection, an important resource for archaeological research found in the Hudson Museum. Call Steve Whittington, 581-1906 for more information about the conference.

Among the presentations and presenters Oct. 30 are:

"Shell Symbolism at Teotihuacán," by Marilyn Goldstein, Long Island University.

"Invoking the Ancestors on the Path to War: Semasiography of Huastec Shell Pendants," by Javier Urcid, Brandeis University.

"The Syllabic Value of Mayan T77 as k'i," by David Mora-Marin, SUNY-Albany.

"Olmecs and Their Predecessors in Honduras," by John Henderson, Cornell University.

"Archaeology and Mapping at the Maya Site of Ma'ax Na in Northwestern Belize," by Leslie Shaw, Bowdoin College, and Eleanor King, University of Pennsylvania.

"Aztec Ceramics in the Codices and Their Archaeological Implications," by Jennifer Wharton, SUNY-Albany.

"La Preciosa Sangre: Religious and Visual Syncretism in a Zapotec Fiesta," by Katerina Ailova, Brandeis University.

"The Ethnographic Representation of 'in Ko'olel Maya,'" by Lizette Alvarado, University of Buffalo.

"Casas Grandes Ceramics and the Pochteca Mode," by M. Patricia Lee, CUNY.

"Holy Penetration! Tattooing, Piercing, and Sacrificion in Ancient Mesoamerica," by Christine Whittington, UMaine.

"The University of Maine's Greatest Legacy: The William P. Palmer III Collection as a Resource for Mesoamerican Research," by Stephen Whittington, UMaine.

"Retracing El Mapa de Teozacoalco: Research in Progress," by David Shoemaker, UMaine.

Extension 2000 Garden Calendar Available

October 25, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Native plants for home gardeners and landscapers are featured in the 2000 North Country Garden Calendar published by University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The calendar is illustrated by Jean Ploff, a master gardener from Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

The pen and pencil illustrations show different native plants and trees that can attract wildlife, provide shelter and add color, texture and form to the landscape.

Single copies are \$5 each and can be ordered from Gale Jameson, UMaine Cooperative Extension, 1-800-870-7270 (in Maine only) or 207-581-2953. Ordering information is also available via the Internet at <http://www.umext.maine.edu/news/ncgcalendar.htm>.

New Signs Posted at UMaine Fields on Bennoch Road, Park Street

October 25, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine is requesting that citizens who use UMaine farm fields to reach trails and other areas not drive vehicles across crop lands. In addition, people who desire access to farm fields at Rogers Farm along the west side of Bennoch Road will need written permission from the farm manager.

According to Steve Reiling, director of the Maine Agricultural Center, some damage has occurred from vehicles traveling across the fields. "The university has a tradition of being open," says Reiling, "but we also need to protect the work that our students and faculty are doing. We'll be posting signs at the fields along Park St. and Bennoch Road."

Citizens who need written permission to the Rogers Farm fields can contact Glenn Dickey, farm manager, 581-2793.

Haunted Hay Ride, Fall Harvest Festival at Witter Farm

October 26, 1999

Contact: [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to a Fall Harvest Festival at the Witter Teaching and Research Farm on the UMaine campus on Saturday, October 30. Games and animal demonstrations will be held throughout the day, and haunted hay rides will be offered from 6 to 9 p.m.

A pet parade will be begin at noon, and a dog agility demonstration will follow at 1 p.m. There will be a pumpkin judging contest at 2 p.m. and milking demonstrations at 3 p.m. The public can bring pets and pumpkins to participate in the events.

The Maine Animal Club will offer refreshments including apple cider and hot chocolate.

The Witter Farm is located off College Avenue in Old Town. Compost produced at the farm will also be for sale during the day.

Panel to Discuss East-West Highway

October 26, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The idea of an east-west highway across the state is not new, but in recent weeks it has received much attention following the release of a report by the Department of Transportation.

That report concluded that it would make more sense for the state to upgrade two-lane roads than build a new four-lane highway. A panel at the University of Maine will discuss this report and other issues related to the east-west highway debate on Nov. 3. The forum will be held as part of Canada Week events from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge on the second floor of the Maine Center for the Arts.

Panelists for the session are Timothy Woodcock, president of Maine Citizens for Increased Jobs and Safety; Charlie Colgan of the Muskie Center at the University of Southern Maine and Edward Farren, department of intergovernmental affairs for the City of Saint John in New Brunswick. Richard Mueller, assistant professor of economics and Canadian Studies, will moderate the discussion.

"Part of the mandate for the Canadian American Center is to increase awareness of Canadian issues for people in Maine," says Mueller. "This issue certainly has the potential to bolster economic relations and increase trade. The question we need to ask, though, is it worth it when compared to the cost of construction?"

Mueller says each of the three panelists will have 10 minutes to outline arguments for or against the highway before questions are taken from the audience.

The event is sponsored by the Canadian-American Center at the University of Maine and is free and open to the public.

UMaine Faculty, Graduate Students to Speak on Canadian Research

October 26, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine has a number of faculty members and graduate students engaged in research related to Canada. Some of these researchers will present summaries of their work on Nov. 3 at the Canadian Lecture Series.

This brown bag luncheon lecture will be held from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at the Bodwell Lounge on the second floor of the Maine Center for the Arts. This event is part of Canada Week at the University of Maine, and co-sponsored by the Association of Graduate Researchers in Canadian Studies.

Three presentations, covering diverse topics, will be given. Micah Pauling, a Ph.D. student in history, will speak on "Natives and the Border." Robert McLaughlin, Ph.D. student in history, will give a talk on "Irish-Americans and Irish-Canadians in the struggle for Irish independence 1912-1925." David Sanger, professor of anthropology, will give his presentation on "The Lobster Wars in the Maritimes."

The Association of Graduate Researchers in Canadian Studies is an interdisciplinary graduate student club designed to promote Canadian Studies to UMaine and to the public at large. Membership is made up of degree-seeking graduate students of Canadian heritage or students engaged in research in Canadian topics.

For more information, contact [Robert McLaughlin](#) at the Canadian American Center at 581-4220.

Forest Thinning Conference Slated for Augusta

October 27, 1999

Media contact: [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO -- Professional foresters, landowners, loggers, and scientists will assemble in Augusta Nov. 15-16 to discuss issues related to commercial and pre-commercial thinning of trees in the Maine woods. The meeting is sponsored by the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU) at the University of Maine and the UMaine Office of Professional Development.

Presentations will be given on topics such as the principles used to plan thinning operations, types of harvesting equipment, influence on wood quality, and effects on wildlife. Speakers will come from UMaine, J.D. Irving, Plum Creek, Seven Islands, and U.S. Forest Service. Several speakers from Canada and Europe also will share their experiences.

The meeting is scheduled to start at the Augusta Civic Center at 8:30 a.m. Nov. 15 with a dinner that evening. It concludes at 3:50 p.m. Nov. 16. Registration information is available from the Office of Professional Development, 207-581-2896.

UMaine Committee Suggests New Hitchner Hall Renovation Plan; Proposal Would Spare Elm Tree

Oct. 27, 1999

Media Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- An alternative plan for renovating and adding biotechnology laboratory space to the University of Maine's Hitchner Hall has been submitted to University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff.

If accepted by Hoff, the plan would allow for construction of new research space without requiring the removal of a landmark elm tree on the UMaine campus.

The new plan, which was created in consultation with architects and UMaine Facilities Management staff members, has been approved by a campus review committee and forwarded to Hoff for his approval. The action was outlined in a letter from Hoff to the campus community delivered Wednesday.

The ad hoc committee proposal proposes combining the original Hitchner Hall expansion project with a separate construction project being developed that would construct a new building to house UMaine's Food Science and Human Nutrition department. The new plan calls for constructing both projects, which are being funded by a combination state and federal funds, as a completely redesigned addition to the current Hitchner structure.

Under the plan, most of the addition would be built on the northwesterly side of Hitchner, sparing a 130- to 160-year-old elm tree that was saved from Dutch Elm Disease through the groundbreaking research work of UMaine Professor Richard Campana some 25 years ago.

While cost estimates are tentative, the architects involved are confident that the combined project can be completed within the same cost estimates as the original plan for two separate construction projects.

In his letter to the campus community, Hoff says he believes the new plan is workable.

"The revised plan for expanding Hitchner Hall strikes me as a reasonable and sensible response to the valid concerns raised on campus during the past few weeks. I am grateful for the work and cooperation of all who have contributed to resolving the issue," Hoff wrote.

The new proposal has been presented to the University Facilities Planning Committee, which is made up of faculty, staff and students. Hoff has asked that members of the campus community who wish to register input on this proposal do so through his executive assistant, [Scott Anchors](#). Hoff plans to make a final decision on whether to accept the proposal within two weeks.

An architect's rendering of the proposed new addition is available at the University of Web site at <http://www.ume.maine.edu/~paffairs/hitchner.html>

Bangor Area Residents Receive Engineering Awards

October 28, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine College of Engineering has bestowed its highest honor, the 1999 Distinguished Engineering Award, on Fritz K. A. Petersohn of Boston, Massachusetts. In 1978, Petersohn created the Survey Engineering Program at UMaine. Eventually, the program grew into a department dedicated to the teaching and development of geographic information systems, a new computer based industry.

Petersohn also founded and was former chairman of a Boston, firm, BSC Group, Inc. He is acknowledged in the United States and Europe for his innovations in land information management systems.

The award was made in a ceremony on the UMaine campus Oct. 15. In other awards, Kate Beard of Bangor received the Ashley S. Campbell Award for her dedication to teaching and her research on geographic information systems. While maintaining a heavy teaching load, Beard conducts research on topics such as digital libraries, data quality, uncertainty in spatial data and visualization.

Kathleen Hornsby of Orono received the Graduate Research Assistant Award for her innovative work on aspects of geographic information systems theory. She has contributed to projects such as a GIS Wallboard, a system designed with a wall-sized display screen, and conducted research on elements of change. Her work has been presented at a highly competitive international conference and accepted for publication in a flagship journal in GIS research.

F. Marty Ytreberg of Argyle was awarded the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. As a teaching assistant in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ytreberg has earned consistent praise from students for his class preparation, clear explanations and knowledge of his subject.

The College awarded the Leila C. Lowell Award to two individuals, Bruce Littlefield of Jackson and Andrew Sheaff of Orono, for their contributions to engineering. Littlefield and Sheaff jointly organized and conducted a non-credit course on Unix System Administration for the campus computing community.

Eric Landis of Orono received the Early Career Research Award for his studies on the microstructural properties of construction materials. He has applied powerful technologies such as x-ray microtomography to the analysis of fractures in concrete. He also leads research on fracture mechanics at the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center.

Hudson Museum Celebrates Day of the Dead

October 28, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The end of October in the United States is a time to buy candy, plan Halloween costumes and prepare for an evening trek around the neighborhood with bag in hand.

Families in Mexico are also preparing for a holiday, although one of a much different type. In Mexico, fall is a time to remember deceased family members and invite them back for a celebration known as the Day of the Dead.

The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine is exploring the spirituality of Mexico with its exhibit "Images for Eternity: Mexican Tomb Figures and Retablos." Stephen Whittington, director of the Hudson Museum, and David Shoemaker, a Ph.D. candidate in art history, curated the exhibit.

The exhibit is located on the first floor and ramp panels of the museum. At the bottom of the ramp is a representation of a home altar found in many homes in Mexico, and a part of the house that takes on special significance around the Day of the Dead, which is normally celebrated on November 1 and 2.

"It's an altar that would be erected in an average family home with various degrees of complexity, depending on the family's economic condition and taste," says Shoemaker, who studies Latin American art and culture. "On the Day of the Dead, this altar would take on a focus for the dead ancestors or relatives of the family."

On this day, family members put items on the altar that meant something to the deceased. Favorite foods, photographs or toys are most common.

"Generally, specific traditions vary from community to community and among ethnic groups," says Shoemaker. Deceased children are remembered on Nov. 1 and adults on Nov. 2.

"On the second, the celebration moves into the cemetery. The graves of relatives are decorated and a feast is prepared. It turns into a party of eating and drinking. It's a very family oriented affair, where the spirits of the deceased are invited to take part," says Shoemaker. "This is a very religious, spiritual type of celebration. Looking at the retablos in the Hudson Museum, you get an idea of the spirituality of that culture."

Retablos are paintings on tin with religious themes. Often they are pictures related to the Holy Family or miraculous intervention by a particular saint. Similar pictures known as ex-votos are normally commissioned by a family member following a healing from illness or similar event as an offering of gratitude.

"These retablos are generally displayed in the home altar," says Shoemaker. "In the latter half of the 20th century, though, they have become popular as folk art and are collected."

In the text for the exhibit, Shoemaker challenges those who attend the Museum to consider the art based on its intended purpose and context.

"In the culture of Latin America, spirituality is a more integral part of everyday life and is represented through the visual arts," he says. "Art plays a major role in Latino spirituality that is lost here in the United States."

In addition to the retablos, the exhibit features an exhibit consisting of 50 West Mexican ceramics, dating from about 200 B.C. to A.D. 500. The ceramics are drawn from the Hudson Museum's own William P. Palmer III Collection.

"The Hudson Museum's Mesoamerican collection is certainly one of the largest in the United States," says Shoemaker. "The collection is a good educational tool to introduce pre-Hispanic culture to Maine."

New Research Instrument Sniffs Airborne Chemical Compounds

October 28, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A new laboratory instrument that sniffs chemical compounds in the air will play a role in food science research at the University of Maine. Researchers will use it to study antioxidants in blueberries, cranberries and other foods and to test a new method for preserving the freshness of fish products.

Mary Ellen Camire, associate professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, and her students are searching for natural antioxidants that can be added to food products to retard spoilage and protect flavor. They are also planning to determine if the benefit of eating foods high in antioxidants can be detected in human blood plasma.

Antioxidants, including vitamin C and other compounds in fruits and vegetables, are thought to protect health by mopping up radicals, compounds that are linked to cancer and heart disease. They also retard fat oxidation, a process also caused by free radicals.

Denise Skonberg, assistant professor in the department, and Barbara Gillman, Master's student, are evaluating the use of chitosan, a natural anti-microbial compound, to improve quality of haddock and salmon. Seafood loses freshness through the oxidation of fats, says Skonberg, but bacteria present on the fish also contribute to a decrease in quality and increase in "fishy" decomposition odors.

The UMaine research instrument is being purchased with support from a \$27,029 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It consists of three separate devices: a gas chromatograph, a head space analyzer and a computer. As a single unit, they analyze the gases that collect in a space just above a sample of food and display the results on the computer's screen.

"When you analyze food, you get all kinds of other results that complicate the analyses," says Camire. "This new instrument will give us much cleaner data. It opens up all kinds of doors for other research as well." For example, Camire explains, researchers can analyze food samples, such as cooking oils or meats, for the presence of hexanal, an indicator of fat oxidation. They can then add an anti-oxidant to the food and see if it affects the amount or timing of hexanal released.

Using the new instrument, UMaine researchers will be able to expand their research to new food products. They are also planning to monitor human blood plasma in people who have eaten foods rich in antioxidants.

The instrument will be installed in a laboratory on the second floor of Holmes Hall. It is expected to be in operation this winter.

Rabies Fact Sheet Available Through Cooperative Extension

October 28, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A new fact sheet about rabies, which has been spreading recently from southern into central Maine, is available from county offices of University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

The fact sheet answers questions about the nature of the disease, how it is spread and how to tell if an animal is rabid. It also offers advice about preventing people and household pets from contracting rabies or getting exposed to rabid animals.

The fact sheet includes contact information for local and state officials who can respond to incidents or answer questions.

UMaine Visiting Professor Examines Managed Care

October 28, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- When Congress debates the issue of health management organizations (HMOs, the dialogue has focused primarily on the question of how much power the patient is given over his or her treatment.

A visiting professor to the University of Maine will explore the larger picture of HMOs and other forms of managed health care at a lecture on Nov. 9 entitled "Is Managed Care Manageable?"

King Davis, visiting Libra professor to the College of Business, Public Policy and Health, will give the address from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Soderberg Lecture Hall, located in Jenness Hall.

Davis has been professor of public mental health policy and planning at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work since 1984. Previous to that appointment, Davis served as the Galt Visiting Scholar at that school, where he was responsible for developing and implementing collaborative education models between public universities and the Virginia Department of Mental Health. Davis is also a former commissioner of the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. As commissioner, he held responsibility for executive leadership and management of a statewide behavioral health care system comprised of 15 hospitals and 40 community service agencies.

He has written and published a number of books, articles and reports in mental health, managed care and delivery of services to African-American families and youth and was recently invited to participate in the 1999 White House Conference on Mental Health.

Pioneer Journalist Dorothy Gilliam at UMaine Nov. 15-17; Conversation on Diversity to Highlight Visit

Nov. 1, 1999

Media Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Washington Post journalist Dorothy Butler Gilliam, a University of Maine Librarian Professor, will be on campus for a series of activities and presentations related to journalism and diversity later this month, including a conversation on "Diversity-Promise, Process and Product" on Wednesday evening, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. in UMaine's Minsky Recital Hall.

The Nov. 17 event will feature Gilliam and UMaine faculty members from a variety of subject areas discussing topics through which Gilliam will show Maine audiences the promise of diversity by allowing them the privilege of looking into her own life and work of more than 30 years as a journalist with The Washington Post, overlapping more than 20 years as a founding director of the California-based Institute for Journalism Education, which trains hundreds of African American, Asian American, Hispanic and Native American reporters, editors and managers and places them in newsrooms across the United States.

Gilliam says that her life and work took wings between two revolutions: civil rights for African Americans and liberation for women.

"As one of the first African American women to break into the predominantly white male-controlled media," Gilliam wrote in 1997, "I knew firsthand the importance of hiring and promoting more minorities and women.

"Newsrooms that do not reflect America's diversity do their readers an injustice," Gilliam wrote. "They fail to tell the stories of all of its citizens, they give readers a distorted image of themselves and they grossly twist the reality of minority groups."

Gilliam's background reflects her interests in teaching, socially conscious thought and public service. She has been chair of the board of directors of the Robert Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, is former president of the 3,000-member National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ); a fellow at the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; and at the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center at Columbia University, studying racial diversity in the American media.

She has taught journalism at Howard University and the American University in Washington, D.C., and at Rhodes University in Cape Town, South Africa, as part of a Knight International Press Fellowship. Gilliam earned a master's degree at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and has received numerous professional awards.

Gilliam's three days at UMaine will include a variety of classroom visits and meetings with small groups of UMaine students, faculty and staff. Her other public presentation will be a talk on "Diversity: A Pioneer Journalist Reflects on its Peril and Promise," a Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies program presentation at 12:15 on Nov. 16 in Memorial Union's Bangor Lounge; she will also speak at a private reception on Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. in Wells Conference Center. Gilliam's visit is being coordinated by Carolyn Bennett of the UMaine Communication and Journalism faculty.

News organizations interested in a complete schedule of Dorothy Gilliam's visit to UMaine should contact Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571.

"Biodiversity in the Forests of Maine" Published by UMaine Cooperative Extension

November 5, 1999

Media Contact: [Nick Houtman](#), Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Publication Contact: Tracy Nelson, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-2892

ORONO, Maine -- A new publication, Biodiversity in the Forests of Maine: Guidelines for Land Management, is available to the public from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The book stems from the work of the Maine Forest Biodiversity Project, a collaborative effort among scientists, landowners, government agencies, industry and public interest groups.

The authors are Gro Flatbo of Ash Cove Consulting; Carol R. Foss, a consulting biologist; and Steven K. Pelletier of Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. Catherine Elliott of Extension is the editor.

The publication provides an overview of the issue, key concepts and management guidelines for individual sites and forested landscapes. It also describes specific ecosystems such riparian zones, deer wintering areas and old-growth forests.

Recommended forest management practices are described for each ecosystem, and a list of additional references is included.

The book can be ordered from Tracy Nelson, Cooperative Extension, 5755 Nutting Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5755, phone 207-581-2892. The cost is \$25 per book and \$22 each for orders of 10 or more.

Coaching Education Center Honors Sports Medicine Pioneer

Nov. 5, 1999

Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine Center for Coaching Education has honored retired Colby College educator and athletic trainer Carl E. Nelson of Waterville for his outstanding contributions to the promotion and practice of sports medicine in Maine. A pioneer in the care and prevention of athletic injuries, Nelson is the 1999 recipient of the Robert J. Lahey Sports Medicine Award.

Maine Center for Coaching Education Director Keith Lancaster presented the award to Nelson at the recent annual fall conference of the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association, held in Augusta. The award recognized Nelson for his long and extensive work with Maine high schools and communities and his dedication to the health, safety and welfare of young athletes. The professor of physical education emeritus and head athletic trainer and director of health services at Colby, retired in 1993.

Nelson's contributions to Maine sports medicine are unparalleled, and his reputation as a skilled and caring trainer is legend in Maine and international in scope, Lancaster noted in his presentation. When Nelson came to Colby as head athletic trainer in 1959, he was one of only three such qualified individuals in the state. In addition to his work at Colby, he was always on call to help injured high school athletes and to provide advice and training for hundreds of Maine coaches and other school personnel.

Among his work at the Olympic level, Nelson served as head athletic trainer at the 1972 and 1976 games in Japan and Austria, and as clinic supervisor for the Lake Placid Organizing Committee at the 1980 winter games. He was named to the National Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame in 1986.

In Maine, esteem for Nelson has been demonstrated with recognition such as the Waterville Hockey Committee's Dedication to Youth award and the Waterville Elks' Outstanding Citizen award. The Carl E. Nelson athletic training and therapy facility at Colby College is named in his honor at the request of major donors Harold and Bibby Alfond.

"Carl epitomizes all the attributes of a true educator," says Lancaster. "The greatest award amassed during his distinguished career is making a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of young athletes and his own students."

The Maine Center for Coaching Education provides leadership for the professional development of coaches statewide, resources for sports leaders and parents, and public forums on timely issues in sports. A collaborative effort of the University of Maine, the Maine Interscholastic Athletics Administrators' Association and the Maine Principals' Association, the Center is located within the College of Education and Human Development at UMaine.

UMaine to Host Unique Holiday Event

November 5, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at (207)581-3756

ORONO -- The artistry of local Native American culture will be on display as the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine hosts the Maine Indian Basketmakers Sale and Demonstration on Dec. 11.

Micmac, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot basketmakers will sell their hand-made, one-of-a-kind ash splint and sweet grass basketry. In addition, carvings, jewelry, birchbark work and other crafts will be sold.

A food drive is being held this year for the Fiddlehead Food Pantry, which provides food for First Nation people in the Wabanaki regions. Please bring non-perishable foods to the sale for collection.

This year, the sale expands to include a new event. In the afternoon, people are invited to bring their Maine Indian antiques for appraisal. Bobby Ann Packwood, American native arts and antiques appraiser, will examine baskets, rootclubs, birchbark work and beadwork for verbal identification and value. Maine Indian basketmakers and artists will assist with identifications. The cost is \$3 per object, with a limit of 5 objects per person.

The sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hudson Museum. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 that will allow shoppers to begin browsing at 9 a.m., before the crowds.

Children are welcome to participate in creative activities between 11 a.m. and noon. Workshops on making bookmarks and sweetgrass angels will be held. These workshops are for children ages 8 and up, and cost \$10 per participant. Group size is limited to 15. Call 581-1901 to register.

The Hudson Museum is located in the Maine Center for the Arts on the UMaine campus. Admission to the sale is free; some activities will have fees. The event is supported by the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance.

Schedule of Events

9 - 10 a.m.

Early Bird Shopping

\$5 admission fee for this special shopping opportunity

10 a.m.

Opening Welcome

Theresa Secord Hoffman, Penobscot, executive director Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance

10:15 - 11 a.m.

Brown Ash pounding and workbasket demonstration by Eldon Hanning, Micmac

10:30 - 11 a.m.

Flute music by David Sanipass, Micmac

11 a.m. - 12 noon

Children's activities

-Brown Ash and sweetgrass bookmark workshop with Theresa Secord Hoffman, Penobscot

-Sweetgrass angel workshop with Ruth Johnson, Penobscot

Pre-registration required. \$10 per child for one activity. Group size limited to 15. Ages 8 and up. Call 581-1901 to register.

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Indian Island Café

Traditional foods prepared by S.C. Francis and Cheryl Francis, Penobscots

Bodwell Lounge

1 - 1:30 p.m.

Passamaquoddy storytelling by David Moses Bridges, Passamaquoddy

1:30 - 2 p.m.

Performance by Penobscot drum group

2 - 3 p.m.

Maine Indian antique verbal appraisals and identifications. \$3 per object, limit of 5 objects per person.

Food Laboratory Open House Set This Friday

November 9, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Blueberry meatballs and other refreshments will be served during an open house 2:00-4:30 p.m., Nov. 12, at the new food sensory evaluation laboratory in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at the University of Maine.

The laboratory is located on the second floor of Holmes Hall and was developed with research and development funding from the state legislature. In addition to kitchen facilities for the preparation of food samples, it includes a computerized testing system for consumers to record their reactions to the taste, appearance, texture and other features of novel foods.

Among products that have been tested and developed in collaboration with food processors at UMaine are frozen lobster, potato snacks, dried blueberries and a salmon sausage.

UMaine Professor Emeritus Inspires Art Award

November 9, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- The name Vincent A. Hartgen is already considered synonymous with the arts by anyone familiar with his career as a painter, professor and proponent of the visual arts in Maine. The prestigious artist and professor emeritus of the Department of Art will now be honored with the creation of an award in his name by the University of Maine Patrons of the Arts.

The Vincent A. Hartgen Award will be given to people who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the arts at the University of Maine. A ceremony to announce the award will be held on Dec. 4 in the Wells Conference Center. Each spring, the Patrons will solicit nominees for the award, which will be given in the fall.

"We wanted to encourage the arts on campus and we wanted to recognize those who have done extraordinary work in the field," says Leonard Minsky, chair of the Patrons of the Arts. "The Patrons are quite excited and enthusiastic about this award."

Hartgen is one of the founders of the Patrons of the Arts, a group that encourages and supports undergraduate student involvement in all the arts. The Patrons also support outreach programs by UMaine students to grades 1-12 locally and regionally that expose the primary and secondary education students to the benefits of a lifetime of arts participation.

Hartgen and then UMaine president Lloyd Elliot started the group in 1963.

"Many people have been exposed though the arts through his adult education courses," says Minsky.

Wally Mason, director of the UMaine Museum of Art, says the traveling art exhibitions that were begun by Hartgen are still sent to schools around the state.

"Hartgen wanted to take art out of a gallery and put it into the community and into the schools," says Mason. "His work continues, and we now reach around 15,000 people a year with those shows."

Hartgen came to the University of Maine in 1946, recruited by then UMaine President Arthur Hauck, to build an art department. A month after arriving, Hartgen began spreading the word that UMaine was seeking to develop an art collection. He also created the first art education program for UMaine student teachers.

"When he came here in 1946, there was no art program and very little art on campus," says Michael Lewis, UMaine professor of art. "When he arrived, he taught all of the academic courses, established the curriculum and established the program. He would always go out of his way to make sure that art was shared with the widest number of people possible. The amount of energy he brought to these tasks was unbelievable."

Lewis says that Hartgen made a point of raising the consciousness around campus about the importance of having art in buildings and offices.

"He went around putting art into every conceivable space - offices, the Hauck Auditorium lobby, and others," says Lewis. "Wherever he found space, he would manage to hang art."

At the same time he was putting together an art program at UMaine, Hartgen continued to establish himself as a premier artist through exhibitions of his work.

In 1947, Hartgen's first New York solo exhibition was opened at the George Binet Gallery in 1947. From 1952-55, Hartgen served as trustee of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Liberty and Deer Isle. At UMaine, Hartgen was appointed to the John Homer Huddilston Professorship of Art Chair in 1962. Last year, at the request of the Maine Senate President, Hartgen had a large, one-person show, A Maine Artist, exhibited in the Senate offices, and this year, his show Impressions of Kathadin, is in the Hinckley School Art Museum.

Hartgen is the recipient of a number of awards, including the University of Maine Alumni Association's Black Bear Award, the UMaine Distinguished Professor Award, the Arts and the Humanities Governor's Art Award. In 1987, he was made a UMaine Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts.

"His art is tremendously appreciated and respected by his students and the public," says Lewis. "I can't think of anyone more deserving of the honor he's being given. He's done so much for the arts in the state of Maine that he certainly deserves this kind of recognition."

Student Composers to Perform Original Compositions

November 10, 1999

Media Contact: [Misty Edgecomb](#) at 581-3721

ORONO, Maine -- Three student composers under the tutelage of University of Maine music professor and composer Beth Wiemann, will perform their original works Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall.

Senior music performance majors Juro Kojs, Joelle Kam Leavitt and Brian Cook completed Wiemann's composition course last spring, then spent this semester rehearsing in their free time so they could present the pieces of music for their family and friends.

Wiemann's course, which introduces students to the techniques of capturing their ideas in a piece of music, is the sole composition class to be offered at the University of Maine in several years, and she believes the scheduled concert is the first of its kind.

Wiemann hopes to offer the course regularly to give performers a new perspective on the music they're interpreting. Performers benefit from composition because they learn a greater appreciation for the composer's direction as they perform a piece of music, she says.

Cook, a pianist and percussionist, will perform several jazz pieces he wrote for piano, "Megeve," "A Little Bit Belated," and "If I Could." Leavitt, a soprano, will perform three songs, and Wiemann will perform a selection from each student on her clarinet; Kojs's "A Corde Doppie," Cook's "Mumps," and Leavitt's "Some Have Fins." Other selections will combine the talents of the four musicians.

We have a variety of pieces scheduled, Wiemann says. You'll hear everything from things that we consider to be experimental classical music to jazz, she says.

UMaine Student Radio Station Collecting Food for Charitable Donation

Nov. 10, 1999

Media Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The student staff of WMEB-FM (91.9) at the University of Maine is conducting a non-perishable food drive, aimed at helping area families in need at Thanksgiving.

Those interested in contributing are invited to stop by the WMEB studio, located on the first floor of the East Annex building on campus.

For each item contributed, the donor will be entered into a raffle with the winner getting the opportunity to watch from the bench when the Maine Black Bears hockey team plays Quinnipiac on Dec. 12 at Alford Arena. The winner's name will be drawn live on the air between 9 and 11 p.m. on Nov. 17. Because of NCAA regulations, high school students are not eligible to win the prize.

The drive began last month; WMEB station manager Brian Demoree reports that approximately 30 items have been received. The food will be donated to the Emmaus Center Homeless Shelter.

UMaine Students, Faculty Join Forces for Chamber Music Event

November 10, 1999

Media Contact: [Misty Edgecomb](#) at 581-3721

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine faculty and students will come together for an evening of chamber music that will include performances by at least seven ensemble groups, directed by Diane Roscetti, director of the School of Performing Arts and Instructor in Music Ginger Yang Hwalek, November 30 at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall.

Several of the ensembles grew from a chamber music course taught by Yang Hwalek, while others combine students and faculty in extracurricular groups that promote musical exploration.

An unusual string quintet with two cellos will perform Franz Schubert's "String Quintet," one of few pieces that has been written for such an ensemble. Robert Schumann and George Frideric Handel will be among the composers selected by other groups. Ensembles include two piano-violin quartets, one with cello and the other with double bass, and a sax quintet. Also appearing: sax quintet, flute ensemble and brass ensemble.

"Le Stagioni," a traditional string quartet made up of talented graduate students who came to study at UMaine through a program called Operation Harmony, will also perform.

UMaine Symphonic Band Plays Host to Mt. Ararat Musicians

November 10, 1999

Media Contact: [Misty Edgecomb](#) at 581-3721

ORONO, Maine -- The Mt. Ararat Wind Ensemble will be the special guests of the UMaine Symphonic Band Thursday, Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m., Hutchins Concert Hall. Mt. Ararat is the third high school to send a group of talented young artists to UMaine to perform with the Symphonic Band. Old Town and Noble high schools shared the stage with UMaine artists in previous years.

The Symphonic Band is directed by Curvin Farnham, associate professor of music. The program includes a circus march by Karl King, "Robinson's Grand Entree March", and "Fantasy Variations," and theme-and-variation piece composed by James Barnes for the U.S. Marine Band.

Selections of English folk music drawn from a piece by Percy Grainger, "Lincolnshire Posy," will be directed by Shianne Wheeler, a UMaine graduate student and instrumental music instructor for Old Town elementary students. "Watchman, Tell Us of The Night," Mark Camphouse's adaptation of the classic Thanksgiving hymn, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" will pay tribute to the season.

"The Ascensions" by Robert W. Smith, a tension-filled piece from his suite named for Dante's "The Divine Comedy" ends the program. Smith dedicated the emotionally-charged 1996 piece to the survivors of child abuse, Farnham says.

University Singers to Premiere Weimann Composition

November 10, 1999

Media Contact: [Misty Edgecomb](#) at 581-3721

ORONO, Maine -- The premiere of "The Open Air," and original composition on the works of New Hampshire poet Alice Fogel, written by Assistant Professor of Music Beth Wiemann, will highlight the Sunday, Nov. 21 concert of the 60-member University Singers. Three movements in the work, "Winter," "What to Say," and "What Birds Hear," explore New England's changing landscape.

The Singers, directed by Professor of Music Dennis Cox, will also perform several sections of the Third Mass of Franz Joseph Haydn, with solos by students Beth Marshall and Susan Smith, and faculty members Francis Vogt and Lud Hallman. A Renaissance piece called "Alma Redemptoris Mater," by Palestrina will complete the classical performance.

For lighter fare, the Singers will offer a set of love songs and several spirituals. "We try to reflect many traditions, so that no matter who's in the audience, there's something for everyone," Cox says.

The concert will begin at 2 p.m., Minsky Recital Hall.

Reception to Celebrate Maine Agricultural Center

Nov. 15, 1999

Media contact: [Nick Houtman](#), Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Program contact: Charlene Herrick, 800-648-0597

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine Agricultural Center (MAC) will host a reception from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. November 18 at the Wells Conference Center on the University of Maine campus. Remarks will be given by dignitaries including Steve Reiling, director of the MAC, and Robert W. Spear, Maine Commissioner of Agriculture. Media representatives are welcome to attend.

Center was established to provide a coordinated approach to research and public service for the agricultural community. Faculty and staff affiliated with the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension collaborate on projects through the Agricultural Center.

"The Maine Agricultural Center is one of the many ways in which we acknowledge the importance of agriculture to our state and serve the needs of agriculture. The Center will enhance communication between the University and the agricultural community," said University of Maine President Peter Hoff.

For directions to the Wells Conference Center or a parking pass, contact Charlene Herrick at the MAC, 1-800-648-0597.

Orono Resident Recognized for Gulf of Maine Poster

Nov. 16, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Joseph Kelley of Orono, a professor in the University of Maine Department of Geological Sciences and School of Marine Sciences (SMS), and Robert Steneck of Whitefield, also in SMS, have been recognized by the Maine Public Relations Council for their work on a Gulf of Maine poster.

They collaborated with Paul Dest of the Maine Coastal Program to produce a poster, "Undersea Landscapes of the Gulf of Maine," that demonstrates the beauty and variety of the Gulf's underwater topography. The poster has been distributed to schools, libraries and other organizations.

The Council bestowed a 1999 Golden Arrow Award on the poster as an outstanding example of communications.

Aroostook County Nutrition Aide Receives Top National Cooperative Extension Award

November 17, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension nutrition aide Christine Finemore of Bridgewater has won a national award from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences for her nutrition work with Aroostook County residents and migrant farm families. Only one national award, the Paraprofessional of the Year Award, is made to an Extension paraprofessional staff member annually.

Finemore and her husband H. M. Cates Finemore II recently traveled to a meeting of the Association in Greensboro, North Carolina, to receive her award.

Since 1992, Finemore has taught basic nutrition such as different types of foods, where food comes from, what food does for our bodies and how to eat well-balanced meals. As a result, families gain knowledge of food safety, nutrition labels, making healthy food choices and stretching their food dollars.

She works with adults and children in private homes, day care centers, schools and the East Coast Migrant Head Start Program in Caribou. She is the only Aroostook County nutrition aide working with migrant workers and their families, many of them from Mexico.

"It's a population with which I feel I can make a big difference," she says. "Without this programming, I'm not sure they get nutrition education. It's gotten so, as summer approaches, I can't wait to see the children again."

She also writes a bilingual nutrition newsletter and offers workshops in Spanish with the help of an interpreter.

Finemore's efforts reached a milestone last summer when a group of children, many of whom she had taught as infants, requested that she teach them more about cooking so that they could apply their new nutrition information. "Last summer was the best in the program because we saw a huge difference in the school-age children's knowledge of nutrition," she says. "They came to me with their needs to learn more. It is a clear indication that (the programming) is working."

Finemore is the daughter of Chester and Arline Akerson of Perham. She and her husband have two children, Katie, 11, and Louis, 14.

Forestry Students Celebrate Season With Tree Sale

November 17, 1999

Media Contact: [Misty Edgecomb](#) at 581-3721

ORONO, Maine -- Students from Xi Sigma Pi, the University of Maine's forestry and wildlife honor society, will begin their annual holiday tree sale the first weekend in December.

Trees will be on display in front of Nutting Hall, Friday, Dec. 3 from noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Beginning Monday, December 6, trees will be available each weekday from 2:30-4 p.m., until all the trees are have been sold.

This year's 6- to 8-foot trees will be half Balsam fir and half Frasier fir, all grown locally in Sangerville. Prices will range between \$23 and \$25 per tree. With only 100 trees available, society members suggest shopping early for the best selection.

Proceeds, which totaled \$1,200 last winter, will be used to provide scholarships for the College of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agriculture.

Despite Drought, Maine Cranberry Production Down Only Slightly from 1998

Nov. 18, 1999

Media contact: [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Unfavorable weather reduced the yield per acre from Maine's cranberry beds this year, but with new beds coming on line, the industry's production was just slightly down from the level it achieved in 1998, according to Charles Armstrong, University of Maine cranberry specialist.

Maine's cranberry industry is now composed of 32 growers in eight counties. They have 254 acres under cultivation with about 84 percent located in Washington County. This year's estimated production is about 3,100 barrels compared to 3,200 harvested last year.

Armstrong says that a loss of ice on the beds last winter and dry, hot conditions during the summer put stress on the plants and reduced the yield. All growers were affected, he adds, a strong indication that a regional factor such as weather was at fault.

"The growers told me that irrigation during the summer helped the plants a lot, but it didn't cool the tips of the plants enough where the fruit production buds are located. We also had a warm January, and a lot of beds lost their ice cover prematurely. The air is so dry in the winter that a lot of the growing tips were damaged," he adds.

Nevertheless, growers have been developing new products to take advantage of the supply of berries. Items such as cranberry vinegar and sauces can be seen on an industry sponsored web site, <http://www.nemaine.com/rc&d;/marketing.htm>.

Cranberry production has grown significantly since 1994 when the fledgling industry produced 750 barrels. Some beds are now maturing to the point that they are producing close to 200 barrels per acre, says Armstrong. Harvests in earlier years can be as low as 20 to 30 barrels as plants are becoming established.

Growers are generally selling fresh berries for \$2.50 to \$3 per quart at roadside stands. In contrast, prices for berries used in processing have declined to near the break even point, Armstrong says. Low prices have put some growers in other states out of business.

"I think we can be proud that Maine's growers are holding their own and supplying consumers at home," he says.

Orono and Bangor High School Students to Participate in GIS Day at UMaine

Nov. 18, 1999

Media contact: [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - High school students from Orono and Bangor will learn to apply the technology of geographic information science during GIS Day November 19 at the University of Maine. The event is part of a national celebration involving research laboratories, GIS vendors and schools from California to Maine.

About 50 students from Orono and 40 from Bangor will arrive at the UMaine Department of Spatial Information Science and Engineering in Boardman Hall at 9:00 a.m. Using equipment provided by the department, they will tackle basic surveying techniques, use a hand-held global positioning system unit and get a look at the technology underlying mapping features of Web sites via the Internet.

They will also have a chance to use software that calculates the shortest path for a delivery route covering the Bangor area. GIS Day is part of Geography Awareness Week and is sponsored nationally by the National Geographic Society, the Association of American Geographers and ESRI, Inc.

Thanksgiving Food Safety Information Available Through Cooperative Extension

November 18, 1999

Contact: [Nick Houtman](#), Public Affairs, 207- 581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and people are already beginning to prepare for this special holiday. Cooks with food safety concerns can find useful information in a University of Maine Cooperative Extension fact sheet, Turkey Guide for a Safe Thanksgiving, prepared by Mahmoud El-Begearmi, Extension Food Safety and Nutrition Specialist.

It's especially important for people to know roasting times, how to thaw the bird and how to store leftovers. Basic information is attached.

El-Begearmi is available for interviews. He can also provide a hands-on demonstration, complete with a turkey, on use of a meat thermometer, food handling, checking for doneness, roasting times and storing leftovers. For television, El-Begearmi can arrange to use the kitchen facilities on the University of Maine campus or come to a broadcast production studio. Contact him at 581-3449 or 581-3445.

Your Turkey Guide for a Safe Thanksgiving

What to buy?

Frozen: Buy 3-5 days ahead for safe thawing in the refrigerator.

Fresh: Buy ahead no more than 2-3 days. Store in the refrigerator.

Keep it Clean: Keep your kitchen, hands and everything that touches food clean.

Thawing frozen meat:

NEVER thaw meat on the counter.

PREFERRED - in the refrigerator

OK - in cold water

OK - microwave right before cooking

How much to buy: Allow one pound of turkey per person.

To Stuff or not to stuff your turkey:

It is safer to cook the stuffing outside the bird. However, if you like to stuff bird, it should be stuffed right before cooking. Cook stuffing to 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Cook it well: Cook the turkey to 180 degrees F and the stuffing to 165 degrees F. Use a meat thermometer to check for doneness.

Roasting time:

8 to 12 lbs. 2 to 3 hrs. (unstuffed) 3 to 3.5 hrs. (stuffed)

12 to 14 lbs. 3 to 3.5 hrs. (unstuffed) 3 to 4.5 hrs. (stuffed)

14 to 18 lbs. 3 to 4.5 hrs. (unstuffed) 4 to 4.5 hrs. (stuffed)

18 to 20 lbs. 4 to 4.5 hrs. (unstuffed) 4 to 4.5 hrs.(stuffed)

20 to 24 lbs. 4 to 5 hrs. (unstuffed) 4 to 5 hrs.(stuffed)

Storing leftovers:

In the freezer at 0 degrees F or below:

Turkey slices, plain 4 months

Turkey slices, with broth or gravy 6 months Other poultry dishes 4 to 6 months
Stuffing and gravy 1 month

Or In the refrigerator at 40oF or below:

Cooked turkey 3 to 4 days

Stuffing and Gravy 1 to 2 days

Other Cooked dishes 3 to 4 days

Food safety fact sheets are available through offices of University of Maine Cooperative Extension for each county. For the telephone number of a particular county office, call 581-3188 or 1-800-287-0274.

UMaine School of Performing Arts Sunday Music Series at the Bangor Mall

November 18, 1999

Contact [Joe Carr](#), 581-3571

ORONO --Faculty and student artists from the School of Performing Arts will put a song in the hearts of Bangor Mall patrons during the Sunday Music Series this month and next.

Each Sunday afternoon performance in the J.C. Penney court of the Bangor Mall is designed to give the public a sampling of the musical fare to be offered in an upcoming campus concert.

Earlier this month, the Series debuted with a performance by the Jazz Ensemble, directed by Associate Professor of Music Karel Lidral, followed the next weekend by music provided by an all-student saxophone quartet.

Remaining performances this holiday season:

Nov. 21, 4 p.m., chamber music by Associate Professor of Music Anatole Wieck, performing in duets with students Melissa Bragdon on violin and Rachel Turner, cello. Soloist will be Ben Moors, guitar.

Nov. 28, 2 p.m., music for violin and piano, performed by students Amanda and Mike Cushman.

Dec. 5, 2 p.m., choral music by more than 40 members of the Collegiate Chorale and University Singers.

Dec. 12, 2 p.m., music for piano and cello by Instructors Ginger Yang Hwalek and Noreen Silver.

Children's Adjustment to Divorce Largely in Hands of Parents, with One Exception: Dad's Departure Depresses Boys

Nov. 19, 1999

Contact: [Kay Hyatt](#) at (207) 581-2761

Divorce is a distressing experience, both for the couple in conflict and the children caught in the middle. But comprehensive, new research from Iowa State University presents strong evidence that parents, even those no longer living in the home, have a great deal of control over children's adjustment to the break-up of the family.

The research, reported in the November edition of the Journal of Marriage and the Family, is the first to examine all the major factors commonly associated with divorce and child development problem. While the findings provide encouraging information, they also reveal some critical gender differences in the ways divorce and parental reaction can affect adolescents. Divorced parents can substantially reduce the probability that their children will experience developmental difficulty by continuing effective parenting and avoiding hostile exchanges. However, boys remain at risk for depression even under the most optimal post-divorce conditions. (Journal publication date is Nov. 22.)

Even though divorce more than doubles the risk for emotional and behavioral problems in both boys and girls, the good news is that the vast majority of children from divorced families do just fine, says lead author Ronald L. Simons, who conducted the research with colleagues at Iowa State's Department of Sociology and Institute for Social and Behavioral Research.

"What is essential for kids is that they be parented well," says Simons. "If mom and dad continue to persevere in their parenting, are warm and supportive, monitor the kids and are consistent in discipline, the risk for conduct problems is no greater than in two-parent families. This is a more optimistic scenario than is often asserted."

The latest findings are part of Iowa State's Transitions Project, a longitudinal study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. For the past decade, this study has followed approximately 600 families, both married and divorced. This on-going study has produced a flow of data, generating greater understanding and raising new questions about how changes in family structure and processes impact the family unit and its various members.

Regardless of family structure, girls are more likely to experience depression and boys to show conduct problems, according to Simons. However, the new research reveals a significant exception -- divorce increases a boy's chances of becoming depressed, regardless of other mediating conditions. "Even when those parents remain involved and supportive, boys often become depressed due to the departure of their father from the home," he says.

The research examined all the major explanations for the association between divorce and child developmental problems: loss of family income, parental conflict, psychological adjustment and parenting practices of the custodial parent (most typically the mother), and involvement of the non-custodial father. Previous studies have considered only one of two of these more popular theories.

Targeting adolescents with an average age of 14, the Iowa-based study involved 534 families -- 328 two-parent and 206 divorced mother-headed households. Researchers focused on two dimensions of child adjustment: whether they externalized problems, manifested by aggressive or delinquent behavior, or internalized their concerns, resulting in emotional distress and depression.

Findings largely support the argument that family structure influence child development through its impact on family processes. In other words, children of divorce are at risk for adjustment problems because their parents are less likely to engage in competent, consistent parenting and are more likely to engage in conflict exchanges than parents who are married to each other.

Divorce, with its emotional turmoil, time demands and often financial stress increases the custodial mother's own chances of becoming depressed, which in turn tends to disrupt the quality of her parenting, Simons explains. This, in turn, increases the child's risk for adjustment problems.

Data also show that being a non-residential parent is often a confusing role for fathers, who too often relinquish their parenting role and form a more buddy-type relationship with the children. Compared to fathers in intact families, the divorced, non-residential dads were less likely to help their children solve problems, discuss standards of conduct or enforce discipline, increasing the probability that boys would display conduct problems.

"It is essential, especially for sons, that fathers continue to function as a parent," Simons emphasizes. "Simply showing the kids a good time and being a pal doesn't make any difference in terms of developmental outcomes for kids."

Quality of the custodial mother's parenting was the only factor that was related to both internalizing and externalizing problems of children. Findings indicate that quality of mother's parenting reduces much of the association between divorce and adjustment for both boys and girls. However, effects of the other factors differ by type of adjustment problem and gender of the child. For example:

- € The quality of the custodial mother's parenting and the father's involvement in parenting are key indicators in boys' externalizing problems, while mother's parenting and post-divorce conflict increase girls' risk of adverse behavior.

- € Pre-divorce conflict increases the chances of depression in boys while post-divorce conflict elevates a girl's risk for conduct problems. It may be that the threat of parental loss, rather than parental conflict per se is disturbing to boys and that deviant behavior is a way for a girl to express emotional anxiety produced by her parents' fighting. Or parental conflict could serve to model and legitimate a daughter's antisocial behavior.

- € The quality of father's parenting has little effect on the association between divorce and girls' antisocial behavior. Mom's parenting is the most consequential factor.

- € Conflict isn't as destructive for kids in two-parent families as long as it doesn't spill over into the quality of parenting. Except for girls in divorced families, conflict doesn't have much impact. Simons says researchers were surprised that parental conflict did not have more of an effect.

- € Active engagement in the role of parent, not simply contact, by the non-custodial father substantially reduces the probability that boys will display conduct problems.

- € Parental divorce is more emotionally disturbing to boys than to girls. Boys in divorced families experience higher rates of depression than those in intact families, even when their mothers show positive psychological adjustment and practice competent parenting.

Past research has shown that divorce can contribute to adverse behavior such as lower achievement in school, early entry into sexual activity, delinquency and substance abuse, by both boys and girls. But the effects of divorce on children are widely stereotyped and not nearly as uniform as people generally believe, according to Robert Milardo, editor of the *Journal of Marriage and the Family* and professor of human development at the University of Maine.

"Longitudinal studies of family relationships and dynamics, such as the work at Iowa State, are providing important new knowledge about how parents might ease the impact of a drastic change, such as divorce, on their children," he says.

Simons' Iowa State colleagues in the study, "Explaining the Higher Incidence of Adjustment Problems of Children of Divorce," and on-going research are: Rand D. Conger and Frederick O. Lorenz, professors of sociology; Leslie C. Gordon, post-doctorate fellow; and Kuei-Hsui Lin, graduate student in sociology.

----- The Journal of Marriage and the Family is the quarterly publication of the National Council on Family Relations, 3989 Central Ave. NE, Suite 550, Minneapolis, MN 55421. Telephone: (612) 781-9331. Editorial offices are located at 30 Merrill Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5749. Telephone (207) 581-3103. Web site: www.ume.maine.edu/~JMF

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Student Dance Showcase Offers Diverse Performances

November 22, 1999

Media Contact: [Misty Edgecomb](#) at 581-3721

ORONO, Maine --Student dancers and choreographers from the art's many disciplines will present works-in-progress at their Fall Dance Showcase, Thursday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall.

As many as 50 dancers will take the stage, directed by Ann Ross, coordinator for the University of Maine's dance program. Energized hip-hop, jazz and culturally influenced pieces, as well as dance theater, provocative collaborations, and more traditional modern and ballet compositions will be featured. Diverse solo and duo performances, as well as several large productions, are on the program.

The Fall Dance Showcase is free to students with a MaineCard, or \$8 admission for the general public.

UMaine to Hold World AIDS Day Events

November 22, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO --Staff and students at the University of Maine are encouraging the community to "End the Silence" on AIDS during this year's observance of World AIDS Day.

"Our goal is to give people a number of ways to get involved in HIV and AIDS education," says Stephen Caron, a senior biology major and member of UMaine's Peer Educator Program.

This year's events begin on Nov. 29 and continue until Dec. 1. An information table will be set up on the second floor of the Memorial Union for all three days.

At 8 p.m. on Nov. 29, a program called "Men and Women Sharing" will be held in the study lounge of Stodder Hall. In this program, men and women split up into separate groups and are encouraged to write questions they've always wanted to ask the opposite sex. When the groups meet again, the questions are brought up in a discussion facilitated by a peer educator. Caron says that although this program is not specifically about sex or HIV/AIDS, it is a way to open communication and break down some of the barriers between men and women.

In the study lounges of Androscoggin and Balentine Hall, a program entitled "Look What's Going Around" will be given. This program is about Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). It consists of a slide show presentation and is intended to educate people about STDs and show that anyone is susceptible.

On Dec. 1, students will have a chance to participate in a meal fast at lunchtime to benefit the Eastern Maine AIDS Network. Any willing student can donate half the cost of their lunch at the dining commons to the AIDS network.

That afternoon, from 2 - 3 p.m., a Maine Time conversation will be held in the Bangor Lounge, located on the second floor of the Memorial Union to discuss issues related to HIV/AIDS.

That evening, at 7 p.m., Alvin, a young man from the Down East area of Maine, will speak on his personal experiences with HIV in the Bangor Lounge, located on the second floor of the Memorial Union.

A candlelight vigil will follow at 8 p.m. in front of the Memorial Union. This vigil is to show support for HIV/AIDS research and education. After the vigil, there will be a reception in the Peer Educator Office, located in Room 12 of the Cutler Health Center.

All events are free and open to the public and are supported by the Center for Students and Community Life and the Peer Educator Program, a group of students at the University of Maine that works to raise awareness on campus about challenges college students face.

Legislators to View UMaine Forest, Agriculture and Biotechnology Research Labs

Nov. 23, 1999

Media Contact: [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

Program Contact: Judy Round, 207-581-3229

ORONO, Maine -- Faculty and students at the University of Maine will explain their research to a group of Maine state legislators on Monday, November 29 during a tour arranged by the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture. As of Nov. 23, legislators planning to attend the event are Clifton Foster of Gray, Ken Honey of Boothbay, Albion Goodwin of Pembroke, Matt Dunlap of Old Town, Mary Cathcart of Orono, Paul Volenik of Brooklin and Ruel Cross of Dover-Foxcroft.

Media representatives are welcome to join the program which will begin at 11 a.m. in the Bodwell Lounge at the Maine Center for the Arts. Participants will sample a variety of foods that were developed with the help of UMaine scientists including frozen lobsters and salmon sausage.

The tour will include stops at:

€ The Witter Teaching and Research Farm where Jim Weber, a veterinarian and researcher, will demonstrate his work on embryo transfer and infertility in dairy cows.

€ Hitchner Hall where faculty members Carol Kim and John Singer and their students will describe work on a new zebra fish culture facility and a project to protect farm raised fish from disease.

€ Nutting Hall where students and faculty will describe the satellite and geographic information technology used to develop a new floor sized map of Maine showing vegetation zones and wildlife habitat.

The event will conclude about 3:00 p.m. with a snack at Nutting Hall. Media representatives who want to join the tour should contact Judy Round, 207-581-3229, by 4:00 p.m. November 26. There is no cost.

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Oratorio Society Plans Winter Concert at St. John's

November 23, 1999

Media Contact: [Misty Edgecomb](#) at 581-3721

ORONO, Maine --Bangor's historic St. John's Catholic Church is the site of the University of Maine Oratorio Society's Winter Concert, Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m.

The student and community group, known as a "town and gown" choir, will perform Beethoven's Mass in C Major and Vivaldi's Magnificat under the direction of UMaine Instructor in Music, Kevin Birch. Guest soloists include Nancy Ellen Ogle, Susan Smith, Francis John Vogt and Peter Allen and several members of the society.

An orchestra of faculty, student and community musicians, led by concertmaster Anatole Wieck, an associate professor of music at UMaine, will accompany the choir.

St. John's Church is located at 207 York Street in Bangor. There is no admission fee for the Winter Concert, but donations will be accepted.

UMaine Music Students To Perform French Opera

November 23, 1999

Media Contact: [Misty Edgecomb](#) at 581-3721

ORONO, Maine --The University of Maine Opera Workshop, under the direction of Professor of Music Lud Hallman, will present a program of French opera scenes, Saturday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m., in Minsky Recital Hall.

Hallman, assisted by Instructor of Music Francis John Vogt and Associate Professor of Music Nancy Ogle, will direct 11 voice students in pieces from the following selections of well-known French operas; Act III of Orphée by Christoph Willibald Gluck, Act II of Mozart's Cosi fan Tutte, Act I, Scene 2, and Act III from Thais by Jules Massenet, and Acts II and III of Georges Bizet's Carmen.

The workshop previews a fully staged evening of French opera to be performed in February.

Folklife Center Book Featured in White House Millennium Project, Local Exhibits

November 30, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Stories from Memories of a Maine Island, a book published by the Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine, have been chosen as a part of the "My History is America's History" project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The My History project is part of the millennium initiative launched by the White House and the NEH to encourage the preserving and sharing of personal family history and treasures.

The book, written by Marie Locke and Nancy Montgomery, details turn-of-the-century life on Little Cranberry Island, Maine. The 112-page book features antique photographs of F.W. Morse and the vivid memories of his daughter, Irene Morse Bartlett, former longtime town clerk of the Cranberry Isles.

"This book offers a glimpse into a time that most people don't remember," says Pauleena MacDougall, associate director of the Maine Folklife Center. "It fits nicely within our mission to collect and present the folklore and oral history of Maine's people."

Stories from the book are featured in the My History Guidebook, and the My History project's website (www.myhistory.org). The guidebook and website provide ways to preserve family memories and treasures through activities. "Memories of a Maine Island" is used as an example of how some families have kept their stories alive.

An exhibit of photographs and artifacts from the book will be on display at the Bangor Public Library during the month of December. An exhibit opening will be held on Dec. 4 from 3 to 5 p.m.

UMaine Carolders Celebrate the Yuletide Season

November 30, 1999

Media Contact: [Misty Edgecomb](#) at 581-3721

ORONO, Maine -- Hundreds of University of Maine musicians will celebrate the holiday season with an annual Yuletide Concert, December 12 at 2 p.m. in Hutchins Concert Hall at the Maine Center for the Arts. The Collegiate Chorale, Oratorio Society, Athena Consort and University Singers will each perform selections from their fall choral repertoire to present different cultural perspectives on holiday celebration.

The four choirs will also pack Hutchins' stage to perform several well-known holiday favorites by candlelight. As the semester's finale, the resounding harmonies of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah should leave the audience in a holiday spirit. Admission for the concert is \$10 per person, or free to students with a MaineCard.

UMaine Professor Working to Improve Infant Vocabulary Testing Method

November 30, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- A child's first words are not only a source of joy for parents, or a reason to pull out the camcorder. Early vocabulary can provide important clues to a child's development and potentially identify the early stages of a learning delay.

Presently, a widely used tool that exists to assist researchers and clinicians is the MacArthur Communicative Development Inventory (CDI), a paper and pencil test that the parent takes. A researcher at the University of Maine is studying ways to computerize the test and make it more efficient and accurate.

Alan Cobo-Lewis, an assistant professor of interdisciplinary studies at the University of Maine, is working with Orono's Trefoil Corporation towards this goal. The project is being funded by a one-year grant from the National Institute of Health.

"In this test, you have a long list of words that you give to the parent and they check off the words that their child knows," says Cobo-Lewis. Currently, there is only one standard test for parents of infants and one for parents of toddlers. The broad nature of the test makes it extremely time consuming. Although shorter versions of the test do exist, they are somewhat less accurate.

A computerized version of the test could be adapted to fit the needs of parents with more of a focus based on the age of the child, meaning parents would have to sort through only the words that most children of the same age range would use.

"The computer basically creates a test on the spot for each particular parent," says Cobo-Lewis. "When you know how old the kid is, you can get an idea of the size of their vocabulary."

Cobo-Lewis says the test would also be adaptive to the responses received from the parent, even while the test was underway.

"As the computer refines its estimate of the child's vocabulary level, it selects the most informative vocabulary item to ask the parent about," he says. "Although it starts out by using information based on the child's age, it quickly progresses to constructing a customized test on the fly using information as it comes in."

The computer test would also help eliminate a potential bias in the written test caused by word recognition on the part of the parent.

"If the parent takes the same form of the test every couple of weeks, they are going to recognize some words. The concern is that they might recognize the word and put it down as one that their kid knows, even though the kid might not actually know it," says Cobo-Lewis. "In reality, it's a word that the parent has seen the last time they took the test. Over time, you get this apparent but artificial increase in the child's vocabulary."

This work was motivated by earlier research he has done with simplifying a test of infant hearing. A commonly used test to establish infant hearing, the visual reinforcement audiometry (VRA) was developed 30 years ago.

In that test, the infant sits in a parent's lap, facing a researcher. Off to one side is a speaker. When the infant is looking straight ahead, the experimenter presses a button and a sound will come out of the speaker. If the infant is the right age, and hearing is normal, he or she will turn towards the speaker.

When the child does turn towards the sound, the experimenter tells the computer to active an animated toy, so that the child gets trained to always turn towards sounds that come from the speaker.

"What you do is start lowering the intensity of the tone. This is how you test the hearing, because if the kid doesn't hear the tone, he or she is not going to turn towards the speaker," says Cobo-Lewis. "My motivation was how do we test more efficiently. Once we have a rough idea of what the kid's threshold is, you don't bother presenting a kid with tones that you know they can hear, because you already know they will turn their head. You get no information from doing that."

Quickly finding the range of hearing allows the experimenter to administer the test and get results before the infant begins to get tired or bored, says Cobo-Lewis.

"The basic idea for the vocabulary research is the same, and the grant with Trefoil Corporation is to use these methods to produce a test that can be used by researchers and clinicians," says Cobo-Lewis. "We have a consultant on the grant who is one of the co-developers of the CDI. We have access to the test results from around 1000 children and in this pilot phase I'm doing a statistical analysis to determine which words they found easy, which were hard and how this corresponds to age."

After a program is developed, Cobo-Lewis says he will apply for a Phase II grant, which will be used to conduct a two-year study on actual children to see if it will work.

"If everything works out, eventually we'll have a real product that can be used by clinicians and researchers, and maybe by parents, as well," says Cobo-Lewis. "We have to identify what the market is going to be for this product."

In addition to testing the size of a child's vocabulary, Cobo-Lewis says the test may actually be used to give an estimation of the child's vocabulary style.

The style is what the child talks about, as opposed to how many words the child knows.

According to Cobo-Lewis, there are two reasons for this test. One is to measure infant/child vocabulary from a research perspective, to get an idea of how vocabulary develops. This would also give researchers an opportunity to look at how vocabulary level interacts with other intelligence and language measures.

"We would like to be able to see what vocabulary development has to do with a child's fluency and stuttering. You might be able to predict what kids are going to need some sort of fluency intervention later on, based on their early vocabulary," says Cobo-Lewis. "I don't know if that's going to work out or not, but it's the type of thing you can investigate once you've got a tool to measure vocabulary."

Another use of the test would be to assess a child's vocabulary, and see if that child is within the norm for his or her age.

"It could help you potentially identify a language or learning delay early on in a child's development," says Cobo-Lewis. "To the extent that there are effective interventions available, you want to be able to identify the kids early so you can intervene early."

UMaine Wins Bid to Host National Master Outdoor Track and Field Championships in 2002

Dec. 2, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - The University of Maine will host the National Master Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the summer of 2002, Suzanne Tyler, UMaine Director of Athletics, announced today. The university's bid topped proposals from the University of Illinois and San Diego State University at this week's annual meeting of USA Track and Field in Los Angeles.

"We're thrilled," says Tyler. "Getting this bid for a second time shows that USA Track and Field was pleased with the way we managed the championships in 1998. A lot of people at UMaine worked hard to put our bid together. This is great news for the Bangor area and the economy."

The event is expected to attract about 1,500 athletes and their families, according to Rolland Ranson of the UMaine Department of Athletics who managed the event in 1998. Last year, about 1,100 athletes participated. With their families, they had an estimated \$2 million impact on the state's economy, says Ranson.

The time of the event in 2002 has yet to be finalized. It will be either August 1-4 or 8-11. The 1999 competition was held at Disney World in Orlando.

Jazz and Poetry Concert in Orono Dec. 18

Dec. 3, 1999

Contact: [Kay Hyatt](#) at 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- An evening of poetry and music will celebrate the arrival of winter and the holidays on Saturday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m., at the Orono United Methodist Church.

The annual Jazz and Poetry concert blends contemporary and classical jazz, and the reading of selected poems, including the featured reading of Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales." Presenters are Orono residents Jeffrey Wilhelm, reader, Peggy Jo Wilhelm, flautist, Laura Artesani, piano, and Jim Artesani, bass guitar, and Don Barry of Old Town, drums. All are associated with the University of Maine.

This is the 14th year the Wilhelms have presented the Jazz and Poetry holiday celebration, a tradition they brought to Orono in 1995 after moving here from Wisconsin.

The program, a holiday offering for the entire family, is free and open to the public.

Philp Assisted with Edward Dam Timber Recycling

Dec. 3, 1999

Contact: [Nick Houtman](#) at (207) 581-3777

ORONO -- A recent announcement that PerkinsWood, a Portland furniture company, will turn water soaked logs from the Edwards Dam into high-end coffee tables, floors and other wood products had its beginning with a University of Maine Cooperative Extension educator.

Jim Philp of Bradley is a wood technologist. He advises wood products manufacturers on processing and other technical matters. Knowing of Philp's expertise, John Sturgeon of HE Sargent of Stillwater, contractor on the dam removal project, called him for assistance earlier this fall in locating users for the 160-year-old timbers.

"I went to the site to look over the wood," says Philp. "and taught people how to recognize the species and determine which timbers might be suitable for recycling. It was piled in a gravel pit, and there wasn't anything exotic."

"The builders used common species that were growing near the river. It's all pine, hemlock and spruce with a little oak. It was held together by two-inch diameter iron spikes and long white oak nails called 'trunnels.'"

He suspected that although much of the wood had been damaged from the removal operation, it might have a market because of its unusual history.

Philp checked the quality of the salvage timbers. He then located companies in the state and searched the Internet for firms in the eastern U.S. that might be interested in the nearly two million board feet of lumber. He found about 30 potential buyers.

"There is a market for products made of recycled wood. Some people will buy it out of ethical concerns," he notes.

The value of the timber hasn't been determined, he says. HE Sargent and PerkinsWood have entered into a contract based on future revenues generated by sale of Edwards Dam timber products.

In the course of his work, Philp also conducts workshops on log scaling, hardwood grading and woodlot management. He helped teach the recently completed Yankee Woodlot camp at Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center, the Cooperative Extension facility in near Lincolnville.

Ernestine Schlant Bradley to Address UMaine Graduates

Dec, 6, 1999

Media Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Dr. Ernestine Schlant Bradley, an internationally renowned scholar of German and comparative literature and the wife of Presidential candidate Bill Bradley, will be the featured speaker at the University of Maine's 195th commencement exercises, to be held Saturday, Dec. 18 at 10:30 a.m. in UMaine's Harold Alfond Sports Arena.

Known professionally as Ernestine Schlant, she is a professor at Montclair State University in New Jersey and the author of four books and scores of articles on a variety of subjects related to German literature.

Her latest book, "The Language of Silence: West German Literature and the Holocaust," was published in March of this year. In a May 17 book review, Time magazine said Schlant offers "eye-opening" evidence and "a stinging moral premise: that even [West Germany's] most liberal writers of the period committed sins of omission when dealing with the [Holocaust's] legacy of mass murder."

Schlant was born in Germany in 1935. She moved to the U.S. in 1957 and became a U.S. citizen in 1963, two years before she earned a Ph.D. from Emory University. She has worked with numerous organizations including the American Council on Germany, Youth for Understanding and the American Institute of Contemporary German Studies.

A breast cancer survivor, Schlant has been active in cancer support rganizations, particularly the Race for the Cure.

Schlant and Bradley, a former U.S. Senator, have been married 25 years and have one child, Theresa Anne, 22. Schlant also has a daughter from a previous marriage: Stephanie, 40.

During UMaine's Dec. 18 commencement ceremonies, approximately 500 students will be awarded degrees. Of that total, 157 will be awarded graduate-level degrees, including 26 doctoral degrees. The others will receive bachelor's degrees.

The comencement ceremonies are open to the public. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

[Click here for a downloadable photo of Ernestine Schlant Bradley](#)

Marine Extension Leader Named at University of Maine

Dec. 6, 1999

Contact: Susan White, Maine/New Hampshire Sea Grant, 207-581-1442

[Nick Houtman](#), UMaine Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO. Maine --The Sea Grant Program and Cooperative Extension at the University of Maine have announced the appointment of Paul Anderson of Union as the new marine extension program leader. In this position, Anderson will coordinate marine outreach activities for the University, supervise Sea Grant and Cooperative Extension marine outreach staff, serve as a member of the Cooperative Extension Administrative Council, and act as associate director of Sea Grant.

During the past 10 years, Anderson has worked for Maine Department of Marine Resources - first as the chief microbiologist and then, for the last five years, as the director of the Public Health Division. In this latter capacity, he has been involved in all aspects of seafood safety and environmental monitoring throughout the state. Anderson has worked closely with other state agencies, the academic community, the fishing industry, and many municipalities in the coastal areas of Maine. He has also held several pivotal positions in the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, and has worked closely with federal agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Anderson has a strong background in science with bachelor's and master's degrees in microbiology from the University of Maine. He has taught marine biology for the UMaine System in Ellsworth and worked as a senior research assistant at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor.

"In my new position, I'm looking forward to facilitating the transfer of information and ideas between all parties interested in marine-related issues, including researchers, extension personnel, industry and community members, and government," says Anderson. He can be reached at (207) 581-1435.

UMaine Students Help Develop Communities for Children

December 6, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- Although Maine has already been voted the best place in the country to raise a child, a group of citizens in the state wants to make it even better. Graduate students from the University of Maine are working with members of the community toward that goal.

Harris Madson and Channa Jackson, graduate students in public administration, are working with the United Way on the Communities for Children project, an initiative of Governor Angus King's Children's Cabinet. Madson's work at the United Way is funded by the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation and Jackson is a Vista volunteer, funded by Americorps.

The Cabinet has two major goals - to measurably improve the well being of children in every Maine community; and to increase educational attainment and achievement levels of all Maine children.

"This project began about two years ago, when a group of parents got together in Hampden and said that although this is a good area, it could be better," says Madson. "The bottom line is how do you make this area, this community, the best place to raise a family and a child?"

A local steering committee met beginning in 1997 to develop a vision and direction for the effort. They partnered with the Search Institute of Minneapolis to help collect and analyze data.

"They did a bunch of research and talked to youth, community leaders and volunteers," says Madson. "In the end, they identified six desired outcomes on which they were ready to go to work."

The committee found that community members wanted: children to come to school ready to succeed; a caring and encouraging environment for learning; opportunities for youth to play useful roles in the community; positive peer relationships for youth; positive communication within all families; and to ensure positive, responsible role models for children.

Madson says that he and Jackson have helped form six task forces. Each of these task forces is charged to study one of the desired outcomes and formulate ways to make it possible in the community.

"The short term goal is to take the data and turn it into a plan," says Madson. "The long-term goal is to have the community involved and running an organization that make these desired outcomes a reality. The United Way will champion it and help measure the outcome, but will not be the staff. We want it to be community based."

The task forces began meeting on Nov. 1. A community meeting will be held in March to monitor and celebrate the success of the program to that point.

"This is a long-term project, not a 90-day fix. I don't want to build another shelter; I want to not have a need for a shelter. The goal is to bring about an attitude change among members of the community," says Madson. "These outcomes can happen if we want to make them happen."

Both Madson and Jackson plan to use the work they've done with Communities for Children as the foundation for their graduate studies.

"The work we do has a direct correlation to our classes," says Jackson. "There's a nice bridge between the work we do here and the public administration department. We're involved in the public sector, policy making, trying to form a budget and resource management."

Jackson's research will focus on the outcome and effectiveness of the entire project over a period of time.

Madson says he will research the difference in opinions between children and adults on how caring and encouraging schools are. This difference was discovered in the research done on communities.

"Children don't often believe that schools are caring and encouraging and adults believe 100 percent differently," says Madson. "I'm trying to determine what factors lead kids to one conclusion and adults to another."

Jackson says that she and Madson are trying to develop a framework under which the project can continue.

"We don't want this program to end when Gov. King leaves office," says Jackson.

"We're going to give this program as much technical assistance as they can humanly absorb, and support them," says Madson. "We want to encourage people along and teach them how to listen and communicate well."

UMaine to Host Conference on the Future of the State's Forest Products Industries

Dec. 6, 1999

Media Contact: [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to a conference to consider the future of Maine's forest products industries at the University of Maine Dec. 14, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The meeting is co-sponsored by the Department of Industrial Cooperation and the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at UMaine and the Bangor Daily News. State Senator Michael Michaud (D-Millinocket) and Representative Richard Campbell (R-Holden) are the hosts.

"At a time when Maine's forest products and paper industry is undergoing considerable change, there is a great need for an objective presentation of the conditions affecting the industry," says Deirdre Mageean, interim director of the Public Policy Center. "Drawing largely on University of Maine faculty and researchers, the conference will examine the many factors (economy, technology, regulation, etc.) that affect the competitiveness of the industry in Maine and will explore possible solutions to problems."

Presenters at the meeting include Lawrence Ross, a former vice-president of PaineWebber and an expert on economic trends in the pulp and paper industries. He will be followed by David Field, forest economist in the Department of Forest Management and by Andrew Plantinga of the Department of Resource Economics and Policy, both from UMaine.

Other speakers include Lloyd Irland of the Irland Group, Robert Rice of the UMaine Department of Forest Management, Thomas Allen and Todd Gabe of the UMaine Department of Resource Economics and Policy and Amy Fried of the UMaine Department of Political Science.

Participants will break into discussion groups from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. Registration is free and can be made by contacting the Margaret Chase Smith Center at 581-1648 or via the Internet at http://www.ume.edu/chasesmith2/new_site/bulletin/bullf.htm.

Advice for Tree Shoppers

Dec. 7, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](mailto:nick.houtman@maine.edu), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The warm fall could spell trouble for some holiday tree shoppers, according to University of Maine Cooperative Extension Forestry Specialist Jim Philp. "It has been too warm, in some areas, for the trees to set their needles," he says. "If you buy a tree that was cut too early, the needles are likely to fall off prematurely."

Philp's advice for tree shoppers can be summed up as test it, water it and protect it from sources of heat.

At the tree lot, shoppers should take time to ask questions and test trees before strapping one on top of the car to take home. "If you can, find out when the tree was cut and where it came from," says Philp. "The earlier it was cut and the farther it had to travel, the more stress it's already had. Run your hands along the branches. Lift the tree up and bang the butt on the ground. If a lot of green needles fall off, the tree was probably cut too soon."

Cold temperatures cause the tree to go dormant, and it takes about three nights of hard frost for trees to set their needles, Philp adds.

To prevent moisture loss, the tree should be covered during the trip home. Once in the house, an inch or more should be cut from the bottom of the trunk and the tree then placed in wet sand or water. A five or six foot-tree will drink about quart of water a day, but larger trees will use even more.

Humidity in the house is also a factor. The drier the air in the house, the more water the tree will need.

Having a tree in the house can be a fire hazard, Philp notes. "Keep the tree away from heat sources such as wood stoves and hot air registers. The warm air will dry the branches out faster. If you don't have a smoke detector, why not buy yourself one as a present? If you have one, make sure it is operating properly."

Some consumers prefer to buy a live tree, with the intent of planting it in the yard later. Plan ahead, and have your hole dug ahead of time. Placing a potted tree outside after Christmas will cause the roots to freeze and the tree to dehydrate. Just as with cut trees, it is important to keep a living tree well watered as long it stays in the house.

For more information, tree shoppers can contact their local county Extension office or call 1-800-287-0274 for the location and phone numbers of county offices.

Nutrient Management Program for Maine Farmers

Dec. 7, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer free half-day workshops this winter on managing nutrients on dairy and livestock farms. Farmers will gain information that will be useful in meeting state mandated nutrient management plans for their farms.

Recent state legislation requires most farms to develop and implement a whole-farm nutrient management plan that shows how manure and other nutrient sources will be managed and used on the farm. The plan can be written by certified consultants, agency staff or farmers themselves.

These workshops will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

January 19

Penobscot UMCE Office

Bangor

January 20

County Courthouse

Houlton

January 24

Androscoggin/Sagadahoc UMCE Office

Auburn

January 25

Maine State Grange

Augusta

February 1

Somerset UMCE Office

Skowhegan

Farmers wishing to write and certify their own plans have to pass a Private Certification Exam. This educational program will cover the topics on the exam, and farmers can take the exam at the end of the program if they choose. Farmers are encouraged to attend even if they are not seeking certification, as this program will discuss many topics related to soil fertility, soils, and nutrient management.

There will be a lunch break which is the responsibility of each participant. Although the program is free, an educational notebook is available for \$25.00. It covers most of the information in the workshops.

To register for one of these programs, call the Extension Crops and Water Quality office at 1-800-870-7270 (in Maine only) or 207-581-2953.

UMaine Engineering Student Wins \$10,000 NASA Scholarship

Dec. 8, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Frederico ("Fred") T. Fonseca, a graduate research assistant from Old Town in the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis and doctoral student in the Department of Spatial Information Science and Engineering, is the winner of a \$10,000 scholarship from the 1999 NASA/EPSCoR Fellowship Program.

The scholarship will support research on geographic information science and digital imagery. Fonseca collaborates with Max Egenhofer, UMaine professor in spatial information science and engineering.

Fonseca holds a B.S. in data processing from the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil, a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the Catholic University of Minas Gerais in Brazil, and a M.S. in public administration and computer science from the Joao Pinheiro Foundation, Brazil.

His proposal, "Using Ontologies for Aerial Image Integration," builds on his recent research results. This fall, Fonseca presented two papers that introduced the foundation for his proposed work: "Ontology-Driven Geographic Information Systems" at the Seventh Association for Computing Machinery Symposium on Geographic Information Systems, and "Knowledge Sharing in Geographic Information Systems" at the Knowledge and Data Engineering Exchange Workshop hosted by the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

The National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis is a research consortium of the University of California, Santa Barbara; the State University of New York at Buffalo; and the University of Maine. The Department of Spatial Information Science and Engineering at the University of Maine offers programs leading towards B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees.

UMaine Professors Research Women's Role in Cyprus Independence

December 10, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- In 1955, an underground organization of Greek Cypriots began a series of military actions against the British government that ruled the island. The goal was enosis, or union with Greece. Four years later, the British gave independence to Cyprus rather than enosis because of Turkish Cypriot opposition.

Among the nationalists who fought for independence was a group of women who at the time were heavily involved in the movement. After independence, however, most of these women disappeared into the society while the men went on to hold political positions in the new government. Two University of Maine professors are researching the roles these women played in the struggle.

Cynthia Mahmood, associate professor of anthropology and Kyriacos Markides, professor of sociology, hope to write a book about the roles that women played in the Cypriot Independence movement. The book started as the idea of Markides, who grew up on Cyprus.

"As a kid, I knew some of the people that worked for the underground, including some of the women," says Markides. "I wrote a little bit about the people that participated in the underground, but basically it was on the basis of my research involving newspapers and police archives. Most of those records only chronicle the men's involvement, but I knew that there were also women involved."

Markides says he wanted to tell the stories of these women and that's when he decided to seek Mahmood's involvement.

"As a woman and an outsider, it was easier for her to get the interviews," says Markides. "Cynthia has also had much experience with these types of movements, so I asked her if we could cooperate and do this study."

Mahmood traveled to Cyprus with a grant from the Inter-University Research Committee on Cyprus and the University of Maine Women in the Curriculum Program and has conducted 12 interviews with women involved in the independence movement.

"It was certainly the warmest welcome I've ever had on a field site because of Kyriacos. These women already trusted me and wanted to tell me their stories," says Mahmood. "There were a couple of cases where it became clear that it was good to have no men present."

Mahmood says during one interview, the husband of one of the ladies joined them.

"He kept interrupting and telling the story in different ways and correcting her and trying to explain things until finally she ordered him to leave the room," says Mahmood. "She's a particularly interesting case because she looks like anyone's grandmother. However, she was showing me this grenade that she and her husband got as a wedding present years before. It's really incongruous when you see the photo, because there's this really beautiful old grandmotherly lady with her hair in a bun, holding a grenade."

In her interviews, Mahmood found that the women involved in the movement were among the most trusted by its leader, General Grivas.

"He trusted the women to keep his identity and whereabouts a secret, and they would hide notes or carry weapons for him," says Mahmood. "The general said that no women ever betrayed the cause, although some of the men did."

The women's roles in the movement were varied. Some acted as couriers for General Grivas, passing instructions to members of the underground. Others carried weapons and ammunition. Very few were involved directly in the violence.

"Many of the women escorted wanted guerrillas from one part of the island to another," says Markides. "It was easier for these men to move around if it looked as though someone was with them."

Most of the women, says Mahmood, look upon the time they spent in the movement with nostalgia.

"For many of them, it was the high point of their lives. They were young, they were doing something heroic for their country and many of them used words such as pure and holy to describe the struggle," says Mahmood. "Unfortunately, things have unraveled in Cyprus since then, but back then it was a place that was pregnant with hope and they have a longing for those days before tragedy hit."

Mahmood says although the stories are romanticized, she doesn't think any of them are made up.

"The struggle is treated almost religiously, almost like a spiritual struggle. It was not just about throwing the British out, not just a decolonization struggle," says Mahmood. "The women define this struggle as attempting to fulfill the Greek national destiny."

In the end, although the struggle was successful in getting the British out of Cyprus, the movement was not able to merge the island with Greece. This led to an alienation of the Turkish minority on the island, which Mahmood considers a precursor to the current impasse between the two groups on the island.

"I guess one of the things we are interested in is if they have any sense as to whether they or their movement are responsible for the bad relations," says Mahmood. "Most of them do not have that sense."

Today, many of these women are considered heroes to the Cypriot independence movement, says Markides. Few, however, gained prominence after the British left the island.

"They have not really played a leading role in the society by virtue of the fact that they are women," says Markides. "They may have credit, but no rewards, no positions in their society." Most of the women in the movement went back to raising families or being housewives, according to Mahmood.

"Virtually all the top leaders in Cyprus were formerly part of this movement," says Mahmood. "That's another aspect we want to cover in this research. We want to know how they lived their lives after the conflict."

Over the holiday break, Mahmood plans to conduct a few more interviews, and she and Markides hope to have a draft of the book written by the end of next year.

"In a sense, we don't want to overanalyze these women, because their words speak for themselves," says Mahmood. "I want the reader to see how regular, normal women get deeply involved in a movement like this."

Holidays Spark Community Involvement at UMaine

December 13, 1999

Media Contact: [Misty Edgecomb](#) at 581-3721

ORONO, Maine -- As the holiday season draws near, dozens of student groups at the University of Maine look outside their world of exams and papers to give something back to the greater Bangor community. From greek organizations to academic societies, UMaine students are exhibiting holiday spirit.

"Volunteering is helping me learn to build relationships with people. I make those connections, and learn that I have something to give," says Brandon Lemire, a member of Volunteers In Community Efforts, a student service club known as V.O.I.C.E.. "It helps you get away from the TV and that false world and gets you into the real world," he says. V.O.I.C.E. adviser Martha Eastman agrees; "These people are just like us, and volunteering in the community increases students' understanding of other people's situations. Volunteer work teaches all kinds of things you can't learn in the classroom," she says. A partial listing of community service activities sponsored by student groups follows.

The Student Women's Association is sponsoring a rummage sale to benefit Spruce Run, a Bangor shelter for women and children. Clothing donations may be dropped off in the basement of Fernald Hall.

UMaine's Circle K chapter joined the local Kiwanas club to wrap gifts for their annual Christmas party for disadvantaged children, and held a bowl-a-thon to raise funds for the Downeast Big Brothers/Big Sisters holiday toy drive. Members of the student service organization also chose to support the Salvation Army this season, wrapping gifts at the mall, volunteering for the Angel Tree and adopting a local family that's struggling to purchase holiday gifts, says Circle K member Elizabeth Poisson.

V.O.I.C.E. is working to coordinate student groups with local charitable organizations like Manna Soup Kitchen and the Salvation Army, says member Ryan Morrison. Kitchen workers and kettle ringers are still in demand, he says, so interested students, faculty and staff should call the V.O.I.C.E. office at 581-1796.

Students from the Newman Center, UMaine's Catholic parish, spent Dec. 4 volunteering at the Salvation Army's Dorothy Day soup kitchen. About 10 students participate in the monthly trip, says Sister Mary Sweeney. The Newman Center is also sponsoring a giving tree, an opportunity for students to purchase gifts for less fortunate members of the community.

The Sophomore Eagles, an all-female academic honor society, hosted a Christmas party for the 25 children being treated at Acadia Hospital in Bangor on Dec. 12, said member Casey Johnson. The Eagles planned games and served refreshments; and Santa made an appearance with a big sack of gifts. Several campus residence hall governing boards and local businesses donated funds or supplies to the project.

The Sophomore Owls, the Eagles' all-male counterpart, is raffling off gift certificates donated by local businesses to raise money for Downeast Big Brothers/Big Sisters. All 13 members of the society are selling tickets, and the drawing is expected to take place Dec. 17, said member Ethan Perry. The group has traditionally supported Big Brothers/Big sisters. "We're hoping to give them a big check before Christmas," Perry says. The Owls also plan to donate their time to the Eagles' Christmas party.

Gamma Sigma Sigma, UMaine's service sorority, staffed the Salvation Army's Angel Tree at the Bangor Mall. The annual Angel Tree is bedecked with paper angel ornaments. Each angel corresponds to a needy child, and a shopper's purchase of an angel goes toward to support holiday gifts for the children.

The All-Maine Women, a female senior honor society, sent three big Thanksgiving food baskets to Spruce Run, and the women are planning to purchase Salvation Army Angel Tree gifts at the mall and Angel Books at

Borders to be donated to local children, said member Melissa Rosenberg. The group also hopes to prepare and serve holiday dinners at Spruce Run in coming weeks.

Phi Mu sent almost 30 sisters caroling at the children's wing of Eastern Maine Medical Center Dec. 11, donating their time to the children's miracle network. The next day, the sorority cooperated with the brothers of Phi Kappa Sigma to host a Winter Ball for about 125 local children.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon will send its brothers to Eastern Medical Center Dec. 21 to help Santa give presents. The annual event helps to break Greek stereotypes, and gives the brothers a chance to interact with the children, says SAE member Joe Irache. The brothers also hope to bring Santa to the Children's Center on College Avenue.

Phi Eta Kappa and Pi Beta Phi joined forces Nov. 20 to put on a Thanksgiving dinner for children from Downeast Big Brothers/Big Sisters who are waiting for a partner. The students sponsored a similar event last spring, and hope to continue their relationship with Big Brothers/Big Sisters in the future. "We got along with the kids really well, and it as good bonding experience for the house as a whole," says Tim Oulette, a brother of Phi Eta Kappa.

Pi Beta Phi also headed several donation campaigns through the holiday season. The sisters donated food to Manna Soup Kitchen, clothing to an individual distributor associated with Wabanaki Mental Health and books to area schools and daycare centers. The Pi Beta Phi sisters purchased Angel Tree gifts for the Salvation Army as well, said sister Christine Fecteau.

Phi Gamma Delta has rounded up volunteers for the Salvation Army's holiday campaign. "We're all out there, ringing the bells," says Phi Gamma Delta member Nick Ashton. Throughout December, Ashton and his fraternity brothers have spent a combined 60 hours each week collecting donations at the Bangor Mall, he says.

Beta Theta Pi spent Nov. 14 at Bangor's Ronald McDonald House, preparing a dinner for the medical center's staff and patients. The brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon donated more than \$100 to purchase nonperishable food items for a local radio station's food drive to benefit Manna Soup Kitchen at Thanksgiving. Alpha Phi Omega added \$150 in frozen turkeys to Manna's holiday effort. And the sisters of Delta Zeta will be spending the next week creating holiday cards and decorations for the residents of the Orono Nursing Home.

Lambda Chi Alpha is developing a partnership with Manna, says brother Josh Tripp. Fourteen fraternity brothers spent Dec. 5 cooking and serving food, as well as cleaning up the grounds surrounding the kitchen. The group hopes to regularly send volunteers and plan semi-annual events like the holiday project. With this many people all in one house, you have the manpower to do more, Tripp says.

Message of Obesity's Toll Not Getting Through

Dec. 13, 1999

Contact: [Kay Hyatt](#) (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- The advancement of medical science, highlighted by the development and promotion of antibiotics and vaccines, has been highly effective in helping obliterate infectious diseases that plagued the nation and the world just a few decades ago. But the progress isn't so dramatic when it comes to preventing and controlling the chronic diseases that contribute to premature disability and death. The message is clear, but it's not one that most Americans want to hear, especially during the holidays, according to a University of Maine health and fitness expert.

Over-consumption of food and lack of physical activity lead to obesity, which increases the risk and severity of chronic illnesses, such as cardiovascular problems, diabetes and hypertension, says Nellie Orr, a specialist in the effects of exercise and diet on disease processes. While there is some potential genetic propensity for obesity, the condition is epidemic in the United States. One-third of the adults in the country and one-quarter of the children are obese, according to Orr, which means that more than 30 percent of their total body weight is fat.

Seventy percent of all health care dollars are spent to treat obesity-related diseases says Orr. It's easier to blame unhealthy conditions on heredity rather than lifestyle choices that most people can affect, Orr points out. But in most cases, the cause of obesity - and its related afflictions - is simply over-consumption and inactivity, she says.

Even all the emphasis on healthy diets and fitness doesn't counteract the appeal of the all-you-can eat market or quell the national appetite for bigger servings. "There's a huge gap between what we know about diet and exercise and what we do about it," says Orr.

Essential fat is required for proper physiological functioning, Orr emphasizes. But extra fat is excess tissue that must be carried around and nourished. Surplus weight compels the cardiovascular system to supply additional energy, at the expense of other bodily needs, and forces the musculoskeletal system to bear additional stress, which can lead to low back pain and aching joints. On the plus side, proper exercise and sufficient amounts of nutrient-rich foods help us function better, maintain good health and recover more quickly from illness or injury.

Orr wants everyone to enjoy the holidays and their traditions, but don't seek consolation from stress by overeating, especially those high-fat comfort foods, she cautions. The average person gains five to seven pounds during the holidays from over-consumption and lack of activity. One pound equals 3,500 calories, so that extra seven pounds packed on during the holidays is the result of nearly 25,000 extra calories. Unfortunately, far too many people fail to lose those extra pounds and just keep adding more bulk year after year.

"Don't deceive yourself with promises that you'll go on a diet tomorrow, says Orr. Somehow, for most of us, that day just never comes.

UMaine Announces Allocation Plan for Coca-Cola Money; Classroom, Library Improvements Highlighted

Dec. 13, 1999

Media Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff has announced his allocation plan for nearly \$3 million in funds to be received over a ten-year period from the Coca-Cola Co. in exchange for exclusive rights to provide certain beverages on campus.

The allocation decision follows three months of campus discussion as to how best to use the "Coke funds." The university announced in August that it had selected Coca-Cola as the university's exclusive beverage provider as a result of a year-long competitive bidding process directed by a committee of UMaine students and staff members. The agreement covers soft drinks, sports drinks, juices and bottled water.

In a letter to employees and students distributed on campus today, Hoff says the overwhelming majority of the money will go to two academic needs that "can be significantly helped by this kind of limited-term supplemental funding:"

€ nearly \$1.2 million to renovate classrooms and teaching laboratories and equip them with technology

€ more than \$1 million to expand the collection at Fogler Library Hoff adds that while those funds will not meet the total need in either area, over the ten-year life of the agreement they will augment other University resources provided through conventional budget accounts and funds.

The remaining funds available will be used to address other needs identified by members of the campus community during the past few months:

€ \$350,000 to Maine Bound, the University's popular outdoor education program. Half of the funds provided to Maine Bound -- \$175,000 -- will be in the form of a loan that Maine Bound will pay back, over ten years, through its fee structure and other sources of funds. The funds received from Maine Bound as it repays the loan will go directly into the library fund. The \$1 million allocated to Fogler Library includes revenues from that loan repayment.

€ \$70,000 to purchase special chairs that can be placed on the Astroturf surface of Morse Field at Harold Alfond Sports Stadium. This one-time purchase will allow UMaine to resume its tradition of holding its annual May commencement outdoors, with all graduates participating in a single ceremony. Recent practice has been to split the graduating class into two groups and hold separate, indoor ceremonies at Alfond Sports Arena.

€ \$42,000 to develop plans for a fitness center that will be constructed when additional funds become available from other sources. Hoff says current and prospective students alike say a new fitness center will improve substantially the campus environment and attractiveness of the University.

€ The remainder of the cash available under the agreement -- \$480,000, spread out over ten years -- will be used as contingency funds, with the possibility that eventually they could be used to augment the above-listed allocations or to fund new opportunities.

In his campus letter, Hoff says that his allocation decisions were based heavily on suggestions offered by students and employees through a series of open forums and correspondence.

"The general consensus throughout the discussions was that the University and its students would be better served by concentrating on a few areas of clear and addressable need rather than dilute the overall benefits of the

Coca-Cola money by spreading it thinly over a broad variety of projects," he explained. "I believe that this plan best meets the criteria we established for serving students."

UMaine Youth Program Earns Another National Award

Dec. 13, 1999

Contact: [Kay Hyatt](#) at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- The National Youth Sports Program at the University of Maine has been named one of the best in the country for the third time in its seven-year history. In announcing the 1999 Meritorious Program award winners, the National Collegiate Athletic Association recognized the UMaine program for outstanding leadership, service to children and community involvement. The UMaine NYSP received a first-year commendation award in 1993 and earned a meritorious program award in 1994.

The NCAA oversees the federally funded skills development and educational summer program at 188 sites around the country. Twenty-three of those sites, including UMaine, were selected as exceptional, based on rigorous national evaluations. The 1999 winners will be honored at a February awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. At least 90 percent of the children served in the program must meet federal low-income family guidelines.

National Program Director Edward Thiebe, based in Indianapolis, credited the consistent leadership of project administrator Stephen Butterfield and activities director Lynne Haynes, who have headed the UMaine NYSP since its establishment, as instrumental to the day camp's on-going success. Butterfield is professor of education at UMaine, and Haynes is a physical education teacher at Mattanawcook Academy in Lincoln.

The free six-week camp served nearly 300 children ages 10-16, this summer, representing a 53 percent participant return rate, which Thiebe says is the best proof that good things are going on at the UMaine NYSP. Nationally, the return rate is 35 percent.

In addition to daily swimming instruction, campers develop skills in a variety of other sports and participate in educational, recreational and career awareness opportunities on campus and in nearby communities.

Accessibility is a major component of the UMaine program. Daily bus transportation to and from the campus is provided to youngsters in surrounding communities, encompassing four Maine counties, or a geographic area roughly the size of the state of Rhode Island. "The commitment to outreach is particularly noteworthy," said Thiebe.

The NYSP is a partnership between the U.S. Government, the NCAA, host institutions and local communities. Thiebe praised the project's high level of UMaine and community support in terms of in-kind contributions, personal participation and donations of goods and services. The UMaine program also receives grants from the Maine Department of Education and the Maine Nutrition Network, which help provide campers with two healthy meals a day - breakfast and lunch - plus education on good nutrition.

While the initial federal grant is approximately \$59,000, in-kind contributions from UMaine and donations of goods and services from the private sector area bring the overall value of the program and opportunities it offers to over \$174,000. These contributions range from free physicals for all participants to field trips.

Through these combined efforts and commitment, UMaine's NYSP partnership is stretching limited funds to bring children a high level of service. "The meritorious program award is well deserved," said Thiebe.

500 Graduate at UMaine's 195th Commencement

Dec. 18, 1999

Media Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Me. -- Inspired by a [Commencement address](#) on the subject of taking action to contribute to and improve the world, 500 students received degrees at the University of Maine's graduation ceremony this morning.

Ernestine Schlant Bradley, a professor at Montclair State University in New Jersey and the wife of Presidential candidate Bill Bradley, delivered the address and encouraged the graduates to take the "sense of excitement and challenge" they experienced in college and carry it with them in life after UMaine.

"It is not enough to learn -- we have to act on what we've learned," she said. "Education and knowledge may help you forge ideals, but action alone gives you the possibility of making those ideals reality. In order to create anything new, to make a change or a difference, we have to take action. And taking action means taking risks."

Bradley, who is a scholar of German and comparative literature and is the author of four books and numerous articles on a variety of subjects related to German literature, told the graduates and an audience of 3,500 friends and relatives that she has been inspired by people she has met while traveling the country on the campaign trail in the last few months. She said that she is "heartened" to think that there are young people seeking to find a way to live up to the ideals set by others.

"Before any of us can join with others in courage and conviction, we have to understand ourselves and what we have to give," she said. "There are many conflicting emotions, drives and abilities within each of us. In a sense, just as a group effort is a blending of talents and forces, the individual is also such a blend. To be internally strong, you have to understand that you are not just a head or heart or body alone."

The German-born Bradley, who moved to the United States at 21 and earned a Ph.D. from Emory University eight years later, said that her education helped to prepare her to face challenges and to make judgments. She told the graduates that education can serve them in a similar way as they confront issues in their lives.

"I believe that the question of how we will all live together well in a uniquely diverse America is your generation's issue. It is your abilities -- your heads and hearts, your understanding of yourselves and others -- that will move our country to grapple with this crucial issue and get it figured out," she said. "Knowing yourself, respecting the self of another and acting on that knowledge are the first steps towards that goal. We are on the eve of the 21st century. You can make it your business to see to it that when we get to the year 2030 many of the divisions within our country will be mended."

The 90-minute ceremony, which was presided over by UMaine President Peter S. Hoff, included a [faculty message](#) from Keith W. Hutchison, the 1999 UMaine Presidential Outstanding Teaching Award recipient. Greetings from the University of Maine System Board of Trustees were brought by the board's chair, UMaine graduate James D. Mullen. Gregory D. Jamison, vice chair of the University of Maine General Alumni Association, welcomed the new graduates to the ranks of more than 84,000 UMaine alumni.

New Pulp and Paper Foundation Endowment to Encourage Graduate Students

December 21, 1999

Contact [Nick Houtman](#), 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Erdogan Kiran, Gottesman Research Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Maine, has established an endowment fund administered by the University of Maine Pulp and Paper Foundation to encourage high ability potential graduate students in chemical engineering. The endowment will include a fund for a self perpetuating annual award and an annual talent recognition scholarship.

Undergraduate students at UMaine are eligible for the scholarship to assist with their graduate school expenses.

In announcing the endowment fund, Kiran said, "I have had an enjoyable association with the University of Maine for two decades. Although I am leaving to be head of the Department of Chemical Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, I want to show my deep regard for the University of Maine and its students. Maine has some extraordinarily capable undergraduates studying chemical engineering who I would like to encourage in the years to come as my legacy to Maine and to the Department of Chemical Engineering. A piece of me will always be in Orono."

Kiran has been a professor in chemical engineering since 1981 when he joined the staff as a visiting professor. Subsequently he was appointed as a tenured associate professor and was promoted to professor in 1986. He has been the UMaine Department of Chemical Engineering's Gottesman Research Professor since 1986.

His earned his a Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1974. His research focuses on supercritical phenomena which allow processing of materials at high pressure using environmentally friendly methods.

He is the founding editor of the Journal of Supercritical Fluids and has been an international leader in the development of research related to supercritical fluids. He has been director of both the 1993 and 1998 NATO Advanced Study Institutes on Supercritical Fluids as well as editor of two books on supercritical fluid science and technology published in 1993 and 1994. His resume includes a dozen book chapters as well as more than 60 refereed technical publications. In 1995 he was recognized by UMaine as the recipient of the annual Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award.

The Erdogan Kiran Scholarship Endowment will be administered by the Pulp and Paper Foundation along with more than 100 endowed scholarship funds.

Information about the Foundation's scholarships is available from the executive director, Stan Marshall, Jr. at 5737 Jenness Hall, Orono, ME 04469-5737, phone 207-581-2295.

Risks for Stroke and Heart Disease Reduce Mental Abilities

Date: Dec. 23, 1999

Media Contact: [Nick Houtman](#) at (207) 581-3777

ORONO -- Analyses of data based on two long-running studies of cardio-vascular disease and mental abilities such as learning, thinking and reaction time, are providing powerful evidence that untreated high blood pressure and diabetes result in lowered cognitive ability.

A team of University of Maine psychologists working with physicians and epidemiologists at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse and the Framingham Heart Study has documented an association between major risk factors for stroke and heart disease and age-related decline in cognitive abilities as measured by neuropsychological tests.

With data from two of the nation's longest running studies of such risks, these investigators have obtained strong evidence for several important relationships:

- 1) hypertension (high blood pressure) and diabetes are independently associated with an accelerated decline in cognitive functioning with advancing age;
- 2) untreated blood pressure levels in mid-life are associated with decline in cognitive ability many years later;
- 3) the risk of lowered cognitive functioning doubles in the presence of both hypertension and diabetes and increases even further in the presence of smoking and obesity.

Diabetes and hypertension are the key risk factors that drive these relationships.

"Prior to the Framingham study," says Merrill Elias, UMaine professor of psychology, "conventional wisdom said that high blood pressure might benefit sustained levels of cognitive functioning in old age because it maintained blood flow in the brain. People were operating on the idea that rise in blood pressure was probably inevitable as you get older and might even be good for you. That is where the phrase 'essential hypertension' comes from. The idea is that it was essential for blood flow and brain oxygenation in old age. This is of course not true. Lowering of blood pressure at all ages results in a dramatic decrease in prevalence and incidence of stroke. Now we know that these risk factors for stroke, hypertension and diabetes, are associated with more rapid decline in cognitive ability over the life span. Further we know that lowering of cognitive performance in hypertensive diabetics is probably exacerbated by obesity and cigarette smoking," says Elias.

UMaine scientists involved in the projects include Elias, who is also an adjunct research professor of medicine and public health at Boston University; Michael A. Robbins, senior research associate and cooperating associate professor of psychology; and Penelope K. Elias, adjunct associate professor of psychology at UMaine and senior research associate in mathematics and statistics at Boston University.

Longest running UMaine study

The evidence that blood pressure is a predictor of cognitive ability has been accumulating for more than two decades through one of UMaine's longest running research projects. Known as the Maine-Syracuse Studies of Hypertension and Cognitive Functioning, it has enrolled 2,000 men and women ranging from 17 to 90 years old from the Syracuse, New York area and Maine. It has been supported by grants from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The project was started in Syracuse in 1975 by Merrill Elias and David H. P. Streeten, professor of medicine. Michael Robbins and Penelope K. Elias joined the study in 1981. It has been funded every year since 1977, most

recently with \$311,177 from NIA in 1999. This work firmly established that high blood pressure is a risk factor for lowered cognitive ability.

In 1990 the research team decided to study additional cardiovascular/stroke risk factors in relation to cognitive ability. Thus in 1991 with supplemental funding from the National Institute on Aging, the Maine research team obtained data the Framingham Heart Study on a large sample of subjects who had never been treated for hypertension. The objective was to obtain more data on diabetes, obesity, and cigarette smoking. They worked closely with Philip A. Wolf (neurology) and R. B. D'Agostino (epidemiology and biostatistics) at Boston University.

"Whether we use measures from the Framingham Study or the Maine-Syracuse study we get the same result," says Elias. "Decline in cognition is strongest with high blood pressure and diabetes and less strong with the other two factors. Nevertheless, the relationship still holds."

About 85% of the Maine-Syracuse participants are from the Syracuse, New York area. When they entered the study and again every five years, they received an extensive examination for hypertension and related risk factors (diabetes, obesity, smoking) and a battery of neuropsychological tests. Participants are being enrolled up to the present. As a result, the Maine-Syracuse project has created one of the longest running and extensive data bases on blood pressure and comprehensive measures neuropsychological test performance in the world.

The Framingham Heart Study began in 1950 with a group of about 5,000 participants. Extensive medical data on cardiovascular risk factors have been obtained every two years. A battery of neuropsychological tests was first given to 1,799 of the subjects in 1968 and every two years since then.

Studies vary in cognitive tests

The two studies also vary in their approaches to cognitive function. The Framingham study uses a short battery of neuropsychological tests emphasizing memory. The Maine-Syracuse study uses a more comprehensive battery measuring speed of performance, memory, fluid intelligence, and crystallized-verbal ability. However, the Framingham Study has much more data on a wide range of cardiovascular disease risk factors and diseases than does the Maine-Syracuse Study.

Study results have been published in Hypertension, the American Journal of Epidemiology, Psychosomatic Medicine, Health Psychology, the Journal of Gerontology, the Psychology of Aging and have been reported at professional meetings including those of the American Heart Association.

"It appears that as the number of risk factors goes up, cognitive functioning goes down," Elias adds. "We must keep in mind, however, that effective treatment or prevention practices can delay or prevent accelerated cognitive decline associated with cardiovascular risk factors. Our data, and data from other investigators, should provide an additional incentive for people to control hypertension, diabetes, cigarette smoking and obesity through good health practices or medical treatment."

In the Maine-Syracuse project, researchers asked participants to recall diverse materials presented to them, ranging from strings of numbers to short stories to complex figures. Various other tests required solving arithmetic problems, providing definitions for words, listing as many words as possible starting with a specific letter, identifying some likeness between apparently dissimilar objects, producing designs, and performing motor tasks with and without visual reference.

Decline is gradual

As demonstrated through these neuropsychological tests, the decline in thinking abilities is gradual over time. "We are not talking about people who are cognitively impaired or demented," says Elias. "We are talking about hypertension and diabetes as insidious predictors of gradual and subtle decline in cognitive ability. Pathophysiological changes associated with hypertension and diabetes take many years. So do the cognitive

changes associated with them. Taken from the perspective of the individual, the individual with untreated or poorly controlled hypertension, particularly in the presence of diabetes, obesity, and smoking, may decline more in cognitive ability over time than they would if they were free from risk factors."

The team of researchers controlled statistically for factors such as age, sex and medication to minimize the chances that the analysis could reflect differences in those areas. They also eliminated from the study people who had suffered a heart attack, stroke, brain trauma, psychiatric illness or dementia.

"The mechanisms for change in the brain that would affect cognitive functioning should be the same for both diabetes and high blood pressure," Elias adds. "With untreated hypertension, you have gradual destruction of the arterial wall, changes in autoregulation, altered oxygen flow to the brain, and in old age, lesions in the white matter of the brain and small areas of dead brain tissue (infarctions) from lack of oxygen perfusion. Pathophysiological changes in the brain associated with diabetes are similar, and thus, you would expect both to exert a negative impact on cognitive ability, and they do.

"Similarly cigarette smoking ultimately results in decreased or intermittent changes in brain oxygenation and damage of the epithelial walls of the arteries. Obesity contributes to these effects by increasing the risk of diabetes and hypertension," says Elias.

Association with dementia?

As their sample population grows older, the Eliases, Robbins and their colleagues intend to pursue the relationship between reductions in cognitive functioning and the eventual onset of dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. "We know from the work of others that diabetes, hypertension, and lowered cognitive functioning at a younger age are risk factors for dementia, including probable Alzheimer's Disease, in old age," says Elias.

"It has been hypothesized, although it is yet unproven, that uncontrolled or poorly treated diabetes and hypertension may ultimately progress to dementia in some individuals, but not others. This may be the most exciting area of behavioral science research in the future. We hope that our data will encourage this line of investigation and that we can be part of this effort."

The team has already begun to extend collaborative work to include investigators at Oxford University, England, who are working on cardiovascular risk factors and dementia.

UMaine Political Science Professor Examines Chechen Conflict, Yeltsin's Tenure

December 21, 1999

Media Contact: [Peter Cook](#) at 581-3756

ORONO -- It has been nearly a decade since Boris Yeltsin tore up his Communist Party membership card and declared himself free of the party that ruled Russia for over 70 years. A year later, he became the first democratically elected president of what is now known as the Russian Federation.

Since that time, Yeltsin's tenure has been marked by various controversies. Most recently, the attention of the world community is on the conflict in Chechnya. A political science professor at the University of Maine says that the second Chechen-Russian war this decade has the potential to seriously strain relations between the Russian Federation and the United States if not handled well.

"Russia and the U.S. are in profound disagreement in terms of how Russia ought to be resolving its territorial issue in Chechnya," says James Warhola, who teaches Russian and comparative politics at UMaine. "In this case, perhaps the stated reasons of the Russian Federation are maybe not quite as clear and straightforward as they were in the first war of 1994 to 1996."

That conflict, says Warhola, was an attempt by Russia to bring Chechnya back into the federation.

"As far as the Russian Federation is concerned, Chechnya is simply one of 89 constituent units of the federation," says Warhola. He says the Russian constitution, adopted in 1993, gives Chechnya some autonomy, but that fell far short of the total independence the leaders of that country demanded.

"They have had that demand since the collapse of the Soviet Union. By December of 1994, Moscow and the Chechen leadership just simply could not agree and Moscow saw fit to conduct a war to bring Chechnya back under Moscow's control," says Warhola.

The Chechens fought Russia to a standstill by May of 1996 and the war came to an end. The two governments signed a series of agreements to stop the fighting, and to put the question of Chechen independence on hold for five years.

"The agreement did nothing to amend the constitution, which declared that Chechnya was a part of the Russian Federation, but did resolve the conflict until this year," says Warhola. "What has been happening within Russia is that there have been a series of bombings, terrorist attacks. Some are in Moscow, some in St. Petersburg and others in provincial areas."

The Russian government says that from Sept. of 1998 to this year, approximately 1,600 people have been killed in the bombings.

"Russia has repeatedly claimed that its intelligence services have determined it was Chechens who were responsible for the attacks," says Warhola. "Moscow says it began the military activity to impose peaceful conditions within the Russian Federation and root out the terrorists and bandits."

Warhola says the Chechen government has denied any complicity with the terrorist activity and has begun to publicly question Moscow's motives.

"It seems to me that one would have to be a bit naïve to think that Russia has been engaging in this massive military activity without some of its motive being to bring Chechnya back into Russia," says Warhola. "Whether there was a calculation in the minds of Yeltsin and his security council that Chechnya must firmly be brought back into the Russian Federation in order for the terrorism to stop, we don't know. It would be hard not to conclude that, frankly."

Throughout the conflict, despite the criticism of Europe and the U.S, Russia has maintained that its goals are to eliminate the conditions that are spawning the terrorist activity within the Russian Federation.

"This is where the situation becomes ambiguous in terms of the international community and international law. Both the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have furiously protested Moscow's handling of the situation because of the currently ambiguous nature of Chechnya's status, even according to the Russian-Chechen agreements of 1995, which had explicitly put the question of the precise nature of Chechnya's status on hold until the year 2001, or a five-year 'breathing period,'" says Warhola. "When pressed on these issues, the argument becomes one of maintaining territorial integrity of the country, which Russia claims it has the right to do because Chechnya is part of the Russian Federation."

The situation becomes further complicated by the fact that the citizens of Russia overwhelmingly support this conflict, as compared to the last war with Chechnya.

In the end, Warhola says, a peaceful resolution to this conflict seems likely, before the issue further degenerates, which in turn could create the conditions for broader regional conflict, which no one wants, including the Russian Federation government or people. He says that the EU and OSCE will put increasing pressure on the country to end the fighting, and encourages the United States to back the efforts of those two organizations, rather than criticize Russia directly.

This action would help support the peacemaking efforts of the EU and OSCE without inflaming Russian passions against America. "Reports are that the U.S. has already put payments to the International Monetary Fund on hold, as well as a series of agriculture payments," says Warhola. "There are some countries where this approach will work. In Russia, I suspect that not only will it not work, but it might lead to an anti-American backlash."

Warhola says that far too often, the tendency in dealing with Russia is to put that country's actions in the worst possible light.

"There are a number of aspects of Russian politics today that are substantially different from politics not only in the Soviet era but in the long stretch of Russian history," says Warhola. "For example, there is a bicameral parliament and an independent judiciary that have the power of checks and balances on the Russian presidency. This is not something they've ever had.

"They also have massive social problems which work against the establishment of a truly law-based state, such as widespread corruption and criminality, but despite these, the fact is that Russia has made substantial progress in moving beyond the autocratic governance that has characterized so much of its history, including the entire Soviet era from 1917 to 1991," says Warhola.

Much of the credit for these steps towards democracy should be given to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, according to Warhola. He says that Yeltsin has respected the rulings of the judiciary in a number of cases and allowed them to be a balance against his power and has allowed a multiplicity of parties to exist and participate in elections.

"Yeltsin has been much more democratic in his intentions and his behavior than many of his critics would allow," says Warhola. "On the one hand, Boris Yeltsin has ruled in some apparently non-democratic ways, such as the unsettlingly frequent use of presidential decrees. On the other hand, he was democratically elected and re-elected, the constitution was written and the Russian people now have a voice in their government, and there is evidence of the emergence of a genuinely civil society, replete with opposition political parties, interest groups and the like."