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Claudia Tucci

University of Maine

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Speaker series designed to inform career women

by Claudia Tucci
Staff Writer

The "Women Who Work" speaker series, designed to give women students a realistic understanding of the prospective workplace, will begin this evening with the theme "Women in Business."

Jane P. Norris, president of Mechanics Savings Bank in Auburn, and Eva Horton, owner of Kristia, Inc. of Portland, will speak about their daily work lives at 7:30 p.m. in the Damn Yankee, Memorial Union Speakers will answer questions and a reception will follow. The public is invited.

"Our basic desire is to increase the realism of students' perceptions of work...to get rid of some of the glamor attached to titles," said Mary Childers of the UMO Equal Employment Opportunity Office. Childers is associate director of the Leadership in Educational Equity Project.

The EEO Office and the Women's Center jointly developed the four-part series, which is also sponsored by the Distinguished Lecture Series, the Office of Career Planning and Placement and the Panhellenic Council. The April 19, 22, 26 and 29 sessions will be held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Damn Yankee.

Themes for the three successive sessions are respectively "Women in Politics," "Women in Medicine" and "Women in Non-Traditional Jobs." Some of the other speakers will be Republican gubernatorial candidate Sherry Huber (April 22); midwife Ariel Wilcox (April 26); and New England Telephone Co. engineer and construction supervisor Cheryl Wilson (April 29).

Speakers from non-traditional women's occupations were chosen, since the series is meant to offer students role models, Childers said. Most women are employed as clerical workers, she said.

The series is to introduce students to women who have been especially successful in commonly agreed-upon terms, or on their own terms, she said. As an example, "It's commonly agreed upon that the president of a bank is successful."