Late Work Hours Can Shake Marital Stability, Study Suggests

Feb. 1, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

The emerging 24-hour global economy can be hazardous to marriage, according to new research published in the February edition of the Journal of Marriage and the Family. Particularly for couples with children, the additional physical demands and psychological stress of balancing late night and rotating work schedules can pull at the threads of marriage stability, findings from analysis of national data suggest.

Millions of American couples include a spouse who works late or rotating hours. Such couples are experiencing significantly higher separation and divorce rates than those with spouses working only fixed daytime jobs or shift workers without children, according to Harriet B. Presser, a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland's Department of Sociology and director of the Center on Population, Gender, and Social Inequality.

Her study, funded by the William T. Grant Foundation and the first to examine longitudinal data for the consequences of working late night hours on marital stability, reveals a risky trade-off between the economic benefits and family costs of such schedules.

For couples with children, the risk of divorce increases up to six times when one of the spouses works between midnight and 8 a.m. as compared to daytime hours, according to Presser's findings. The extent of the increased risk depends on the gender of the spouse and the length of the marriage. These results were evident when controlling for the number of hours worked as well as variables such as education of spouses, previous marital experience, age difference, number of children and the ideologies of both spouses about gender roles. But working those same schedules does not indicate a higher risk of divorce for couples without children.

"Clearly, something is going on when one or the other spouse works nights that adds extra stress to the marriage," Presser says. The fact that non-standard work schedules do not affect marital instability when couples have no children suggests that, in the absence of responsibility for children, couples are fairly well able to cope with whatever stress their work schedules generate. The critical factor for couples with children seems to be the physical demands of late and changing work schedules combined with the psychological stress they generate on families. Findings from her previous research suggest that complicated work schedules are most often determined by employer demand and job availability, not by personal choice.

Among dual-earner couples where one spouse works days and the other evenings or nights, fathers are the primary caregivers of children in virtually all cases when their wives are employed, according to Presser. While the greater involvement of fathers in child care is desirable and the reduced child care expense is economically beneficial to the family, these gains may be offset by the longer-term costs to the marriage.

"Working non-standard schedules profoundly affects the scheduling and functioning of family life," says Presser, noting that the number of waking hours spouses can spend together is determined by which hours they are employed outside the home as well as how many. "If indeed, social interaction among family members builds greater bonds, communication and caring, we would expect that the more time spouses have with one another, the more likely they are to develop strong commitments," she says. "Conversely, the lack of time for building such connections, combined with the physical stress of working nights or changing schedules can be detrimental to the quality of marital and family life."

Presser's analyses of existing data reveal the widespread prevalence of dual-earner parents working different shifts. As one spouse comes home to face a "second shift," the other is getting ready to leave for his or her regular work day (or night), which basically simulates a single-parent home, says Presser.
The relationship of work and family is complex and can greatly influence one another, Journal of Marriage and the Family editor Robert Milardo concurs. A professor of human development at the University of Maine, Milardo says that a growing body of evidence is showing that it is not simply long work hours that is the culprit. Rather it is "long work hours and role overload that are consistently being associated with less positive parent-child relations and conflict. In the case of Dr. Presser's work, we are seeing that late hours exacerbate the situation leading to a substantial increase in marital instability," he says. "Where there is a poverty of time in families, it has its greatest effect on parents."

The proliferation of non-standard work schedules is a significant social phenomenon with important implications for the health and well-being of individuals and families and for the shaping of social policies, according to Presser. Yet, the dilemma is not part of the public discourse. A social demographer, Presser puts America's changing work schedule and its potential for impacting family life into context:

€ Based on 1997 national data (and reported in the June 11, 1999 issue of Science), Presser notes that only 54.5 percent, a bare majority, of employed men and women regularly work a standard (35-40 hour) work week, Monday through Friday, on a fixed daytime schedule. The rest work non-standard schedules (evenings, nights, rotating schedules and/or weekends).

€ Two-fifths of all employed Americans work mostly during the evenings or nights, on rotating shifts and/or weekends.

€ For the most common U.S. family - the two-earner couple - the prevalence of non-standard work schedules is especially high. Of those with children under 14 in the household, 31.1 percent work evening, night or rotating schedules and 46.8 percent work weekends. Rarely do both spouses work the same non-standard schedules.

The trends are evident, but the consequences on family life are yet to be acknowledged, according to Presser. "As a society, we have finally moved away from the Ozzie and Harriet view of traditional family life, but we haven't recognized the reality of what the home time structure of today's family looks like and how its needs have changed," she says.

The work schedules of two-earner families don't generate much attention in the current policy debate, Presser notes. "Who should work nights can't and shouldn't be regulated, but the prevalence of two-earner, split-shift couples and the apparent detrimental impact of night schedules on the quality of marriage and family merit the awareness and consideration of employers, scholars and policymakers," she says. "Given the high divorce rate in the U.S., our steady direction toward a 24-hour economy and the large number of American couples with children working nights, evenings and weekends, we definitely need more research to assess the consequences of work and family trade-offs."

*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. www.ume.main.edu/~JMF

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Contemporary Prints of 29 Artists Found in New University of Maine Museum of Art Exhibit

January 4, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 207-581-3571

ORONO -- The 29 artists of "Sequences" are of divergent sensibilities, different nationalities and disparate ages. What they have in common is a conceptual and practical interest in the series - a device that allows them to construct a serial narrative while leaving visible the possibility of change; to establish context while alluding at its incompleteness; to suggest an ongoing presence while calling attention to absence; to reflect a vision of the world in which truth is as likely to be found in the space between things as in the things themselves.

As with atomic matter, it is the bonds between the bits that signify, producing meaningful substance out of ink, paper and thin air.

The artists represented in "Sequences," on exhibit Jan. 21- Feb. 26 at the University of Maine Museum of Art, are participating in an entirely contemporary art practice, but they also are exercising an ancient tradition. Richard Long's "River Avon Mud Drawings" are semi-automatic records of natural history, apparently abstract images that also carry overtones of scientific demonstrations illustrated and reproduced in print. Bernd and Hilla Becher photograph quintessentially modern sites of industrial decay, but their attention to taxonomic display harks back to ancient bestiaries and botanies. Elaine Sturtevant's "Duchamp" studies and Hanne Darboven's triple set of synthetic marble read not simply as self-contained triptychs, but as excerpts from larger catalogues.

Many of these prints seem to be documents, excerpts, reproductions of works of art that happened in some other time, some other place. Of course, this is another traditional role of the print, though one often downplayed in the rush to establish printmaking as an "original" art. But such overt reproduction has its own riches: Christo offers three views of the running fence not as a totality but as a selection from a much greater basket. The triptych is a document, but also evidence of documentation's inability to make time stop; to re-create or re-present the past.

The fact that these works exist as prints affects their meanings in another important way, because along with the avoidance of bombast goes a material immediacy and vulnerability. These "sequences" employ virtually every print medium - from the most venerable and simplistic (woodcut) to the most pervasively commercial (offset lithograph), with stops along the way at each historical hitching post (mezzotint, etching, lithograph, photograph, heliogravure, screenprint).

Many of the works use different media on different sheets, as in Knoebel's astute pairing of screenprint, where thick pigments rest on the paper's surface, with mezzotint, with its deeply impressed and tangible burr - media that not only feel different to the touch but respond very differently to light. The fact that he also used glow-in-the-dark inks is a further witty comment on the mutability of even the most visual constructions.

The "Sequences" collection of 78 prints in more than 12 different techniques - from woodcut to etching to grano lithograph - forms a concentrated survey of contemporary graphic art at the end of this century.

The University of Maine Museum of Art hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. Gallery talks and tours are available if scheduled in advance. Contact the Museum of Art for more information, 207-581-3255.
Legacy of Seafaring Wives the Focus of a University of Maine Museum of Art Exhibit

January 4, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 207-581-3571

ORONO -- "The Only Woman on Board: The Legacy of Seafaring Wives" features the turn-of-the-century photographs and words of Alice and Sumner Drinkwater of Yarmouth, Maine. The exhibition, on display Jan. 21-Feb. 26 at the University of Maine Museum of Art, includes 20 photographs, printed from the original negatives, taken during the couple's seafaring journeys around the world.

Sumner Drinkwater (1859-1942) was captain of the barque "Grace Deering" from 1897-1903. His wife, Alice (1861-1915), often accompanied him at sea. On one such voyage (January 1898- March 1899), the Drinkwaters rounded the Cape of Good Hope in Africa, visiting Australia, Singapore and the island of St. Helena before returning the way they came. Both Sumner and Alice kept diaries.

It was quite common during the 19th century for a captain's wife to accompany her husband to sea. As "the only woman on board," they had to balance the pressures of being both loving and devoted wives, and observing the strict rules that defined gender roles during the Victorian age.

The story of Alice Drinkwater is unusually well documented. The Drinkwaters' diaries and photographs, discovered in 1978 by artist and historian Julianna Free, give an unprecedented look into the personal lives of Sumner and Alice, and the seafaring culture of their time.

The exhibition based on the Drinkwaters' photos and diary excerpts also includes historical artifacts related to the "Grace Deering." Free also provides a perspective on Alice's experience by juxtaposing the art of quilting with photography and shipbuilding. For the installation, Free has created a quilted sail, featuring images from the Drinkwaters' photos and diaries. The soft-sculpture, a visual metaphor for Alice Drinkwater, will hang from the ceiling, rigged in the same manner as the "Grace Deering" to abstractly resemble a woman in 19th-century dress.

Also as part of the installation, visitors will be asked to record their own responses to the sea - from personal reminiscences to historical connections.

The University of Maine Museum of Art hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. Gallery talks and tours are available if scheduled in advance. Contact the Museum of Art for more information, 207-581-3255.
"Memories of a Maine Island" Photography Exhibit Extended at Bangor Public Library

January 4, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Photos from Memories of a Maine Island, a book published by the Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine, will be on exhibit through the month of January at the Bangor Public Library.

The library has extended the exhibit, which was to run only through December of last year. The photos are on display in the second floor gallery.

Memories of a Maine Island features stories and photographs of life at the turn of the century on Little Cranberry Island, Maine.

The book, written by Marie Locke and Nancy Montgomery, was 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 started by the White House and the NEH to encourage the preserving and sharing of personal family history and treasures.
SPIFFY Fund Reaches New Growth Milestone

January 4, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The market has been very good to the Student Portfolio Investment Fund of the University of Maine Foundation (SPIFFY).

The SPIFFY portfolio has reached a new high of $820,000, up from $650,000 this time last year. The student-run fund was started in the fall of 1993 with an initial investment of $200,000 from the University of Maine Foundation. An additional $150,000 was added two years later.

Robert Strong, professor of finance at UMaine and SPIFFY's faculty advisor, says the current value of the portfolio reflects the overall growth of the stock market in recent years. Troy Dean, a senior business major in the Maine Business School and SPIFFY's new chair, says the group hopes this growth will continue.

"SPIFFY has had a great year and we look forward to the months and years ahead," says Dean. He says the group currently has about 40 members, with weekly attendance at approximately 25. SPIFFY is open to all students on campus, regardless of major.

Dean says he has been a member of SPIFFY since his sophomore year at UMaine.

"The thing that interested me most about SPIFFY was the opportunity to learn more about investments and the market. The university has some excellent professors, but you can only learn so much from the classroom," says Dean. "SPIFFY was the chance to get some hands-on experience and apply what was learned to real world situations."

Members of the group meet each week to discuss the portfolio, which includes companies such as Pixar, Microsoft and Viacom. At the meetings, each member of the group is free to suggest a stock to add to the portfolio. After giving others a week to research the stock, a vote is taken on whether to purchase.

"The average time spent researching a company varies. I think most students watch a stock for a while before proposing a company," says Dean. "The risks are very real when you make decisions with real money. It makes you research a company thoroughly and analyze the market conditions and trends. You are less likely to buy a stock in a company just because a friend told you it was a good investment."

Dean says he watches a particular stock for months before making a proposal to the group.

"You can learn a lot about a company and different industries when you research stocks," says Dean. "Even if you decide not to buy stock in that particular company, you will have a better understanding of what makes a sound investment."

Dean says he loves investing and will pursue a career in the money market industry after graduation.

"I would encourage any student or individual to join an investment club if they have any interest in the market," says Dean. "Even if you use a professional money manager, the knowledge that you gain from joining a club is invaluable."
Students Test Mettle in Nor'easter Ocean Sciences Bowl

January 4, 2000
For more information, contact: Sara Lindsay, Maine Sea Grant (207) 581-1434; slindsay@maine.edu

ORONO—Right about now, over 90 high school students from throughout Maine and New Hampshire are probably studying everything about marine science and the oceans they can get their hands on. These students make up the 16 teams competing in the third annual Northern New England Regional Ocean Sciences Bowl (Nor'easter Bowl). Teams will come to the University of Maine in Orono on Saturday, February 5 to participate in the competition, answering rapid-fire questions about the oceans that cover more than 70 percent of our planet. The team that wins in Orono will go to Washington, D.C. on April 15-17 to compete in the national finals.

Nor'easter Bowl 2000 is the regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, an event started in 1998 by the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE) and the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA). The competition was developed to provide a forum for students excelling in science and math to receive national recognition for their diligence and talents, while at the same time broadening their awareness and understanding of the oceans.

In both the regional and national competitions, questions cover all areas of ocean science, including biology, chemistry, geology, physics, history, and economics of the world's oceans, as well as navigation, geography, and ocean-related current events. The first Nor'easter Bowl was hosted by the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Boothbay Harbor, Maine and the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. The University of New Hampshire in Durham hosted last year's bowl. In 1999, over 1200 students and coaches from 240 schools participated in regional competitions throughout the U.S.

According to Sara Lindsay, education coordinator for the Sea Grant Program at the University of Maine and regional coordinator for this year's Nor'easter Bowl, "We have some great prizes for the winning teams. One is an overnight visit to the Darling Marine Center in Walpole where students will have a hands-on tour of the Center's facilities, habitats, and research vessel. Another team will be invited to Chewonki in Wiscasset to tour their facilities and take a sail on the bay. The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve has offered a day at their 1200-acre site, and the University of New Hampshire (UNH) is contributing a day-voyage for students on the research vessel Gulf Challenger. In addition, both the University of Maine (UMaine) College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture and the UNH Marine Program have offered scholarships to winning team members."

Each Nor'easter Bowl team is composed of four students, one alternate, and a coach. Judging teams for the competition will be made up of faculty, staff, graduate students, marine docents, and other volunteers from UMaine, UNH, and the Bigelow Lab. Major sponsors of Nor'easter Bowl 2000 include CORE, NMEA, UMaine School of Marine Sciences, UNH, Maine/New Hampshire Sea Grant, Gulf of Maine Marine Education Association, and Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center. Other local contributors include The Chewonki Foundation, Gulf of Maine Aquarium, and Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve. National sponsors include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Science Foundation, Oceanographer of the Navy, Office of Naval Research, and U.S. Geological Survey.
UMaine Lists Speakers and Specialists

January 5, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO, Maine -- Each year the University of Maine compiles a list of its personnel who are specialists in their fields, including many who are available to speak to groups and organizations. The free guide, Speakers Bureau and Specialists List 2000, is available to the public.

The guide lists over 200 speakers covering more than 500 topics in subject areas ranging from agriculture to zoology, as well as 110 specialists in 318 areas of expertise.

To obtain a copy of Speakers Bureau and Specialists List 2000 or for more information, e-mail, call (207) 581-3743, or write: Speakers Bureau, Department of Public Affairs, University of Maine, 5761 Public Affairs Building, Orono, Maine 04469-5761.

The Speakers Bureau and Specialists List 2000 can also be viewed at www.umaine.edu/speakersbureau.
Pedestrian Safety Roadshow Scheduled for Bangor Jan. 18

January 6, 2000
Media Contact: Nick Houtman at 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Representatives of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Maine Department of Transportation and City of Bangor will meet with citizen groups in Bangor Tuesday afternoon, January 18, to discuss pedestrian safety. The event, known as the Pedestrian Safety Roadshow, is sponsored by the FHWA and the Maine DOT and coordinated by Per Garder of the University of Maine Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

The goal of the program is to identify and solve the potential problems that affect pedestrian safety and community walkability. The event is free and open to the public. It is scheduled for 1 to 5:30 p.m. in the Bangor City Hall.

Participating city personnel include the city manager, the chief of police, the city planner, and the city engineer. The agenda includes brief presentations about pedestrian safety problems in Bangor. Peter Lagerwey, a representative of the FHWA from Seattle, Washington, will provide an overview of pedestrian safety issues.

Bangor is one of five Maine communities selected by the FHWA for a study of pedestrian safety. Garder, traffic safety officials from each community and the Maine DOT are analyzing accident data and making observational studies.

More information is available on the Internet at http://www.ota.fhwa.dot.gov/walk/ or from Garder at (207) 581-2177.
UMaine Professor Looks at Market Growth

January 6, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Dramatic changes in the market indicators have done little to impede the growth of the U.S. economy, which in the last quarter posted higher-than-expected growth. A finance professor with the University of Maine's Business School says there are many factors that contribute to the market that seemingly cannot fail.

"There continue to be a general lack of clear warning signs that things are falling apart," says Robert Strong, UMaine professor of finance. "The big question mark is how long can the market keep doing this?"

Strong says the robust economy is due to both higher-than-expected corporate earnings and low unemployment.

"In the long run, corporate earnings are overwhelmingly the most important variable driving the market," says Strong. "In the shorter term, human behavior, changes in sentiment, will cause prices to move more quickly than earnings changes."

Another good sign for the market is simply a lack of trouble in the world that would adversely affect the market.

"We're not at war with anyone, and don't have domestic turmoil of any sort. There is nothing going on that will raise a lot of uncertainty," says Strong. "The market is comfortable with that, as it doesn't like not knowing what's going on and what will happen next."

The only danger that Strong sees is the desire of some investors to engage in short-term speculation about the market's future, and price stocks according to that speculation rather than on any concrete financial evidence.

"When you make a short-term prediction about the market, you are in essence making a prediction about changes in human behavior and attitudes toward risk," says Strong. "Speculation can lead to unwarranted assumptions about what's reasonable and what's going to happen. When you have a lot of speculation in the economy, it's a tinderbox," says Strong.

Holding speculation in check is Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. Greenspan has raised interest rates three times since last June to keep both speculation and inflation in check.

"Greenspan is very much in tune with what's going on in the market and this speculative fervor is something that does bother him, because if everybody's willing to buy at any price, that in itself can tend to push prices up and be inflationary," says Strong. "Greenspan has a number of times made statements whereby he wants people to logically consider the nature of what it is they are buying and what it should be worth rather than simply buying any stock that goes up at any price."

Normally, investors dislike interest rate hikes, as they tend to minimize profits by making it more expensive to borrow money. In the case of Greenspan, says Strong, the market has learned to anticipate when he is going to raise interest rates and prepare for it.

"The stock market is perpetually looking ahead and trying to figure out what's going to happen next," says Strong. "So if everyone's decided that the Fed is going to raise rates a month from now, and they do, it doesn't have any effect because that is what everyone figured was to occur."

The growth in the market concerns Strong as a finance professor and advisor to SPIFFY, the student-run portfolio of the University of Maine Foundation.
"A lot of these students, and others new to the market, have only seen a market that goes up. They think it's easy, that some shares just go up more than others," says Strong. "This belief can develop into an attitude that perpetually successful speculation is something reasonable to expect, and it just doesn't work out that way."
Corn Trials Identify Cross Pollination Potential

Jan. 7, 2000
Media Contact: Nick Houtman at 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - The chance of cross-pollination between corn plants in the field, whether produced by traditional breeding practices or by genetic engineering, is small for plants in close proximity to each other and quickly drops to zero with increasing distance, according to a recent University of Maine study.

The study was conducted by John Jemison, an agronomist and water quality specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and Michael Vayda, professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Molecular Biology.

Two corn varieties, including one that is genetically modified (GM) and known as Roundup Ready corn, were grown at the university's Rogers Farm in Old Town. Some of the GM corn was cut down by vandals last August after plants had finished shedding their pollen.

Offspring (seeds) from the non-genetically modified corn were grown in the Roger Clapp greenhouse on the Orono campus to determine if any cross pollination had occurred between the Roundup Ready corn and the non-GM corn.

"Concern about the transport of pollen drift from genetically modified corn to non-GM corn is growing," says Jemison. "Organic farmers are concerned about having their product not meet organic standards and potentially losing their organic certification if pollen from GM corn cross pollinates their non-GM corn. Most corn breeders use set distances, about 1000 feet, from other corn plants to ensure genetic integrity."

Results of the study indicate that, in hybrid corn grown downwind from the Roundup Ready plots, there was about one percent cross-pollination in the first six rows within 100 feet of the Roundup Ready corn. In the middle six rows, the frequency dropped to 0.1%, and in the last six rows the frequency dropped to 0.03%. No cross pollination was found in corn 1000 feet away.

Only plants immediately downwind of the Roundup Ready corn exhibited significant cross pollination.

The results of the study indicate that although cross pollination is possible within 100 feet of GM crops, a 1,000-foot buffer or border rows adequately protect organic corn crops from neighboring crops of genetically modified varieties, says Jemison.
Atlantic Salmon Information Available to the Public

January 11, 2000
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - An endangered species listing for the Atlantic salmon would be likely to result in new costs on the Maine aquaculture industry, according to a new report from the University of Maine. The report is part of an effort by the UMaine College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture to make scientific information about the salmon issue available to the public.

In addition to the white paper series, three UMaine professors addressed a special public hearing on the salmon listing at the Statehouse in Augusta on Jan. 11. Faculty members Michael Vayda, George Jacobson and Timothy Dalton gave brief presentations about salmon genetics, paleo-ecology and the salmon aquaculture industry. That special hearing involved four legislative committees and presenters from the National Marine Fisheries Service, the King administration, UMaine and industry.

The white paper series includes the following nine topics:

- Assessing Genetic Distinctiveness of Wild Maine Atlantic Salmon, by Irving Kornfield, School of Marine Sciences;
- The Potential Impact of an Atlantic Salmon Endangered Species Listing on Blueberry Producers, by Timothy Dalton and George Criner, Department of Resource Economics and Policy;
- The Farming of Atlantic Salmon in the State of Maine, by Linda Kling and Michael Opitz, School of Marine Sciences;
- Atlantic Salmon, Restoration, Rehabilitation, and Federal Protection, by John Moring, Department of Biological Sciences;
- Impact of the Atlantic Salmon Industry on the Maine Economy, by James Wilson, School of Marine Sciences;
- Influences of Past and Future Climates on Atlantic Salmon, by George Jacobson, Department of Biological Sciences;
- The Effect of Seals on Maine Atlantic Salmon, by James Gilbert, Department of Wildlife Ecology;
- Infectious salmon anemia virus (ISAV), by Eric Anderson, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Molecular Biology;
- Fish Diseases in Aquaculture, by Bruce Nicholson, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Molecular Biology.

The papers are available from Judy Round, College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture, 581-3229, and are posted to the World Wide Web at www.umaine.edu/mainesci.
Off-Center Spiral Galaxies May Provide Clue to Dark Matter

January 12, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777 ORONO, Maine -- Researchers at the University of Maine and Cornell University have recently simulated a process that sheds light on the nature of the dark matter in galactic halos. Using computer simulations, Thomas Zeltwanger and Neil F. Comins at the University of Maine, Orono, ME, and Richard V.E. Lovelace at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, have reproduced the shapes and various details of off-center spiral galaxies created when galaxies rapidly pass each other. The motions of the stars and gas in their model support the belief that lopsided spiral galaxies are sloshing about in halos of dark matter. By studying the behavior of such galaxies, researchers hope to help determine the nature of these as-yet unseen galactic halos. The results are being presented today to the American Astronomical Society in Atlanta, GA.

Lopsided spiral galaxies have spiral arms and interstellar gas and dust that are not distributed uniformly around the bright center, or nuclear bulge, of the galaxy. Galactic halos are distributions of dark matter in which galaxies are embedded. Observations reveal that up to 90 percent of a typical galaxy's mass is in its halo. Astronomers infer the existence of halos by their observed gravitational effects on visible matter, but the nature of the halo matter is still under investigation.

Observations reveal that a third of all spiral galaxies may have lopsided spiral structures. Such galaxies include M 31, located 2.9 million light years away in the constellation Andromeda; M 33, located 3.0 million light years away in the constellation Triangulum; M 101, located 27 million light years away in the constellation Ursa Major; NGC 4486B, located 50 million light years away in the constellation Virgo; and K64, located 200 million light years away in the constellation Andromeda, among many others.

The simulations reported today give strong evidence that when the visible stars, gas, and dust in the disk respond to a passing galaxy more readily than does the dark matter, the spiral galaxy's visible matter is pulled off-center, creating lopsided galaxies (Figure 1). Dark matter that is relatively hot moves rapidly and therefore responds relatively little to the gravitational tug of a passing galaxy.

Since stars and cool gas in a galaxy respond more strongly than the halo, these latter elements are pulled slightly away from the halo as the other galaxy passes. Simulations reveal that as the galaxies move away from each other, stars and cool gas swirl back to the halo's center. Had the dark matter all been of the proposed cool variety, then the halo would be shifted by the other galaxy's gravity as much as the visible stars and gas. In that case, the observed sloshing of stars and gas does not occur. The results of the simulations suggest that at least some of the dark halo matter in disk galaxies is of the proposed hot, rapidly moving variety. This result needs to be verified by further simulations and observations.

These simulations also suggest that this spiraling process can create knots of gas and stars, such as those seen in the galaxy M83, located 15 million light years away in the constellation Hydra (see figure 2). The overall motion of the stars and gas swirling back into the halo center also appears to help maintain the galaxy's spiral structure, which otherwise washes out into a more uniform disk.

By determining the time since an encounter between galaxies, scientists may be able to determine the distribution of halo matter from the lopsided appearance of the spiral galaxy. The researchers have also discovered that central bars of stars, found in many spiral galaxies, can be suppressed by the swirling motion of the stars and gas moving back into place in the halo. However, they find that the presence of massive black holes, which have been observed in a growing number of galaxies, including our own Milky Way, can actually cause the formation of a bar where otherwise one wouldn't exist. By understanding the composition and dynamics of galaxies, astronomers hope to be able to infer more information about their as-yet unseen components.
This work was supported, in part, by a grant of computers from the Sun Microsystems Corp., Palo Alto, CA, by a grant of computers from Electronic Data Systems, Auburn Hills, MI, and by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

The comparisons between simulations and observed galaxies can be obtained over the Internet via http://butch.umephy.maine.edu/kickers/Research/fig1.jpg and http://butch.umephy.maine.edu/kickers/Research/fig2.jpg

Figure Captions:

Figure 1. Comparison of the lopsided spiral galaxy Karachentsev 64 with a simulation of a galaxy disturbed by a passing galaxy. Karachentsev 64 has a companion galaxy (just below and to the right of the inset photograph). Photo Credit: NOAO/NSF

Figure 2. Comparison of clumps of stars in the lopsided spiral galaxy M 83 with clumps in a simulation of a galaxy disturbed by a passing galaxy. M 83, the Southern Pinwheel galaxy has companion galaxies Centaurus A and NGC 5253. Photo Credit: ESO
UMaine Hudson Museum Announces Spring "Just for Kids" Schedule

January 13, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO Area children will make the University of Maine's Hudson Museum a Just for Kids zone this spring as the educational program enters its 11th year.

"Just for Kids" programs are intended to introduce children and teens to the museum environment and promote the exploration and understanding of the diversity of human experience.

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.

February 22

Tenth Annual Games Day
Play games from around the world during February vacation 10 a.m. - Ages 6 and up.
Fee: $3

March 25

Sounds of the Wabanakis
Laura Lee Perkins will play traditional flutes made by Ken Green. Listen to the sounds of Native American music, learn some drumming patterns, and hear Native American tales.
10 a.m. - Ages 6 and up
Fee: $3

April 19

Discovery Day: Pictures on Birchbark
This is an event for parents and kids. Learn to etch pictures on birchbark with Passamaquoddy artist David Bridges
10 a.m. - Ages 7 and up and parents
Fee: $8 per parent/child pair (includes materials)

May 13 - School Vacation Week Program

Milkweed Puppet Theater
Nancy Nye presents her wonderfully zany characters in a one-woman puppet extravaganza
10 a.m. - All ages welcome
Fee: $3
University of Maine President Hoff Extends Thanks to Ivana Trump for Donation in Support of Landscape Horticulture and Memory of Beatrix Farrand

January 18, 2000
Contact: Judy Round, 207-581-3229

ORONO, Maine -- While Maine awaits the first signs of spring, the season will arrive early at The Beach Club in Palm Beach, Florida as Ivana Trump joins efforts to raise funds for the University of Maine on Thursday, March 9, 2000, from six until eight o'clock in the evening. The Robert and Catherine Barrett Fund for Landscape Horticulture at the University of Maine in Memory of Beatrix J. Farrand and the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture will share funds raised at the Florida event, hosted by Robert J. and Catherine Moore Barrett of Bar Harbor, Maine and Palm Beach, Florida. The event is also being supported by area art groups led by Lou and Anne Green of Boca Raton, Florida and Maine Venture Capital.

Trump will donate a painting by Bill Grossett to be auctioned off during the evening's festivities. Grossett of Boynton Beach, Florida, is well known for his decorative painting and faux artwork. He studied at the Parsons School of Design, the New School and the Isabel O'Niel School, all in New York, as well as the Inchbald School of Design in London. His decorative painting and faux art finishes including mural and trompe l'oeil grace fine homes in Long Island, Sun Valley, Lake Tahoe, Nantucket, Washington, Paris and London, including houses owned by Trump and the Barretts.

"I am delighted to be able to help the Barretts carry on the distinguished work of Beatrix J. Farrand," said Trump. "She and Bill Grossett are a good match - he creates beauty inside; she enhanced beauty outside. The Barrett Fund is helping to train the landscape gardeners and architects of tomorrow. By supporting it, we are investing in the future."

University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff welcomed Trump's gift and support. "As a founder of the National Association of Landscape Architects, Beatrix J. Farrand established herself as a legendary figure in the field of gardening and landscape design," said Hoff in announcing the event. "Ivana Trump's gracious gift will help to enhance the objective of ensuring that students and scholars will benefit from the work of Beatrix J. Farrand. The University of Maine appreciates the commitment that Robert and Catherine Barrett have made to preserve her memory and to ensure that future generations will be able to benefit from her research."

Last year, a very successful Boynton Beach art show raised funds for the Barrett Fund, according to Barrett, whose summer fund-raiser at Atlantique in Bar Harbor featured Lester Lanin conducting his world renowned orchestra. The Barrett Fund has supported the acquisition of landscape and architectural drawings by Ellen Louise Payson, which are housed at the University of Maine's Fogler Library; funded a promotional video for the landscape program at UMaine; and will award the first annual grant to a graduate student next year.

"We are going to support the great work of the University of Maine and its Alumni Association by bringing the importance of the work of Beatrix J. Farrand to the Sunshine State," said Barrett. "We are grateful to Ivana, President Hoff, as well as all the friends and graduates of the University of Maine here in Florida who are helping to support the important work of faculty and students."

Founded in 1865, the University of Maine, located in Orono, is Maine's Land Grant and Sea Grant institution and serves as the flagship university of the state's seven-member university system. UMaine awards approximately 43% of all four year degrees, 64% of all master's degrees and 100% of all Ph.D.s and Ed.D.s earned yearly in the state of Maine.

For patron and friend sponsorship as well as ticket information, call (207) 581-1151.

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

January 20, 2000
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

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 24. Student teams have been challenged to design and build working prototypes of portable inexpensive shelters that can serve victims of natural disasters.

The competition rules specify that shelters must be set up and disassembled easily, expandable to accommodate up to 4 people, designed using universal design criteria and suitable for a variety of environments.

Last year, a team from Mattanawcook Academy in Lincoln received a $1,000 prize a national finalist in the NEDC competition in Washington D.C.

Participating schools and teacher advisors include Yarmouth High School, Richard Bray; Georges Valley High School, Lisa Damian; Mattanawcook Academy, Susan Siewczkiewicz and Tom Viciare; 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 http://www.jets.org/.
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.
Texas Instrument Scholarship Awarded to UMaine Student from Orono

January 20, 2000
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Alma Delic-Ibukic' of Orono has received a Texas Instrument Scholarship Award at the University of Maine on the basis of her academic achievement and her interest in computer control testing.

The scholarship provides $3,000 in tuition support per academic year through the spring, 2001.

The scholarship also 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. Delic-Ibukic' 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.
Construction Underway on Memorial Union Expansion and Renovation at UMaine

Jan. 24, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Site preparation and construction have begun on the $12.5 million Memorial Union expansion and renovation project, the largest capital improvement initiative ever at the University of Maine.

Much of the major construction is expected to be completed by the end of December 2000, according to Bill Charland, manager of the Union project for UMaine's Facilities Management Department. The entire expansion and renovation project is expected to take 20 months.

"It will be wonderful to have so many student organizations, including student governments, the radio station and the newspaper, all in one facility, adding to the idea of the Union being a dynamic gathering place for interaction and programming, a focal point for the University," says Dwight Rideout, UMaine's dean of Students and Community Life and chair of the Union building committee.

D.L. Poulin Inc., a Brunswick-based general contractor, began construction Jan. 1. The six-phase project starts with construction of the 40,000-square-foot, two-story addition on the south side of the Union. Phase I construction of the addition, to house dining facilities seating approximately 600 patrons and the University Bookstore, is expected to be completed Dec. 31. A construction fence erected between the Union and Rogers Hall now surrounds the area where excavation will begin this spring. The fence will be in place until December 2000.

Also beginning this semester is Phase II of the project, involving electrical, telecommunications and mechanical room renovations within the building.

The Union, including Dining Service facilities, is expected to remain open this semester. As construction progresses, some services, meeting spaces and offices will be periodically disrupted. Phase III, renovation of the areas of the Union now occupied by the Bear's Den and Damn Yankee, is scheduled for May-December 2000. Phase IV, renovation of the north end of the Union, is scheduled for December 2000-June 2001.

In 2001, the area now occupied by the bookstore will be renovated from January-August as Phase V of the project. The project's final phase will involve renovation of the Union lobby from April-August of 2001.

The Union expansion and renovation project was slated to begin last year, but was delayed because the original bids came in higher than was anticipated. The project was modified and bid requests were re-issued. Bids based on the new plan were opened in December of last year.

Under the original plan, the upper floors were to be renovated to make new office space for student organizations. Under the new plan, student organizations, including Student Government, the Maine Campus newspaper and WMEB radio, will relocate to spaces in and near the area now occupied by The Bookstore. The Bookstore will relocate to a 16,000-square-foot area on the first floor of the Union addition. The fourth floor of the Union will be used for storage and as a place for building mechanical operations.

Funding for the Union project comes from The Bookstore, Student Auxiliary Services (Housing and Dining Services), private donations and a student-approved fee of $3.50 per credit hour, which will begin once the building is substantially completed. Private donations to the project total $2.25 million.

An updated model of the expanded and renovated building is available in the Union lobby. While the floorplan of the facility has undergone some reorganization since that model was first developed, the footprint and the exterior of the building remain largely the same.

Works of Composers Imprisoned During the Holocaust to be Performed at UMaine Concert

Jan. 24, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- During the Holocaust, a number of highly esteemed Eastern European musicians were imprisoned at Terezin Concentration Camp. There, under horrific conditions, they composed remarkable works of art that continue to speak to and about the immortality of the human spirit.

The works of three of those artists will be performed in a concert Sunday, Feb. 6 at 2 p.m., Minsky Recital Hall at the University of Maine, by pianist Phillip Silver and members of the UMaine School of Performing Arts faculty.

The pieces also will be featured on Maine Public Radio's "Live at 11" with Dave Bunker on Tuesday, Feb. 1.

For Silver, who lost members of his family in the Holocaust, bringing "Music in Terezin" to the stage is his way of ensuring that the people and the past are not forgotten. As an artist, Silver is honoring the memories and the music of the artists, all of whom died while incarcerated.

"Even under oppressive circumstances, the human urge to create and make something permanent comes through," says Silver of the music. "There is something heart-wrenching about artists being cut off in the prime of their careers. I find it difficult to separate the music from the circumstances under which it was composed," says Silver.

"In the midst of complete horror, the human urge for survival, beauty and communication comes through. It is an example of the human spirit refusing to bow down."

Gideon Klein, whose Piano Sonata will be performed by Silver, was only 23 when he was sent to Terezin and had not established his presence as a composer prior to incarceration. Viktor Ullmann, a student of Arnold Schoenberg, whose music was known and performed prior to his incarceration, composed a great deal while in camp, using his writing to maintain sanity. In his own words, his artistic endeavor "was commensurate with his will to survive."

Ullmann wrote 25 works, including an opera, in a two-year period. As a result of his experiences, the compositional language changes to become at one and the same time simpler, yet more dissonant, impassioned, and at times, difficult to listen to because of its extreme emotional quality. The music also contains symbolism, reflecting Ullmann's rediscovery of his Jewish roots.

Ullmann's Piano Sonata No 7 in D Major was completed two months before he died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz. Along with this work, Silver, with soprano Nancy Ogle, will also perform a second Ullmann work, Six Sonnets de Loud'ze Labé. This work was composed for his wife Elizabeth who also perished in Auschwitz.

"Through such music, we find messages and codes being passed between the prisoners," says Silver. "For example, the people understood the meaning behind a quotation from the Czech national hymn incorporated into a work. It was a message to their audiences not to give up. A series of Chinese poems translated into Czech and set to music dealt with absence, sorrow and old friendships resuming at home. Symbolism permeates the music."

The concert also includes the only work known to exist by Robert Dauber, Serenata for Violin and Piano, performed by Silver and violinist Anatole Wieck. The Nazis allowed a cafe to be formed, and Dauber wrote salon music. Works by the other artists were composed for permitted musical/cultural series utilized by the Nazis as part of an elaborate hoax to quash rumors of the atrocities being committed at other camps, and to present Terezin as a "typical" example of concentration camp life, says Silver.
Between pieces, Silver's 13-year-old daughter Noa will read poetry from a book entitled "I Never Saw Another Butterfly." This book contains poems written by children who were imprisoned and later died at Auchwitz.

"A great tragedy and injustice happened," says Silver of the Holocaust. "But the human spirit lives on in these good pieces of music. What happened to these composers, what they left behind should be a permanent part of human memory, one that requires us to think about injustice, both then and now."

For ticket information, call the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX.
Student Leaders from Maine Colleges, Universities to Meet in Castine for Third Annual Conference

Jan. 25, 2000
Media Contact Joe Carr, 581-3571

ORONO -- More than 250 student leaders from colleges, universities and technical colleges throughout the state will meet Feb. 4-6 at Maine Maritime Academy for the third annual Maine State Leadership Conference.

"Navigating the Waters of Leadership: Partnerships and Skills for the New Century" will feature 48 workshops, seminars, discussions and training sessions, presented by student affairs professionals, designed to empower and challenge students to be effective campus and community leaders. Topics will include women in outdoor leadership; discovering the leader within you; diversity; motivating and energizing others; value-based and inclusive leadership; and ethics.

Keynoting the opening and closing sessions of the conference, and taking part in workshops, will be leadership educator Michael Poll. Poll is the creator of the Leadership Development Inventory and Student Leadership Assessment instruments for evaluating student leadership. He also is the author of more than 20 educational articles on leadership, personal growth and organizational development.

This year's conference will be divided into three tracks: emerging leaders, ethical leadership and general. The tracks are specially designed to meet the needs of varying levels of experience and interest of students.

Student leaders apply to their respective institutions for the opportunity to represent their colleges or universities at the conference.

This is the second year that the conference will be held at Maine Maritime Academy. While attending the conference, participants will be housed on the Academy's training vessel, the "State of Maine." The conference is organized by the Maine State Leadership Cooperative, a group of student affairs professionals from higher education institutions throughout the state. The Cooperative's goal is to promote leadership development and networking among emerging and experienced student leaders.

The Cooperative was founded by the University of Maine, University of Southern Maine, University of Maine at Farmington, Maine Maritime Academy and the University of New England. In the last three years, membership in the Cooperative and participation in the annual conference have grown. Last year's conference, also held at Maine Maritime, attracted more than 230 student leaders representing 16 higher education institutions in the state.

"No one institution has the resources to provide its students what a cooperative like this can," says Sheri Cousins, director of Organization and Leader Development at the University of Maine and a founding member of the Maine State Leadership Cooperative. "By pooling our resources, we can bring student leaders together from different campuses to network, learn and hone leadership skills, and explore their futures in leadership."
UMaine Civil Engineer Wins National Recognition

January 25, 2000
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Per Garder of Bangor, associate professor of civil engineering at the University of Maine, was honored January 11 with a Best Paper Award by a committee of the national Transportation Research Board. Garder's paper describes the effects of a new roundabout in Gorham, Maine, on traffic safety, delay, capacity and the environment.

"The paper clearly shows that there are improvements in all these areas, but a lot of drivers do not think that the roundabout is a good solution for similar sites," says Garder. "Drivers tend to think that the design is too tight, slowing them down too much, even though the measurements show that drivers on average save large amounts of time compared to waiting at a traffic light. The intent is too slow everybody down, so that people can enter the intersection more easily. The design results in fewer accidents, and the accidents that do occur tend not to lead to injuries."

Garder aided in the design of the roundabout which was built by the Maine Department of Transportation. He presented his paper in 1999 to the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board, an arm of the National Research Council. It was one of 2000 papers presented at the meeting and was published by the Committee on Operational Effects of Geometrics.

On the Road to a New Sensor, Students Monitor Bananas

January 26, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
John Vetelino, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, 207-581-2264

ORONO, Maine -- A new sensor research project at the University of Maine has students and faculty going bananas. In their effort to develop a fruit ripeness sensor that could be useful for growers and food processors, they are monitoring bananas for natural emissions of ethylene gas.

John Vetelino, a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), says that ethylene is an indicator of the ripening process in many fruits and vegetables. A sensor that detects minute quantities of the tell-tale gas could save the food products industry money by providing precise information about the best time to pick, store and process produce. Vetelino is a pioneer of UMaine's sensor program in the Laboratory for Surface Science and Technology (LASST).

"This is a pilot project to determine if the technology will work for this purpose," he says. The project is funded by a $49,918 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Vetelino is working with Al Bushway of the UMaine Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Bruce Segee of ECE, and three electrical engineering students: Jeremy Thiele, a sophomore from Hollis, Maine; Jie Zhou, a master's student from Wuhan, People's Republic of China; and Stephanie Pitcher, a junior at the University of Colorado from Colorado Springs.

Pitcher came to UMaine in the summer of 1999 as part of the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program which Vetelino has coordinated over the past two decades with National Science Foundation funding. She returned to Orono during the holiday vacation to continue working on the project and intends to enroll as a master's student at UMaine after graduation.

"The benefit to industry would be having a non-destructive way to monitor food quality," says Bushway. "The end result will be better products the consumer."

"This is a new direction for the laboratory," says Vetelino. "We've got major projects going with the Department of Defense in the area of chemical and biological sensors and the National Institutes of Health in sensors related to human health. Our science is driven by practical applications, and this project has gotten lots of support from people in the food industry."

A ripeness sensor could be a boon to growers by indicating when crops are ready to pick. Ideally, harvesting should be done at the peak of ripeness. However, large commercial farms must often pick early, just as produce begins to ripen. There is a danger, however. If they pick too early, the produce may not ripen at all.

"As fruits and vegetables start ripening, they emit very small concentrations of ethylene, in the parts per million range," says Vetelino. "Our sensors have to be sensitive enough to detect that level."

Food processors face similar issues, he adds. As produce is held in storage, peak ripeness occurs as ethylene concentrations reach a maximum. For most purposes, that is the ideal time to begin processing.

"If processors wait too long, you get fermentation and alcohols and other compounds that are generally undesirable," says Vetelino.

The goal of the banana monitoring experiments is to determine how ethylene gas concentrations correspond to different stages of ripeness, says Vetelino. Researchers will use the data to calibrate sensors. Students have placed the bananas in sealed jars, and the gases emitted by the fruit are analyzed by high performance gas
chromatography. The procedure is being carried out in the Water Research Institute which occupies the Sawyer Environmental Research Center with LASST.

The project is in a very early stage of development, and Vetelino knows that a number of difficult issues still need to be addressed. For example, the sensor must respond to ethylene and not any of the other compounds that are emitted by fruits and vegetables.

The sensor also has to be able to perform continuously without becoming "poisoned." That can occur when the sensing element becomes clogged with the chemical being detected. In fact, some sensors are designed to be used once and then discarded. In that case, being "poisoned" is not a problem. However, for constant monitoring of produce, the sensor must be able to indicate varying levels of ethylene gas as products ripen.

Ultimately, gas levels detected by the prototype sensor will be translated by an intelligent software program to give a clear indication of ripeness. Bruce Segee, an expert in such systems, will supervise that part of the project.

The sensor program in LASST has also tackled several other USDA funded food quality projects in the past year. In collaboration with the Sensor Research and Development Corporation (SRD) in Orono, LASST scientists are working on a device to monitor compounds emitted from fish as an indicator of freshness. Another team led by David Frankel, senior scientist at LASST, is working on a sensor to detect pesticide residues on fruits and vegetables. Graduate and undergraduate students are involved in each of these projects.
UMaine Business Breakfast Series Schedules February Talk

January 26, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Maine Business School at the University of Maine will begin a new year of the "Emerging Business Issues for Maine" breakfast series with an address on the importance of business education to the state.

Eric Brucker, dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health, will present "Business Education in a Changing World: Preparing for Maine's Future" on Tuesday, February 1.

Brucker earned his Ph.D. in economics from Duke University and served as dean at the University of Delaware and the University of Michigan-Dearborn before coming to the University of Maine. He also serves on several corporate boards.

The breakfast will be held at the Black Bear Inn in Orono from 7:30 to 9 a.m. The buffet breakfast costs $10, payable at the door. Call 581-1973 for reservations.

The Maine Business School serves as the primary source of management education, research and service in the state. The breakfast offers community members the opportunity to discuss the impact of the global technological revolution on Maine businesses.
Recital to Feature Music for Flute and Piano

January 27, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Faculty from the University of Maine's School of Performing Arts will take listeners on a musical tour around the world with a performance on Feb. 12.

Elizabeth Downing, flute, and Ginger Yang Hwalek, piano, will play music that spans three centuries from Spain, Ireland, Italy, Japan, France and the United States. Downing is the coordinator of new student programs at UMaine and a flautist with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra. Hwalek teaches class piano and collaborates in the chamber music program at the School of Performing Arts.

In the Feb. 12 concert, Downing and Hwalek will perform "Medieval Suite for Flute and Piano" by Katherine Hoover; "Four Waltzes" by Shostakovich; "A Sonata" by von Weber; "Joueurs de Flûte" by Roussel; "Quiet Night" by Weir and "Mazurka" by Dufay.

Guest performer Beth Wiemann, assistant professor in music and principal clarinetist with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, will play with Downing and Hwalek on "Old Lady Moon" by Hovhaness and "Tarantelle" by Saint-Saens.

The concert will be held in the Leonard and Renee Minsky Recital Hall, located in the Class of 1944 Hall on the campus of the University of Maine. For ticket information, call the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX. Regular tickets are $5; discounts are available for seniors, students, children and groups.
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.
UMaine Graduate Helps Build Support for Presidential Candidate

January 28, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- In the past, it was possible for a presidential candidate to win an election without ever leaving the house. The candidate would stay home and monitor the campaign while supporters gave the majority of speeches.

The rise of modern transportation led to the desire of candidates to see the voters. If enough hands were shaken and enough speeches were delivered, the candidate had a shot at winning the election.

Senator William Benton of Connecticut forever changed the way campaigns in the United States were run using a new medium, television, to spread his message. That was in 1950.

Now, as the 2000 primary season approaches, media consultants are an integral part of a presidential campaign's staff.

University of Maine graduate Greg Stevens ('71), a resident of Falmouth, is one of those consultants. His media strategies firm, Stevens Reed Curcio & Company, has been hired by the campaign of Senator John McCain of Arizona, who is running for the Republican presidential nomination.

"I met John McCain during the [Senator Robert] Dole campaign. He called me and we started having occasional meetings," says Stevens. "It became evident from those meetings that he was thinking of running for president, and was seeking advice and going through a process before making a decision."

Stevens says it was McCain's life story and vision for the country that first attracted him to the campaign.

"I wanted to work for someone who I thought would rekindle some of the spirit and the drawing power of the leaders we've had in the past," says Stevens. "The fact that young people are disillusioned with politics really bothers both me and Senator McCain."

Another factor that drew Stevens into the McCain camp, he says, was the candidate's sense of humor about the process.

"McCain has a handful of dictates, one of which is 'we're having fun, dammit','" says Stevens. "That enthusiasm has made this an extremely pleasant experience."

A love of politics came early for Stevens, who says he can recall being interested in governmental figures as far back as grade school.

"I remember reading about Eisenhower, Nixon and Kennedy and feeling that what they were doing was important to the country," he says. "It just drew me in."

It wasn't until Stevens enrolled at the University of Maine that he became politically active. The UMaine of the late 1960s and early 1970s was no different from other campuses at the time. Watergate and the Vietnam War raised the political consciousness of students across the country.

"That time had an impact on me. It's hard for a lot of people now to understand the extent of the protests, the unrest on campus," says Stevens. "Most people at the university were deeply involved politically in one way or another."
As a member of the student government, Stevens had to deal with both students and the administration on campus.

"The president of the university at the time, Wynn Libby, had a very open office policy and I used to visit him from time to time and we talked," Stevens says. "He had a great influence on me and encouraged me to enter politics."

Shortly after graduation, Stevens began his career as a reporter. His first political job was with the Ford for President campaign in the office of press secretary. Stevens then served as chief of staff for New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean and has had a role in virtually every Republican presidential campaign since 1976.

Stevens founded Stevens Reed Curcio & Company in 1993 and has worked for numerous Republican candidates for statewide and federal office around the country.

"I enjoy very much the process of creating an advertisement," says Stevens. "It's amazing to watch an idea scratched on a note turn into a film shoot that presents a powerful 30 to 60 second message to help a candidate get support."

In the 1998 elections, Stevens and the firm helped secure six victories, including Peter Fitzgerald of Illinois, Governor John Rowland of Connecticut and Governor George Voinovich of Ohio. In 1996, Stevens worked to elect Susan Collins as Maine's senator.

"When you're in a successful campaign, it's a crescendo effect. It gets more and more exciting because more and more people want to get involved," says Stevens, who credits family as an extremely important factor to success.

"Having an understanding wife has helped me tremendously," he says. His wife, University of Maine graduate Judy (Files) Stevens, is also a member of the class of 1971. "When I was starting out, she was patient enough and giving enough to put up with moving 11 times in just a few years," Stevens says. "In politics, you have to be a bit willing to be a nomad, without a job at times. If you like politics, though, nothing else compares."

In addition to candidates, Stevens' company has produced advertisements for corporations and issue coalitions such as the Health Insurance Agents of America, Citizens for the Republic Education Fund and Maine Citizens for Jobs & Safety. These issue advocacy groups, says Stevens, are a good way for young people to get their first exposure to politics.

"There are all kinds of groups today that take on issues and try to build support for those issues. My advice to people who want to get involved is you to look beyond the headlines and find out what the people in politics really think," says Stevens. "If people are interested, they should volunteer or find any job in a campaign. I think they will find working in politics very rewarding if they choose to make a life out of it. It gives me a great sense of satisfaction to help people get into politics for the right reasons."
Socialist and Marxist Controversy Series Spring Schedule Announced

January 31, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Socialist and Marxist Studies program at the University of Maine has prepared a full schedule of controversial topics for the spring semester.

Programs will be held in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. In the event that the union is unavailable due to renovation, the programs will be held in room 117 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building.

The series, which has been presented on campus for over 15 years, often presents topics that are ignored or repressed by the dominant power structure, according to Douglas Allen, professor of philosophy and coordinator of the series. Programs are offered free of charge, and the public is invited to attend and participate in the discussions.

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. For additional information contact Allen at 581-3860.

The schedule is as follows:

- February 10: FREE SPEECH AND ADVERTISING: ISSUES RAISED BY THE HOLOCAUST AD IN THE MAINE CAMPUS - Michael McCauley, assistant professor of journalism and mass communication, Moderator; Lyombe Eko, assistant professor of journalism and mass communication; Amy Fried, assistant professor of political science; Doug Allen, professor of philosophy

- February 17: WHY NOT HUMAN CLONING? - Professor Greg Pence, University of Alabama and author of "Who's Afraid of Human Cloning"; UMaine participants: Sharon Tisser, J.D., honors program; Roger King, assistant professor of philosophy; Michael Vayda, professor of biochemistry

- February 24: PROTESTS AT THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) MEETING IN SEATTLE - Jim Harney and Georgia Kosciusko, peace and justice activists from Bangor, will present a slide show and firsthand account of demonstrations.

- March 1: AMIRI BARAKA ON ISSUES OF RACE AND CLASS IN THE UNITED STATES - Poet, playwright, radical black activist, "Third World Marxist" and a major contemporary writer - will speak on issues of race and class. This is a Wednesday program. Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Building, between Memorial Union and Maine Center for the Arts.

- March 30: WOMEN AND POWER - Panel of five women, who in the early 1980s were members of People Organized Working for Economic Rights (POWER), and who are now leaders of alternative activist organizations: Sharon Barker, Women's Resource Center, UMaine; Kathy Walker, Rape Response Services; Judy Guay, Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods; Ruth Lockhart, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center; and Ilze Petersons, Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine

April 20: BUILDING COMMUNITIES AND MEDIA ALTERNATIVES: THE CASE FOR COMMUNITY RADIO - Panel will include Matt Murphy, general manager of WERU, and other leaders in community radio

May 4: FEMINIST MATERIALISMS - Jacqueline Zita, professor of philosophy and chair of women's studies, University of Minnesota. Her most recent book is "Body Talk: Philosophical Reflections on Sex and Gender"
UMaine Students to Perform French Opera

January 31, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- This spring, the annual Massenet concert of the School of Performing Arts will be performed by students of opera workshop in An Evening of French Opera.

The February performance will showcase students' musical talents and artistic abilities in acting, and set and costume design.

An open dress rehearsal will be Friday, Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m., with An Evening of French Opera performed Saturday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m. Both are in Cyrus Pavilion Theatre.

Highlighting the production will be selections from Jules Massenet's Thaïs, first performed in 1894. Thaïs is set in 4th century Alexandria, and follows the life of a privileged young man who gives up his wealth to become a monk.

UMaine music students will perform scenes from two acts. The soprano role will be sung by Jane Maranhas, baritone by Gregory Schmidt. Also on the program is Manon, Massenet's best known and most popular opera. Leads will be sung by Christine St. Pierre and Tracy Hall. The program also includes selections from Christopher Willibald Gluck's Orphée, and Georges Bizet's Carmen.

Professor of Music Lud Hallman, in cooperation with Associate Professor Nancy Ogle and Instructor Fran Vogt, teaches opera workshop, a course founded at UMaine in the 1970s.

The program of French pieces is inspired by UMaine's collection of music by Massenet, a popular 19th century composer. The Massenet Collection of scores for operas, ballets, oratorios and choral works, was donated by the Massenet Society of America in 1995 and is housed in Fogler Library. UMaine was selected for the bequest in honor of the state's Franco-American heritage.

The School of Performing Arts has staged performances of French music every year since the donation, beginning with Massenet's 1875 composition, Eve, under Hallman's direction.

There will be no charge for the Feb. 18 dress rehearsal. The Feb. 19 concert will be $5. Tickets are available at the door or by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX. Regular tickets are $5; discounts are available for seniors, students, children and groups.
Electronics Industry Supports New UMaine Lab

Feb. 2, 2000
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- In electronics and computer manufacturing, engineers must translate circuit designs into clear instructions for each step in the production process. Recent large donations of state-of-the-art equipment from several Maine businesses will enable students in the University of Maine Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to develop those skills, which are in high demand by industry.

The industry supported effort to equip the new Barrows Hall microelectronics laboratory is part of a broader initiative to improve the skills of graduate engineers for the state's growing electronics sector.

David Kotecki of Orono, associate professor in ECE, is coordinating the laboratory effort in cooperation with Quadic Systems of South Portland and Sun Microsystems of Palo Alto, California. Quadic has donated five Sun Microsystem monitors and five Sun II work stations. Sun is providing work station upgrades through a matching grant program.

"Industry has told us that our graduates are very strong in theory and circuit design," says Kotecki, who did research in microelectronics at IBM for 11 years prior to coming to UMaine in 1999. "This new lab will give our students access to the design software that is used by industry and allow them to lay out their work directly on silicon, further enhancing the microelectronics program at UMaine."

The facility will also be used to initiate new research efforts in semiconductor process and device modeling, especially in the area of solid-state gas sensors.

"We want UM to provide us with more new graduates while keeping the high standards they achieve today," says Maurice Richard of Quadic, a 1978 UMaine graduate. "If UM can build a world class microelectronics program, similar to the world class pulp and paper program, it will be able to attract more students from both Maine and from around the country."

"Critical to this success is the support of local industry to provide financial backing, technical direction, and research opportunities. We hope to provide more new graduates so that everyone, even our competing recruiters, will receive more new graduates. By working together, Quadic and the microelectronics program at UMaine will increase both the opportunity available to students and the supply of new graduates to fuel our businesses."

The new lab will be located on the second floor of Barrows Hall. Kotecki estimates it will be in operation in March. Andrew Sheaff, the department's network specialist, and two undergraduate technicians, Marcus Soule and Mike Lewark, will assemble the components.

The lab will enable the department to offer a new course in "very large systems integration" next fall. In this course, students will learn techniques for designing systems containing large numbers (hundreds of thousands to millions) of components.

The lab will also be used to enhance existing courses in electronic circuit design and solid-state devices.

**Top UMaine Research Initiatives to be Profiled at Capitol Hill Day**

February 2, 2000  
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The latest University of Maine research initiatives in engineering, environmental sciences and human health will be profiled for Maine's congressional delegation and federal agency staff members February 9 in Washington D.C. The Capitol Hill Day event will begin at 9 a.m. in room SC-5 of the Capitol Building.

University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff will welcome participants, and Daniel Dwyer, vice-president for research, will introduce members of the Maine delegation. A luncheon address will be given by Frank Fernandez, director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

DARPA is the principal agency within the Department of Defense for research, development and demonstration of concepts, devices and systems for advanced military capabilities. Prior to his position as director, Fernandez was president and chairman of the board of directors of Arete Associates, an applied research firm in Los Angeles, California. He received his Ph.D. in aeronautics from the California Institute of Technology in 1969.

UMaine faculty members will describe projects in high-speed ship design, finfish aquaculture, wood composite engineering, chemical and biological sensors, ocean monitoring, aquaculture, geographic information systems, math and science education and infant health. Their work is made possible by funding from the State of Maine and private organizations working with federal agencies including the Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Institutes of Health.

The schedule will be as follows:

9 - 11 a.m., view research displays

11:30 a.m., opening remarks by Vice-President Daniel Dwyer

11:35 a.m., Welcome by President Peter Hoff

11:45 a.m., remarks by members of the Maine congressional delegation

12:30 p.m., Luncheon address by Dr. Frank Fernandez, director, DARPA

1:00 p.m., closing remarks by Vice-President Daniel Dwyer

1:05 - 3:00 p.m., Maine congressional staff view research displays.
Philosophy Guest Lecturer to Speak on Cloning, Paid Organ Donation

February 7, 2000

Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Rapid advances in genetic science have made the issue of human cloning one that society will perhaps be forced to confront in the next few decades. The department of philosophy at the University of Maine will join the debate this month with its John M. Rezendes Ethics Lectures.

Gregory Pence, professor in the department of philosophy and school of medicine at the University of Alabama, will visit UMaine to speak and participate in panel discussions on controversial issues related to human genetics. Pence is the author of "Who's Afraid of Human Cloning?" a book that looks at the arguments for and against human cloning.

Pence is also the author of "Flesh of My Flesh: Ethical Issues in Human Cloning" and "Classic Cases in Medial Ethics." He has written for such journals as the Hastings Center Report, the Journal of Medial Ethics and the Journal of the American Medical Association.

On Feb. 16 at 7 p.m., Pence will speak on "Why Not Human Cloning" in 101 Neville Hall. The next day, he will participate in a panel discussion on the same topic with UMaine faculty Sharon Tisher of the honors program, Roger King of philosophy and Michael Vayda of biochemistry. The panel discussion will be held on Feb. 17 at 12:30 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union and is co-sponsored by the Socialist and Marxist Luncheon Series. If the union becomes unavailable due to renovations, call 581-3866 for the location.

Later that same day, Pence will present a talk entitled "Why Not Paid Organ Donation?" at 4 p.m. in 100 Nutting Hall. His presentation will be followed by a short commentary from Jean Symonds, professor emerita of nursing.

These events are made possible through the support of the John M. Rezendes Ethics Fund, with additional support from the Cultural Affairs Committee, the Arthur R. Lord Fund and the Class of 1934 Fund. They are cosponsored by the Philosophy Colloquium Series, the Socialist and Marxist Luncheon Series and the School of Nursing.
UMaine to Welcome Visiting Poet

February 10, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Poet Theodore Enslin will visit the University of Maine next week as the Lloyd Elliott Poet-in-Residence in the English Department from Feb. 16 to Feb. 18.

The Lloyd Elliott Fund, developed in honor of a former University of Maine president, supports visiting speakers in the English Department.

Enslin will give a public reading of his work in the UMaine Writing Center on the fourth floor of Neville Hall at 4 p.m. on Feb. 16. He will also participate in a "Dialogue with the Poet" open conversation from 2 to 3 p.m. on Feb. 17 in the Ulrich Wicks Reading Room on the third floor of Neville Hall.

Enslin, who is originally from Pennsylvania, studied music composition before moving to Milbridge, Maine where he farms and writes. Enslin has published over 80 books of poetry, beginning with "The Work Proposed." Last year, the National Poetry Foundation at UMaine published Enslin's "Then, and Now: Selected Poems: 1943-1993."

Both presentations are free and open to the public.
Maine Writing Project Seeks Outstanding Educators in Aroostook County and Statewide for 2000 Institute

Feb. 11, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine Writing Project at the University of Maine is taking its summer professional development program on the road to reach and accommodate educators in different areas of the state. This summer's institute in Aroostook County represents the first time the intensive program for exemplary Maine teachers has been offered away from the Orono campus.

Each year, the Maine Writing Project invites outstanding educators to participate in the rigorous summer institute, which will be held June 26-July 14 at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Nominations of exemplary teachers, kindergarten through post-secondary in all curriculum areas, are sought for the fourth annual institute. Participants are selected on the basis of their success as teachers and for their promise as instructional leaders. Interested educators may be nominated by a colleague, administrator or through self-nomination.

The competitive program is providing a force of highly trained writing instructors for Maine students and for other teachers. After successfully completing the program, the educators are distinguished as fellows of both the Maine Writing Project and the National Writing Project. The national project and its state affiliates comprise a grassroots teaching initiative dedicated to the improvement of student writing and the teaching of writing across the curriculum in all grade levels. Educators from the primary grades through the university level work as colleagues and are part of a national network of teacher consultants qualified to provide professional development workshops in schools in Maine and around the country.

The Maine Writing Project was established in 1997 by the UMaine College of Education and Human Development and was designated the state's official National Writing Project site the following year. Approximately 70 Maine teachers have completed the program. Project participants write extensively, read, research and talk with colleagues about the teaching of writing and work with Maine writers and widely recognized authorities on teaching and writing.

The University of Maine is pleased to bring the Maine Writing Project to Aroostook County this summer and hopes to take it to southern Maine in the summer of 2001, said project founder and director Jeff Wilhelm, UMaine associate professor of literacy. UMaine will remain the project's home base and an alternate site, if needed, he said. In addition to Wilhelm, site directors this summer will include Maine Writing Project fellows Suzy Kaback, a doctoral student and adjunct faculty at UMaine; Easton Elementary School teacher Scotty Clark; and University of New English faculty member Lori Power, who also is a doctoral student at UMaine.

For more information and to obtain nomination forms, contact: Theresa McManus, (207) 581-2438; e-mail: theresa.mcmanus@umit.maine.edu.
Games Day Offers International Fun

February 14, 2000
Media 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 10th Annual Games Day.

Games Day will be held during school vacation on Feb. 22, starting at 10 a.m in 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 a storytelling session with the Hudson Museum's new education coordinator, Trudy Scee.

Favorites from previous years 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. Traditional Native American games and some from Ireland and China will also be played.

Games Day can accommodate 160 registrants, on a first come, first serve basis. To register, call 581-1901. The cost is $3 per child.
Blue Hill Artist's View of the Maine Landscape Comes to the University of Maine Museum of Art

February 15, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 207-581-3571

ORONO -- For the past 30 years, William Irvine has recorded the landscape of Maine, utilizing his surroundings as a means of personal dialogue to create oil paintings on canvas and paper that are at once humble and unique, yet universal.

Irvine is the heir to a century of modernist painters who have celebrated the land and the sea, employing it as a metaphor for personal placement and truth through their works. Central to most of his paintings is the "small moment" of isolation: a diminutive boat, a lonely individual, a vase of flowers often set almost disproportionately among towering mountains, vast fields or turbulent seas. The artist creates a tension between the power of landscape and our relationship to it, often posing open-ended questions that sometimes start with David and Goliath overtones. In the artist's recent works, landscape, abstraction and the process of painting coalesce to the degree that at times, the works seem rescued from nature itself. The similarities of the Scottish and Maine landscapes have not been lost on Irvine. Perhaps because the artist chooses to live on the coast of Maine year-round, his sense of color and texture reflects the vicissitudes of the seasons. Rather than simply try to signify landscape by creating a catalog of its obvious "postcard" qualities, Irvine finds the universal qualities a more meaningful place to begin, allowing the painting process the task of drawing the viewer into initially simple yet ultimately complex passages of place.

William Irvine was born in Largs, Scotland in 1931 and was raised in Troon, a small town on the southwest coast of Scotland. From 1952-1956, he attended the Glasgow School of Art, receiving a D.A. in painting and drawing. He lived in London for the next 10 years, painting, exhibiting and teaching art. He moved to the United States in 1967, settling in Blue Hill in 1969, where he lives today. "William Irvine: Recent Paintings" will be on display March 3-April 8 at the University of Maine Museum of Art, Carnegie Hall. An opening reception will be Friday, March 3, 5-7 p.m., with gallery talks at 6 p.m.

The University of Maine Museum of Art hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Admission is free. Gallery talks and tours are available if scheduled in advance. Contact the Museum of Art for more information, 207-581-3255.

Museum Information:
The Museum of Art is located in Carnegie Hall on the campus of the University of Maine. The Museum is easily reached from the Kelley Road Exit 50, I-95 North or South. Turn right onto Kelley Road from I-95 North, or left from I-95 South; follow it until the end. At the flashing light, turn left on Rt 2. Follow Rt. 2 through Downtown Orono, over the bridge and turn left onto College Avenue at the first light after the bridge. Follow College Avenue for .5 mile and turn right at the University of Maine sign. Take third left at Museum of Art sign. Guest parking permits available at the Museum. Winter and spring hours are 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Admission is free and open to the public. For individuals needing special accommodations, please contact the Museum. Gallery talks and tours are available when scheduled in advance. Visit our Website at umma.umecah.maine.edu for further information, including previews of upcoming exhibitions. For more information, contact Shawn Rice, 207-581-3255.

Catalogue of Superobjects on Display at University of Maine Museum

February 15, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 207-581-3571

ORONO -- Russian artists Vitaly Komar (b.1943) and Alexander Melamid (b.1945) started collaborating to create art in 1965. Two years later, they initiated the SOTS Art movement (the Soviet version of Western Pop Art). The pair moved to New York City, where their first international exhibition opened at Ronald Feldman Fine Arts in 1976. Notorious dissidents before they left the Soviet Union, the artists have since been called "exasperating expatriates" for their travesties of Socialist Realism. Most of their work has a hard political edge, while created out of various styles taken from throughout art history.

"Catalogue of Superobjects: Supercomfort for Superpeople," created in 1977, was a continuation of ideas in which the artists created a mockery of the Western marketplace. The series of 36 color photographs document devices that they invented after receiving department store catalogs from the West. Captions attached to the photographs gave the contraptions made-up names and described their purposes.

Pulling from their feelings on progress and individuality, Komar and Melamid created the devices that allowed consumers to purchase qualities seen as desirable. One such device, the Stong, was a brace strengthening posture and sticking the nose up in the air in a symbol of pride. Another, the Charog 15, was a grill fitting in front of the face to "protect the purity of your thoughts." Khaasha is a headband with a floral crest and a curved wire that extends a small cup to the wearer's nose. Into this "special, medium-sized chalice" one puts "a small piece of your love's skin, flower petals, or whatever you prefer."

Some of the Superobjects improve confidence in one's public persona, others further self-knowledge. Lampooning the consumerist dream of realizing one's singular self through the purchase of gadgets available to everybody, the "Catalogue" individualizes the general benefits promised by many of the previous works of Komar and Melamid, which treated absolutes as if they too were consumer goods. "Komar and Melamid: Catalogue of Superobjects: Supercomfort for Superpeople" will be on display March 3-April 8 at the University of Maine Museum of Art, Carnegie Hall. An opening reception will be Friday, March 3, 5-7 p.m., with gallery talks at 6 p.m. The University of Maine Museum of Art hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Admission is free. Gallery talks and tours are available if scheduled in advance. Contact the Museum of Art for more information, 207-581-3255.

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Fairchild Semiconductor Boosts Scholarships at UMaine

February 17, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Todd Smith, Fairchild Semiconductor, 207-775-8516
James Patton, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, 207-581-2244

ORONO, Maine - Fairchild Semiconductor International (NYSE: FCS) of South Portland has announced an expansion of scholarship opportunities for University of Maine students from two to eight. Students in their second, third and fourth years are eligible for scholarships that pay their full tuition and fees, and first-year students can receive $1,000 to support expenses.

Preference will be given to students who have demonstrated an interest in working in the semiconductor industry and possess the initiative and responsibility needed to succeed in that industry.

"Fairchild Semiconductor's scholarships at the University of Maine are designed to encourage more students to major in science and engineering," said Todd Smith, director of human resources at Fairchild Semiconductor's Interface & Logic division in South Portland. "We are pleased with the caliber of UMaine students we've seen so far and look forward to seeing more graduates in our job interviews.

"We hope this scholarship program assists students with the financial burden of their top-flight education at UMaine. Our business is driven by individuals with skills in science and engineering and, as we continue our rapid growth, we will only need more employees skilled in these areas of study."

The program is an expansion of the two scholarships that the company had established for students in the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Department in 1998.

"We have seen a great increase in the demand for students studying microelectronics," says Jim Patton, chair of ECE. "Fairchild Semiconductor's commitment will strengthen our program and help us to leverage funds made available by the state's research initiative. This is a win-win situation for all of us."

More information about scholarships in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department is available from Jim Patton at 207-581-2244 or on the web at www.eece.maine.edu.
Amiri Baraka to Speak at UMaine

February 22, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- American writer and political activist Amiri Baraka will visit the University of Maine next week to share his work and thoughts with the campus community.

Baraka will give a poetry reading on February 29 at 7 p.m. in 101 Neville Hall. On March 1, he will be speaking on "Race and Class in America" from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall of the Class of 1944 Building.

Baraka is a prolific writer who has worked across a range of genres, including poetry, drama and nonfiction. He has also played a role as an organizer, editor and promoter of the avant garde movements of the New American literature of the 1950s and early 1960s.

He is the author of a number of books, including "Blues People," a history of jazz and "Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note," a collection of poetry. Baraka is also known as a playwright whose credits include "Dutchman" and "The Slave," which combined aspects of 1960s experimentalist theater with militant and often violent assertions of black pride.

His latest book, "The Leroi Jones/Amiri Baraka Reader," provides the most comprehensive selection of Baraka's work to date, spanning almost 40 years of his career. The book contains over 50 pages of previously unpublished work, as well as a chronology and full bibliography.

Baraka's visit is sponsored by the English department at the University of Maine in cooperation with the Libra Professorship program and the Cultural Affairs Committee.
High School Students to Attend Journalism Conference

February 22, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook 581-3756

ORONO -- Student journalists from all over Maine will converge in Orono March 24 for the seventh annual conference sponsored by the Maine Center for Student Journalism at the University of Maine. The conference, "The Maine Idea: Maine Students Writing for a New Century," will be held at Wells Conference Center and Dunn Hall on the University of Maine campus from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

MCSJ conferences have encouraged young journalists by creating opportunities to work with professionals, learn new techniques and meet fellow student journalists from schools throughout the state. This year's keynote speaker will be Katherine Heidinger, a professional journalist and former editor who teaches journalism at UMaine and is the faculty advisor for the Maine Campus newspaper at the university.

Planned events include a panel discussion titled "Covering Violence in Maine Schools: Student and Professional Journalists Facing a Tough Task," workshops led by professional journalists and roundtable discussions led by students and professionals.

The conference will conclude with announcement of the winners in the 2000 Student Newspaper Contest. Last year's first place honors in the newspaper contest went to Wells High School with second place honors going to Bangor and Orono high schools, and third place honors going to Sanford and Cony high schools.

For information please contact Matthew Paul at 581-1270 or Kathryn Olmstead at Echoes Magazine at 498-8564. To request registration materials, contact the Conference Services Office at 581-4092.
Maine Water Conference Slated for April 13

February 22, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Betty Lee, Water Research Institute, 207-581-3244

ORONO, Maine -- The latest efforts to improve water quality in Maine will be discussed at the annual Maine Water Conference April 13 at the Augusta Civic Center. Among the topics to be covered will be arsenic in Maine's groundwater, techniques to reduce water pollution from new developments and land use changes around Atlantic salmon rivers.

The meeting is open to the public and is hosted by the Water Research Institute (WRI) at the University of Maine with support from public and private organizations.

Conference co-chair John Jemison, water quality specialist with UMaine Cooperative Extension, will open the meeting. Other morning speakers include Martha Kirkpatrick of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection; Andy Smith, state toxicologist; John Peckenham of the Water Research Institute; David Evers of the Biodiversity Research Institute; Sherry Hanson of the Maine Department of Marine Resources; Jack Clausen of the University of Connecticut.

Five concurrent sessions in the afternoon will examine the following issues: wildlife, citizen monitoring, arsenic, ecologically friendly development and water quality problems.

Registration is $30 prior to April 1 and $35 at the door. More information is available from the WRI, 581-3244.

Sponsors include Consumers Maine Water Company, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Human Services, the Maine Geological Survey, the State Planning Office, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and the New England Water and Wastewater News.
UMaine to Host Regional Student Conference on GLBT Activism

February 22, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine will host hundreds of students from around the area this spring as it welcomes the 6th Annual Northeast Regional Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Student Activist Conference.

"Rainbow Millennium, Activism for a New Era" will be held from April 7 to April 9 at the UMaine Wells Conference Center. The regional meeting will include students from northeast New England and Atlantic Canada.

"This conference is very important for all of us," says Sarah E. Smith, chair of the Wilde-Stein Alliance for Sexual Diversity and conference organizer. "Education of our differences creates a space were we all can grow together and learn. Having this conference in Maine shows how committed the university is to diversity in the state.''

Workshop topics include networking, community building, GLBT's in the military and multicultural issues, among others.

Presenters already lined up for the conference are Candace Gingrich, chair of the Human Rights Campaign, Robyn Ochs, an activist from Boston and Rob Herson of the Maine SpeakOut project.

Registration for the conference is $35 for students and $50 for non-students and non-university members. The registration deadline is March 31. Call Sarah Smith at 581-1596 or 581-1259 for more information.
Maine Agricultural Leadership Institute Feb. 23-25

MEDIA ADVISORY

February 23, 2000
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine Agricultural Leadership Institute (MALI) begins this evening at the Black Bear Inn in Orono. Participants will work with political and media experts, including U.S. Representative John Baldacci, to hone their policy-making and communication skills. Media representatives are welcome to cover the meeting which runs all day tomorrow and concludes on Friday after lunch.

On Friday morning, the 34 participants will work in groups to develop a legislative strategy on an issue of their choosing. They will present their strategies to a panel of legislators, agricultural agency staff and lobbyists. Baldacci will serve on this panel and provide closing remarks at 11:15 a.m.

The meeting is organized by University of Maine Cooperative Extension with support from agricultural businesses and agencies in Maine.

MALI presenters will include Baldacci; Don Colson, news anchor with WABI-TV; 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 conduct interview sessions on camera.

Tonight's activities include a dinner at 6:00 p.m., recognition awards at 7:15 and a session on leadership styles at 7:30.

More information is available today from John Jemison, Extension water quality specialist, 581-3241. An agenda is also available from Nick Houtman at the Dept. of Public Affairs, 581-3777.
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More information is available today from John Jemison, Extension water quality specialist, 581-3241. An agenda is also available from Nick Houtman at the Dept. of Public Affairs, 581-3777.
UMaine Professor Elected Vice President of National Geographic Information Organization

February 23, 2000
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Harlan J. Onsrud of Orono, professor in Spatial Information Science and Engineering and researcher with the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis at the University of Maine, was elected February 7 to be vice-president of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS). Following his term as vice-president, he will serve a 12-month term a president, starting in February, 2001.

Onsrud specializes in legal and ethical issues associated with the use of geographic information systems. He teaches courses in land development, environmental law and spatial information engineering.

UCGIS is a non-profit organization of universities and other research institutions dedicated to advancing our understanding of geographic processes and spatial relationships through improved theory, methods, technology, and data. UCGIS has nationwide fifty-eight members and seven industry and government affiliates. UCGIS serves as an effective, unified voice for the geographic information science research community; fosters multidisciplinary research and education; and promotes the informed and responsible use of geographic information science and geographic analysis for the benefit of society.

The National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis is a research consortium of the University of California, Santa Barbara; the University at Buffalo; and the University of Maine.

The Department of Spatial Information Science and Engineering at the University of Maine (http://www.spatial.maine.edu) offers programs leading towards B.S., M.S., and Ph.D degrees.
Franco-American Center Throws a Mardi Gras Party

February 24, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A little bit of Franco culture will be available at the University of Maine as Franco-Americans and others celebrate Mardi Gras on March 7.

The evening of Franco food and music will be held at York Dining Commons on the UMaine campus from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The celebration is the result of a partnership between Francos at the university and the Franco community, according to Lisa Michaud, communications coordinator and managing editor of "Le Forum" at the UMaine Franco-American Centre.

"We're doing this celebration to keep the tradition alive and raise awareness of the holiday," says Michaud. "I remember my parents talking about how important it was to them and watched them many times as they got dressed up for the evening's events. I'm not sure that the youth today are as aware of the holiday."

This year, the celebration will feature Franco-American singer and songwriter Josée Vachon. Vachon, who was born in Québec and raised in Maine, shares her Franco-American culture through traditional and contemporary folksongs from Québec and Acadie as well as her own original songs. She has released a number of albums, including "La Voix d'une mère" and "Ca fait rire les enfants."

The evening will also feature a variety of traditional Franco foods, including chicken stew, tourtière, string beans with salt pork, ployes and blueberry cipate, among others. A cookbook with the recipes for these delicacies will be available at the celebration.

"I'm hoping that this evening will bring back memories for the older generation and give new experiences to the young," says Michaud.

The evening's festivities are sponsored by Susan Thibeault Little, York Dining Commons manager, the Franco American Partnership Committee of the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce, the Franco American Centre, the Franco American Studies Program and the Bouchard Family Farm. The cost is $7.33 for adults and $4.17 for children 10 and under and students.

For more information or to order tickets call Susan Thibeault Little at 581-4959 or email at slittle@umerl.maine.edu. Advanced sales only.
Meeting the Need for Information Technology Skills in Maine

MEDIA ADVISORY

February 24, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Business and academic leaders from Maine will meet February 25th on the University of Maine campus to discuss the public and private sectors' need for personnel trained in the latest information technologies (IT). Donald Zillman, vice-provost and interim vice president for academic affairs at UMaine, will moderate the meeting which starts at 10 a.m. in Wells Commons.

Participants will also consider what universities and colleges in Maine are doing to meet the need and how they can improve programs. Media representatives are welcome to attend the session at no charge. The agenda includes a presentation from Robert Lerman, director of the Human Resources Policy Center at The Urban Institute and a professor of economics at American University, both in Washington D.C.

In afternoon presentations, John Dorrer, adjunct assistant professor of economics at UMaine, will discuss demand for IT workers in Maine and New England, and Peter Vigue, president of the Cianbro Corporation and chair of the Maine Chamber and Business Alliance, will provide a private sector perspective.

Media representatives who are interested in attending should contact Cathy Bradbury, assistant to President Peter S. Hoff, at 581-1518.
New State Partnership Brings Russian Highway Engineers to UMaine

February 28, 2000
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A new partnership between the State of Maine Department of Transportation and the Russian region of Arkhangelsk is bringing two Russian highway engineers to the University of Maine College of Engineering on February 29. Media representatives are welcome to meet with them from 11:20 to 11:50 a.m. in room 101, Boardman Hall.

Alexey F. Vereschagin, deputy director of the Road Administration, and Evgueni Lobanov, head of the analytic department, will visit with faculty and students in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering starting at 9:50 a.m.

They are scheduled to tour the UMaine Advanced Engineering Wood Composites Center in the afternoon. They will also meet with faculty members to discuss new technologies developed at UMaine to improve road construction and traffic management.
UMaine Students to Perform Mamet Classic

February 28, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- It's a nightmare scenario for a salesman. The boss has just announced an office contest in which the first prize is a Cadillac and the second prize is a set of steak knives. Everyone else? Unemployment.

This is the situation presented to the characters of David Mamet's comic drama "Glengarry Glen Ross," a play about greed and desperation in the real estate market that will be performed by students in the School of Performing Arts at the University of Maine.

"The play is sort of like a 'Death of a Salesman' for the 1990s. It's about a group of salesmen that sell land basically for investment purposes," says Marcia Joy Douglas, UMaine's new assistant professor of theatre and the play's director. "It chronicles the underbelly and the pressures of that lifestyle, and explores what people do when they feel that their survival is at stake."

In many ways, says Douglas, the characters in this play are raw and often acerbic, but they ultimately elicit a measure of sympathy from the audience because of their situation and their will to prevail.

"The play really captures that sense of things passing you by, that feeling of losing a way of life." says Douglas. "I just find the people in this play fascinating and I think Mamet is a playwright that needs to be seen and heard and that our actors needed to experience."

The cast of the play is Timothy Simons as Shelly Levene, Ric Sechrest as John Williamson, Andrew Hicks as Dave Moss, Paul Brown as George Aaronow, J.P. Guimont as Richard Roma, Craig Bowden as James Lingk, Woodruff A. Gaul as Baylen and Jeremy Towle as the Waiter.

The play will be performed April 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. and April 15 and 16 at 2 p.m. in Hauck Auditorium, located in the Memorial Union.

For ticket information, call the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX. Regular tickets are $8; discounts are available for seniors, students, children and groups. This play contains strong language and may not be appropriate for all audiences.
UMaine Students Offer Tax Help

March 1, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- If the thought of doing your taxes induces a panic attack, then students from the University of Maine Business School can help.

Accounting and tax students will be available to provide free assistance for students, the elderly and other taxpayers with low to moderate incomes, including people with disabilities, filing state and federal income taxes. The program is funded by the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Students in VITA will be available in 113 D.P. Corbett Business Building from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, except during spring break, March 15 and 22. Taxpayers should bring W-2s, documenting their earnings, and 1099 for interest and dividends.

For more information on VITA, call 581-1982.
UMaine Faculty to Perform Schubert Piece

March 3, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- "Die Schone Mullerin," Franz Schubert's tale of unrequited love and sorrow, will be performed by faculty from the University of Maine School of Performing Arts on March 31.

Ludlow Hallman, professor of music, will sing the piece, based on a 19th century poem by Wilhelm缪ller. Faculty member Phillip Silver will accompany Hallman on piano. The performance will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall, located in the Class of 1944 Building.

"It's one of the major pieces in Schubert's song repertoire, and the original translation is 'The Beautiful Miller-Maid.' " says Hallman. "It tells the story of a young miller who goes out into the world. He falls in love with the daughter of a miller, but she doesn't know he exists."

Despite the miller's attempts to win the woman's affection, she falls in love with a hunter. The miller, in his misery, drowns himself in the river. The piece is written as a song cycle, a group of separate songs that a composer intended to be performed together. "It's a fairly major piece in Schubert's work, one of two such cycles he wrote," says Hallman. "It's a piece that people should have a chance to hear and one I enjoy performing."

Hallman presently teaches studio voice at the University of Maine. He was educated at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Southern Illinois University and the "Mozarteum" in Salzburg, Austria. He has appeared with the Santa Fe Opera Company, the Salzburg Festival and with the Bangor and Portland Symphony Orchestras.

Tickets for the concert are available at the door or by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX. Regular tickets are $5; discounts are available for seniors, students, children and groups.
UMaine Granted Patent for Seafood Freezing Process

March 6, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Robert Bayer, Lobster Institute, 207-581-2785
Alfred Bushway, Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition, 207-581-1629

ORONO, Maine - The U.S. Patent Office has assigned a patent to the University of Maine for a new process to preserve the flavor and texture of frozen seafood. The process has been applied to lobsters and may be expanded to other types of seafood as well.

The patent was issued on December 14 and is based on research by Robert Bayer of the Lobster Institute and Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering, and Alfred Bushway and Therese Work of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. Work is now employed by the Kellogg Company in Michigan.

James Ward of the UMaine Department of Industrial Cooperation managed the patent application procedure.

"This process creates an opportunity for businesses that prefer not to handle live lobsters," says Bushway. "They will be able to use a frozen product that tastes as good and has a longer shelf life."

"We think this is a winner," says Bayer, "and we will be studying techniques for expanding applications in the future."

The process involves the injection of sugar-based compounds that help preserve texture and anti-oxidants that protect flavor. Undesirable flavors often result from the oxidation of lipid compounds, says Bushway, and by retarding oxidation, natural flavors are maintained. Once injected, the compounds spread naturally throughout the animal's tissues.

The University is currently in discussion with businesses that are interested in licensing the technology.

IceBrand Seafoods in Portland supported development of the new process. All the chemical work and sensory evaluation of seafood products was done at UMaine.

Previous attempts at preserving the quality of frozen seafood have been unsuccessful, according to the patent document. Federally funded research in this field has been terminated, although a patent was issued in 1982 for a process to freeze blue crabs.

The patent notes that in addition to protecting flavor and texture, the UMaine process can promote a steady supply of products, protect public health and reduce seafood spoilage, thus conserving natural resources.
UMaine Professor Offers Tips, Information on Tax Filing

March 7, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Every year, Americans across the country spend billions of hours filling out forms to determine how much they owe the government in tax revenue.

Although taxes are accepted by most as a necessary part of life, the organization that is tasked to collect them is often looked upon as a threat and few people know exactly what happens to their returns once they are in the mail.

A University of Maine professor in public administration says that although the Internal Revenue Service is extremely unpopular, there is no reason to fear it.

"You would really have to look around to find a government entity that struck more fear into the hearts of people," says Kenneth Nichols, who worked over 20 years in the IRS. "People feel intimidated by the IRS, which is unfortunate, because people who are trying to comply with their tax responsibilities should not be intimidated."

Nichols said he started his career with the organization in college, working during filing season in the service center, which receives and processes tax returns.

"When you mail in your tax returns they go to a service center, where they are sorted and sent to people who ensure that everything is attached properly," says Nichols. Care is taken to guarantee that nothing is left in the envelopes, according to Nichols.

"The emptied envelopes go through a machine that shines a light through them, a process called candling," he says. "The reduced intensity of light from something in the envelope will trigger the machine to stop and allow someone to go in and pull out the forgotten piece of paper."

Staffers enter information from the returns into a computer, which checks that information for arithmetic errors. When something is missing or doesn't add up, an IRS employee or computer sends a letter to the taxpayer.

With TeleFile or IRS e-file, Nichols says, all of the initial steps in filing are removed, and the taxpayer dials directly into the IRS computer system.

"The cost savings to taxpayers is substantial, because the service center is where the bulk of the costs of processing a tax return comes from," says Nichols. This and other technological advances are the reason why the IRS budget has stayed relatively flat for most of the decade.

"The IRS collects $1.7 trillion on a budget of $8 billion," says Nichols. "That's roughly 50 cents per hundred dollars collected." He adds that the size of the IRS budget is surprising when the enormity of their mission is taken into account.

"The tax code is probably the largest single body of law the world has ever known," says Nichols. "The IRS is there to make sure it's enforced and understood."

In the United States, over 200 million tax returns are filed every year and 80 to 90 percent of those are filed voluntarily.

"The government doesn't compute our taxes, we do. We sit down at our kitchen table with tax forms and a calculator and figure out what we made, how much was withheld and what we owe," says Nichols. "It's amazing
that we have such a high level of compliance."

Part of this, he says, is the ethic of the American people.

"Taking tax responsibilities seriously is just what Americans tend to do," he says. "There are very few places in this country where someone could go around and brag that they avoided their taxes. We don't consider it socially acceptable to cheat on income taxes any more than we consider it socially acceptable to race down the freeway at 100 miles per hour."

Nichols does have some tips for taxpayers based on his experience working with returns. First, he says, write clearly in the boxes. "It's important and it will make a big difference in the scanners and with people who transcribe," says Nichols.

Second, sign the return and verify the math with a calculator.

Make sure all attachments, particularly W-2s, are enclosed with the returns.

Use the envelopes and labels that come with the tax package.

Don't include receipts. "If everyone included all of the backup documents, that would maybe triple the thickness of each return," says Nichols.

Most of all, he says, don't worry.

"What's the worst that can happen? You can owe more money, or you can be audited, which only happens in maybe one half of one percent of all tax returns filed, even though all tax returns undergo computer evaluations," says Nichols. "And then there is the Taxpayer Advocate, an office within IRS where taxpayers can turn if problems don't get solved through normal channels." As for how long to keep your returns, Nichols says that four years ought to be enough. The statute of limitations for assessing taxes is three years from the date of return, or the date of filing, whichever is later.

"Tax returns are shipped off to federal records centers, run by the National Archives, where all tax records are kept for seven years. After that time, they are destroyed," says Nichols. "If the IRS hasn't made any adjustments to your taxes in three years, it's basically a dead case, unless there is suspicion of criminal activity such as tax fraud."
Maine Garden Day Scheduled for Auburn

March 10, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Vivianne Holmes, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1482

ORONO, Maine -- More than 40 gardening workshops will be open to the public on April 1 at the annual Maine Garden Day conference at Central Maine Technical College in Auburn. The meeting is organized by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

The meeting will start at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:15 p.m. Participants must pre-register by March 22. Workshop subjects range from using compost to landscape design, herbs and the principles of organic gardening.

Among the presenters will be Christie White of Historic Old Sturbridge Village; Jim Flint of the National Gardening Association; Paul Cousins of AtmosForecast; Paul Tukey of People, Places and Plants magazine; Rick Churchill, professor emeritus of Southern Maine Technical College; and Cooperative Extension specialists in pest management, water quality horticulture and other topics.

Early registration is suggested since participation is limited. The fee is $22. Round trip bus service is available from Sanford, Biddeford, Westbrook and Farmington for $5 per person. Registration forms and more information are available from the Oxford County office of Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1487 or 743-6329.
Maine Masque to Perform "Barefoot in the Park"

March 10, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- This spring, students in the Maine Masque Theatre will bring "Barefoot in the Park," Neil Simon's whimsical play about love, marriage and the horrors of a first apartment, to the University of Maine.

The students in the School of Performing Arts are taking full control of this production, which will be performed April 12 through 16 at Hauck Auditorium.

"The entire show is run by students who wish to get firsthand knowledge of how to raise money for a theatrical production, how to market and publicize it, how to design, direct and perform it with only advisory guidance from the faculty," says Sean Fidler, a senior theater student and the play's director.

"Barefoot in the Park" tells the story of a newly married couple who start their life together in New York City. The apartment chosen by the bride turns out to be a cramped, leaky place with a broken radiator, peeling paint and strange neighbors.

Tellis Coolong, a senior theater student and the play's assistant director, suggested the script to Fidler.

"I have always wanted to direct and I've been a big fan of Neil Simon for some time," says Coolong. "For actors, this play offers a wide range of characters to play and situations to overcome. Plus, Neil Simon is just very funny."

The play will be presented on April 12, 13, 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. and April 15 and 16 at 2 p.m. in Hauck Auditorium, located in the Memorial Union.

Fidler says in addition to providing the opportunity to gain real-life experience in theater production, the Maine Masque gives students a chance to make art that sends a message.

"The issues and concerns addressed in this play are the institutions of marriage and parenting and themes of love, commitment and responsibility," says Fidler. "All of these issues and concerns are very relevant, and 'Barefoot in the Park' is just a lighthearted way of letting us look at them, laugh at them and appreciate the sanctity of them."

For ticket information, call the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX. Regular tickets are $8; discounts are available for seniors, students, children and groups.
Diversity Education Conference at UMaine April 6-7

March 17, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine will demonstrate its commitment to bringing about greater racial and ethnic understanding and presence in the state at an April 6-7 conference. The Diversity Education Conference will examine the status, issues, opportunities and challenges of transition in a predominately white, traditionally rural state.

Conference presenters and participants will probe the reality and perception of race relations, the process and implications of change, and strategies for identifying problems and finding solutions. Candid discussion of minority experiences will emphasize the role and responsibilities of the public and private sectors and individuals in shaping opinion and advocating change in the state's business, educational and community environments.

Keynote speakers will be Jeannine Guttmann, editor and vice president of the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram, who will set the stage for conference discussions with an overview of changing Maine demographics and diversity issues; Darlene Clark Hine of Michigan State University, an acclaimed author and historian of black women's history and contributions; and Clarence Glover, executive director of Multicultural Education in the Dallas, Tex. public schools, who will give a talk titled "Positioning Education for Global Diversity."

Planning and hosting an statewide conference on diversity is among the goals and initiatives outlined in UMaine's recent Diversity Action Plan. The College of Education and Human Development is charged with coordinating the conference. Dean Robert A. Cobb chairs the campuswide planning committee.

The conference is one way the University is emphasizing its intention to provide a clear, consistent voice and strong leadership in building understanding and encouraging change in the critical and highly complex area of racial and ethnic diversity, according to Cobb.

"As an institution and as a goal of the conference, we want to acknowledge the problems and recognize the opportunities," said Cobb. "We want to learn the reality of being a minority individual, family and consumer in Maine. And we want to scrutinize the educational, community and private sector changes that need to occur as the population shifts."

The conference, which is expected to attract K-12 educators, university-level faculty and students, community and municipal leaders, industry and business representatives, state and local policymakers and representatives of social advocacy groups, has been developed according to six goals:

- Define the issues of race and ethnicity, and acknowledge the inherent problems and continuing challenges.

- Provide an overview of the current status of diversity (demographics, trends, forecasts) at the state, regional and national levels.

- Raise awareness of the presence and lack of racial and ethnic diversity in Maine and its implications.

- Consider the reality of being a minority individual, family and consumer in Maine.

- Probe the public and private sector changes that occur and need to take place as the population shifts or remains static.
€ Develop and acquire personal, educational and economic tools to organize and encourage a cultural transition in a traditionally rural, white state.

The conference will begin at Wells Conference Center with a welcome from UMaine President Peter S. Hoff at 3:30 p.m. on April 6. Jeannine Gittman's keynote address will follow Hoff's remarks. Darlene Clark Hine's address is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on April 6. Clarence Glover will speak at noon on Friday, April 7. Other activities and sessions have been scheduled within three distinct strands -- K-12 Education, Post-Secondary Education and Community/Workplace.

A complete schedule is available from the UMaine Department of Public Affairs at (207) 581-3571. For conference and registration information, call (207) 581-4092, or visit www.ume.maine.edu/ced-conf.diversity.html.
Maine Grazing Conference Set for Oakland April 8

March 17, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Deanna Potter, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1421

ORONO, Maine -- Livestock producers have the opportunity to attend Maine's second grazing conference April 8th at Messalonskee High School in Oakland. The meeting is sponsored by University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service and local soil and water conservation districts.

Keynote presentations will be given by Ed Rayburn, Extension Forage Agronomist at West Virginia University, and Nate Leonard of Pastures Unlimited, New York. Rayburn has published numerous fact sheets on forage systems and is writing a book on the subject.

The meeting runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ten work sessions will be offered throughout the day on subjects such as pastured poultry, measuring forage biomass, supplementing ruminants on pasture, parasites, pastures for horses, pasture design and layout, fencing, forage varieties, pasture improvement/destruction and producer presentations.

Registration is $20 and includes lunch. More information is available at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Crops office, 1-800-870-7270 in-state and 207-581-2953 from outside Maine.
UMaine Engineers Test X-38 Aeroshell Panels

Date: March 21, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman at (207) 581-3777

In a collaborative project with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), a team of UMaine mechanical engineers put panels from the X-38 crew return vehicle through a worst case heat and pressure scenario at Crosby Lab in March.

NASA will use the test results to finalize design specifications for the shell of the space vehicle. When constructed and deployed, the X-38 will function as an emergency lifeboat on the international space station.

NASA is working with Vince Caccese, associate professor of mechanical engineering, and his students to make sure that the graphite aeroshell panels will withstand the rigors of re-entry and get astronauts safely back to Earth.

Caccese coordinates the team which also consists of students Christopher Malm of Caribou, Richard Mewer of Eliot and Josh Walls of Yarmouth.

"We've been working with UMaine engineers to test the structural characteristics of the aeroshell panels for a couple of years through the Maine Space Grant Program," said Ron Baccus, NASA engineer who came to Orono to help conduct the tests in March. "It's been a very good relationship, and we're very happy with the results."

"The students did all the calculations on heat transfer and thermal requirements, and they wrote the software that controls the oven," said Caccese.

Painted UMaine blue, the 15 ft3 insulated oven contains two electric heating elements, four heat lamps and steel blocks that support the panel to be tested. The oven fits on an eight-foot tall pressure testing machine which applies precise forces directly to the panel through the top of the oven.

During the tests, two-foot long panel sections were placed in the oven and heated to 325 degrees Fahrenheit. Increasing force was applied to the panel until it began to break apart. The panels cracked along a glued joint between a curved stiffening element and the flat carbon composite surface.

"This is a worst case scenario," said Baccus. "Under actual conditions during re-entry, tiles on the skin of the X-38 absorb heat and reflect much of it back into the air. The panels will not be this hot when they are under maximum stress. Nevertheless, we want to be conservative in our design."

In addition to the tests, Caccese and Malm are using a finite element model to characterize the performance of the panels under various combinations of heat and pressure.
Hudson Museum Releases Exhibit Catalog

March 24, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Although the kingdoms of ancient Mexico have long since passed into history, the culture of that region is being preserved in exhibits and collections at the University of Maine's Hudson Museum.

The latest addition to the museum's preservation efforts is in the form of a new catalog of artifacts currently being shown in an exhibit drawn from the university's own Palmer Collection.

"We're using this catalog both as a permanent record of the exhibit and as a way of introducing people all over the country to the Palmer Collection," says Stephen Whittington, director of the UMaine Hudson Museum.

The catalog, called "Images for Eternity: Mexican Tomb Figures and Retablos" features full-color photographs and text by Whittington and David Shoemaker, a graduate student pursuing an individualized Ph.D. in art history. The catalog was funded with a grant from the Mudge Foundation.

Whittington has begun sending copies of the catalog to museums around the country that might be interested in hosting a traveling version of the exhibit.

"The catalog is an effective way to market this exhibit, because curators can see pictures of the pieces and read the text from the exhibit and then make an informed decision about whether it's something they want to bring to their museum," says Whittington.

This is the second exhibit catalog that the Hudson has produced. The first, also funded by the Mudge Foundation, was "Empires Emerging: Collecting the Peruvian Past." The earlier catalog was a record of an exhibit developed by students in a UMaine Museum Anthropology class taught by Whittington in 1997.

This is also the second traveling exhibit produced by the Hudson Museum. "Worldviews: Maya Ceramics from the Palmer Collection" has traveled to museums in New Hampshire, Oklahoma and Colorado since1998. Whittington says he has plans to create at least two more traveling exhibits based on the Palmer collection in the next couple of years.

The William P. Palmer III Collection is the Hudson Museum's premier collection of Precolumbian artifacts. It includes the largest assemblage of ceramic figures from western Mexico in any U.S. museum. Palmer, an alumnus of the University of Maine, collected the artifacts between 1965 and 1970 and bequeathed them to his alma mater in 1982.

"Images for Eternity: Mexican Tomb Figures and Retablos" will be on exhibit at the Hudson Museum in the Maine Center for the Arts through May 14. The catalog is for sale through the Hudson Museum Shop. For information, call (207) 581-1903.
Mt. Waldo Granite Study Yields New Clues About State's Geologic Past

March 27, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Daniel Lux, Geological Sciences, 207-581-4494

ORONO, Maine -- Detailed study of a Maine granite is contributing new evidence to explain how dynamic magma chambers characterized the state's distant geologic past. Daniel Lux, professor in the University of Maine Dept. of Geological Sciences, is collaborating with David Gibson of the Department of Natural Sciences at the University of Maine at Farmington on an analysis of the gray building stone known as Mount Waldo granite.

Lux presented a paper on their research at the Northeast regional meeting of the Geological Society of America in March.

The Mount Waldo granite is exposed at the surface over an area of about 150 square kilometers (58 square miles) west of Bucksport, Maine and extends into the earth to an estimated depth of about seven kilometers (four miles). In the past, the stone was widely used for building material, and abandoned quarries provide Lux and Gibson with a small window through which to understand the processes that created the granite more than 370 million years ago.

At that time, the tectonic plates that make up the Earth's crust were not located as they are today. The North American plate, on which Maine sits, was colliding with the smaller Avalon plate to the east. Remnants of the Avalon plate can still be found in coastal portions of modern day Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and sections of the U.S. East Coast. The collision forced the leading edge of the North American plate beneath the Avalon plate, where elevated temperature and pressure caused the rock to melt. The resulting igneous activity was similar to what is happening today in the Pacific Northwest.

"We know that the granite exposed on Mount Waldo formed at a depth about ten kilometers (six miles) below the surface," says Lux. "Since then overlying rock has been eroded away to expose the granite. My interest is what occurred within the magma chamber while the Mount Waldo granite was forming."

"The chamber that was once filled with liquid magma is now solid granite. Through our field and laboratory research, we are attempting to unravel the sequence of the growth and physical sorting of crystals within the magma chamber and to understand what chemical exchanges might have occurred between crystals and liquid."

One group of geologists who study igneous processes has generally thought that magma, once concentrated in a chamber, simply cools and solidifies. However, recent evidence from other volcanically active areas, such as Yellowstone Park, suggests that some magma chambers are anything but stagnant. Lux and Gibson are adding to the latter view.

They report that crystals of a common rock forming mineral known as plagioclase feldspar, which is observed in the Mount Waldo granite, have distinctive growth histories. Initially, some of the plagioclase crystals grew and then were partially dissolved whereas others just grew. In the later stages of the crystallization process, the crystals were transported within the chamber and deposited together on the chamber floor.

In addition, Lux and Gibson have found distinct mineralogic layers, a feature not commonly observed in granites, which have significant differences in chemical composition. Taken together, these layers suggest that after the Mount Waldo magma was in place and cooling, new magmas with variable compositions were injected into the chamber.

"Mineral crystals within a magma behave in some sense like snow flakes in a storm cloud," says Lux. "Snow flakes are blown about as they grow. Each snowflake is different and their shape reflects growth in variable
microenvironments before they accumulate on the ground. Similarly, crystals in granite start to form in a cooling magma chamber. New injections of hot magma may partially melt some of the growing crystals and transport them to different locations. The variable shapes and textures of the crystal reflect this dynamic environment."

The question is whether or not repeated injection of hot magmas is a fundamental process common to all magma chambers or restricted to the Yellowstone magmas and a few other examples.

Lux and Gibson have worked together since the mid-1980s when Gibson was a post-doctoral researcher at UMaine.
UMaine Graduate Students to Exhibit Research Projects

March 27, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Chris Miller, Association of Graduate Students, 207-581-4548

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine graduate students will display their research projects in the liberal arts, sciences and engineering at the second annual Graduate Research Exposition on April 5 in Wells Commons.

The displays are open to the public from 3 to 7 p.m., with an awards presentation at 5:30 p.m. Judging by a panel of faculty members will be based on the scholarship of research and creativity of presentation.

Among the over seventy research topics being exhibited are:

- environmental sciences relating to forests, water quality, mercury, marine fisheries and wildlife;
- engineering projects in sensors, chlorine free pulping, geographic information systems, and neural networks;
- liberal arts, including an evaluation of selected stories and novels by Louisa May Alcott;
- psychological studies such as event-related potentials and creativity, and problematic heterosocial situations reported by college students;
- studies in physics, astronomy, chemistry, communication sciences, genetics, geology, and computer science.

"This exposition is the largest collection of graduate student expertise in the state and is an exciting display of the breadth and expertise of scholarship," says Chris Miller, an event organizer and president of the Association of Graduate Students (AGS). "Graduate student research touches all aspects of life in Maine, but it is difficult to fully appreciate it until you see the work collected in one place."

As with last year, award winners will display their posters at the Capitol in Augusta. "Legislators are very interested in the types of research being done at the University of Maine," says Miller. "They are able to see first hand how the state's contributions to the university system yield dividends that improve education and the lives of Maine people."

The Graduate Research Exposition began in 1999 as an attempt to raise awareness of the importance of graduate research to the health and well-being of the state. The event has become popular among graduate students who enjoy the opportunity to see the rich diversity of intellectual pursuits among their peers. The exposition is sponsored by the AGS, the Graduate School, and the Office of the Vice President for Research.
Poultry Workshops Planned

March 29, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Richard Brzozowski, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1471

ORONO, Maine -- Keeping an egg-laying flock of chickens in Maine can be a hobby or a way to earn some money. University of Maine Cooperative Extension will hold a series of six-hour workshops this spring for people who want to learn more about raising chickens on a small scale for egg production.

"Caring for Pullets and the Egg-Laying Flock" will begin in Houlton on April 11. Subsequent locations include Auburn on April 20, Farmington on April 25, Bangor on April 27, Portland on May 6 and Ellsworth on May 10.

The topics will include flock management, housing, disease prevention, nutrition, egg production and marketing. Instructors will be Michael Opitz, Extension veterinarian; Robert Hawes, professor emeritus, and Richard Brzozowski, Extension educator.

The cost of the workshop is $10.00 per person. Every participant will receive a notebook of practical information and have the opportunity to purchase the optional text "A Guide to Raising Chickens."

More information is available from April Bishop at 1-800-287-7170. Registration information, starting times and locations may also be found at the following web site: http://davidm.umext.maine.edu/SSPoultry/Poultry1.htm
Environmental and Political Philosopher to Visit UMaine

March 30, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- John O'Neill, the University of Maine's 1999-2000 Philosophy Visiting Scholar, will be on campus in April to discuss his work in a series of lectures.

O'Neill teaches environmental and political philosophy at Lancaster University in the United Kingdom and is the author of "Ecology, Policy and Politics." His talks at the University of Maine will focus on his recent work on the market economy.

"Resisting the Market: Epistemological Arguments for and against the Market Economy," will be held on April 13 at 12:30 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge, located in the Memorial Union.

"Intellectual Property in Science and the Market" will be held at 4 p.m. in the Levinson Room of The Maples.

In these talks, O'Neill will explore whether market economies restrict information and alter incentives in a way that is detrimental to the goals of science. O'Neill has been involved in a range of environmental policy projects, including the Concerted Action on Environmental Valuation and the Environment and Climate Program IV. A critic of cost-benefit analysis, he has co-authored a policy report for the European Parliament on how to estimate the costs of environmental damage.

The talks are free and open to the public.
New Immunoaffinity Technique for Diazinon Detection

March 30, 2000
Contact: rbushway@maine.edu, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, 207-581-1626
Alison Prince, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - An new laboratory technique for improving the detection of diazinon, a commonly used insecticide, in water has been developed by a University of Maine graduate student working with Beacon Analytical Systems, Inc., of Portland, Maine. Although still in a developmental stage, the technique could provide a more reliable method for chemical monitoring.

Rodney Bushway, analytical chemist and chair of the UMaine Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition, gave a presentation on the technique at the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Francisco today.

Diazinon is used in household gardens, orchards and croplands to kill insects including aphids, cucumber beetles and cutworms. It has been detected in rivers and groundwater in some states.

Alison Prince, a master's degree student and a native of Farmingdale, Maine, developed the technique, based on immunoaffinity technology, with support from Bushway and Titan S. Fan, a scientist at Beacon Analytical Systems.

Immunoaffinity technology uses antibodies generated by an animal in response to exposure to a foreign substance. In the new technique, the antibodies are attached to glass beads about the size of sand grains.

"Water samples are usually mixtures containing many different chemicals," says Prince. "The results of existing techniques can be difficult to interpret because in addition to diazinon, they pick up other compounds. This procedure cleans the sample, in a sense, by selecting only the diazinon and ignoring the other compounds."

Traditional quantitative techniques can then be used to determine the amount of diazinon that was present in the sample.

Prince used antibodies supplied by Beacon Analytical Systems that were specific to diazinon. She coupled the antibodies to the beads and then packed a small amount of beads into a cylinder. By exposing the beads to water samples to which known amounts of diazinon had been added, she was able to demonstrate that the glass beads had picked up almost all the compound in the water.

"One of the most difficult stages in immunoaffinity is removing the compound from the beads. A lot of my time was spent determining the best elution buffer to remove it. This technique is still in an early stage. More development will have to be done to confirm its accuracy," she says.

Prince received her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of Vermont and worked as a laboratory technician in the UMaine Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Molecular Biology between 1993 and 1998. She hopes to work in a biotechnology laboratory after graduation.
UMaine Professor to Discuss Financial Deregulation

March 30, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO Finance professor Richard Borgman will be the next speaker for the "Emerging Business Issues for Maine" breakfast series sponsored by the University of Maine Business School.

Borgman's talk, "Financial Industry Deregulation: Why It Happened, What It Means, and What's In It for Us?" will be held on April 4 at 7:30 a.m. at the Black Bear Inn in Orono.

Borgman, who holds a Ph.D. from the University of Florida, teaches finance at the University of Maine. Before coming to UMaine, Borgman taught at the University of Notre Dame and worked for Dominion Bankshare Corporation, a multibank holding company.

The fee is $10 at the door and participants must call 581-1973 for reservations.

Contemporary Prints of 29 Artists Found in New University of Maine Museum of Art Exhibit

January 4, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 207-581-3571

ORONO -- The 29 artists of "Sequences" are of divergent sensibilities, different nationalities and disparate ages. What they have in common is a conceptual and practical interest in the series - a device that allows them to construct a serial narrative while leaving visible the possibility of change; to establish context while alluding at its incompleteness; to suggest an ongoing presence while calling attention to absence; to reflect a vision of the world in which truth is as likely to be found in the space between things as in the things themselves.

As with atomic matter, it is the bonds between the bits that signify, producing meaningful substance out of ink, paper and thin air.

The artists represented in "Sequences," on exhibit Jan. 21- Feb. 26 at the University of Maine Museum of Art, are participating in an entirely contemporary art practice, but they also are exercising an ancient tradition. Richard Long's "River Avon Mud Drawings" are semi-automatic records of natural history, apparently abstract images that also carry overtones of scientific demonstrations illustrated and reproduced in print. Bernd and Hilla Becher photograph quintessentially modern sites of industrial decay, but their attention to taxonomic display harks back to ancient bestiaries and botanies. Elaine Sturtevant's "Duchamp" studies and Hanne Darboven's triple set of synthetic marble read not simply as self-contained triptychs, but as excerpts from larger catalogues.

Many of these prints seem to be documents, excerpts, reproductions of works of art that happened in some other time, some other place. Of course, this is another traditional role of the print, though one often downplayed in the rush to establish printmaking as an "original" art. But such overt reproduction has its own riches: Christo offers three views of the running fence not as a totality but as a selection from a much greater basket. The triptych is a document, but also evidence of documentation's inability to make time stop; to re-create or re-present the past.

The fact that these works exist as prints affects their meanings in another important way, because along with the avoidance of bombast goes a material immediacy and vulnerability. These "sequences" employ virtually every print medium - from the most venerable and simplistic (woodcut) to the most pervasively commercial (offset lithograph), with stops along the way at each historical hitching post (mezzotint, etching, lithograph, photograph, heliogravure, screenprint).

Many of the works use different media on different sheets, as in Knoebel's astute pairing of screenprint, where thick pigments rest on the paper's surface, with mezzotint, with its deeply impressed and tangible burr - media that not only feel different to the touch but respond very differently to light. The fact that he also used glow-in-the-dark inks is a further witty comment on the mutability of even the most visual constructions.

The "Sequences" collection of 78 prints in more than 12 different techniques - from woodcut to etching to grano lithograph - forms a concentrated survey of contemporary graphic art at the end of this century.

The University of Maine Museum of Art hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. Gallery talks and tours are available if scheduled in advance. Contact the Museum of Art for more information, 207-581-3255.
Night of Chamber Music to be Performed at UMaine

April 3, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Students and faculty in the chamber music program at the University of Maine's School of Performing Arts will focus on the sounds of the cello during the annual spring recital on April 18. Five student and faculty groups will perform at the concert, which will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall, located in the Class of 1944 Hall on the UMaine campus.

"These are all students taking a course in the chamber music program," says Ginger Yang Hwalek, an instructor in music and the coordinator of the program. "With the exception of the graduate string quartet, all of these groups have formed just for this semester."

Each of the groups has a faculty coach who oversees the progress of the students and sometimes performs with them.

The program opens with a string quartet by Mendelssohn. This piece will be performed by graduate students Amanda Cushman on viola and Joanna Calogero on cello and with undergraduates Nicole Bartolatti and Melissa Bragdon on violin.

Faculty members Diane Roscetti and Noreen Silver will join cellist Inna Nassidze for "Requiem" by David Popper. Faculty member Phillip Silver will join the cellists on piano.

Next, Roscetti and Nassidze will perform "Suite for Two Cellos and Piano" by Jean Carlo Menotti, also with Silver on piano.

Calogero will then join undergraduate students Nancy Vincent on violin and Jennifer Moore on piano for a piece entitled "Trio I" by Alan Hovhaness.

Ending the program is a sextet by Brahms. The piece will be performed by Le Stagioni, the graduate string quartet made up of violinist Patricia Shih, violinist Weronika Knapik, violist Nikita Pogrebnoy, and cellist Inna Nassidze. Joining the students will be faculty members Anatole Wieck on viola and Diane Roscetti on cello.

For ticket information, call the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX. Regular tickets are $5; discounts are available for seniors, students, children and groups.
Alternative Fuel Vehicles Not Likely to Be Common by 2010

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu (mailto:houtman@maine.edu).
Jonathan Rubin, Margaret Chase Smith Center, 207-581-1528, jonathan_rubin@umit.maine.edu (mailto:jonathan_rubin@umit.maine.edu).
Paul Leiby, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, 423-574-7720.
Note: This story can also be seen at http://www.umaine.edu/mainesci/Archives/ResEconomics/Alternative%20Fuel.htm.

ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES WON'T BE COMMON ON U.S. ROADS ANY TIME SOON

Market costs are likely to make vehicles that are powered by fuels other than gasoline too expensive for most consumers for the next decade, according to a report co-authored by Jonathan Rubin, a University of Maine resource economist. Rubin is a policy analyst in UMaine's Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public policy and collaborates with Paul Leiby, a researcher at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Tennessee.

Rubin is also an assistant professor in the UMaine Department of Resource Economics and Policy and member of National Research Council subcommittees on energy conservation and alternative fuels.

Alternative fuels include compressed natural gas, methanol from natural gas, propane from petroleum and ethanol from biomass such as corn or wood chips. The report by Rubin and Leiby does not cover hybrid gasoline/electric vehicles or hydrogen producing fuel cell technology.

"Proposals that the nation adopt alternative fuels often don't consider the market costs involved in a transition to a new system," says Rubin. "It's not enough to say that the technology works, or that it would be economical if they were mature and widely available. We also have to show that it's economical during the transition phase. Our model calculates those costs, such as the capital cost of establishing a new retail infrastructure for alternative fuels, and estimates market penetration."

The model predicts that, for the period 1996 to 2010, less than one percent of transportation related oil use will be replaced by alternatives, unless oil price increases are sustained for a period of years or the federal government pursues more aggressive policies than those currently in-place.

The model is known as the Transitional Alternative Fuels and Vehicles Model and was used to generate a report for the Department of Energy in 1999.

It's possible that rising gasoline prices could promote the production of alternative fuel vehicles, Rubin adds, but to have a significant impact, prices would have to rise at least 50 cents per gallon and be sustained for years.

Rubin and Leiby have received support to refine their model by incorporating hybrid vehicles and extending their analysis to 2020. In a related project, Rubin, Leiby and Mark Delucchi of the University of California, Davis, are evaluating changes in cropping patterns and market
Scientists uncover surprising behavior of a fatty acid enzyme with ... (articles/scientists-uncover-surprising-behavior-of-a-fatty-acid-enzyme-with-applications-might-also-help-low-oil-saturated-sea) 


Low-dose Administration of MERS DNA Vaccine ... (articles/low-dose-administration-of-mers-dna-vaccine-and-boosting-patient-immunity-and-protects-against-challenges-in-clinical-models) 


@POTUS decision comes at a time when we are bracing for a ... (articles/potus-decision-statement-on-greenhousegas-emissions-signals-when-we-are-bracing-for-a-new-old-climate-world)
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New Publication on Maine Forest Health Available

April 5, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- As Maine voters prepare for another forest management referendum in November, a new University of Maine publication provides useful information about the history, health and ecology of the Maine woods.

The publication, 4th Annual Munsungan Conference Proceedings: Forest Health, contains summaries of presentations made at the conference in 1998. Among the topics are an overview of historical changes, timber supply outlook, analysis of forest images taken by satellites, soil and water trends, biodiversity and spruce budworm impacts.

The publication is edited by William Ostrofsky, director of the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit, and T. J. Dragon, an administrative assistant in the Office of Professional Development, College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture.

The Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station published the proceedings as Miscellaneous Publication 742 and has posted it on the Internet at http://www.umaine.edu/mafes/elec_pubs/mp742.pdf. A limited number of paper copies is available from Barbara Harrity, 207-581-3211.
School of Performing Arts May Schedule of Events

April 5, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The following performances will be given by faculty and students from the School of Performing arts at the University of Maine during the month of May.

Percussion Ensemble - Sounds of modern life in the machine age will fill the hall during the spring concert featuring "Ionisation," the first great percussion ensemble masterpiece, written by Edgard Varese in 1931. Stuart Marrs, director. May 2 at 7:30 p.m. Minsky Recital Hall, UMaine, Admission $5. Call 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX.

Jazz Ensemble - All styles of contemporary and classic jazz compositions will be performed, including a large number of improvised solos. Karel Lidral, director. May 4 at 7:30 p.m. Minsky Recital Hall, UMaine, Admission $5. Call 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX.

Spring Dance Concert - The much-anticipated concert will highlight student and faculty choreography. From energized hip-hop, jazz and multicultural influences to humorous dance theatre, provocative collaborations and more traditional ballet and modern dance, this promises to be a delight to the eyes. Ann Ross, director. May 5 & 6 at 7:30 p.m. Hauck Auditorium, UMaine. Admission $8. Call 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX.

Benjamin Britten's War Requiem - Two hundred combined voices from the University of Maine singers, Oratorio Society, St. John's Episcopal Church Youth Choir and three guest soloists join ninety members of the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, under Christopher Zimmerman's direction, for two performances of this monumental, poignant work. Dennis Cox, Ludlow Hallman and Fred Jones, choral ensemble directors. May 6 at 7 p.m. and May 7 at 3 p.m., Maine Center for the Arts. For tickets, call the Bangor Symphony Orchestra at 942-5555 or 1-800-639-3221.
UMaine Offers Horticultural Therapy Workshop

April 6, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Plants can liven up a room or provide spices and vegetables. An instructor from the University of Maine School of Social Work will offer a workshop that shows plants can also offer peace of mind.

The one-day workshop, entitled "Therapeutic Horticultural Activities," will be held on April 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Roger Clapp Greenhouses on the UMaine campus.

Elin MacKinnon, who teaches introductory social work at UMaine, is the workshop's presenter. She is a graduate of both the BSW and MSW programs at UMaine and now works as the clinical consultant for experiential learning at Care Development, a social services organization in Bangor.

"I work with kids who have behavioral and emotional challenges and I use horticultural therapy as a tool to work with them," says MacKinnon. "I think it helps them relax. People heal better and recover from stress more easily with plants around. With these kids that have had a lot of trauma in their lives, working with plants can be a very relaxing, freeing kind of experience."

In the workshop, MacKinnon will teach participants activities they can use in group settings or for individuals. She says although she works with youth, these are techniques that can be adapted to meet the needs of a variety of populations.

"Working with plants is a way to introduce ideas in a non threatening way," says MacKinnon. "With foster care, there are a lot of analogies to horticulture. For example, when you transplant something, it's often shocked and leaves some roots behind. Working with these plants and introducing these ideas can get kids to open up about their own experiences."

Many of the youth that MacKinnon works with have gone on to plant gardens and take the activity up as a hobby.

The workshop is open all interested. MacKinnon says her target audience is rehabilitation workers, social workers, educators, guidance counselors, afterschool staff or educators. The cost is $35 per person and the workshop is limited to 20 participants.

The workshop is sponsored by the School of Social Work, the department of landscape horticulture and Care Development. For more information, call the School of Social Work at 581-2389.
UMaine Symphonic, Concert Bands Offer Spring Recital

April 7, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- There will be music for every taste available when the Symphonic Band and the Concert Band from the University of Maine School of Performing Arts take the stage in the annual spring band concert.

The concert will be held on April 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall located in the Class of 1944 Hall on the UMaine campus.

The Symphonic Band, conducted by Curvin Farnham, associate professor of music, will perform "Gershwin Fantasy," a medley of songs by composer George Gershwin, the ballet section of the "Pineapple Poll Suite" by Gilbert and Sullivan and "Trittico" by Vaclav Nelhybel.

This year, the band will be joined by guest soloist Dale Underwood on saxophone. Underwood spent 31 years performing for the United States Navy Band and founded the Navy Band's saxophone symposium. He has performed in a number of countries and has played a solo concert for every U.S. president since Lyndon Johnson. Underwood holds professorships with George Mason University, University of Maryland College Park and Shepherd College.

The Symphonic Band is a group of 60 graduate and undergraduate instrumentalists chosen from students of a variety of academic disciplines. Each semester, membership in this organization is determined by audition under the direction of Farnham and associate conductor Shianne Wheeler. The band performs several times a year on campus and throughout the state.

The Concert Band, conducted by faculty member Christopher White, will perform "Prelude, Siciliano and Rondo for Symphonic Band" by Malcolm Arnold, "Chorale and Alleluia" by Howard Hanson, "Adagio" by David Holsinger and "Valdres (Concert March)" by Johannes Hannsen.

The 72-member Concert Band is open to all students at UMaine that play a band instrument. The band provides a concert band experience of the highest caliber to the students.

For ticket information, call the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX. Regular tickets are $5; discounts are available for seniors, students, children and groups.
UMaine/BSO String Quartet Sets Spring Recital

April 7, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Le Stagioni, the premier graduate string quartet of the School of Performing Arts at the University of Maine, will showcase its talents in a concert on April 27.

The quartet was formed last fall in partnership with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra (BSO). The four students were picked from an international pool of applicants by Diane Roscetti, director of the School of Performing Arts, Anatole Wieck, assistant professor of music and Christopher Zimmerman, conductor and music director of the BSO.

The ensemble is made up of violinist Patricia Shih, violinist Weronika Knapik, violist Nikita Pogrebnoy, and cellist Inna Nassidze.

"All four are consummate musicians who have a great deal of training, awards and experience," says Roscetti. "They are all committed to a full-time career in performance, which at this time they hope to be a professional quartet of international acclaim. They have such a zest for life and are really enthusiastic."

Before attending UMaine, each of the students was already well on the way to a professional career.

Shih was giving concerts in Germany after receiving a graduate degree in music at Indiana University. Knapik was studying at the Hochschule in Mainz, Germany. Pogrebnoy was finishing his scholarship studies at the Longy School of Music in Massachusetts and Nassidze was completing her fifth year at the institute of music and headed to a concert career in New York City.

The students receive free tuition and a stipend for their work as the string quartet and as members of the string section of the BSO. They are taking graduate courses toward a degree in performance.

"This is the first time in many years that the school has had such an ensemble and everyone here is amazed at the professionalism and talent that the program has attracted," says Phillip Silver, an instructor of music and one of the program's faculty advisors.

The program for the concert will include: "Quartet Satz" by Schubert, "Quartet in F minor, Opus 80" by Mendellsohn, and the Quartet of Maurice Ravel.

The concert will be held in the Minsky Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. on April 27. For ticket information, call the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX. Regular tickets are $5; discounts are available for seniors, students, children and groups.
Maine Shepherd School Scheduled for Wool Producers

April 25, 2000
Contact: Richard Brzozowski, Cooperative Extension, 207-780-4205
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine Shepherd School will be held May 19-21 in Cumberland, Maine. This practical three-day school is designed for sheep and wool producers (adults and teens) and is sponsored by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Sheep Breeders Association.

Participants will tour three sheep operations in the towns of New Castle, Bowdoinham and North Yarmouth. The program will also include lectures, demonstrations, problem solving exercises and discussions on applied topics such as computer use on the farm, sheep nutrition, reproduction, marketing and farm facilities.

Gary Ricketts, retired Cooperative Extension sheep specialist from the University of Illinois, will be the featured instructor.

Some full scholarships are available to youth ages 12-18 through the generous donations of several agricultural sponsors. The deadline for scholarship applications is May 1.

The $95.00 fee includes meals and materials and is substantially reduced for others from the same farm. Youth may attend for $50.00 per person. The deadline to register is May 10, 2000. Camp sites with water and electricity are available for $10.00 per night. For more information please call the Cumberland County Extension Office at 1-207-780-4205 or email Extension Educator, Richard Brzozowski.
Garden Journalism One of Ten Workshops for Horticulture Enthusiasts Being Offered at UMaine

April 26, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Gardens can provide a fertile foundation for cultivating writing talents. The field of garden journalism is growing in popularity, with participants ranging from business owners writing catalog descriptions for their nursery stock to green thumb enthusiasts anxious to share their knowledge through how-to stories in the print media.

A daylong workshop about how to write about gardening, landscaping and horticulture will be offered at the University of Maine Saturday, May 6. "Writing What You Love: House and Garden Journalism" will be led by author Paula Panich of Easthampton, Mass. Panich has been writing about architecture, gardens and horticulture for 15 years. Co-author of two books, she is now publisher and editor of DiRT: A Garden Journal from the Connecticut River Valley. In her workshop, Panich will focus on how to write and place print media stories on subjects related to houses, gardens and horticulture. Her presentation is designed for beginning to veteran writers, including gardeners, landscape designers, horticulture specialists and homeowners.

Panich's presentation is just one of 10 workshops for horticulture enthusiasts being offered this spring and summer through UMaine's Division of Lifelong Learning. The other workshops, led by area specialists, include topics such as seasonal wetlands in developed landscapes; getting started in the garden; choosing and using conifers; small flowering trees and shrubs for Maine landscapes; grafting roses; growing peonies; pruning small trees; and garden plant identification.

Coordinating the workshops, and presenting two of them, is Reeser Manley, UMaine assistant professor of horticulture and associate editor of DiRT garden journal. Manley also directs UMaine's Littlefield Garden, the northern-most ornamentals trial garden in New England, offering visitors opportunities to learn about numerous species and varieties of ornamental plants for cold-climate landscapes.

The six-acre garden is a horticultural learning resource for the community, says Manley. For many of the workshops, it will serve as a living classroom.

The Workshops for Horticulture Enthusiasts are offered for the first time this year as part of the mission of the Littlefield Garden. To receive more information on the workshops or to register, contact the University of Maine's Division of Lifelong Learning, 581-3143.
Public Invited to Witter Farm Open House May 13

April 26, 2000
Contact: Marcella Guillette, Witter Farm, 207-866-0083
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to the third annual Open House and Compost Sale at the University of Maine's Franklin J. Witter Teaching and Research Farm on May 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The open house will feature dairy and horse showmanship, a cattle and sheep show, draft horse plowing demonstration, jumping and dressage demonstrations and other fun activities for kids.

The Farm is located at 572 College Avenue in Old Town, two miles from the University of Maine campus. Admission is free. More information is available at (207) 866-0083.

Schedule of events:

9 a.m. Dairy Showmanship
10 a.m. Jumping and draft horse demonstrations
11 a.m. Horse Showmanship and Woodsmen Team demonstration
12 noon Dressage demonstration
1 p.m. Sheep demonstration and vaulting demonstration
2 p.m. Beef demonstration
3 p.m. Western horse demonstration
Milking demonstration
UMaine College of Business, Public Policy and Health Holds Student Project Exposition

April 26, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORNOS -- 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 27 from 5 to 7 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. "The work all of our students do is intended to make a difference in people's lives."

The College of Business, Public Policy and Health is made up of four academic units: The School of Nursing, the School of Social Work, the Maine Business School and the Department of Public Administration.

Students from the School of Nursing will present the results of various Community Leadership Projects, which each nursing student at UMaine has to complete. This year, students held health fairs for the residents of the Shaw House and local primary and secondary schools. Other nursing students promoted CPR training in local schools and educated the area's elderly women about hypertension.

School of Social Work students studied the self-reported service needs of Maine's homeless, family preservation values and job satisfaction of child welfare workers and the influences of family of origin on a social worker's career choices.

In the University of Maine Business School, students worked with the Chinese Herbal Pharmacy Co., the Captain Briggs House Inn and Timberland Investing. In the course of earning a degree in business administration, students in the program take part in class projects that often involve drawing up marketing or international business plans for state companies.

Service learning is an important component of the curriculum in the Department of Public Administration. This year, student projects included conducting an employee communications audit in the healthcare industry, assisting with contractor performance rating evaluation for the Maine Department of Transportation and assessing the Town of Chelsea for comprehensive planning purposes.

Students in these schools come from all areas of Maine as well as California and China. The event is free and open to the public.
Collegiate Chorale Sets Spring Concert

April 27, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO The University of Maine's Collegiate Chorale will perform songs from the 20th century and around the world at the group's annual spring concert on April 30.

The concert will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall, home of the School of Performing Arts in the Class of 1944 Hall at UMaine.

"This is the only non-audition choir at the University of Maine," says Beth Clark, a graduate student in music education and the group's director. "The group gives people a change to sing and is primarily made up of non-music majors."

The first half of this year's program focuses on music of the 20th Century. The chorale will perform Daniel Pinkham's "Wedding Cantata," "Saul" by Frank Pooler, "Sing Me to Heaven" by Daniel Gawthrop and "Ching-A-Ring Chaw" by Aaron Copland.

A musical journey around the world makes up the second half of the concert. The Chorale will perform "I'se the B'y," a song from Newfoundland arranged by Robert Swift, "Danny Boy," an English folk song arranged by Joseph Flummerfelt, "Sakura," from Japan, arranged by Michael Scott, "Jamaican Marketplace" by Larry Farrow and "O Sifuni Mungo," an African song arranged by David Maddux.

For ticket information, call the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX. Regular tickets are $5; discounts are available for seniors, students, children and groups.
UMaine to Present Spring Dance Concert

April 27, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Student and faculty choreography will be showcased as performers from the University of Maine School of Performing Arts takes the stage for the Spring Dance Concert on May 5 and 6. The concert will be held in Hauck Auditorium, located in the Memorial Union at 7:30 p.m. on both days.

"This year's concert has a lot of variety, from upbeat modern dance to classical ballet, from serious, contemplative dance to the more fanciful," says Ann Ross, instructor of dance at the University of Maine.

A modern dance piece choreographed and performed by Angie Gorneau, from Wiscasset and Rei Tresler from Perth, Australia, will kick off the show. They are followed by two solos: a traditional ballet piece performed by Samantha Lott, a junior from Eliot and a modern dance by Alanna Hounsell, a sophomore from Readfield.

Members of the UMaine Dance Club will take the stage for a piece choreographed by the members entitled "Silent All These Years." This will be performed by Angie Gorneau, Alanna Hounsell, Rei Tresler, Jessica Carter, a sophomore from Oxford and Jennifer Phillips, a senior from Old Town.

Sophomores T.J. Gifford and Jared Boudreau from Mount Desert Island are next with a modern dance piece set to the rock of Rusted Root. A duet by seniors Lisa Stailing of Bath and Kim Youcis of Orland is next. The pair will perform to a jazz/funk beat.

Drummer Zachary Anchors, a first-year student from Old Town, will accompany senior Ann Gleason of Auburn for a modern dance piece that will also include spoken text. Beth Blake, a first-year student from Augusta, will slow things down with a lyrical dance piece.

Faculty member Sid Dyjek will take the stage with his introductory modern dance class for a piece with an underwater theme. Ann Ross will perform with her intermediate modern dance class. Jennifer Phillips, a senior from Old Town, will perform a lyrical modern piece.

Beth Blake and Fawn Wentworth, a first-year student from Vassalboro, will lead the show finale, a futuristic piece that incorporates jazz, modern, tap, ballet and a number of other styles. For ticket information, call the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or toll free at (800) MCA-TIXX. Regular tickets are $8; discounts are available for seniors, students, children and groups.
UMaine Professor Receives National Award for Engineering Technology Education

April, 28, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The American Society for Engineering Education has awarded the annual McGraw Award for outstanding achievements in engineering technology education to John McDonough of Orono, director of the University of Maine School of Engineering Technology.

During his 17-year tenure, McDonough has overseen the development of cooperative agreements with Maine's technical colleges and the establishment of a new program in construction management technology. More than 300 students are currently enrolled in the school's electrical, mechanical, construction management and general engineering degree programs.

McDonough has recently been named the associate dean in the UMaine College of Engineering.

The award is sponsored by the Glencoe Division of the MacMillan/McGraw Hill publishing company.
UMaine Breaks Ground for Expansion of Student Union; $12.5 Million Project is Biggest in UMaine History

April 29, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The largest construction project in University of Maine history took another step forward today with the formal groundbreaking for the $12.5 million Memorial Union expansion and renovation.

Plans call for adding 51,000 sq. ft. to the existing student union building, which was built nearly 50 years ago. With completion expected in the summer of 2001, the expanded and renovated Memorial Union will contain more than 120,000 sq. ft., offering the campus community more room for student organizations, functions and meetings, and additional dining and food service options. Memorial Union will also provide new homes for UMaine's career center, bookstore, student-run radio station and more.

UMaine President Peter S. Hoff presided at Saturday's ceremony, held in front of Memorial Union, adjacent to where contractors have already begun preparing the foundation for the building's new wing.

Named in tribute to the 3,885 UMaine alumni who served in the U.S. military during World War II, the Memorial Union building was constructed in the early 1950s, when UMaine had a total campus population of around 4,000 -- roughly one-third of the University's current size. Opening in 1953, it has served as a programmatic and cultural center for the campus and the greater Bangor area through the years.

Commenting on Memorial Union's 47-year history, Hoff noted that "the building has served many purposes: as a center of learning, exploration, discussion, and debate; as a place to seek comfort and respite during the demands of the school day; as a venue for thousands of functions and millions of meals; as a gathering spot where friendships have been sparked and nurtured; including those which -- like (project benefactors) Russ and Barbara Bodwell's -- have lasted for a lifetime."

"Few other spots on campus has meant so much to so many over the years," Hoff continued. "And it is our intent to maintain that significance for the decades to come."

"That's why the expansion project is so critical to our future, creating the same opportunities for a campus population nearly three times larger and more diverse in its needs than the population for whom the original Union was built," Hoff added.

In addition to Hoff, others making commemorative remarks were UMaine Student Government President Christopher Moody, graduate student President Christopher Miller, and Dwight Rideout, UMaine's dean of Students and Community Life.

The lead donation for the $12.5 million project came from MBNA, the financial services company based in Camden with offices in Orono and other locations throughout the state. MBNA donated $2 million. In his remarks, Hoff expressed the university's gratitude for the donation to Frank McKelvey, MBNA's senior executive vice president, who was on hand for the ceremony.

Hoff also acknowledged the presence of Russell Bodwell, a UMaine alumnus who, as a student, served on the original Memorial Union planning committee in the late 1940's. Bodwell was instrumental in raising contributions to the expansion project.

Hoff also recognized Ormand Wade, another UMaine alumnus who made a sizable contribution to fund the building, with an emphasis on developing a student leadership center within the building.
Though formal groundbreaking ceremonies took place Saturday, construction site work began in January for the multi-stage project, which is expected to be complete in August of 2001. When it is complete, the building will feature a 150-foot long, two-story skylit atrium, which will include a waterfall.

The building was designed by Harriman Associates of Auburn and Orcutt Associates of Yarmouth. The general contractor is D.L. Poulin of Brunswick.
UMaine Plans First Outdoor Commencement Since 1994; May 20 Ceremony Set for Alfond Stadium

May 1, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- More than 1,300 University of Maine degrees will be awarded at the University’s 196th Commencement, scheduled to be held on Morse Field at Harold Alfond Stadium on Saturday, May 20 at 10:30 a.m.

If the weather cooperates, this will be the first time a UMaine class will graduate at a single outdoor ceremony since 1994. A combination of factors, including weather and the deteriorating condition of the former Alumni Stadium, have caused the last five spring Commencements to be held inside Alfond Arena. In those cases, space limitations meant that two ceremonies -- one in the morning and one in the afternoon -- were held each year.

Alfond Stadium will accommodate an audience of 10,000.

The Commencement Address will be given by Cathie A. Pelletier, a native of Allagash, Me. whose literary credits include eight novels, a screenplay, poetry, non-fiction, song writing and a children's book. The novels include The Funeral Makers, Once Upon a Time on the Banks and The Weight of Winter, three stories based on the fictitious town of Mattagash.

Honorary degrees will be awarded to Pelletier and Ashley F. Bryan, an artist, author, crafter and educator who taught at Queens College, Lafayette College and Dartmouth College before retiring to his Maine home in 1989.

In keeping with the University of Maine tradition, each graduate will have his or her name announced to the audience upon receipt of a diploma and a handshake from either President Peter S. Hoff or Provost Donald Zillman. Of the 1,333 anticipated graduates, 335 will receive graduate degrees, including 31 who will receive doctorates.

If the weather causes a move back into Alfond Arena, there will be two ceremonies. Those receiving degrees from the College of Business, Public Policy and Health; the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and the Division of Lifelong Learning will participate in the 10:30 a.m. exercise. Graduates from the College of Education and Human Development; the College of Engineering (including the School of Engineering Technology); and the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture will attend the 2:30 p.m. ceremony.
Conference to Highlight School-Based Research, Innovative Work

May 3, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

Media are welcome to attend any or all of the May 9 Learning through Inquiry Conference events, beginning with a welcome at 4 p.m. Roundtable discussions run from 4:15-6 p.m. A buffet supper will be served at 6 p.m. Jill Ostrow's keynote address begins at 7 p.m. Upon request, she can be available to meet with interested reporters between 3-4 p.m. Reporters interested in talking with Ostrow during that hour should contact Kay Hyatt, 581-2761. All events will be held in Wells Conference Center.

ORONO, Maine -- The author of the popular new mathematics curriculum book, "Making Problems, Creating Solutions," will join University of Maine education faculty, public school teachers and teacher interns in a presentation of research, strategies and assessment from the classroom. Jill Ostrow, a veteran multiage classroom teacher and a faculty member at Lewis & Clark College in Oregon, will be the keynote speaker at the second annual Learning through Inquiry Conference on Tuesday, May 9.

The conference, which highlights research and innovation in local schools, is co-sponsored by the College of Education and Human Development and the Penobscot River Educational Partnership, a professional development network of the College and seven area school systems. During a series of roundtable discussions, Network partners, including administrators, teachers, UMaine faculty and future teachers in the Master of Arts in Teaching program, will share their findings and techniques gleaned from collaborative work in partnership schools. Network schools include Brewer, Bucksport, Old Town, Indian Island, SAD 22 (Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport), Union 87 (Orono, Veazie) and Union 90 (Alton, Bradley, Greenbush, Milford).

Examples of innovative projects to be featured during the discussions are: non-fiction reading and inquiry (SAD 22); pre-service mentoring (SAD 22 and Union 87); Learning Labs (Brewer); WebQuests (Veazie and Milford); Boys' Literacy Project (Veazie and beyond); and PROFIT (Professionals Fluent in Technology throughout the Network schools).

Ostrow's work and research focus on multiage education, language development, community building, authentic assessment and mathematical process. In her latest book, "Making Problems, Creating Solutions: Challenging Young Mathematicians" (Stenhouse 1999), Ostrow rethinks the teaching of mathematics and shows teachers how to build real-world learning environments in elementary classrooms. Instead of presenting concepts in the traditional sequence, determined by the teacher rather than the intellectual readiness of the child, she takes a process approach, encouraging children to create problem-solving strategies and then discuss their reasons and methods with peers.

Her book focuses on new ways of teaching and learning mathematics and pays special attention to incorporating the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Standards.

A centerpiece of Ostrow's teaching is a large annual class project, which integrates all the skills, concepts, problems, explorations, and presentations learned throughout the year and includes math, science, art, music, reading, writing, social studies and geography. Among such projects highlighted in her book is "Hide a Family in 1942," which includes designing a home with a secret room. The project has specific requirements for number of rooms (for the study of fractions) and size and shape of the rooms (for the study of angles). The project rose from classroom discussion about the WWII era and students' questions, such as why Americans didn't hide Japanese-Americans being sent to internment camps, as people in Europe hid persecuted individuals and families.

Ostrow is also the author of "A Room with a Different View" (Stenhouse, 1995), in which she describes how her multiage classroom of six- to nine-year olds physically transformed their classroom, created an island community and solved its emerging problems.
UMaine Summer Course to Focus on Technology

May 3, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO The rapid growth of technology has made computers an almost inescapable part of everyday life. A summer course at the University of Maine will provide an overview of the opportunities and challenges provided by e-commerce and emerging mobile technology.

"Wireless E-Commerce and Ubiquitous Computing" will take place from May 22 to June 9 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Peter Tarasewich, assistant professor of management information systems at the UMaine Business School, will teach the course.

"It is predicted that computer technology will become embedded in so many devices that we use everyday that we won't even realize we are using a computer, or think about it in the same way that we do with personal computers now," says Tarasewich.

The course will explore this proliferation of wireless technology and how it affects e-commerce business models, strategies, applications and security.

This course has as a prerequisite either an introductory MIS course or permission of the instructor and is worth one credit. The class will consist of discussions and demonstrations, and no textbook is required.

To register for the course, call the UMaine Business School at 581-1997.
All-Terrain Wheelchairs, Small Scale Steam Engine Models to be Demonstrated at Maine Day May 10

May 5, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Herbert Crosby, Mechanical Engineering Technology, 207-581-2134

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine mechanical engineering technology (MET) students will demonstrate that engineering can be fun as well as challenging on Maine Day May 10. They will show off their all-terrain wheelchairs and small-scale model steam engines in events beginning at 8 a.m.

Media representatives are welcome to cover the events at the Machine Tool Lab behind Boardman Hall.

Students in an engineering physics class taught by Tim Marquis, a faculty member in MET, built and assembled all the parts for a dozen small steam engines over the course of the semester. Instead of burning wood or coal, however, the machines run on air pressure. The engines will be set up to operate between 8 and 9 a.m.

Herbert Crosby, also of MET, challenged students in a capstone engineering course last fall to develop wheelchair designs and build working models that can negotiate rough terrain while keeping their riders safe.

The event begins with an evaluation of overall design at 9:30 a.m. At 10 a.m., the wheelchairs will be given a stability and brake test, and at 10:15 a.m., they will negotiate an indoor obstacle course.

At 10:45 a.m., students will tackle a two-mile course including university bicycle paths, curb climbs and a sand pit. They will finish by competing in a tug-of-war in the Hilltop parking lot at 11:45 a.m.
Top High School Math Students to Receive Awards on May 15

May 5, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Top Maine high school students in mathematics will receive awards at the University of Maine during the annual Maine Mathematics, Engineering and Science Talent Search Honors Day May 15. Students, their parents and teachers will tour research facilities before and after the awards presentation at noon in Wells Commons.

The presentation will include remarks from University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff. Awards will be presented by Eva Szillery and Jerry Farlow of the Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics.
UMaine Student Chosen for Advertising Internship

May 5, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A University of Maine student will spend the summer working for an advertising agency as part of an internship program sponsored by the American Advertising Federation.

Justin Barnes of Newburgh was one of six students chosen nationally for the Vance L. Stickell Memorial Student Internship Program sponsored by the AAF. Barnes is a journalism major in advertising and a member of the UMaine chapter of the AAF advertising club, Adventures.

Established in 1989 in honor of Vance L. Stickell, former executive vice president, marketing for the Los Angeles Times, this program is intended to further the awareness and understanding of the advertising process and business ethics among students.

Barnes will spend the summer at Bates, USA in New York City, where he will be put on creative teams and work in all aspects of the advertising field. He will receive a stipend of $4500 for the summer.

The American Advertising Federation, based in Washington, D.C., is the professional organization for corporate advertisers, agencies, media companies, suppliers and academia.
Bristol Resident Receives UMaine Award

May 8, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Peter R. Hannah of Bristol has received the Distinguished Forestry Alumnus Award for 2000 from the University of Maine College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture.

Hannah received his bachelor's degree in forestry in 1959 from UMaine and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1967. He taught and conducted research at the University of Vermont until his retirement.

His research focused on silviculture and the management of forest stands for wood products, recreation, wildlife and esthetics. He was also elected as a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters.
Fire Investigators Create Phone Line for Information

May 8, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Me. -- Investigators from the State Fire Marshal's office and the University of Maine Department of Public Safety have developed a telephone message center for people to call if they have information pertinent to the investigation into Sunday's arson fire which damaged UMaine's Hancock Hall.

Those who have such information are asked to call (207) 581-4072. Callers will be answered by a recording and will have the option of leaving a name and phone number for a return call or leaving a message with the pertinent information.
UMaine Professor Receives Award from College

May 8, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Malcolm L. Hunter, Jr., of Milford, a professor of wildlife ecology at the University of Maine, has received the Distinguished Wildlife Alumnus Award for 2000 from the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture.

Hunter is the author of two recent books, Maintaining Biodiversity in Forest Ecosystems and Maine Amphibians and Reptiles. In 1974, he graduated with highest distinction with a bachelor's degree from UMaine in wildlife science. He received a Rhodes Scholarship and in 1978 graduated with a Ph.D. degree from the University of Oxford, England.

The award recognizes Hunter's substantial contributions to the conservation of natural resources in Maine and his excellence as a classroom teacher.
Hancock Hall Assistance Project Added to Maine Day Activities

May 9, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- University of Maine students who lived in Hancock Hall, the UMaine residence hall damaged by fire on Sunday morning, will get a helping hand from UMaine students, staff, faculty and administrators on Wednesday, May 10.

A coordinated effort to help those students remove their belongings from the building has been added to the list of projects associated with Maine Day, the traditional UMaine campus community service day. Work will begin at 9 a.m., regardless of the weather, and is expected to continue through much of the day. In keeping with the long-standing tradition, no classes are held on Maine Day.

As of mid-day Tuesday, all 240 residents of the building have had at least one brief opportunity to enter their Hancock Hall rooms to retrieve some of their possessions. Wednesday's activity is aimed at helping those who wish to relocate the rest of their belongings to their new homes. Alternate on-campus housing has been provided for all of those students.

The previously scheduled Maine Day activities, including the afternoon picnic, remain as planned. A UMaine news release with more details about Maine Day is on the Web.
Hitchner Elm Tree to be Dedicated in Recognition of Retired Professor; Ceremony Set for Wednesday

May 9, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- A stately American Elm tree, estimated to be around 150 years old, will be formally dedicated on Wednesday in honor of the University of Maine professor whose groundbreaking research saved it from disease.

Retired Prof. Richard Campana, who developed a method which is credited with saving the tree from Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970s, will be present for the ceremony.

The tree, which will be known as The Campana Elm, was the subject of considerable attention in 1999, when an initial plan for the renovation of nearby Hitchner Hall called for the removal of the tree. That plan was reconsidered and a new blueprint -- one which leaves the tree standing -- was developed.

Wednesday's event is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at the tree. UMaine President Peter S. Hoff will preside over the ceremony, which will include comments from Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Donald Zillman, as well as UMaine Prof. Susan Brawley.

President Hoff will present Campana with a copy of the children's book "Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems, " with a special bookplate noting Campana's scholarship and contributions to the University. He will also present a copy of the book to children from the kindergarten class from the UMaine Child Development Center and will announce identical donations to UMaine's Fogler Library, the Bangor Public Library, the Orono Public Library and the Old Town Public Library.

A canopy will be set up at the site of the ceremony, to be used in the event of rainy weather.
54th Annual Maine Science and Technology Fair May 13

May 11, 2000
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- More than 260 Maine high school students from 13 schools will show off their science talents at the University of Maine May 13 during the 54th annual Maine Science and Technology Fair. Media representatives are welcome to view exhibits from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 in the Field House.

Students are expected to present projects in subjects ranging from biology and physics to psychology and technology.

Awards will include prizes and scholarships and will be announced in a ceremony in the Field House. The starting time could be as early as 1:00 p.m. but will depend on how quickly judges make their decisions. Students will be divided into two categories by grade level. The awards will include medals and plaques from the Maine Principal's Association.

The event is sponsored by the Maine Principal's Association with support from National Semiconductor, Fairchild Semiconductor and the UMaine College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
Area Student Chosen for Olympic Internship

May 11, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A University of Maine student will spend the summer in the United States Olympic Committee Intern Program this summer in Colorado Springs.

Kelly Michaud, a journalism student from South Casco, will work in the broadcasting and online journalism division. The Olympic Committee chose Michaud after a nationwide search. She will interview Olympic athletes that come to the center for different training camps. The articles she writes will appear along with a variety of photos online at www.usoc.org

The U.S. Olympic Committee is a multi-faceted organization headquartered in Colorado Springs that provides leadership and guidance for the Olympic movement in this country and around the world. The USOC also supports the bid of U.S. cities to host the winter or summer Olympic Games.
Bangor Resident Recieves Outstanding Achievement Award

May 11, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 581-3571

ORONO -- Suzanne Moulton's father didn't believe in college for women.

Despite the curves in the road of life that always seemed to veer from her dream, Moulton always knew she'd get to college - someday. That someday came in 1987. She enrolled in a class at UMaine, drove to campus and couldn't get out of her car.

"I sat in the car for half an hour watching students walk by," says Moulton. "I was struck by their outward confidence in who they are and where they are going. As for me, I didn't have a clue. All those years I had been home raising a family."

Moulton never did make it to that first class. Months later, encouraged by an ad for what was then UMaine's Bangor campus, she enrolled in a specially designed course for nontraditional students returning to or beginning college.

Subsequent courses on the Orono campus through the Continuing Education Division (CED) posed uphill battles. But it wasn't long before Moulton says she was "flying free."

"It was uphill in gaining confidence and realizing I could do the work. I had to convince myself that earning an 'A' was not a fluke or charity on the part of the instructor," says Moulton, a resident of Bangor and recipient of this year's Division of Lifelong Learning Outstanding Achievement Award. "I was getting my wings.

"I went from being a scared student and University employee afraid to answer the phone to being the only undergraduate presenting a paper at a graduate student symposium, and the chief negotiator for the ACSUM union representing almost 1,100 employees systemwide."

Moulton is an administrative assistant I in the Department of History, where she has worked since 1987. Since matriculating, Moulton has majored in history and minored in French.

Through the years, Moulton took two courses every semester, as well as Summer Session courses. Many nights were spent at the same table with her sons and daughter, doing homework and sharing ideas. In the past four years, Moulton has received four scholarships for her academic achievement.

Today, her daughter, Jennifer, is in her first year at the University of Maine-Augusta as a pre-vet student. Moulton's son, Josh, is a UMaine junior majoring in philosophy; her oldest son, Matthew, received a bachelor's degree from UMaine last year and is now pursuing a master's in physics.

Her third son, Nick, is a high school junior who plans to attend UMaine following graduation.

"When I get my degree, all the kids will be in the audience," Moulton says. "It has been such a dream for such a long time. It will be a victory."

Moulton begins her master's work in Canadian history in the fall.
**Dedham Woman Named UMaine Valedictorian**

May 11, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 581-3571

ORONO -- University of Maine Professor of Music and Director of Choral Music Dennis Cox was in the audience one day when Margaret Katherine Jellison was directing the choir at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bangor. After the performance, he talked to her about beginning coursework toward a degree.

"It had been 20 years since high school," says Jellison, "but I thought about it and finally got my courage up."

Jellison began with a music pedagogy course. Her next course, an English class, confirmed her long-held aspirations.

"We were required to do free writing in that class, and I remember writing that I was going to enjoy returning to college more than I ever realized," says Jellison. "That exercise was so powerful. Until then, I didn't realize I had so much inside me that I wanted to express."

Jellison grew up in Chicago, where she attended St. Gregory High School. She had been playing piano since grade school, and was studying organ. But at the time, college was not an option.

"I needed to help support my family," says Jellison, who was one of eight children. "We had tracking back then and I chose business courses because I thought I would be hired more readily with those skills. But the decision also had a dark side.

"Because I was taking high school business courses, teachers assumed I was not college material. That had a negative effect on me, to the point that I believed I could not make it in college. After all those years, I had to change my perspective of myself and my abilities to be able to attend UMaine."

Jellison did not pursue her childhood passion for piano, organ and church music again until she and her husband moved to Maine. In the latter part of the 1970s, she began choral directing at St. Joseph's Church and playing organ for St. Mary's Church.

When she started taking courses in music at UMaine, she found herself bringing "the best of my educational experience and growing knowledge to the choir and music program," she says. "Because of the University experience, I had so much more to offer, not only in music but in all interactions with people."

In her full-time job as a pastoral musician at St. Mary's Church, which she has held for the past 12 years, Jellison directs a choir of 40, the 38-member youth choir, a cantor program of 14 singers, a quartet and other instrumentalists. Throughout Maine's Catholic diocese, she is a resource for other church musicians.

For the last eight of those years, Jellison also has taken classes part time. As a music education major, she took her courses in the School of Performing Arts during the academic year, electives in the summer.

Many evenings would find Jellison and her two sons, Dana and Matthew, gathered around the same table doing homework and editing each other's papers. It also wasn't unusual to find Jellison on the phone, talking into the night to help a young classmate understand the analytical orchestration of a Beethoven symphony.

Dana's wife, Sabrina, finished her master's degree in speech therapy at UMaine. Jellison's son, Matthew, is now a sophomore working on a bachelor's degree in English.

"There were times when my husband, Al, would suggest we go to a movie but I had to study. He always understood. And the boys knew how much this degree meant to me. We are a close family, and they deserve this
honor at Commencement as much as I do."

In the past three years, Jellison also had a special source of inspiration. Jellison's mother, Lorraine, came from Chicago to live with the family in Dedham when she was diagnosed with a terminal illness and needed full-time care. For Jellison, a nursing home for her mother was not an option.

"I wanted to care for her in the last years of her life," she says. "I had help during the day. At night, we had dinner and spent time together until she was ready for bed at 10 p.m. Then I'd study to the early morning hours. I'd get up early and if Mom was awake, I would visit with her and start breakfast until the caregiver arrived. Then I would go to work, to class, back to work, and then home. Sometimes I would try to do my homework while sitting next to Mom in the evenings, but most of the time we ended up visiting." April 2, Jellison's mother died. She didn't know that her daughter would be UMaine's valedictorian. But she did know that Jellison would be completing a degree, and she was very proud.

"She knew all these years that I was working on this degree and she was proud of me," Jellison says. "I'd often read my papers to her. Looking back, I wouldn't change one minute of these past three years because it meant so much to have her here, with all her love, support and encouragement.

"My Mom was a beautiful person; her smile would light up the room. She was a powerful role model for me. She raised eight children under very difficult circumstances. She had qualities such as honesty, wisdom, strength, courage and patience. Her great faith in God was unshakable. I know I will always feel her loving spirit with me.

"My Mother shared an old saying, 'Good, better, best. Never let it rest until good is better and better is best.' I heard that as a child, but it impacted me most in the last three years. Now my lifelong dream has come true."

Jellison has already taken some graduate courses, all while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. This fall, she will be a graduate student in choral conducting.
Three Women to Share UMaine Salutatorian Honor

Date: May 11, 2000 Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Four University of Maine students will share the honor of being class salutatorian when the Class of 2000 graduates of May 20. The following are profiles of each of these outstanding students.

Calah Tenney

It seems that Calah Tenney's life has always been on a fast track. She graduated two years early from John Bapst Memorial High School in Bangor, and then spent the next five years training in the hope of a place on the United States Equestrian Team. When she was long-listed for the 1996 Olympic Games, she turned her attention to college.

"I learned (I couldn't) make a living in horses," says Tenney, who lives in Palmyra. "I also was a different person at 20 than I was when I was as a 15-year-old high school graduate. I started at the University of Maine at Augusta where I had the most amazing chemistry teacher, Susan Baker, and fell in love with science. I wanted to be a biochemist."

Three years ago, Tenney transferred to UMaine. She started classes in January, just days after her marriage to Andrew Fiske of Cape Elizabeth, who also is graduating this month with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

One of Tenney's first biochemistry classes was with Associate Professor of Biochemistry Keith Hutchison, who has since become her mentor. "Keith is a talented teacher," says Tenney of the 1999 Presidential Teaching Award recipient. "Outside of academics, I learned from him the importance of scientific integrity, sticking to projects when they're not going well, and professional problem solving."

"I didn't come to the University of Maine expecting a top-flight education, but that's what I got."

Tenney has been involved in genetics research. In particular, she is involved in attempting to isolate and look at the expression of a gene implicated in angiogenesis, a process seen both in development and vascularization of tumors in cancer. Such basic research with zebrafish could one day contribute to a therapy for treating cancer. Her research in Hutchison's lab has been partially funded by a fellowship from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. She also participated in a summer internship at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute. Her honors thesis is based on the last two semesters of research. Tenney, a UMaine salutatorian, is graduating with degrees in biochemistry, and in molecular and cellular biology.

"I flunked out of honors chemistry in high school," says Tenney. "A lot of what motivates me now has to do with my hospice work. There's a big connection for me between my research and my work as a hospice volunteer. When I go to medical school, I want to be an oncologist." Following graduation, Tenney will spend a year as a research assistant at The Jackson Laboratory. She'll then head to medical school.

Tenney expects her career to be a combination of research and a pediatric oncology practice.

Susan Pellerin

Susan Pellerin of Monroe isn't very comfortable being in the salutatorian spotlight. As an elementary education major who lives in a household where "academics is in the family," Pellerin is a firm believer that everyone has abilities that can contribute to individual success.

"I just happen to work hard," says Pellerin. "My husband and children have been very supportive.
"But when my parents heard I would be salutatorian, they were ecstatic. They know how hard I work."

Prior to enrolling at UMaine four years ago, Pellerin had earned a business degree from Beal College. She spent several years raising her three sons and substitute teaching before committing to the 40-mile commute three times a week to attend classes in Orono. Her husband, Ted, teaches physics and chemistry at Belfast High School.

"Elementary education has always been an interest," Pellerin says. "I like those ages and teaching subjects across disciplines lends itself to providing interdisciplinary education, making connections between subjects."

Despite her familiarity with the classroom, Pellerin admits she was nervous returning to post-secondary education.

"I had been out of school about 20 years," she says. "I was concerned about the age difference between me and the other students, but I found everyone very accepting.

"My first day in a biology class my first semester, I was sitting in Corbett Hall, the lights went down for the lecture/overhead presentation. All I could think of was 'here I am after so many years."

Pellerin found herself "enjoying being around 20-year-olds" because they are so positive, open and accepting. "In teaching, that's a good lesson to learn," she says.

In turn, with her strong work ethic, Pellerin was a role model for the traditional students.

"I do have a work ethic, plus I love to learn," she says. "I've enjoyed every class. Studying for me is a pleasure."

In the last four years, that studying often has been done across the table from her three sons, ages 11-17 - Nick, Daniel and Greg. Pellerin completed her student teaching this semester at Newburgh Elementary School. For much of the remainder of the semester, she is teaching third grade in the school.

"Anytime I'm in the classroom working with children, I reaffirm my decision to become an educator," she says.

Hollie Gowen

The valedictorian of York High School in 1995 is now a salutatorian at the University of Maine.

Hollie Gowen of York is graduating with a bachelor's degree in journalism. Journalism is a natural pursuit for Gowen, who was active on her high school paper. Gowen's sister received a degree in journalism from Syracuse University and now writes for Parents magazine.

Gowen came to UMaine in 1997. In the past three years, she has been a Maine Campus reporter. Her academic achievements have been recognized with two Edward M. Holmes Scholarships and a Maine Press Association Scholarship.

Gowen attributes her academic success to "a good work ethic and a good memory. I'm always pretty motivated to do the best I can," she says.

Among her most memorable news stories was recent a co-bylined piece on hunger.

"Kathryn Olmstead and Marie Tessier were the two most influential faculty on me," she says. "They have two different styles - Olmstead low-key yet always encouraging, Tessier hard-nosed with a set style I still write in."

In addition to finding her niche in journalism, Gowen discovered the challenges of the Honors Program.
"Honors made me think and work, challenging me in areas different from the regular curriculum," says Gowen, whose honors thesis focuses on the media's portrayal of the strategic bombing campaigns of World War II.

At UMaine, Gowen also has been an active member of Chi Omega sorority. Following graduation, she and two other graduating seniors from the sorority are moving to Boston.
Two UMaine Employees from Bangor, Brewer Cited for Outstanding Achievements

May 11, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 581-3571

ORONO -- Two University of Maine staff members, one in Facilities Management and another in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, are recipients of Outstanding Classified Employee Awards. Steve Helmke of Brewer is a carpenter crew leader and the chief steward for the trades in the Teamsters Local at UMaine. Helmke was cited as a positive force and a role model on campus and in the community. He "continually takes on the thankless jobs that we all need to have done and does them with pride and integrity," according to those who nominated him.

Kathy Davis-Dentici of Bangor is a scientific technician I in Holmes Hall. In her nomination, Davis-Dentici was cited for her commitment and caring for faculty, staff and students in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, and in the University community. "Kathy's attitude is a great example of what we refer to as the 'University of Maine spirit,'" according to colleagues who nominated her.

Helmke and Davis-Dentici will receive their awards at the Employee Recognition and Awards Banquet Tuesday, May 23. The awards are sponsored by the Classified Employees Advisory Council (CEAC). Helmke joined the University community in 1989, first working in the maintenance area for Residential Life, then joining Facilities' Carpenter Shop in 1993. He is now a senior member of the shop and has been the lead carpenter on numerous large projects across campus that range from concrete to cabinetry.

Helmke's father, John, was a long-time professor of political science at UMaine.

Two years ago, Helmke was elected chief steward. His colleagues note that he is "skillful at sorting things out, coming to a conclusion, and negotiating fair and equitable solutions."

Helmke serves on UMaine's Labor Management Committee, where he has been instrumental in implementing several policies benefiting Facilities Management employees. He also was one of the first members elected to CEAC.

In his community, Helmke is a member of the Brewer Zoning Board of Appeals and a volunteer coach of Brewer Youth Flag Football. He also is an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts.

Davis-Dentici first joined the University community as a student. She took classes in the mid-'70s, then, with the support of her husband and parents, returned to complete a bachelor's degree in sustainable agriculture in 1989.

As an undergraduate, Davis-Dentici worked in former Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences labs in Rogers and Deering halls. After she graduated in 1992, she worked as a scientific technician in the department.

For the past two years, Davis-Dentici has worked in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. There, she oversees the research of several graduate and undergraduate students. An expert in proximate analysis, she guides many students through complex laboratory procedures. She also is responsible for laboratory safety training for new students.

Working with Professor of Food Science Al Bushway, Davis-Dentici oversees the routine product analyses as part of the review required for the licensing of home-based food processors. Together, the research team has completed reviews for more than 250 home-based food processors.
UMaine Colleges Name Outstanding Students of the Class of 2000

May 11, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207)581-3571

Business, Public Policy and Health

Karl Martin is the Outstanding Student in the College of Business, Public Policy and Health.

Martin graduated in December with a bachelor's degree in business, with a concentration in management. In January, he entered the six-month management training program for Ames Department Stores. In 1995, the Fairfield native enrolled at UMaine, his father's alma mater.

Martin's interest in business management stems from his summer internship and subsequent management position at an animal and amusement park in southern Maine. At UMaine, he combined his interests in entertainment through parks, and business.

"I enjoy working with people in dynamic, exciting environments where there's a lot going on," Martin says. "Retail also is that kind of dynamic environment, particularly when it comes to staying on top of trends."

Martin attributes his academic success to organization and taking one day at a time, while still planning ahead.

"We have quality professors in marketing, management, finance, and accounting," he says. "They care a lot about what they do and really know how to teach."

Liberal Arts and Sciences

Tasha Smallwood, a double major in psychology and mathematics, is an Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Smallwood, who grew up in Houlton and Patten, began her college career at Dartmouth before enrolling at UMaine. She was undecided about her major, and intended to take basic coursework and return to Dartmouth.

Because psychology always interested her, she began taking courses. Her first undergraduate statistics class not only led her to graduate coursework, but inspired her to pursue mathematics.

After that first statistics course, Smallwood asked permission to enroll in one of the most difficult courses in the department. The next semester, she became the first undergraduate to complete the graduate statistics course. Smallwood earned the highest grade in the course, outperforming second-year doctoral students. Last fall, Smallwood was a teaching assistant in an undergraduate statistics course.

"Dr. (Joel) Gold has been my champion," says Smallwood of the professor of psychology and department chair who taught the undergraduate and graduate statistics courses. "He gave me opportunities and respected me for what I can do rather than how old I am."

In his letter of nomination, Gold noted that in his 30 years of teaching statistics, he has never encountered a more brilliant student than Smallwood.

Smallwood has been a research assistant in the physiological psychology lab of Alan Rosenwasser, where she worked on ongoing data analysis projects involving time-series, spectral and waveform analysis of the biological rhythm data.
She has also worked in the laboratory of Alan Cobo-Lewis for more than a year. Her responsibilities include running subjects in experiments, participating in data analysis and contributing to recording results. Smallwood is co-author on a scientific conference presentation, and on two journal articles.

In the department, Smallwood has been involved in recruiting students from her alma mater, the Maine School of Science and Math in Limestone.

Her work off campus includes a part-time retail job at the Bangor Mall, and volunteering as a mentor in the Jump Start program for juvenile offenders at the YMCA in Bangor.

"I like a big university rather than a small college," she says. "There are so many people and opportunities at the University of Maine; it is a good environment for exploring yourself. That's most important to me."

Willow Wetherall is an Outstanding Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She will graduate this month with a bachelor's degree in inter-national affairs/anthropology and women's studies, and a minor in German and an honors concentration.

At Orono High School, Wetherall graduated in the top percentage of her class and was expected to attend a private liberal arts college. Finances kept her close to home.

At UMaine, Wetherall found "a combination of learning opportunities." She not only found academic diversity but the interdisciplinary Women's Studies Program that fostered her commitment to feminist activism. Also at UMaine were three mentors who changed Wetherall's life.

Role models for Wetherall and a number of UMaine students are Associate Professor of Anthropology Cynthia Mahmood, Women's Resource Center Director Sharon Barker and Ann Schonberger, director of the Women in the Curriculum/Women's Studies Program.

"All three take an extraordinary stand for their students and for women," Wetherall says. "From the time I met them, they believed in what I was doing and conveyed that I had a valuable contribution to make. And they opened doors to let that be expressed."

Benchmarks in Wetherall's academic career are many. Four years ago, she founded the Beautiful Project at UMaine, which has become a national model that was replicated last year and this year at other colleges. She also founded The Loop, a women's guide to surviving and thriving at UMaine. She served as the first undergraduate to co-chair the President's Council on Women, and helped reinvigorate the Student Women's Association.

For her honors thesis, Wetherall traveled to the Republic of Cyprus to study how the political, economic, and military policies and practices of the past 25 years have affected women's lives. She received two undergraduate research grants from the Inter-University Committee on Cyprus to study the effects of the Turkish invasion on the lives of Greek Cypriot women. In the summers of 1997 and 1999, Wetherall was in Cyprus interviewing women. Mentoring her through her research was Mahmood.

Throughout her years at UMaine, Wetherall has worked to pay for her education.

"I've had an extraordinary educational experience here. It has been really hard work but absolutely worth it," says Wetherall, who will be in the third graduating class of women's studies students. Wetherall expects her career path to focus on international women's issues and plans to spend her summer preparing for a future documentary film project in Cyprus.

**Education and Human Development**

Ken Worster has always found the world a remarkable place. He has never ceased to be intrigued by the science of its workings - physics, chemistry and astronomy.
Since his second year at UMaine, the 1996 Woodland High School valedictorian has known exactly what he wants to do. The successful computer engineering student made a professional choice to forego the economic advantages of working in the private sector for the joy of teaching the subjects he is so enthusiastic about.

In making this decision, Worster confronted a major educational and societal challenge - the severe shortage of strong math and science teachers in secondary schools and the growing, grim consequences of this crisis that is jolting Maine and the nation.

The long-term solution, Worster says, must come from personal commitment and choice. "The top math and science students have to love their disciplines to the point that sharing that excitement with children and adolescents outweighs the benefits of working in another profession," says Worster, a National Merit Scholar. "And society must understand that without such teachers, the next generation of scientists simply won't come along."

This fall, Worster begins his job as a math and science teacher at Penquis Valley High School, where he did his student teaching. Worster grew up in Princeton, Maine, absorbing encyclopedias and textbooks. Encouraged by his parents to learn more about whatever interested him, he became and remains an avid researcher.

As a UMaine student, he produced and presented productions at Jordan Planetarium. He was joined on the job by a young woman he had met during his first semester and married a year and a half later. Jenny Mowdy Worster, who is graduating with a degree in elementary education, complemented Worster's production work by analyzing 10 Planetarium shows for alignment with the Maine Learning Results and creating a packet of lesson plans that allows teachers to work on the unit with students before and after attending the show.

Worster also will leave a valuable instructional resource for teachers. His senior project is a textbook on computer programming and software freely available on the Internet.

**Engineering**

Przemek Jamroz describes his pursuit of education as an "unquenched need to explore and expand my horizons."

"Every step of my academic career, beginning with elementary school through the undergraduate college experience, has been an opportunity to learn," he says. "This scientific curiosity also extends to my non-engineering passions, such as art, history and sports."

The mechanical engineering major is the Outstanding Graduating Student and the Outstanding International Student in the College of Engineering. The native of Opole, Poland, is one of 50 students nationwide to recently receive a Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship for graduate school.

Jamroz has been accepted into engineering graduate schools across the country, including UMaine, Stanford, UMass and MIT.

In high school in Poland, a teacher from Maine and Jamroz's friends talked of the excellent reputation of UMaine's College of Engineering. A tuition waiver allowed him to afford an education in the United States. He enrolled in 1996.

"I enjoy new discoveries and places, whether it's a different state or the next town," says Jamroz. "Every time I see something interesting, I write to my mother and sister about it."

Jamroz's father was an engineer. He died 13 years ago.

Jamroz was undecided about his engineering field when he enrolled at UMaine. While he has broad interests, his passion for vehicles and "things that move" led him to mechanical engineering.
"It is an academically strong program," he says. "It is really focused and the requirements are high, and the
course are very accessible, knowledgeable and interested in the research they do. I found good research
opportunities even at the undergraduate level - everything a university should offer was here."

Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Michael Boyle mentored Jamroz. By his senior year, Jamroz
was doing research in thermosciences and energy systems with Boyle. In particular, Jamroz has been involved in
two studies of heat transfer measurement and cavitation.

In his three co-ops, Jamroz worked at Meade Paper, first as a maintenance engineer and then as a reliability
engineer.

With the exception of the first and last semesters, Jamroz took no less than 18 credits. "For me, doing well
academically is more than just a GPA," he says. "I really care about the learning experience." In keeping with
that philosophy, Jamroz asked permission to take a 600-level course in engineering analysis.

Jamroz also studies history and art. The old history books he pores over and the maps he draws dovetail into
engineering because "technology makes humanity grow, and without humans, technology would not exist."

In painting and drawing landscapes and portraits, Jamroz finds that his art intersects with his technical drawings.

Jamroz attributes his thirst for knowledge to his mother, Barbara, who taught him "a passion for seeing and
trying new things." Barbara Jamroz will be in Maine to see her son receive his degree.

### Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture

Farming in Maine has been in Mary Castonguay's family for three generations. When she leaves UMaine, she
will return to Livermore with a background in agribusiness to ensure the future of the family farm for
generations.

Castonguay is the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture.
In the Department of Resource Economics and Policy, she is a senior in the Resource and Agribusiness
Management Program.

Castonguay's father grew up on a dairy farm. When he was 11, his father died and the farm had to be sold. The
family didn't return to farming until Castonguay was almost 9.

"We knew when my two older brothers got heifers to raise as 4-H projects that we would soon be farming," says
Castonguay. "It is a wonderful lifestyle to grow up in. It teaches you so many values that you might not get
elsewhere. It taught me what hard work is." At UMaine, Castonguay found an academic discipline that
combined her interest in agriculture and desire to know more about business. In agribusiness management, her
focus has been on economics and public policy, problem solving and projecting.

"When the price of milk is low and feed high, dairy farming today is a balancing act," she says. "I'd like to raise
the odds more in our favor, and cost management is the best way to do that."

In her sophomore year, Castonguay became involved at the Witter Teaching and Research Farm, home of the
University of Maine Agriculture and Dairy Cooperative of Organized Working Students (UMAD COWS). With
its many UMaine students and faculty who share a commitment to agriculture, Witter became Castonguay's
family farm away from home.

"My life just wasn't the same without having daily chores to do," she says. "In my sophomore year, I started
milking again, which means getting up at 3 a.m. Whether I'm milking or not, I'm at the farm every day."

In addition to gaining broader farm management experience at Witter, Castonguay became involved in the
UMaine Equine Program. This semester, she took an equine internship.
Castonguay has been president of the Maine Animal Club for two years. She served as the 1998 chair of the Northeast Student Affiliate conference. This year at the NESA conference, Castonguay was named the Outstanding Senior, beating out students from UNH, UVM, UConn, Penn State, and other colleges from the Northeast.

Castonguay was also president and vice president of the Agricultural and Resource Economics Club. Castonguay has been a student ambassador for the college and the department, and the organizer of the new collegiate chapter of FFA.

Her many academic honors include Edward M. Holmes Scholarships, a Margaret Chase Smith Internship with the Maine Department of Agriculture, a Farm Credit Fellowship and membership in All Maine Women.

In the coming year, Castonguay will complete an MBA. She will then return to join her brother, Peter, in running the family farm. "Dad is really excited because somebody else will be following in his footsteps on the farm," says Castonguay. "Mom's also excited because I get to take over the books."
UMaine Electrical Engineering Senior Named Maine Student Employee of the Year

May 11, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 581-3571

ORONO -- Electrical engineering senior Jamie Guevara of Bangor has been named a 1999-2000 University of Maine Student Employee of the Year and Maine Student Employee of the Year.

Guevara has been employed by the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department as a teacher's aide for three years. She has been a peer teacher in ECE 101, the department's fall semester course for first-year students. For three years, Guevara has had primary responsibility for the portion of the course dealing with strategies for being a successful student and an overview of different kinds of engineering.

However, Guevara's biggest contribution has been as a peer tutor to first-year electrical and computer engineering majors. According to one student she tutored in physics, "by sharing her knowledge of this rigorous subject with me, she helped me to not only pass the course but also to understand the course."

Guevara's other contributions to the department include the establishment of a "Weekend at UMaine" for prospective female students. She also serves as a mentor to ECE women students in their first and second years. During University Open House, Guevara assists by giving presentations to groups of prospective students about the department and student life at UMaine.

Guevara was accepted by Hofstra and Lafayette, but she enrolled at UMaine four years ago planning to begin coursework, and then transfer.

"I was determined to hate it here," says Guevara, "but after a semester, I couldn't leave. It was enjoyable being close to home. I have a great roommate, met a lot of friends, and have a department that is small and personable, where I'm on a first-name basis with professors."

Guevara is one of two women in her department receiving bachelor's degrees this month. She has been selected to participate in a two-year technical leadership program with General Electric in Boston.
Honor Society Inducts UMaine Education Students

May 12, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine - Future teachers heard some first-hand, high-level advice about succeeding in their chosen profession during their initiation into the University of Maine's scholastic honor society for education majors. Public expectations, accountability measures and a host of social and political issues are changing and challenging K-12 education, SAD 46 (Dexter) Superintendent Raymond Poulin, former state deputy commissioner of education, told students being inducted into the Gamma Omicron Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi.

Good things are happening in Maine schools, which are nationally recognized for their student achievement, research-based instruction and innovative use of technology, Poulin said.

Maine is also confronting many of the educational challenges that are common throughout the nation, such as shortages of teachers and administrators, funding and implementing state and national standards and assessments, increasing numbers of special needs students, and the constantly changing possibilities of technology and distance education.

The administrator also told the students what qualities most schools look for when hiring new teachers. For example: a solid academic background; broad communications skills; understanding of the learning process and of the value and use of technology in teaching and learning; a team player; willingness to put in the time and to further enhance their education; flexibility; understanding and compassion.

To be eligible for membership in Kappa Delta Pi, students must have reached their junior year with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 and, in addition to scholarship, demonstrate leadership and commitment to education.

Maine students initiated into Kappa Delta Pi this spring include:

Bangor - Vi Thai
Bath - Lisa Stailing
Blue Hill - Stephen McInnis
Brewer - Kevin Debeck
Brunswick - Amanda Giblin, Michelle Lemont
Carmel - Susan Blier
Hampden - James Arsenault, Jill Mayhew, Christy Redman
Milo - Andrea Page
Old Town - Amy Hamlin, Laura Howe
Sanford - Sadie Faulkner
Wellington - Phyllis Lawrence
Woodland - Jessica Bouchard

Students from other states inducted were Heidi Dombrock, Apple Valley, Minn., and Jennifer Niemi, Sagamore Beach, Mass.
Landscaping Publications Available from Cooperative Extension

May 15, 2000
Contact: Lois Berg Stack, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-2949
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Homeowners who are making landscaping plans this spring can get advice on using native Maine plants from University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Gardening to Conserve Maine's Native Landscape (Bulletin #2500), and a companion, Native Plants: A Maine Source List (Bulletin #2502), are available at Extension county offices.

"Many of Maine's nearly 1500 native plants make great additions to the landscape," says Lois Berg Stack, Extension horticulturist who produced the publications. "The plant list includes about 125 native Maine plants, selected for their adaptability to home landscapes and their availability at nurseries and garden centers."

The publication is free from any county Cooperative Extension office. Call 1-800-287-0274 for the phone numbers of county offices or see Bulletin #2500 on the Internet at www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/gardenME/.
UMaine Students Design All-Terrain Wheelchairs

May 15, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Herbert Crosby, Mechanical Engineering Technology, 207-581-2134

ORONO -- University of Maine students Tom Fick of Brewer and John MacGregor III of Falmouth were one of four UMaine teams in a capstone engineering class that required them to apply their classroom knowledge in solving a practical engineering problem. In past years, students have designed production line machinery for local manufacturers and new devices in the health care field.

This year, the students developed designs and prototypes for wheelchairs that can travel over uneven surfaces such as curbs, gravel and snow and ice. The "all-terrain wheelchair" project stemmed from a discussion involving Warren Brown, an Old Town man who was looking for a more versatile wheelchair, and Edward Huff, also of Old Town, UMaine professor emeritus of bio-resource engineering. Huff suggested the project idea to Herbert Crosby of Orono, professor of MET, who teaches the class.

The students worked in teams to study existing designs, conduct research on patents and consider issues such as stability and comfort.

"The students put in hundreds of hours on these projects," says Crosby. "The demands are very similar to what they would have to do in the workplace."

During the tests on May 10, prototypes were evaluated against overall design standards and judged on performance on obstacle tests and a tug-of-war competition.
Family Life is Serious Business in the Comics

May 16, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

The perception of fatherhood has shifted with the forces of social and political tides, according to a study of some of America's best-known families. A six-decade analysis of fatherhood as played out by popular comic strip characters charts the parodies that challenge and perpetrate national ideologies and gender stereotypes.

The chronological study, headed by Georgia State University sociologist Ralph LaRossa and reported in the May edition of the national Journal of Marriage and the Family, examined 490 nationally syndicated cartoons published on Mother's Day and Father's Day from 1940 to 1999.

The popularity and long lives of comic strip families make them trusted observers and reporters of the public discourse taking place in the greater society. Among the most intense and lampooned debates of the 20th Century, as the role of women broadened, has been the proper place of men in the family and the contribution of fathers to the overall development of their children.

From the breadwinner/homemaker model of the post-World War II years to today's dual-earner couple in search of quality time with their children, the comics capture families in the ordinary routine of household life. But their comfort factor wavers with the consistent change and extraordinary events of their times.

For their study, the researchers measured the level of incompetent (ignorant, inept) behavior exhibited by cartoon fathers and mothers; the level of mocking or making parents look foolish; the depiction of nurturing and supportive parenting behavior, such as expressing affection toward a child, encouraging, comforting or praising a child, and listening to a child's problem; and the attention given to the public rituals of Mother's Day and Father's Day.

The oldest comic in the study was Gasoline Alley, first published in 1919. Others such as Blondie, Bloom County, Cathy, Dennis the Menace, The Family Circus, Garfield, Hi and Lois, Little Orphan Annie, Peanuts, Pogo and Ziggy were also included. Among highlights of the study:

€ Men penned the majority of comics, reflecting the patriarchal culture of the newspaper industry.

€ Only recently was there any representation of minorities. In this sample, only 5.1 percent of the comics featured an African-American parental figure as a main character.

€ Depicted families tended to be middle class and nuclear in structure. Single parent families were rarely shown.

€ Family-oriented comics came to dominate the funny papers after WWII. The proportion of comics that had fatherhood, motherhood or parenthood as a theme, regardless of reference to the holidays, mushroomed to nearly 25 percent in the 1990s.

€ In the 1960s, in contrast to the 1950s, fathers were as likely as mothers to be depicted as nurturing and supportive, but more likely to be made fun of. This change was not due to an increase in the "warm and fuzzy" quotient of fathers, but to a decrease in the nurturing view of mothers as the women's movement and social activism increased.

€ In the 1970s, fathers were no more likely than mothers to be depicted as incompetent, a result of feminists gains in the 1960s.

€ There was a dramatic increase in both paternal and maternal nurturing and support that began in the 1980s and continued through the 1990s.
"The fluctuation reflects societal shifts," says LaRossa. "When you look at the figures across six decades, they go up and down in a way understandable with what was happening in the larger society."

The modern father movement, begun in the 1920s and accentuated by the national defender image of the 1940s, was evident in post-war era cartoons. Contrary to popular belief, comic strip dads in the late 1940s and early '50s were frequently portrayed as nurturing and supportive toward their children. From the late 1950s through the late '70s, however, paternal nurturing and support declined. Then, true to its fluctuating mode, the pattern made a U-turn in the 1980s and 1990s, as comic strip dads were once again portrayed as nurturing and supportive of their kids.

With the increase in two-income and split-shift families, more fathers are spending more quality time with their children. At the same time, because of the long-term escalation in divorce, many non-resident fathers have only minimal contact with their children, creating a dilemma for cartoonists to reconcile. In the past five years, say the researchers, it seems that cartoonists were caught between these two images of fathers - very involved, nurturing dads pushing strollers and the emotionally distant or absent fathers. Presenting fatherhood more positively without letting up on the scoffing appears to reflect this contradiction of the good and bad side of the contemporary father and an attempt to mitigate increasingly fragile family ties.

"Comics are part of a society's cultural supermarket," says LaRossa. Their presence on the shelves makes their stories and vocabularies (Good Grief!) available for selection and incorporation into the mixture of values, beliefs and symbols that influence people's perceptions and behaviors. How parents are portrayed by cartoonists immersed in American culture is a powerful indicator of what is mutually understood by most inhabitants of that culture. But that common cultural view may be very different from actuality, according to LaRossa.

More than 100 million people read the daily comics, and they come away with a variety of interpretations. While the parenting behaviors depicted in the cartoons are evidence of cultural change, we shouldn't assume that the conduct of fathers - what they actually do with their children - has changed at the same rate, LaRossa cautions."

If comic strip dads are more likely today than 20 years ago to be nurturing and supportive toward their children, that super father image can become part of people's mindset," he says. "But cultural portrayals can sometimes be more positive than everyday life."

The proliferation of domestic-centered cartoons over the years endorses the family as a familiar and effective conduit for humorous presentations of social change, strife and consequence. Families going about their familiar business are ideal channels for satire, manifestly aimed at one quarry but implicitly pointed at another.

Take the 1960s, for example. Women were making social and political strides, and there was confusion and debate about gender roles. Meanwhile, men were made to look like jerks in the comics. However, the real target of the almost exclusively male cartoonists may not have been men at all but the "battle of the sexes" that, to some pundits, epitomized the decade. The cartoonists perhaps felt that the country had "lost its gender compass" and were doing what they could to try to "set things straight."

"Fathering and the importance of fathers in the development of children is a major concern, and we are seeing a variety of scholarly initiatives addressing the issue," says Journal of Marriage and the Family editor Robert Milardo, professor of human development at the University of Maine. "LaRossa and his colleagues have opened a cultural window into the ordinary business of family life and the extraordinary challenges it represents. The view from the window has clearly changed over the decades. Parenting and child care are far more typical themes in the comic strips, and I hope this reflects the priorities of our nation as well."

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. www.ume.maine.edu/~JMF
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Marine Science Education Initiative Launched

May 16, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Midcoast Maine will see an increase in marine science education when the Gulf of Maine Foundation (GMF), based at the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center in Walpole, begins a new program which will include workshops for elementary, middle and high school teachers and students. Area educators and other marine research program personnel indicated the need for such workshops focused on laboratory skills and scientific inquiry. The GMF program will try to fill this need while keeping collaborative links with other midcoast and state-wide science education programs.

The GMF marine science initiative staff will consist of a half-time marine science education director, a summer intern assistant, and volunteers from the community. The program is partially supported by a gift from Helen Merriam. Presently, GMF is raising the remaining necessary funds, soliciting volunteers, and beginning a search for the marine science education director. For more information please contact Linda Schick, Gulf of Maine Foundation, 193 Clarks Cove Road, Walpole, ME 04573.

"The new marine science initiative is something GMF has been wanting to do for many years. Local teachers and students have asked for it and now we finally have the resources to make it work, at least as a two-year pilot program," says Warren Riess, a UMaine faculty member in history and marine sciences who is also president of the foundation.

The Gulf of Maine Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1986 to foster the growth and development of marine studies at the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center. The foundation provides funds and volunteers for facility development, equipment, lecture series, student research scholarships and marine science education.
Top Math Students Win Awards in UMaine Competition

May 16, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Students who achieved the top scores in the University of Maine Mathematics, Science and Engineering Talent Search received awards in a ceremony at UMaine on May 15. The top three winners in the 11th and 12th grade categories also received scholarship offers from the university as well as the departments of electrical and computer engineering, mathematics and statistics and physics and astronomy.

Yuran Lu, a Junior at Presque Isle High School was the top winner in all grades. He was unable to be present for the ceremony since he was participating in a mathematics and computer science competition in Macedonia.

The winners and their schools were as follows:

Jess Eliott of Windham is home schooled and received an award for the best score among elementary age students below sixth grade.

G.H. Jewett School, Bucksport - sixth grade, Ben Rump and Melanie Craig, tied for first place; Kelsey Reid, third place; Caitlin Whalen, fourth place. Christine Williams is their teacher.

Harrison Middle School, Yarmouth - sixth grade, Cory Kendrick, second place; James Lyons and Sarah Studley, honorable mention. Jenny Jorgenson is their teacher.

Mike Tripp of Bangor is home schooled as a sixth grader and received a fifth place award.

Robert England of Milford is home schooled and received the top award in the seventh grade.

Mattanawcook Junior High School, Lincoln - seventh grade, Caroline Johnson, second place; Stephanie Alessi, honorable mention. Their teacher is Dawn York. Ali Broderick received an honorable mention in eighth grade, and Randy Clifford at Mattanawcook High School received fourth place in ninth grade.

Reeds Brook Middle School, Hampden - seventh grade, John L. White, fourth place; Jennifer Swalec, honorable mention. Their teacher is Sharyn Hastings.

Beals Elementary School, Jonesport - seventh grade: Corrie Hunkler, fifth place. Eighth grade: Sarah Hunkler, first place; Abraham Beal, second place; Jeffrey Libby, third place.

Meaghan Wepner of Plymouth is home schooled and received fourth place in the eighth grade.

Windham Middle School - eighth grade, Tonya Smith, honorable mention.

Mt. View Junior High School in Thorndike, - eighth grade, Emma Sage, honorable mention. Don Roux is her teacher.

Orono High School - ninth grade, Joseph Cheng, first place; Christina Domnisoru, second place. 12th grade, Ayano Nishikai, second place. Michelle Grindle and Dawn D'Errico are Joseph's teachers, and Shirley Ellis is Christina's teacher.

Presque Isle High School - ninth grade, Matthew Olsen, third place; Eric Martin and Matthew Pelletier both receive honorable mentions. Donna Lisnik is their teacher. Tenth grade, Jessica Varnum, fifth place, and Ryan Drost, honorable mention. Jennifer Barnes is Jessica's teacher, and Donna Lisnik is Ryan's teacher. 11th grade, Yuran Lu, first place in this grade and in the competition. Jennifer Barnes is his teacher.
Wiscasset High School - tenth grade, Matthew Jaynes, first place. Timothy Flanagan is his teacher.

Mount Desert Island Regional High School - tenth grade, Da Chang, second place. Jeff Richard is his teacher.

Poland Regional High School - tenth grade, Jesse Mynahan, third place. Karen Fancher and Steven Buttner are his teachers.

Edward Little High School, Auburn - tenth grade, Brett Mitchell, fourth place. Miss Shore is his teacher.

Chevrus High School, Portland - tenth grade, Christopher Johnson, honorable mention. Eleventh grade, Chris Reynolds, sixth place; Steven Paille, fifth place. 12th grade, Andrew Marsh, third place. Dan LaVallee is their teacher.

Maine Central Institute, Pittsfield - eleventh grade, Tim Monk, second place. His teacher is Mr. Beveridge.

Deer Isle/Stonington High School - eleventh grade, Caleb Carter, third place. His teacher is Rhonda Turner.

Bangor Christian School - eleventh grade, Kenneth Fortier. fourth place. His teacher is Cleola Wilson.

Fort Kent Community High School - 12th grade, Matthew Daigle, first place. His teacher is Paul Grant.
UMaine Museum of Art Presents a Week of Art for Children

May 16, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 581-3571

ORONO -- Few summer camp experiences are complete without water, and this year's Art Camps for children at the University of Maine Museum of Art are no exception.

The Museum of Art will present a week of art for youngsters ages 6-8 and ages 9-11. Art Camps will be held in Carnegie Hall on the UMaine campus from 8:30-11:30 a.m., Monday-Friday, June 19-23. In connection with the Museum's summer exhibit "Jump Into It (water as muse)," the young artists will explore a variety of materials and dive into refreshing projects in, around and about water. The exhibit, on display June 2- Oct. 21, presents 79 works by 58 artists. Each of the pieces from the Museum's Permanent Collection draws its inspiration from water.

Leading the camp for 6- to 8-year-olds will be Michael McCuddy, a 1999 UMaine graduate in art education.

The camp for 9- to 11-year-olds will be directed by Jay Hanes and Eleanor Weisman, UMaine assistant professors of art and art education.

Art Camp registration fee is $105 per student, which includes materials. There is a 10 percent discount for Museum of Art Friends. This is the third annual Art Camp, which is funded in part by the Friends of the Museum of Art.

For more information or to register, contact Shawn Rice at the UMaine Museum of Art, 581-3255.
Dvorak Named to Head UMaine School of Engineering Technology

May 17, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
David Dvorak, School of Engineering Technology, 207-581-2133

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine College of Engineering has selected David Dvorak of Old Town to be the program director of the School of Engineering Technology (SET). Dvorak succeeds John McDonough of Orono who served in that post since 1983.

SET has an enrollment of about 350 students who pursue degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering technology as well as construction management and general engineering. The curriculum focuses on the design and application of engineering principles to practical problems in manufacturing, construction technology and other activities.

Dvorak has taught courses in mechanical engineering technology and worked to save energy for Maine businesses through the UMaine Industrial Assessment Center.
1333 Graduate at UMaine's 196th Commencement

May 20, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Comfortable temperatures, a soft breeze and a cloudless sky graced the University of Maine's 196th Commencement ceremony, held this morning on Morse Field at Harold Alfond Stadium on campus.

Today's event marked the first time since 1994 that at UMaine class has graduated at a single outdoor ceremony. This week's installation of portable flooring over the turf surface on the 20-month-old athletic field, along with near-perfect weather, made it possible for a return to the traditional UMaine Spring Commencement venue.

Of the 1,333 people who graduated today, 327 received graduate degrees -- 28 of them at the doctoral level.

Margaret Katherine Jellison, a music education major from Dedham, was honored at today's ceremony as the valedictorian of the UMaine Class of 2000. Three women -- Calah Tenney of Palmyra, who earned degrees in biochemistry and molecular and cellular biology; Susan Pellerin, an elementary education major from Monroe; and Hollie Gowen, a journalism major from York -- share the title of salutatorian.

Today's Commencement speaker was Maine author Cathie Pelletier, whose acclaimed novels include "The Funeral Makers," "Once Upon a Time on the Banks" and "The Weight of Winter." In the citation that went with today's award of an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree, UMaine President Peter Hoff noted that "through her dry and sometimes biting humor, her captivating story-telling and her fascinating cast of characters, Cathie Pelletier has established herself as another of Maine's literary treasures."

An Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters was also awarded to retired Dartmouth College Prof. Ashely Bryan, a writer, poet, painter, craftsman, illustrator and educator who has lived on Little Cranberry Island since 1979. "Ashley Bryan is the very model of a Renaissance man -- alive with the love and practice of the arts and letters; committed to raising awareness of the issues and opportunities that build and enrich society; and dedicated to a lifetime of learning and teaching the visions that bring joy to people and brighten the world," Hoff said in the degree citation.

Today's ceremony also featured a Celebration of Academia address delivered by UMaine Philosophy Prof. Douglas Allen, the 2000 winner of the University's Distinguished Maine Professor Award. Four of Allen's faculty colleagues who also won annual faculty honors were recognized at today's ceremony. They are Owen Smith of the art faculty, winner of the Presidential Teaching Award; Rosemary Bamford and Janice Kristo of the education faculty, who shared the Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award; and Walter McIntire of the education faculty, who received the Presidential Public Service Award.

Barry McCrum of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees brought greetings from the board. The new graduates were welcomed to the ranks of UMaine alumni by Gregory Jamison, chair of the University of Maine's General Alumni Association.
Barbecue Safety Tips From Cooperative Extension

May 24, 2000
Contact: Mahmoud El-Begearmi, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-3449
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- With the Memorial Day weekend approaching, the barbecue season will be in full swing. Meat, fish and vegetables need to be handled properly to avoid foodborne illness, says Mahmoud El-Begearmi, food safety specialist for University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Here are a few tips to help Mainers enjoy a safe cookout season:

1. Marinate raw meat, fish or poultry in the refrigerator, not on the counter or picnic table.

2. 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.

3. 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, fish 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!

More information and fact sheets on food safety are available from county offices of Cooperative Extension. 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.
Forestry Camp Gets Underway at UMaine

May 24, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Cindy Paschal, Dept. of Forest Management, 207-581-2841

ORONO, Maine -- The annual University of Maine forestry camp gets underway this week with plans for 26 undergraduates to work in the woods near the Orono campus and in Acadia National Park over the next three weeks. Students will learn a range of forest management techniques from working with horses to operating industrial equipment and mapping with global positioning system receivers.

At Acadia, students will improve historic vistas on Mt. Desert Island and travel to Long Island in Blue Hill Bay to conduct an inventory of forest resources and identify cultural sites. Their instructors include university faculty, park service staff and consulting archeologists Peter Morrison and Paula Crane of Cranmorr, Inc., of Yarmouth.

"Our goal is to expose students to the real hands-on work of forestry," says Louis Morin, an instructor in the UMaine College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture. "They will get experience with all aspects of timber harvesting such as pre-commercial thinning, forwarding and road building."

Instruction began May 22 with demonstrations of chain saw safety, saw mill operation and logging with draft horses. All operations will be carried out in the Orono area through May 26, and the crew will move to Acadia on Memorial Day, May 29. The camp concludes on June 9 when many of the students will be looking for summer jobs.

The camp is supported by equipment donations from Southworth-Milton, Inc. of Brewer; The Oliver Stores and Beauregard Equipment of Hermon; and METCO of Bangor. Warren Hamel of Milford will provide a demonstration using a Timber Harvester portable saw mill.

UMaine students rebuilt one of the machines used in the low-impact logging activities. Known as a Skyline Logging System, the machine allows logs to be removed from the forest with a minimum of damage to soil and seedlings. John Wintle of Augusta, Jeff Dunham of St. Albans, and Joshua Smith of Nobelboro, all graduating seniors in Bio-Resource Engineering, worked this past winter to get the machine ready for this year's camp.

Forestry camp has been conducted at UMaine since the 1920s, Morin adds, when it was a winter activity. Students and faculty headed for the woods in the fall and didn't return until the start of the spring semester. Students and faculty lived the life of logging crews who cut and piled timber in preparation for the spring snow melt. With changes in the logging industry and the university schedule, the camp shifted to early summer after World War II.
National Youth Sports Camp Plans Eighth Season at UMaine

May 24, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- The National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) will open its eighth season at the University of Maine on June 29, offering six weeks of fun, teamwork and skill development for area boys and girls.

The day camp features swimming, plus a variety of other skill building and educational opportunities for children ages 10-16 whose families or guardians meet Department of Health and Human Services income guidelines. There is no cost to participants for the program, which includes a comprehensive sports physical examination, a breakfast snack and lunch. Some slots for youngsters of families above the income guidelines are usually available, and those names are placed on a waiting list.

Transportation is provided from designated, major pick-up points within an hour's distance of Orono. The camp runs Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

UMaine's nationally acclaimed NYSP program is directed by Stephen Butterfield, professor of education and special education, and a dedicated staff led by UMaine alum and award-winning teacher Lynne Haynes of Lincoln. "The staff is committed to helping every camper achieve the goals of believing in themselves, getting along with others and experiencing personal skill development," says Butterfield.

The program, conducted in a highly structured, friendly, non-competitive learning environment, will also include soccer, tennis, track and field, and hands-on math and science lab activities. Plans call for reinstating an outdoor adventure component this year, which would include canoeing and ropes course work. As the result of a grant from the State Department of Education, a nutritionist will be available to work with campers on planning and preparing easy, healthy meals.

For registration information, call the UMaine NYSP office, (207) 581-2466.
UMaine to Observe Reunion Weekend June 2-4

May 24, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine Class of ’50, which up until nine years ago had the largest number of first-year students in the institution's history, will observe its golden anniversary as part of UMaine's Reunion 2000.

Members of the Class of ’50, many of whom were World War II veterans attending UMaine on the GI Bill, will be among an estimated 600 alumni on campus June 2-4 for Reunion weekend. In addition to reunion banquets and receptions for the different classes, alumni will attend educational workshops and demonstrations, a Deans' Forum, open houses and tours to become reacquainted with, and to learn more from, their alma mater.

Most of the events are free of charge. Registration is required by contacting the University of Maine Alumni Association, 581-1142. "This year, some classes requested certain activities," says Susan Aitken-Poulin, director of alumni activities. "For instance, the Class of 1970 requested a walking tour of the athletic facilities. As part of a croquet tournament on the Mall, the Class of ’60 challenged the Class of ’65. Other classes requested educational workshops on topics such as genealogy because they wanted hands-on experiences while they were here."

Alumni also have said they want to see and meet students and faculty while on campus. As a result, Reunion weekend falls in the middle of May Term, giving them the opportunity to see "the action on campus," Aitken-Poulin says.

Highlights of the weekend include:

Buchanan Alumni House Campaign Celebration, 3 p.m., Friday, June 2, in honor of the campaign's national chair William Treat, Class of ’40, and the more than 13,000 alumni who donated to the project; and in celebration of nearing the $7.5 million fund-raising goal

Colvin Hall lunch for the Class of ’45 and tour for the Class of ’55, both major donors to the building's renovation campaign, Saturday, June 3, beginning at noon

Class of ’50 Reunion banquet, 5:30 p.m., Friday, June 2, and a memorial service 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 3

Workshops, 1:30 p.m., Friday, June 2 and 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 3, on "History of Quilting: Women You Should Know," "Explore Your Family History" and "Antique Tools"
UMaine Tour de Sol Team Finishes First in Solar-Electric Category

May 24, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman at 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A team of UMaine engineering students and their advisors ended up in the winner's circle at the annual Tour de Sol solar vehicle competition for a second straight year. When the race ended May 18 in Washington D.C., the Solar Black Bear, a converted Chevy S-10 pickup truck, took first in the solar-electric category.

The team also entered, a custom-built car, the Phantom Sol, which is powered by lead-acid batteries. That entry came in eleventh in its category.

More than 40 vehicles participated in the 12th annual Tour de Sol which began on May 12 in New York City. The race is a showcase of alternative technology vehicles such as an electric Blue Bird school bus, the hybrid (electric and gas) Honda Insight, and a car powered by an electric motor and a hydrogen fuel cell.

The event is coordinated by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association of Greenfield, Massachusetts.

In addition to driving the prescribed course, participating teams competed in technical maneuvers and displayed their vehicles to the public. Teams received points for performance and reliability as well as design, consumer acceptance and other criteria.

Nine UMaine students participated in the event with support from private and university donors. They included Bobbi Meserve of Old Town, John Phillips of Vassalboro, Jacob Pelletier of North Berwick, Chris Michaud of Saco, Richard Burt of Gorham, Paul Melrose of Vassalboro, Sara Wright and David Stenzel of Orono, and Carl Mottram III of Minot. Robert Burill, Knud Hermanson of Old Town, Mark Thorne, and Mark Stanley of Searsport also worked on the project but did not participate in the race.


Representative John Baldacci and Senator Susan Collins met with the students at the end of the competition in Washington D.C.
Strawberry Season May Be Late, But Quality Looks Good

May 25, 2000
Contact: David Handley, Cooperative Extension, 207-933-2100
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- This spring's cool, wet weather is delaying the strawberry crop, but berry lovers may be in for a treat. Abundant blossoms and a reduction in insect pests are likely to produce good yields, according to University of Maine Cooperative Extension specialist David Handley.

"Last year we had a very dry, warm spring, and as a result the strawberry crop ripened two weeks ahead of a normal year in some parts of Maine," says Handley, who is headquartered at Highmoor Farm in Monmouth. "This year, it's the other side of the coin. As things stand now it looks as though we may be at least a week behind a normal year. Therefore it is likely that the strawberry fields will open for picking a bit later than normal and quite a bit later than last year."

"However, the flower set on the plants I've seen look pretty good, and the fields seems to have come through the winter very well. We may have a good crop, and some high quality fruit to pick this year."

Maine's fresh strawberry season is set to kick off with a strawberry festival at the Portland Public Market June 22-24. The event will include a strawberry recipe show by chefs, displays by growers, and information on where to get berries near home. It is sponsored by the Market, the Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Association, the Maine Dept. of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension.
Young Writers Can Hone Skills at UMaine Camp

May 26, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (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 second annual Young Authors' Camp scheduled July 10-14 at the University of Maine. The day camp program expands this summer to include a session in Benton, Maine, to run the same dates.

Both camps are 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 UMaine camp offers strands for students entering grades 3-12. The Benton camp is for students entering grades 1-6. Daily sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

The program 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 to inform, experiment with electronic texts, and publish and share their writing.

Information about the Young Authors' Camp programs, sponsored by the Maine Writing Project and the UMaine College of Education and Human Development, is available by calling (207) 581-2438.

The National Writing Project 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.
UMaine Music Faculty Member to Conduct Research in Europe

June 1, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Kevin Birch of the University of Maine music faculty has been awarded a research grant by the New York-based Netherland-America Foundation to study and document the life and work of the late Dutch organist Klaas Bolt (1927-1990).

Birch, who has been at UMaine since 1996, served as Bolt's assistant at St. Bavo's Church in Haarlem, The Netherlands, from 1987-89.

"Klaas Bolt was a unique musical personality," Birch says. "He was internationally respected, especially in the United States, as an interpreter, improvisor and a consultant in organ building and restoration."

Birch will travel to The Netherlands and Germany this summer to conduct his research, the results of which he will present at the New England Conservatory in Boston later this year. He will perform, from a transcription, Bolt's improvisation on selected verses of Psalm 81, performed at St. Bavo's on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the Christian Müller Organ on Sept. 11, 1988. Birch was present at that historic service and assisted Bolt at the organ.

Birch earned a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the University of Iowa with previous studies at the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam and New England Conservatory. While serving as Bolt's assistant in the late 1980s, Birch regularly joined Bolt for church services, recitals and consulting visits to various historic and newly constructed organs.

In addition to his organ and harpsichord teaching at UMaine, Birch has taught courses in music history, choral conducting and has served as conductor of the Oratorio Society at UMaine. In 1992 he was appointed Director of Music at St. John's Catholic Church in Bangor, where he also directs the activities of the St. John's Organ Society, an organization dedicated to the preservation of the church's historic E. & G. G. Hook Organ, Opus #288, built in 1860.
Public Tours to Feature Goats and Products

June 2, 2000
Contact: Richard Brzozowski, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1471
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- An opportunity to learn about raising goats and making products such as goat cheese, soap, fiber and meat will be available this summer from University of Maine Cooperative Extension. A series of free Goat Trail Tours will be held monthly starting June 16, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at York Hill Farm in New Sharon.

Youth, 4-H leaders, current and potential goat herders and interested citizens will be able to tour each host farm where sound goat management practices will be featured. Many of the farms will show value-added products, and educational demonstrations are planned at most of the farms. A farm that raises goats for use as pack animals will be included.

There is no fee for the Goat Trail Tours, but participants should register with the Cumberland County office of Cooperative Extension at 800-287-1471. Participants will use their own vehicle. A tour schedule and information packet are available from Cooperative Extension or on a website, www.umext.maine.edu/topics/dairy.htm.

The Goat Trail Tour schedule is as follows:

Friday, June 16, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., York Hill Farm, New Sharon. This farm will feature a sizable dairy goat operation at which specialty cheeses are made. In addition, rotational grazing and proper hoof trimming will be featured.

Thursday, July 20, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., Appleton Creamery, Appleton. This farm will feature a dairy goat operation, cheese manufacturing and cheese marketing. 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Black Locust Farm, Washington. This farm will feature cashmere goats and pack goats.

Tuesday, August 15, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Larkspur Farms, Concord, Massachusetts. This farm will feature two meat goat breeds (Boer and Spanish) and a cabriol lunch.

€ Wednesday, September 6, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., Mayari Goatmilk Products, Verona Island, Bucksport. This stop will feature the making and marketing of handmade goatmilk soap. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Barbara Brooks, Lamoine. This farm will feature a goat dairy. Wednesday, October 25, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Betty Weir, Cumberland. This farm will feature a small dairy goat enterprise that uses goat milk to raise veal calves.

The tours will be held rain or shine. However, the schedule may change, and participants should call Cooperative Extension (800-287-1471) the day before each scheduled tour. A recorded message will be left after regular office hours.
UMaine Alumni House Campaign Sets Fund-Raising Records

June 2, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- More than 150 University of Maine alumni and friends gathered this afternoon for a celebration of the success of the University of Maine's Alumni House fund-raising campaign.

More than $6.7 million have been donated to the project, which will be funded entirely by private donations. Currently, 13,378 UMaine alumni, from all over the U.S., have given money to the project. The total number of contributors and the total amount donated are both UMaine records.

Honorary National Campaign Chair William W. Treat, a 1940 UMaine graduate who is a former judge, United Nations diplomat and adviser to four U.S. presidents, was joined by Amos E. Orcutt, president of the University of Maine Foundation and Jeffery N. Mills, president of the University of Maine Alumni Association, to announce the campaign's record-breaking fund raising results.

On campus this weekend to celebrate his 60th class reunion, Treat announced that the current $6.7 million total will fund building construction and landscaping, along with an endowment for the operation and maintenance of Alumni House. He noted that more than 50 reunion classes have supported the project with more than $1.8 million in gifts and pledges.

Dianne Hoff, the wife of UMaine President Peter S. Hoff, and P. James Dowe, a UMaine graduate who is president and CEO of Bangor Savings Bank and who serves as chair of the capital campaign's Maine Division, recognized the 57 donors who have supported the projects with gifts ranging from $25,000 to $1 million.

Gifts include $1 million from Dr. Robert D. Buchanan, a 1944 UMaine graduate for whom the building will be named. Buchanan is a Caribou native who is retired from a California dental practice.

Other top gifts include $500,000 from the People of MBNA America; $500,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Francis S. Andrews of Lincoln, Mass.; $318,000 from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Warren W. Flagg; $264,000 from the Class of 1943; $250,000 from Mr. and Mrs. William W. Treat of Stratham, N.H. and Naples, Fla.; and $250,000 from the University of Maine Foundation. A $100,000 in-kind gift from Larry K. Mahaney, a UMaine graduate who is CEO of Webber Energy Fuels, was announced at Friday's event. It is the largest gift of in-kind materials and supplies to the campaign.

Buchanan Alumni House will be located on College Avenue in Orono and will serve as the new "front door" for UMaine. It will be the on-campus home to the University's 87,000 living alumni and its friends and will showcase the University and its prominent graduates through a number of unique spaces, including Leadership Hall and a library/museum. A visitor's center, meeting and function rooms, a MAINE Family Room and other spaces will allow the University to build and maintain its relationships with alumni and friends. The University of Maine Alumni Association and the University of Maine Foundation are non-profit, independent organizations that exist to promote and support UMaine.

The architectural firm for the project is Bangor-based WBRC Architects-Engineers. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2001.
White Spruce Stands on Great Cranberry Island Damaged by Hemlock Looper

June 5, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Bill Livingston, Dept. of Forest Ecosystem Science, 207-581-2990

ORONO, Maine -- White spruce trees are dying at a high rate on some of Maine's coastal islands, and many residents are concerned about the health of their forests. Fortunately for two University of Maine undergraduates, these concerns evolved into a unique opportunity for their senior research project.

Anthony D'Amato, a senior from Franklin, Massachusetts, and Josh Roy, a senior from South Berwick, will give a presentation about their research to residents of Great Cranberry Island from 12 noon to 2 p.m. June 10 at the Fire Hall.

Residents of the island and a representative of the Island Institute of Rockland had contacted the university in 1999 to request a study of the dying trees, says William Livingston of the UMaine Dept. of Forest Ecosystem Science (FES). They were concerned that continued tree mortality would lead to an extreme fire hazard on the island.

D'Amato and Roy were enthusiastic about the chance to study the problem. They spent much of their spare time that summer on the island studying two separate tree stands. What they found was a mixture of good and bad news for the island residents.

They found that a stand of white spruce and balsam fir that appears to occupy an abandoned field has been decimated by the hemlock looper, an insect pest. Unlike most other forest sites in Maine, there was little natural regeneration of spruce to replace the dead trees. The future of this stand, they concluded, is bleak.

In contrast, a nearby stand made up of red spruce trees has fared well by comparison. They are not as vulnerable to the loopers which are responsible for defoliating a large portion of island spruce trees. Red spruce thrive in the shady understory, and this stand appears to have been forested continuously for a long period of time. Red spruce seedlings appear to be plentiful in this stand, and thus, its future as a healthy forest seems to be secure.

The forest health problem appears to be restricted to the old field.

The students were advised by Livingston and Alan White, also of FES. "We were quite impressed with the work by the students," says Livingston. "Their results may help our understanding of forest health on other islands which have suffered from bark beetle outbreaks and dwarf mistletoe as well as hemlock looper infestations."

More field observations are needed to confirm the results of this initial study, Livingston adds.

The UMaine researchers gave a presentation on their work at the Northeastern and Southwide Forest Disease Workshop in Shepardstown, West Virginia, May 31 to June 2.
UMaine Offers Summer Math Program for High School Girls

June 6, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Women's Resource Center at the University of Maine is making math fun this summer with Math 4 Me, a week-long camp that combines mathematics, technology and skill building for teenage girls.

The program will be held from July 30 to August 5 at the University of Maine. In addition to testing and challenging their mathematics abilities, participants will have a chance to meet new friends and attend cultural events at the university or in the area.

Participants will live in a residence hall on campus and eat at UMaine dining facilities as well as some off-campus restaurants. The workshops and residential staff will be made up of women students and faculty from the University of Maine.

The week-long camp costs $350 and a limited number of scholarships are available. Interested students are encouraged to apply regardless of financial need.

For more information or to register, call or e-mail Jen Ladd or Sharon Barker at the Women's Resource Center at (207) 581-1508. For online information go to http://www.umaine.edu/wrc/programs/Math%20Camp/Math-4-Me.htm
Study Examines Commercialization of Schools

June 7, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Squeezed between tight budgets, funding mandates and swelling demands for programs and services, the nation's public schools are turning more and more to corporate partnerships, striking deals that provide revenue boosts or needed equipment for classrooms and sports teams in exchange for a captive audience of young consumers.

Children have money to spend - a lot of it - as well as the ability to influence parental purchases, according to a University of Maine study examining the commercialization of public schools and the associated risks. Spending power estimates of school-age children range from $24 billion to $72 billion per year. Advertising directed at the lucrative age 5-18 market, particularly on school property, raises concerns about taking advantage of children while developing funds that can increase the quality of their educational experience.

The study by the Center for Research and Evaluation at UMaine's College of Education and Human Development describes various categories of commercial activities in schools, lays out the pros and cons of such partnerships and suggests critical questions for policymakers, administrators and parents to ask about commercial proposals. It also suggests that schools establish their own criteria and policies for considering corporate sponsorships and other types of commercial assistance.

Commercialization of schools is a growing educational policy issue, according to Center director Walter McIntire. Education policymakers and administrators are often ill equipped to evaluate commercial proposals, he notes, and when looking at private funding, they need to look beyond the implied altruism.

While there are many positive and successful examples of school/business relationships, McIntire cautions it is important to remember that corporations also must be concerned with the bottom line. "Before schools sign a contract, they need to be aware of the ramifications," he says.

In an overview of the various types of commercial activities in public schools, the study discusses: sponsorship of programs and activities (the most common form); underwriting of programs, with a promise of publicity in return; exclusive agreements that generally demand multi-year commitments to purchase products or services; incentive programs, such as rewarding students with products for reaching a particular goal; appropriation of space, most generally advertising products on school walls and buses; sponsored education materials, featuring a company's logo or products; and electronic marketing, the fastest-growing segment of commercialism in 1998-99, which usually takes the form of banner advertisement on computer screens.

The report also includes consumer guidelines for evaluating school-business partnerships published by organizations such as the National Parent-Teacher Association.

Free copies of the 24-page study, "The Commercialization of Public Schools: Risks Associated with Corporate Presence in Education," are available from the Center for Research and Evaluation by calling (207) 581-2761.
Hudson Museum Summer Programs Scheduled

June 8, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- It's a kid's world at the University of Maine's Hudson Museum this summer during the Just for Kids programs.

The Just for Kids Mornings at the Museum programs feature a tour of the museum, followed by educational programs and crafts.

On June 21, kids are invited to attend "Frog Days at the Museum." Participants will learn about frogs in Native American mythology and art, then make a stuffed frog for fun. The cost of this program is $3.

That weekend, on June 23, the museum will join with the Fields Pond Nature Center for a Frog Day. Naturalist Judy Markowsky will talk about frogs in nature and show kids the frog pond at the Fields Pond Nature Center on Fields Pond Road in Holden. The Hudson Museum will provide maps during the June 21 activity, or parents can call the nature center at 989-2591. The cost of this program is $5.

On June 28, the focus switches to "Turtle Times." Kids can listen to stories of turtles and the creation of the world and will have a chance to create a turtle of their own from natural materials. The cost of this program is $3.

"Bear Boxes" will be explored on July 4. Participants will examine bentwood boxes from the Northwest Coast and make a bear decorated box in which to store their treasures. The cost of the program is $3.

On July 12, Baxter State Park Director Irvin C. (Buzz) Caverly will visit the Hudson Museum for a presentation entitled "Baxter and the Beasts." Caverly will speak on the special place Governor Percival Baxter created for the animals of Maine and how the animals have fared in the park's nature preserve ever since. A surprise activity will follow. Cost for this program is $3.

A program entitled "Whose Feet Are These?" will be presented on July 19. Participants will learn how Native Americans and Early Settlers identified animal tracks and make imprints of their own tracks. The cost of for this program is $3.

In "Who Dropped that Feather?" children will listen to stories of birds in mythology, examine feathers from different words and make a fabric bird mola to guard their world. The cost of this program is $4.

Pre-registration is required for all sessions, which are open to ages 6 and up. All of the programs run from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call the Hudson Museum at (207) 581-1901 to register.
New Book Examines Writing of Christopher Isherwood

June 9, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The life, work and legacy of writer Christopher Isherwood is explored in a new book co-edited by the University of Maine's new director of the Center for Teaching Excellence.

"The Isherwood Century," a volume of 24 essays and interviews, was edited by James Berg, director of the UMaine Center for Teaching Excellence and Chris Freeman, assistant professor of English at St. John's University in Minnesota.

Berg and Freeman wrote the introduction to the book and to each section. The book features a foreword by Armistead Maupin, author of "Tales of the City" and an essay by feminist scholar Carolyn Heilbrun, who wrote a biography of Gloria Steinem.

"Maupin was a personal friend of Isherwood's and he had never written about their relationship before," says Berg. "Heilbrun wrote the first serious treatment of Isherwood's fiction and has gone on to write some influential works since."

The book has received considerable praise since its release this spring. Reviews in Booklist, Publisher's Weekly and Out Magazine have all given it favorable reviews.

Isherwood was born in England and before moving to the United States in 1939, primarily wrote autobiographical novels including two that deal with the political situation in Germany and the rise of the Nazi party, "The Berlin Stories," which were later adapted for the stage and film as "Cabaret." He spent the last half of his life in Los Angeles.

Berg says he first began reading Isherwood 15 years ago and has been interested in the author's work since.

"After moving to the United States, his work became somewhat more introspective and much more spiritual," says Berg. "One of the reasons we look at Isherwood is that his career spanned such a broad range of historical periods and geographical areas and his influence was really quite widespread without him being well-known."

Berg says after moving to the United States, Isherwood also wrote much more openly about his life as a gay man.

"A Single Man, one of his best novels, is about a fictional gay Englishman who was a college professor in southern California. It's one of the most open and matter of fact novels about gay life in the 1960s," says Berg. "I taught the book in an undergraduate course this spring and what we ended up talking about was how a gay man living alone can live his life in a world that at least doesn't understand him and at worst is actively working against him."

Berg says that the lead character in "A Single Man" is full of anger and frustration at the world around him, but he is essentially at peace with who he is.

"Isherwood became an active follower of Vedanta, a branch of Hinduism," says Berg. "That really works into his fiction with the idea of living life intentionally and with integrity."

These later works, says Berg, deal with universal themes that can be appreciated by all, not just gay readers.

"His spirituality gives his work that connection," says Berg. "In some of his fiction that theme is brought out - how to live a life trying to follow a spiritual path separate from the materialism of the modern culture."
The book is available at the University of Maine bookstore and a number of online booksellers.
College Engineers Look Forward to UMaine Summer of Technology

June 12, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
John Vetelino, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, 207-581-2264

ORONO, Maine -- Engineering students from around the United States will spend the summer alongside their University of Maine peers exploring new technologies in sensors, communications and computer software. Their work is supported by a National Science Foundation grant administered by John Vetelino, professor in the UMaine Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE).

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.

"These students are extremely bright and hard working," says Vetelino. "They are involved in demanding projects that expose them to state-of-the-art research which will motivate many of them to pursue a Ph.D. degree."

Students are tentatively scheduled to give final presentations on their projects August 7 to 11 in the Laboratory for Surface Science and Technology (LASST) in the Sawyer Environmental Research Center and ECE, 152 Barrows Hall. More information on times and locations is available from Susan Niles, ECE, 581-2224.

Participating students include:

Crystal Carr of South China, Maine, a first-year student at UMaine, will work on data processing and instrumentation with Bruce Segee of ECE.

Christina Congleton of Hampden, Maine, a first-year student at Oberlin College in Ohio, will work on a sensor to monitor lobster freshness and quality with John Vetelino.

Philip Copp, III, of Bangor, Maine, a first-year student at UMaine, will work on computer software for a gas delivery system with David Kleinschmidt of LASST.

Ralph Cox of Bucksport, Maine, a junior at UMaine, will work gel films for gas sensing with Carl Tripp of the Dept. of Chemistry.

Benjamin Davis of Ellsworth, Maine, a sophomore at UMaine, will work on developing software with Mohamad Musavi of ECE.

Charles Jones of Palmyra, Maine, a sophomore at UMaine, will work on liquid phase sensors with John Vetelino.

Todd Klein of Roseville, Minnesota, a junior from St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minnesota, will work on a sensor to detect pesticides with David Frankel of LASST.

Erik McCarthy of Greene, Maine, a first-year student at UMaine, will work on data converters with Fred Irons and Donald Hummels of the ECE.

Jeremy Peters of Durham, North Carolina, a junior from Brown University, will work on sensor films with Robert Lad, Scott Moulzhof and David Frankel of LASST.

Peter Pike of Orono, Maine, a first-year student from UMaine, will work on a study of thin films with Nick Lecursi and George Bernhardt of LASST.
Stephanie Pitcher of Colorado Springs, a junior at the University of Colorado, will work on fruit ripeness sensor with John Vetelino.

Thomas Pollard of Bucksport, a sophomore from UMaine, will work on sensor fabrication with Conrad Silvestre of LASST.

Jeremy Thiele of Hollis, a sophomore from UMaine, will work on fruit ripeness sensor with John Vetelino.

Cameron Thorne of Anacortes, Washington, a junior from Seattle Pacific University, will work on a study of metallic glass sensors with John Vetelino.

Manuel Torres of Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, a senior from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, will work on computer software to identify DNA bases with Mohamad Musavi.

Julia Vollmers of Orono, a junior from the University of Virginia, will work on an x-ray study of a sensor film with Robert Lad of LASST.

Joel Ngue Mba, a junior at UMaine from Yaounde, Cameroon, will work on X-ray diffraction and UV-vis Studies of tungsten oxide films with Brian Frederick of LASST.
New Exhibits Featured at UMaine Hudson Museum

June 12, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine will focus on local Native American history and culture in two new exhibits this summer.

The first, "MIKWITEMANEJ MIKMANQI'K: Let Us Remember the Old Mi'kmaq," is a series of 60 photos that will be displayed on the ramp panels from the first to the third level. The photos will be on exhibit at the Hudson Museum from May 22 to September 3.

The photographs were taken by Frederick Johnson, a distinguished anthropologist who documented the traditional lives of Mi'kmaq people in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland in 1930. Johnson, working under the direction of noted anthropologist Frank Speck, took about 200 photographs of Mi'kmaq people, places and activities of interest to him.

The exhibit was organized by the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology in Andover, Massachusetts. The 60 images featured in the exhibit have never before been publicly shown.

The second exhibit, "Crooked Knives: Tools of the Trade" will be on display from June 13 to September 3 in the temporary exhibit area on the first floor of the museum.

A crooked knife is a one-handed drawknife form with a bent handle made from wood or antler. The exhibit will present 75 knives from two Maine private collections that include Micmac, Maliseet, Penobscot and Passamaquoddy knives, as well as examples produced by French- and Anglo-Canadian, Franco-American and Scandinavian woodsmen.

The exhibit will include utilitarian examples that have extensive evidence of use and fancy crooked knife forms, which have elaborate carvings on the wooden handles. Common embellishments range from carvings in the form of violin-like scroll work to tin-type photographic images of women embedded and framed in the handles. The exhibit will also include objects made with crooked knives, such as brown ash splint wood baskets and wood carvings.

The Hudson Museum is located in the Maine Center for the Arts on the University of Maine campus. The museum shares the university's commitment to serve the public by being the gateway for people in Maine to explore and understand the diversity of human experience.
Eagle Hill Natural History Courses Scheduled For This Summer

June 13, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The Eagle Hill Field Research Station in Steuben will offer a series of intensive natural history seminars to the public at its facility along Maine's Down East coast. Students can choose from a variety of courses on topics such as forest ecosystems, watersheds, transition from an Ice Age world and aquatic insects.

University of Maine credits and scholarships ranging from 20 to 50 percent are available. The programs focus on the classical natural history of one of North America's most spectacular natural areas, the coast of eastern Maine from Acadia National Park to Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge.

Registration and course information is available from Eagle Hill, 207-546-2821 and can be seen on its web site, http://maine.maine.edu/~eaglhill/. The Station is also home to the Humboldt Field Research Institute which conducts field trips throughout the Americas.
Nominations Sought for Maryann Hartman Awards

June 13, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program and the Maryann Hartman Awards Committee at the University of Maine are seeking nominations for the 15th Annual Maryann Hartman Award.

They are looking statewide for women who have distinguished themselves in making a difference in their communities. Each year the award is presented to three Maine women who fit that description. Named for the late Maryann Hartman, distinguished educator, feminist, scholar and humanitarian, the awards are presented to women whose achievements in the arts, politics, sports, sciences, business, education and community service have provided inspiration to others.

Those who would like to nominate a woman for the Maryann Hartman Award should contact either Mazie Hough or Ann Schonberger, Women in the Curriculum, 101 Fernald Hall, University of Maine, Orono or call 581-1228 for further information and a nomination form. Information is also available at the WIC website at www.umaine.edu/WIC/ Deadline for nominations is July 15, 2000.
North American Poetry Conference Set at UMaine

June 13, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Me. -- North American poetry in the 1960s, and its role in shaping a generation and culture, will be the focus of a four-day conference at the University of Maine beginning June 28, sponsored by UMaine's National Poetry Foundation and Department of English.


"The title of the conference sums up what was happening in the '60s," he says. "While many poets and movement, such as the Beat generation, started in the '50s, they exercised a dominant cultural influence in the '60s. The counter-culture movement found a voice, and it expressed itself in major, powerful ways through poetry."

Some of those precedent-setting poets will be on campus to participate in the conference, including Amiri Baraka, Theodore Enslin, Nathanial Tarn, Toby Olson, Keith Waldrop, Rosmarie Waldrop, John Wieners, Kathleen Fraser, Fred Wah, George Bowering, Askia Touré and Gene Frumkin. They will join other writers and literary scholars, including many from UMaine and elsewhere in the state, in a comprehensive exploration of the poets of the 1960s generation and their literary movements - the Beat, Black Mountain, San Francisco Renaissance and New York schools.

The conference will be highlighted by 60 panel sessions focusing on specific poets - from Alan Ginsberg and Sylvia Plath to Robert Lowell - and on such topics as women poets, poets of color, Canadian poets, and new literary movements that began to define themselves in this period, including the ethnopoetic movement and language-centered writing.

Papers to be presented during plenary session by leading scholars in the field will discuss such themes as the tensions between "academic" poetry and the various attempts to bring poetry into the lives of people "in the streets"; the relationship of poetry and popular culture, including rock music; and the role of poetry in the anti-war movement.

In addition, numerous public poetry readings will be offered throughout the conference, ending with a "Celebratory Reading by Maine Poets of the 1960s and After" beginning at 2 p.m., July 2, Devino Auditorium, Corbett Business Building.

"The Opening of the Field" is the third in a series of conferences focused on specific decades in the history of contemporary poetry. In 1993, the National Poetry Foundation sponsored a similar conference addressing poetry of the '30s; in 1996, the conference was on poetry of the '50s.

While the '30s conference drew several poets from that era, there has been an especially strong turnout of 1960s writers at this upcoming conference, Hatlen says.

"We are pleased by the number of poets who are coming," he says. "They include several important figures from the period, such as African-American poets Amiri Baraka, Jay Wright, Lorenzo Thomas and Askia Touré; younger writers who began to come into their own (in the '60s) like Kathleen Fraser; and Maine poets of the '60s generation like Gary Lawless."
"The conference is a way to build community among people who share an intense common interest in poetry in general, and especially in the poetry of the 1960s," Hatlen says.

Readings by the 10 featured poets are open to the public without charge.

Registration for the full conference is $85; $60 for students. Day rates are available.

The full conference program, including information on free public readings, is available on the National Poetry Foundation Web site: www.ume.maine.edu/~npf/ Further information on the conference program or on registration is available by e-mailing hatlen@maine.edu or by calling 581-3814.

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Adolescent Girls Sought for Dietary Study

June 14, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Susan Sullivan, Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition, 207-581-3130

ORONO, Maine -- Researchers in the University of Maine Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition are seeking up to 25 adolescent girls to participate in a study of diet, bone density and vitamin D levels. The project is supervised by Susan Sullivan, assistant professor, in cooperation with Dr. Clifford Rosen of the Maine Center for Osteoporosis Research and Education at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bangor.

Sullivan and Rosen are conducting the study to determine how diet and the accumulation of calcium in bones vary between winter and summer.

In the study, volunteers will receive an analysis of their diets relative to the latest nutritional standards. They will be provided with information on diet, health and physical activity and have a simple blood test and measurement of bone density. They will receive $25 for each set of tests.

Girls should be between the ages of 9 and 11 and a half years old. Interested individuals can contact Sullivan at 581-3130.
Upward Bound Begins 35th Year at UMaine

June 14, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine - Upward Bound is gearing up for the arrival of 150 high school sophomores, juniors and seniors served by the federally funded college preparation program at the University of Maine. The students will converge on campus the weekend of June 24-25 to begin a six-week academic and career exploration experience.

The majority of the students (100) are in the Classic Upward Bound general academic support and enrichment program, which is in its 35th year at UMaine. They are students in the schools served throughout the academic year by UMaine Upward Bound counselors in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo and Hancock counties. Their summer residential program centers around daily classes in math, science, English, foreign languages and literature, courses in career development and the college selection process, and work experience. In addition to working in various offices on the UMaine campus, Upward Bound students will hold a variety of jobs in the community with organizations such the Penobscot Theater, the American Red Cross and the Old Town-Orono YMCA.

The 50 students in UMaine's Regional Math-Science Center, in its ninth year, come from high schools around New England. Their summer academic experience includes an integrated curriculum of accelerated classes focusing on math, science and/or computer science, as well as doing extensive research in the sciences with UMaine faculty. Student research projects last summer ranged from songs produced by fruit flies in the courtship and mating process to the gender difference factor in alpha wave frequency and producing Internet video live feeds.

Upward Bound is an educational opportunity program for high school students from low-income, first-generation college families. Funding for the program provides one of the highest possible returns on taxpayer dollars -- educational opportunities that give young people the advantage to overcome socioeconomic barriers -- says UMaine Upward Bound director Linda Ives. She notes that the 42 seniors in last year's program received over 125 college acceptances, averaging three apiece.
Sea Grant Scientist Receives National Award

June 16, 2000
Contact: Paul Anderson, Maine Sea Grant, (207) 581-1435

ORONO, ME -- Paul Anderson of Union, associate director of Maine Sea Grant, was awarded the prestigious U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Commissioner's Special Citation on June 9 in Rockville, Maryland. According to Jane Henney, FDA commissioner, Anderson received the award "for continuous and exemplary performance which has significantly strengthened state shellfish programs and increased shellfish safety in the Northeast region."

Before coming to Sea Grant, Anderson spent ten years at Maine's Department of Marine Resources (DMR), first as their chief microbiologist and then, for the last five years, as the director of the Public Health Division. During his tenure at DMR, Anderson coordinated marine water quality monitoring as it applies to public health concerns of sewage pollution, industrial contamination, non-point pollution, and harmful algal blooms.

Anderson also helped develop policy both for Maine and the U.S. through his participation in the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) where he was chairman of several key committees. He currently serves on the committee that is rewriting a section of the American Public Health Association manual. In 1999, Anderson was chosen to represent the U.S. and the ISSC at the Harmful Algal Management and Mitigation conference in the Philippines.

As leader of University of Maine's Marine Extension Team, Anderson coordinates marine outreach for the University and supervises an eight-member team, including three Sea Grant extension associates and five members from Cooperative Extension. With agents from Eastport to Wells, Maine Sea Grant and Cooperative Extension can now serve the needs of stakeholders statewide.

For more information about the Marine Extension Team, contact Anderson at (207) 581-1435.
UMaine Study Examines Dilemma of Weighted Grades

June 19, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- The value assigned to an "A" varies in high schools throughout Maine and nationally, and as college admissions and scholarships based on class rank raise the stakes, administrators are scrambling to devise rigorous, equitable grading systems.

About half the nation’s school systems assign weighted grades, allowing more points for high grades in Advanced Placement or other accelerated courses than for the same grades in less demanding classes, according to a new study from the University of Maine. But with no state or national standards to guide high schools that weight grades or to clarify their meaning to college admissions officers, school systems are facing potential legal consequences as well as increasing pressure from parents and students.

"It’s very much a local issue. Decisions about grade systems in different schools are arrived at in different ways, and the best attempts to find solutions often create more problems," says Walter McIntire, director of the Center for Research and Evaluation at UMaine’s College of Education and Human Development.

Appropriately titled "Weighted Grades: A Conundrum for Secondary Schools," the study examines national research on the issue and presents some of the dilemmas high schools face in designing grade systems that encourage and fairly reward students for pursuing challenging work and that adequately reflect the quality of their work.

Although many college admissions directors state that students with weighted grades on their transcripts do not have an advantage, admission results refute this claim, according to the study. And, because the college admissions process tends to value grade point average, rank in class and program of study more highly than SAT scores and extracurricular activities, weighted grades ultimately influence students’ academic futures and scholarship chances.

It's important for school policymakers to decide what they want to accomplish with a weighted system before they start recalculating grades, McIntire advises. "Do they want to motivate all kids to challenge themselves," he asks. "Is the goal to entice the brighter students to take more honors courses? Or do they want to create a school environment where every student, regardless of ability, has some chance of being valedictorian or salutatorian?"

In the controversial debate over weighted grades, every strategy has pros and cons and ramifications, he cautions Copies of the report on weighted grades are available, free of charge, by calling (207) 581-2761; e-mail: kay.hyatt@umit.maine.edu.
James Patterson Named Director of UMaine Hutchinson Center in Belfast

June 22, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- James Patterson, the current superintendent and first director of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM) in Limestone, has been named director of the University of Maine Hutchinson Center, which will be located in Belfast.

The center, named for former UMaine President Frederick E. Hutchinson, is a collaborative effort, announced last October, between the University and MBNA, the financial services company with facilities in Belfast and throughout Maine. Beginning in September of this year, UMaine will offer graduate and undergraduate courses, along with outreach services and cultural opportunities, at a new facility built for UMaine by MBNA on land adjacent to the company's Northeastern Regional Headquarters in Belfast.

Patterson brings 25 years of experience in leadership positions in both private business and in education. He served as vice president of academics, acting president and president of Northern Maine Technical College during a 12-year tenure which began in 1975. After working in the private sector, as partner and vice president of Gould and Smith, Inc. in Presque Isle and as owner of Patterson Associates, Inc. in Presque Isle between 1987 and 1994, Patterson returned to working in education as the first director of MSSM, a public residential high school for highly motivated and high achieving students, which opened in 1994.

"Dr. Patterson's vision, innovative approach, energy, and record of success are well known throughout Maine's education community," says UMaine President Peter S. Hoff. "He is a person who makes good things happen. We are extremely pleased to have him join the University of Maine in this important role."

Patterson was chosen from a national search which yielded more than 60 applications. He will begin work in Belfast on July 1 and will oversee a staff of three UMaine employees, a graduate student and several work-study students at the center, which is expected to offer approximately 90 UMaine courses when it opens in the fall.

"The Center will provide a direct local connection for the programs and services of the University of Maine," Patterson says. "I look forward to working with the citizens of the mid-coast region in pursuing their educational and cultural interests."

Twenty-six of the fall semester courses will be taught by UMaine faculty members who travel to Belfast for that purpose. The remainder will be presented through distance learning technologies, including interactive television, compressed video and Web-based technology. Subject areas were selected with input from a variety of Belfast-area groups, including those who attended one or more of 22 public forums which UMaine has held in mid-coast Maine since January. Courses offered at the Hutchinson Center will include business, liberal arts, education and new media. Non-credit programs intended for professional development are also planned, as are cultural offerings such as a Maine Film Series which will begin in September and will be free and open to the public. The Center will also serve as the local site for all interactive television classes offered by the University of Maine System.

"Engaging the community in the development of the Hutchinson Center has been a critical factor in planning the programming for the grand opening in September," says Robert C. White, dean of UMaine's Division of Lifelong Learning.

"With over 600 people providing input and with the establishment of a Hutchinson Center Advisory Board with representation from local communities, the University has been, and will continue to be, working directly with those it is intended to serve."
Patterson will be available to reporters when he is introduced to a group of area business, education and
government leaders on Monday, June 26 at 10:30 a.m. at the Hutchinson Center.

A graduate of the University of Maine at Machias, Patterson earned a master's degree from the University of
Southern Maine, a certificate of advanced study from the University of Maine and a doctorate from the
University of Sarasota.

A series of open houses, intended to give members of the public an opportunity to see the new facility and get an
idea of what will be available in it, are scheduled for later this summer. The dates are July 20, July 27, Aug. 8
and Aug. 21, from 3:30-7 p.m. each day.

"The excitement and anticipation surrounding the announcement of the center have been extraordinary and we
anticipate that the open houses will heighten the awareness and bring attention to what UMaine has to offer in
Belfast," White says.
UMaine to Host Music Educators Conference

June 22, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – The School of Performing Arts at the University of Maine invites music educators to the second annual Maine Instrumental Music Conference July 25 through July 28.

The conference will be held at the University of Maine and will feature the newest information for wind, percussion, concert band, marching band and beginning methods for the instrumental music program, from elementary through high school.

Speakers at the conference are Robert Sheldon, an internationally known composer and conductor; Deborah Sheldon, professor of music education at the University of Illinois School of Music; Ann Danis, professor of orchestra activities at the University of Rhode Island and Peter Bouffard, a member of the jazz faculty at the University of Nebraska School of Music.

Participants will have the chance to attend a variety of workshops on topics such as teaching theory, creating audiences, preparing a jazz ensemble for a festival and current concepts and trends in instrumental music. Conductor evaluation sessions will be held throughout the conference with Danis and Curvin Farnham, associate professor of music at UMaine.

The cost for the conference is $270 for four and three days; $210 for two days and $150 for one day. The preregistration fee is $60, which will be deducted from the total. It is highly advisable that everyone wishing to attend the conference preregister because of the materials that are sent out ahead of time. These materials will make the conference much more meaningful.

Three continuing education credits are available through the University of Maine for a one-time $5 fee.

For more information call Curvin Farnham, coordinator of the Maine Instrumental Music Conference at (207) 581-1254. The conference is sponsored by Northern Kingdom Music.
Pesticide Credits Available at Maine Farm Days

July 6, 2000
Contact: Richard Brzozowski, Cooperative Extension, 800-287-1471 (in Maine)
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering a series of practical one-hour workshops related to reduced use of pesticides at Maine Farm Days, August 22 and 23 at the Barker Farm in Leeds, Maine.

Richard Brzozowski of the Cooperative Extension office in Cumberland County designed a series of workshops that include hands-on and in-the-field experience guided by experts in soils, pests, beneficial insects, and plants. “One of the best ways to learn and remember information is to be able to experience it first hand — seeing, hearing, smelling and touching what you are learning,” says Brzozowski.

As is the entire Maine Farm Days event, the workshops are free, and registration is not required. Participants can earn one credit toward certification for each workshop they attend. The schedule includes the following times and topics:

**Tuesday, August 22**

10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Soil Characteristics as They Apply to Leaching and Runoff with Dave Wilkerson, Soil Resource Specialist, and Lisa Krall, Agronomist from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Rodent Control and Prevention on the Farm with Mike Opitz, UMaine Cooperative Extension Veterinarian

11:10 to 12:10 p.m., Herbicides and Field Crops - Making a Smart Match with Tim Griffin, UMaine Cooperative Extension Sustainable Agriculture Specialist

12:30 - 1:30 p.m., What's So Great about Beneficial Insects? with Jim Dill, UMaine Cooperative Extension Pest Management Specialist

1:40 to 2:40 p.m., Weed Search - A Hands-on Weed ID Hike with Barbara Murphy, UMaine Cooperative Extension Educator

**Wednesday, August 23**

10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Soil Characteristics as They Apply to Leaching and Runoff with Dave Wilkerson and Lisa Krall, NRCS

10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Insect Identification in the Field with Richard Brzozowski, UMaine Cooperative Extension Educator

11:10 AM to 12:10 p.m., Herbicides and Field Crops — Making a Smart Match with Tim Griffin

12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Lets Calibrate! A Hands-on Exercise in Sprayer Calibration with Rick Kersbergen, UMaine Cooperative Extension Educator

1:40 to 2:40 p.m., Alternatives and New Ideas for Weed Control in Forage Crops with Rick Kersbergen, UMaine Cooperative Extension Educator
More information is available from the Cumberland County Extension Office at 207-780-4205, or 800-287-1471 in Maine.

-30-
Bangor Institute to Address Regional Growth Issues

July 7, 2000
Contact: Bob Ho, Maine Rural Development Council, 207-581-3192
Nick Houtman, Office of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - Home grown rural development and the challenge of fostering connections between outlying towns and regional centers will be the focus of discussion and debate at the Maine Rural Development Council (MRDC) “Rural-Urban Institute” on July 13-14 at the Ramada Inn in Bangor.

The Institute is one of a series of five national public policy education events facilitated by the Heartland Institute for Leadership Development based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Others Institutes will be held in New York, Colorado, Oregon and South Dakota in partnership with the rural development councils of those states.

The Maine Rural Urban Institute is designed to address the theme, “Regional Assets and Vision for Development: Strengthening the Connections between Service Centers and Rural Areas.” It will be held from 5 p.m., July 13 to 3 p.m., July 14.

Maine Rural Development Council partners providing assistance in the planning for this event include: Hancock County Government and the Planning Commission, Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Kennebec Valley Council of Governments, Maine Center for Economic Policy, and Western Mountains Alliance.

Evan Richert, Director of the Maine State Planning Office will present the keynote address on July 13. He will speak on the topic “Understanding the Rural-Urban Disconnect in the Service Center Regions: the Big Picture.”

Invited participants include local government officials, economic developers and policy makers. They will consider crucial growth management issues affecting our local communities and quality of life in rural Maine.

Participants from four cluster communities including Ellsworth, Bangor, Gardiner and Rumford will identify significant regional issues in their areas before the event. The Institute will feature work sessions for participants to share ideas about growth and present their diverse perspectives from local to regional and rural to urban.

The discussion will also focus on how planned growth and the use of resources affect development in rural areas. These sessions will help identify strengths and weaknesses in the vision and practice of balanced regional growth and encourage the formation of peer networks.

According to MRDC Executive Director Bob Ho, the findings of these sessions can help define policy actions at the upcoming regular session of Maine's 120th Legislature.

MRDC is a statewide coalition of federal, state, regional, and community-based organizations active in rural development work. It is an affiliated program of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Council members are educators, community and economic development practitioners, federal and state government representatives and rural policy makers.

-30-
BIW and University of Maine Team Awarded $9.2 million Contract for Advanced Technology

July 7, 2000
Contact: Vince Caccese, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, 207-581-2131
Nick Houtman, Office of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Note: This and other science news can be seen on the MaineSci web site, www.umaine.edu/mainesci.

ORONO, Maine -- Researchers at the University of Maine and General Dynamics Bath Iron Works will collaborate in a project to design the next generation advanced propulsion system for a technical demonstration ship. With support from a $9.2 million contract with the Office of Naval Research to BIW, scientists and engineers will push the state of the art in composite materials science and engineering.

The project, titled "Advanced Hull Form Inshore Demonstrator" or AHFID, directly supports the Navy's recent decision to use electric drives on the DD 21 next generation land attack destroyer. BIW will lead the team that includes UMaine, General Dynamics Electric Boat Corporation of Groton, Connecticut, and Pacific Marine and Supply Company of Honolulu, Hawaii.

In the AHFID program, the propulsion motor will be housed in a pod fabricated with advanced composite materials designed by a UMaine engineering team led by Vince Caccese, associate professor of mechanical engineering. The pod will contain embedded sensors that can measure the performance of the propulsion motor and will be able to monitor the structural health of the composite materials.

A prototype of the composite pod will be tested at the University's new Advanced Structures and Composites Laboratory. Researchers will validate the design and evaluate the performance of the sensors.

Electric drive propulsion eliminates the mechanical gearing normally found in the propulsion trains of conventional vessels and replaces it with an electric motor. Use of the electric motor allows engineers to design the ship with all electric equipment. Power can be redirected and reconfigured in the event of a mishap.

The AHFID program complements ongoing efforts at BIW and UMaine. BIW is designing an integrated power system for the DD 21 and leads one of two teams competing for the DD 21 contract. The AHFID program would allow engineers at BIW to mitigate the risk associated with the new electric drive technology and potentially incorporate changes into the DD 21 design based on the lessons learned from the AHFID program.

At UMaine, engineers are working with business and government agencies to apply composite technologies to applications ranging from NASA's X-38 crew return vehicle to highway bridges and bicycles. The Advanced Structures and Composites Laboratory maintains testing and fabrication facilities for studying a wide range of mechanical and environmental stresses.

-30-
Small Farm Field Day at Unity

July 7, 2000
Contact: Rick Kersbergen, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1426 (in Maine)
Nick Houtman, Office of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Maine farmers and gardeners will have the chance to get training in a variety of practical skills at the annual Small Farm Field Day in Unity on July 16. The event will begin at 9 a.m. at the Fairgrounds of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA).

Workshops will be held on topics such as soils, the home orchard, drip irrigation, making cheese and sheep shearing. There is a $2 admission fee, and children 12 and under free. The day is sponsored by MOFGA and University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

Special emphasis will be placed on small scale orchards and bird raising.

More information is available from MOFGA at 568-4142 or Cooperative Extension at 1-800-287-1426 (in Maine).

-30-
Summer Tour at Highmoor Farm

July 10, 2000
Contact: Renae Moran, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-924-5258 (in Maine)
Nick Houtman, Office of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to view apple orchard and small fruit research plots at the Highmoor Farm in Monmouth on July 20. The farm provides a showplace and testing ground for new disease resistant varieties as well as new growing techniques.

Francis Dellamano, a specialist in drip irrigation systems, will be the guest speaker. Field demonstrations will be led by Renae Moran on rootstocks and growth improvement trials and by Glen Koehler on apple pest problems. Dave Handley will lead a tour of vegetable variety and strawberry trials.

The $7 registration fee includes lunch. The event begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 2:30 p.m. It is sponsored by the Maine Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Maine Pomological Society and the Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Association.
Rural Entrepreneurship Policy Academy in Augusta

July 12, 2000
Contact: Robert Ho, Maine Rural Development Council, 207-581-3192
Nick Houtman, Office of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - The first of two policy academies on rural entrepreneurship will be held July 20 and 21 at the Senator Inn in Augusta.

The academy will help promote entrepreneurship as an approach to rural development, stimulate appropriate strategies to enhance entrepreneurial climate and infrastructure in Maine and develop policy actions based on a common understanding of the issues.

Sponsored by the Maine Rural Development Council (MRDC) with funding support from the Kauffman Foundation, the Rural Entrepreneurship Policy Academy project is a state wide effort to help influence and shape state polices in support of rural entrepreneurship development. The second academy is scheduled for late September.

Many stakeholder groups will be represented in the academy process. Attending the July event are service providers, lenders, the utilities and telecom sectors, policy makers, researchers and business representatives.

According to Maine Small Business Advocate Brian Dancause, "the academy will provide an opportunity for us to acquire better understanding of the relationship between entrepreneurship and economic growth, as well as how the public policy process can be used to help promote entrepreneurship - particularly in the rim counties of the state."

MRDC Executive Director Bob Ho expects to see two major outcomes from the project. "First, it will build a strong statewide coalition for entrepreneurship development. Second, the work of the academy will result in an action strategy that can help shape specific policy initiatives."

Those invited to attend the July academy include Wendy Newmeyer of Maine Balsam Fir Products; Dianne Tilton of Sunrise County Economic Council; Ellen Golden and John Massaua of Coastal Enterprises; Bruce Pulkkinen of Windham Millwork; Mary McAleney of the Small Business Administration; Charles Davis of University of Southern Maine's Small Business Development Center; University of Maine Cooperative Extension small business specialist Jim McConnon, Eloise Vitelli of Maine Center for Women, Work and Community; Marilyn Moss of Moss, Inc; Jim Amaral of Borealis Breads; Jerry Jarrell of Merrill Merchants Bank; Chris Burchfield of Accessories Unlimited of Maine; Brian Dancause of Department of Economic and Community Development; Meredith Jones of Maine Community Foundation; Kathy Billings of Bangor Hydro; Mark Butterfield of the Finance Authority of Maine; Howard Jones of Department of Agriculture; Sue Inches of Department of Marine Resources; Senator Carol Kontos of Windham and Valarie Lamont of USM Center for Entrepreneurship and Small Business.

Maine Rural Development Council (MRDC) is a statewide coalition of federal, state, regional, and community-based organizations active in rural development work. It is an affiliated program of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Council members are educators, community and economic development practitioners, federal and state government representatives, and rural policy makers.

More information is available from Patricia Kontur at the MRDC, 207-581-3193.

-30-
Apple Pest Management Guide Available

July 13, 2000
Contact: Glen Koehler, UMaine Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-0279
Nick Houtman, Office of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The 2000-2001 New England Apple Pest Management Guide is available to orchardists and the public. The publication has information on insects, mites, diseases and weeds that affect apple trees and fruit.

While the Guide is designed for commercial producers, the information on apple pests is also useful to hobbyist growers with an interest in more detail than is provided in publications targeted at home plantings.

The Guide was produced by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office and is 154 pages long, including 12 pages of color photographs. It is available for $11 from Highmoor Farm, P.O. Box 179, Monmouth ME 04259.

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Homeowners Seeing More Apple Tree Diseases this Year

July 14, 2000
Contact: Bruce Watt, UMaine Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-0279
Nick Houtman, Office of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The cool, wet spring has led to an increase in diseases on crab apple and apple trees, according to Bruce Watt, a pest management specialist with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Watt has received a higher than average number of calls from homeowners who report seeing apple tree leaves yellowing and falling to the ground as well as brown spots on apple tree leaves.

The problem is known as apple scab and is caused by a fungus. It can also leave scabs on the fruit, as its name suggests. Apple scab and brown rot, a disease of stone fruit trees such as cherry and peach and also caused by a fungus, seem to be more prevalent this year than normal.

“The problem hasn't affected the commercial apple orchards as much,” says Watt. “Orchardists tend to anticipate these sorts of problems and take care of them. However, we have had more than the usual number of calls from homeowners.”

Trees can withstand a mild or moderate infection, says Watt, but heavy infections tend to weaken trees and make them more vulnerable to winter injury and drought. Over a period of years, the infections can kill the trees.

If a tree loses most of its leaves during the spring, it may produce an entirely new set of leaves in the same season, he adds.

The best preventive maintenance for homeowners, he says, is to remove fallen leaves from around the trees. The fungus overwinters in the leaves, and spores can re-infect trees the following spring. Spores can also blow in on the wind from other infected areas.

Fungicide sprays applied early in the growing season may protect trees from the disease, but once homeowners notice an infection on an apple or crabapple tree, it is generally too late to treat it, Watt says.

Several varieties of crabapples and apple trees are resistant to apple scab disease and should be considered in future plantings.

-30-
Lower Cognitive Performance Linked to Later Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease

July 14, 2000
Contact: Merrill F. “Pete” Elias, Dept. of Psychology, 207-244-9674
Nick Houtman, Office of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Note: This and other science news can be seen on the MaineSci web site, www.umaine.edu/mainesci.

ORONO, Maine -- Strong evidence that cognitive tests may be useful for signaling Alzheimer's Disease years before other symptoms appear has been reported by Merrill F. “Pete” Elias, UMaine professor of psychology, and colleagues in the June issue of the Archives of Neurology. While earlier studies have reached the same conclusion, the new report expands it with a larger group of subjects followed over a longer period of time.

Elias and his colleagues based their findings on an analysis of cognitive tests given to 1,076 participants in the Framingham Heart Study. Between 1975 and 1979, neuropsychologists administered a battery of tests measuring new learning and immediate recall, visual reproduction from memory, verbal associations and abstract reasoning and other functions.

All subjects were free of Alzheimer's Disease, other forms of dementia and stroke at the initial baseline test. They were then neurologically assessed for Alzheimer's Disease for the next 22 years. Lower test performance at the baseline testing was associated with development of Alzheimer's at some time during that 22-year follow-up period. Lowered retention for verbal material and lower abstract reasoning at baseline were the strongest predictors of the disease.

Collaborating on the study were Alexa Beiser, Philip A. Wolf, Rhoda Au, and Ralph B. D'Augostino, all of Boston University, and Roberta F. White of the Boston Department of Veterans Affairs and Odense University in Denmark.

The results suggest that a pre-clinical phase of Alzheimer's Disease can precede the appearance of the disease by many years and that this phase can be detected by appropriate neuropsychological tests.

In an editorial in the same issue of the journal, Richard Mayeux of Columbia University notes that “the investigation by Elias et al has extremely important implications for those developing treatments for AD and for those investigating its cause.”

He emphasizes that the report does not distinguish between factors that may pre-dispose an individual to Alzheimer's and physiological changes in the brain. Moreover, not all older adults who suffer memory loss progress to dementia or Alzheimer's Disease.

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Farmers and the public invited to free tour of sustainable Maine farms

July 17, 2000
Contact: Stewart Smith, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3174
Nick Houtman, Office of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Farmers and the public are invited to tour four sustainably integrated Maine farms in the Androscoggin County town of Turner on August 8. The event will be followed by a free barbecue dinner.

The tour will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the River Rise Farm in North Turner. Participants will also see the Ricker Hill Orchard, Nezinscot Farm and Caldwell Farm and return to the River Rise Farm by 5:30 p.m. The barbecue and a business meeting of the Maine Sustainable Agriculture Society (MESAS) will follow.

Adrian and Jennifer Wadsworth, owners and operators of River Rise Farm, will host the tour. River Rise Farm is a dairy farm that employs innovative approaches in dairying combined with an organic vegetable enterprise and an extensive woodlot.

Harry and Nancy Ricker have transformed Ricker Hill Orchard from a producer of wholesale apples to a farm producing cranberries and apples, both conventionally and organically. They sell directly to consumers as well as to the wholesale market.

At Nezinscot Farm, Gregg and Gloria Varney raise animals and vegetables organically, selling to wholesalers and also directly to consumers at the retail store on their farm.

At Caldwell Farm, Lawrence and Ralph Caldwell are building an organic dairy herd and use progressive approaches, such as becoming part owners of the first soybean roaster in Maine, in their operation.

The event is sponsored by the MESAS and the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

A bus will be available to the first 45 participants to sign up. Others are welcome to follow the bus in their own vehicles. Registration information is available from Darlene Metcalf at (207)-581-3154 or darlene.metcalf@umit.maine.edu. There is no cost, and the deadline is August 4.

MESAS, organized in 1998, is dedicated to exploring, developing and promoting sustainable agriculture. MESAS intends to accomplish its mission through research and education.

In the past, MESAS has promoted discussions of production and marketing issues at the annual Maine Agricultural Trades Show. Recently, MESAS, in partnership with the University of Maine, secured a grant from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program of the USDA to bring together individuals from many organizations in an effort to identify and promote sustainable farming systems in Maine.

Directions to River Rise Farm:

From Augusta: Take Route 202 east to Winthrop and Route 133 to Wayne. After Wayne, take 219 west. On 219, go across the Androscoggin River on the “Twin Bridges.” River Rise Farm is the first left after the bridges.

From Auburn: Take Route 4 north to Turner. Take a right onto Route 117 east and north. Follow Route 117 to Route 119 where there is a blinking light. Take a right on Route 119. River Rise Farm is the first right.
**From Farmington:** Take Route 4 south. Take a left onto Route 219. River Rise Farm is approximately 2.7 miles on the right from Route 4.
University of Maine Water Research Institute to be Named for Maine Senator George J. Mitchell

July 19, 2000

Contact: Steve Kahl, Water Research Institute, 207-581-3286
Nick Houtman, Office of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine will honor the environmental achievements of Maine Senator George J. Mitchell by dedicating the Water Research Institute (WRI) in his name. During his years in the Senate, Mitchell played key roles in such landmark environmental legislation as the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act.

The WRI conducts research on topics related to each of those measures. It will be known as the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research. Mitchell will be at the University of Maine on Friday, October 6 for a ceremony to highlight the naming of the Center.

“I am honored to be associated with an internationally recognized research center that is investigating the wide variety of environmental issues that affect most of Maine's economy and quality of life,” says Mitchell. “I am especially pleased with the Center's commitment to graduate education which complements the Mitchell scholarship program for Maine undergraduates.”

WRI scientists conduct research on topics such as acid rain, lake pollution, mercury in fish, drinking water source protection and MTBE and arsenic in groundwater. The Institute has been awarded more than $15 million in grants and contracts over the past decade. Institute staff have testified in Washington D.C. on issues related to reauthorization of the Clean Air Act and contributed to environmental management in Maine through co-chairing the Governor's Council on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and serving on the Great Pond Task Force.

“Senator Mitchell has been an outspoken leader on environmental issues for more than two decades,” says University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff. “In 1989, he dedicated the University's Sawyer Environmental Research Center where the Water Research Institute is located. It is time formally to link the Senator and his accomplishments with the leading environmental research center in Maine.”

The WRI has won awards from the State of Maine, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institutes for Water Research for its research and for programs designed to foster education and public awareness of water resources issues.

Mitchell was appointed to the Senate in 1980 to complete the term of Senator Edmund Muskie who had resigned to become Secretary of State. His ensuing 14-year Senate career included authorship of the first national oil spill prevention and clean-up law as well as legislation on child care, education, civil rights and the environment. He left the Senate as Majority Leader, a position he had held since 1989. He was voted the most respected member of Congress six times.

He is the author of four books, including “World on Fire” that describes the threat of global warming and outlines steps to reduce it. He co-authored “Men of Zeal” with Maine's Bill Cohen, presently Secretary of Defense.

Today, Senator Mitchell is a member of the law firm of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand. He has received numerous prizes for his work for peace, including the Tipperary International Peace Award earlier this month for his negotiations in Northern Ireland.
Beach Erosion Survey Planned

July 24, 2000
Contact: Joan Poor, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3171, joan.poor@umit.maine.edu
Ju-Chin Huang, UNH Dept. of Economics, 603-862-3279, jchuang@cisunix.unh.edu
Nick Houtman, Office of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- Researchers at the University of Maine and University of New Hampshire will survey 1200 households in the two states later this summer on the subject of beach erosion. With funding from the Sea Grant College Program, they hope to determine how people value sand beaches and develop a method that can be used to help policymakers decide on the most cost-effective erosion control programs.

Joan Poor, research assistant professor in the Department of Resource Economics and Policy at UMaine, and Ju-Chin Huang of the Department of Economics at UNH have developed a 36-question survey that they will mail at the end of July. They intend to use the results to expand their effort to a larger portion of the population in the future.

“Our goal is to develop a method that can be used to determine the values that people put on beach erosion control,” says Poor. “State and federal erosion control programs must justify their actions on the basis of cost/benefit analysis, and we hope our method will make it easier to determine the benefits to the public.”

Sand beaches in New Hampshire and southern Maine are popular tourist destinations, and development pressures have led to attempts to control erosion and develop harbors over the past century.

The survey asks participants, who have been selected randomly, to choose from a variety of hypothetical erosion control programs that have different benefits for recreation, wildlife, local property values and other purposes. The programs are not based on actual erosion control efforts.

In addition, Poor and Huang intend to survey beach users directly to distinguish between so-called use and non-use values. The concept of non-use values recognizes that people who do not directly use a resource nevertheless place a value on its existence.

“The economic value of a resource needs to recognize the sum total of all the values held by the public,” says Poor, whose academic background lies in agriculture and natural resource economics.

Poor and Huang began to collaborate last year when they proposed such projects separately to the Maine/New Hampshire Sea Grant Program. Poor will continue to collaborate on the project after she moves to take a job in the Department of Economics at the Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall.
Volunteers Sought for Diabetes Research Project

July 26, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Mary Ellen Camire, Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition, 207-581-1627

ORONO, Maine -- Researchers in the University of Maine Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition are seeking adult volunteers for a study of the benefits of blueberries for people with diabetes. Belinda Chambers, a master's degree student, is studying the ability of a class of compounds in blueberries to reduce medical complications in people with Type II or non-insulin dependent diabetes.

Chambers is collaborating on the project with Mary Ellen Camire, associate professor of food science and human nutrition.

“We're looking for 20 people who have been identified with Type II diabetes but are not taking any medications at present,” says Chambers.

“Our subjects will receive a $50 stipend. The project will involve taking two blood samples. Capsules will be given to each subject to be taken daily. The capsules will contain either dried blueberries or a placebo. Subjects will not know which one they receive. We'll be evaluating the effect of the blueberries on blood sugar and other measures of diabetes,” she explains.

Funding for the study has been provided by the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission, the Wild Blueberry Association of North America and the University of Maine.

People interested in participating in the study can contact Chambers at the food science lab in Holmes Hall, 581-3581, and leave a message, or via email, Belinda.Chambers@umit.maine.edu.
Athletic Directors Institute Opens August 1 at UMaine

Media Advisory

July 27, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO -- Major issues and needs in sports leadership will be addressed at the third annual Athletic Directors’ Institute, August 1-3 at the University of Maine. Topics ranging from curbing violence in sports to managing facilities will be featured, along with intensive training in effective use of technology.

The institute is sponsored by Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators’ Association and the Maine Center for Coaching Education at UMaine, in cooperation with the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators’ Association.

State, regional and national experts will provide information and hands-on experience to help athletic administrators do their jobs better.

The institute is designed around needs and interests identified by athletic directors, according to Keith Lancaster, director of the Maine Center for Coaching Education. In addition to addressing specific professional development areas, the institute provides a forum for identifying common problems and brainstorming solutions in the high-visibility, high-impact AD position.

More than 30 athletic directors are registered for the institute, the majority being from high schools throughout Maine. Five are from schools in Vermont, and one is from New Jersey.

Media are welcome at all sessions of the institute.
Conference to Examine the Latest K-5 Literacy Instruction, Research

Maine-Based Little Books Series Hitting Worldwide Market

July 31, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

Media note: The announcement of the distribution agreement with Educational Publishing Service is scheduled for 3:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 7, in Wells Conference Center, as part of the book exhibit and reception for conference participants. The media contact for EPS is Nick Gaehde, vice president of sales and marketing, (617) 547-6706, ext. 175, e-mail: Nickg@epsbooks.com.

ORONO, Maine -- More than 370 educators will gather at the University of Maine Aug. 7-8 to examine the latest research and teaching techniques and to share information about how best to get youngsters off to a strong start in reading and writing. The 2000 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.

Sponsored by the Center for Early Literacy at the UMaine College of Education and Human Development, in collaboration with the Maine Department of Education’s Center for Inquiry on Literacy, the conference will feature state and national literacy experts presenting topics ranging from laying the foundation for learning letters and words to creating independent writers.

Conference participants will also hear the official announcement of an agreement with a major publishing firm that will expand the availability of the popular Little Books for Early Readers series, written by Maine educators, to a worldwide market.

The joint announcement by the Center for Early Literacy, which created and produces the series, and Educators Publishing Services, Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., will take place Monday, Aug. 7. EPS publisher John C. Hall, II and UMaine Professor Rosemary Bamford, Little Books coordinator, will announce the new marketing and distributing plans during a reception featuring exhibits of instructional texts and children’s books by half a dozen publishing houses and book signings by several Maine educator/authors. Authors of some of the Little Books will also be present.

The four series of Little Books feature photos of real Maine children engaged in activities from playing in the snow to feeding chickens and are carefully crafted to engage and help four-to-six-year-olds grasp and practice the earliest concepts of reading. The first set was produced in 1995, with the goal to provide a variety of low-costs books for research-based teaching and practicing of early reading skills.

The agreement gives EPS worldwide marketing and distribution rights to the series for two years, including promotion through its catalogs, website, direct mail programs, independent representative network and its extensive exhibit schedule. The Center for Early Literacy remains the owner, copyright holder and manufacturer of the series, and uses revenue above expenses to initiate and support early literacy efforts in Maine.

For nearly 50 years, EPS (www.epsbooks.com) has published materials to help students from kindergarten through adulthood learn to read, write and spell. Today, the company publishes nearly 2,000 books and workbooks, from beginning reading and elementary math to SAT-preparation. EPS materials are used by millions of classroom, home school and special education students and educators worldwide.

With the expansion distribution of Little Books for Early Readers, EPS and the Center for Early Literacy are helping to meet the growing need for texts that provide adequate meaning and structure to inexperienced readers,
while teaching words and initial letter-sound associations.

“The Little Books series are wonderful little readers that appeal to a wide range of clients,” says Hall. “They are a great compliment to our product line.”

The expertise and resources of EPS provides the type and extent of targeted marketing that neither the Center nor the UMaine Book Store could handle, says Bamford. “The agreement with EPS will allow us to reach a much larger audience.”

The Little Books will still be available for walk-in sales at the Book Store on the Orono campus.
Hudson Museum Artifacts Featured at UMaine Hutchinson Center

August 1, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – “Images for Eternity: West Mexican Tomb Figures,” an exhibit from the University of Maine's Hudson Museum that shows the spiritual side of ancient Mexican culture, will be on display at UMaine's new Hutchinson Center in Belfast starting September 5.

The exhibit consists of more than sixty West Mexican ceramics, dating from about 200 BC to AD 500, from the William P. Palmer III Collection. Experts consider the 550 ceramic tomb figures in the Palmer Collection to be the largest assemblage of its kind in any museum in the United States.

The tomb figures featured in the exhibit commemorate rites of passage people went through and social statuses they enjoyed while alive. Stephen Whittington, director of the Hudson Museum and curator of the exhibit, states that the figures acted as passports, allowing the dead to take their statuses into the realm of death.

“Images for Eternity” will be displayed in the atrium of the Hutchinson Center, which is located on Route 3 in Belfast. The exhibit is free and open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Hutchinson Center, named for former UMaine President Frederick E. Hutchinson, is a collaborative effort, announced last October, between the University and MBNA, the financial services company with facilities in Belfast and throughout Maine. Beginning in September of this year, UMaine will offer graduate and undergraduate courses, along with outreach services and cultural opportunities, at a new facility built for UMaine by MBNA on land adjacent to the company's Northeastern Regional Headquarters in Belfast.
UMaine, Communities to Start Pilot Bus Transportation Program

Aug. 1, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO - An initiative aimed at encouraging more University of Maine students, faculty and staff to use public transportation will begin later this summer when UMaine, three local communities (Veazie, Orono and Old Town), The Bus and the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System (BACTS) launch an innovative one-year pilot project.

Beginning on Sept. 1, UMaine students, faculty and staff who wish to ride The Bus on selected routes will be allowed to board by showing their MaineCard student identification, rather than paying a fare.

"This program could have a significant positive impact on UMaine and its neighbors," says Richard D. Chapman, the University's vice president for Student Affairs. "As our student population continues to grow, we hope that measures like this one will help us to meet several of our objectives -- to be good stewards of our environment, to use the available space on campus efficiently and to provide services which our students will find useful."

The affected routes are those serving Veazie, Orono and Old Town, along with the route from The Bus' hub in downtown Bangor to the campus.

"The potential benefits to the three communities include reduced congestion, accidents, noise and air pollution, and avoided expenditures on increasing highway capacity," says Donald Cooper, a senior transit/transportation planner with BACTS.

UMaine will fund the project with a cash payment to The Bus, intended to offset lost fare revenue.

"We have high hopes that this year will be a resounding success and that the program will be extended into the future. The more our students use The Bus, the more likely that is to happen," Chapman says.

All vehicles in The Bus system are handicapped-accessible and have bicycle racks. More information on The Bus and its schedule is on The Web at http://www.bangorbus.org.
Artists Sought for UMaine Percent for Art Project

August 4, 2000
Contact: Al Bushway, Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition, 581-1629
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine is seeking artists to submit proposals for a “percent for art” project as part of a new addition to Hitchner Hall.

The art selection committee for Hitchner Addition 2000 has begun a competition for artists to design, execute and install one or more pieces of artwork in any medium. Artwork may be located within or outside the addition. A total of $75,000 is available for the acquisition of artwork through Maine's Percent for Art law, which reserves one percent of the construction funds for state-funded building projects to provide artwork in public areas.

The Hitchner Addition 2000 will be a 46,000 square-foot addition to a 53,000 square-foot building, which was constructed during three different periods beginning in the 1950s. The addition is designed to foster an open creative atmosphere among researchers, staff and students in the departments of Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Molecular Biology and Food Science and Human Nutrition. The anticipated audience, in addition to those listed above, will include the general public and members of industry.

The facility is seen as a high-tech research science building for the citizens of Maine. The occupants will be involved in molecular and cellular research in food science and human nutrition, microbiology, biochemistry, and physiology of animals and plants. There will be extensive public access to the new food evaluation and clinical nutrition centers.

Potential sites for the artwork include a large two-story area in the main entrance corridor, walls and floors of the main corridor to the lobby area, walls of the 'loggia' leading to the new entrance and an elevated plateau in the courtyard in front of the new main entrance.

All professional artists may apply for consideration for this project. A prospectus is available from Dr. Mike Vayda, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Molecular Biology, 5735 Hitchner Hall, Orono, ME 04469-5735. A self-addressed 9” x 12” envelope with 77¢ postage should be included, and requests should be made by September 7, 2000. The deadline for submissions is October 10, 2000.
Hudson Museum Event to Focus on Basketmaking

August 4, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – In a special summer event, the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine will highlight the work of the Sanipass family, who are working to keep Maine Indian basketmaking, a traditional art form, alive.

Donald and Mary Lafford Sanipass of Presque Isle, members of the Aroostook band of Micmacs, will demonstrate their basketmaking skills on Wednesday, August 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hudson Museum.

The event coincides with “Crooked Knives: Tools of the Trade,” now on display in the temporary exhibit area of the museum. A crooked knife is a one-handed drawknife form with a bent handle made from wood or antler. The exhibit presents 75 knives from two Maine private collections. Knives from Micmac, Maliseet, Penobscot and Passamaquoddy culture are included and they were commonly used by Maine Indian basketmakers.

Donald and Mary Lafford Sanipass have worked full-time as basketmakers since the early 1980s and produce a wide variety of utility and fancy brown ash baskets. They have taught all four of their children the craft and their daughter Roldena now makes her living as a basketmaker.

At the event, the master basketmakers will show how they treat and prepare ash for this art and also demonstrate the weaving technique used to make baskets and show how crooked knives are used.

The event is free and open to the public and examples of the Sanipass' work will be available for purchase.
Lobster Institute Names New Assistant Director

Aug. 4, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Cathy Billings has been named to fill the new position of Assistant Director for Communications & Development at the University of Maine's Lobster Institute. Her primary responsibilities will include working with the Friends of the Lobster Institute group, writing grant proposals and developing support for the research and education mission of the institute.

“The lobster industry is an integral part the economy as well as the culture and folklore of Maine and the entire North Atlantic seaboard,” says Billings. “The Lobster Institute plays a crucial role in maintaining and expanding the viability of lobstering -- not only as an industry but as a way of life. I look forward to being part of such an important endeavor.”

“We are pleased to welcome Cathy to the Institute,” says UMaine Prof. Robert Bayer, the institute's director. “We are at a pivotal point in the growth of the Lobster Institute. We have several priority research and educational projects in place or on the drawing board. Our needs are substantial to support this great industry that is an icon for Maine and the Northeast. Bringing Cathy on board to coordinate our fund raising and communications efforts will help ensure that those needs are met.”

Billings earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1978 and a Masters in Public Administration in 1995, both from the University of Maine. She most recently held the position of Director of Public Relations at Eastern Agency on Aging and worked for nine years at the University of Maine Alumni Association, leaving as Vice President for Membership and Fund Raising.

Billings will also be responsible for editing the Lobster Bulletin and maintaining the website for the Institute. She can be contacted via e-mail at catherine.billings@umit.maine.edu or by phone at 207-581-2751.
Family and Friends Weekend Rescheduled

August 7, 2000
Media Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO – The University of Maine has changed the dates for its annual Family and Friends Weekend. The event will now be held on the weekend of Sept. 15-17.

Family and Friends Weekend, sponsored by UMaine's Center for Students and Community Life, is one of the busiest times of the academic year on campus. The event is expected to bring over 10,000 visitors to the campus and surrounding area.

Traditional events include an open classroom day and tours of UMaine's museums and research facilities. On Saturday, student groups and organizations will participate in a fair on the mall with exhibits, food, demonstrations, displays and music. Other events include a craft fair and UMaine football game.
Little Books Get Big Boost in Marketing and Distribution

Aug. 9, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt (at 207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- A series of Little Books from Maine didn’t generate much talk in literacy circles, but publishers took notice that the simple texts were a hit among beginning readers and their teachers. Five years after the first series was created and produced by the Center for Early Literacy at the University of Maine, the small texts are heading for an international market.

Little Books for Early Readers, written by Maine educators and featuring Maine children doing Maine things from playing in the snow to harvesting potatoes, are now being distributed by Educators Publishing Service, Inc. Based in Cambridge, Mass., the 50-year-old, family-owned business specializes in instructional materials and publishes nearly 2,000 books and workbooks to help beginning through adult learners develop basic and critical thinking skills.

The new agreement gives EPS worldwide marketing and distribution rights to the four series for two years, including promotion through its catalogs, website, direct mail programs, independent representative network and its extensive exhibit schedule. The Center for Early Literacy, a unit of the UMaine College of Education and Human Development, remains the owner, copyright holder and manufacturer and will continue to use revenue above expenses to initiate and support early literacy efforts in Maine.

UMaine Literacy Professor Rosemary Bamford and EPS Publisher John Hall announced the agreement at the University during an Aug. 7 literacy conference attended by nearly 400 Maine K-5 educators, including some authors of the Little Books.

“Our problem has been trying to keep up with the demand, and we know we should be exhibiting at national conferences,” said Bamford. “With the targeted marketing expertise and distribution resources of EPS, the Little Books will get the exposure they need, and they will get into the hands of many more teachers and children.”

EPS is promoting the Maine series through mailings to just about every school in the United States and throughout Canada, as well as to other countries over its website (www.epsbooks.com). “This is the kick-off year for marketing the Little Books, and we’re doing it in a big way,” said Hall.

The series is a good fit with the EPS philosophy and family of materials, according to Hall. “The best materials are developed and field-tested by teachers in the classroom, so we know that they are effective and will be helpful to other educators,” he said.

Bamford credited the foresight and work of Center for Early Literacy Director and Assistant Professor Paula Moore in recognizing the need for engaging, low-cost books for beginning readers and spearheading the effort that since 1995 has produced four series of Little Books. Nearly 9,000 sets of Little Books have been sold throughout Maine and around the country since the series was created.

Just the right size for small hands, the Little Books provide adequate meaning and structure, such as heavy picture clues, repetitive use of key words and complete, meaningful stories to give young children a strong, eager start in the complex task of learning to read.

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Extension Hay Directory to Assist Maine Farmers

August 11, 2000
Contact: Rick Kersbergen, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1426

ORONO, Maine -- For the past two years, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension (UMCE) has produced a "Hay Directory" to assist farmers in locating feed for their livestock. This summer, forage yields in Maine have been high, and many producers have feed to sell.

UMCE will continue to produce the hay directory to assist farmers in marketing their excess feed. Many parts of the nation have experienced poor growing conditions, and this may mean a good market for hay producers in Maine who are willing to export their products to other parts of New England or farther.

The hay directory is an electronic listing of producers who have hay to sell. The website is www.umaine.edu/livestock/hay.htm. Producers wanting to list their hay products for sale should call the Waldo County Extension office at 1-800-287-1426 (in state) and 207-342-5971 (out of state). Information that will be requested will be the type of hay package, volume, quality (if tested), quantity available, and the potential for delivery. Buyers may refer to the website or request a paper copy of the list by contacting the Extension office. Feed prices will be negotiated between the buyer and seller.

Any questions can be referred to Rick Kersbergen from the Waldo County Extension office at 1-800-287-1426.
Candidates to Formally Endorse Ethics Pledge

Aug. 14, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Me. -- Maine's seven candidates for U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives have agreed to abide by the Maine Code of Election Ethics, a document which is unique to Maine and which calls on candidates to conduct their campaigns according to "fair and ethical practices."

Five of the seven candidates will be in attendance at a signing event and a forum on related issues scheduled for 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 23 at the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan.

The code, which was first developed in 1996, is a cooperative effort of the library, the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at the University of Maine, and the Institute for Global Ethics in Camden. The code is based on five core values are fundamental to our society and are widely shared throughout Maine: honesty, respect, responsibility, fairness and compassion.

"National polling data show that voters think that it is important for candidates to conduct their campaigns in an ethical manner," says Deirdre Mageean, director of the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at UMaine. "The fact that Maine is the only state to have a document such as the code shows that our candidates and our voters take these issues seriously."

Candidates who have said they will attend the Aug. 23 event are:

- State Sen. Jane Amero, the Republican candidate in Maine's 1st Congressional District
- U.S. Rep. John Baldacci, the Democratic incumbent in Maine's 2nd Congressional District
- State Rep. Richard Campbell, the Republican candidate in the 2nd District
- State Sen. Mark Lawrence, the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate
- J. Frederick Staples, the Libertarian candidate in 1st District

U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe and U.S. Rep. Thomas Allen, both candidates for re-election, are expected to provide videotaped messages and will have signed the document in advance of the Aug. 23 event.

An audience of invited guests, which will include area high school students, will be in attendance and will have an opportunity to participate in a discussion of the code.
UMaine Undergraduates Head to Italy to give Biotechnology Presentation

August 14, 2000

Contact: Bernice Cross, Costigan, 826-2136 before 8 a.m. or after 8 p.m.
Callie Tenney, Ellsworth, 288-6238 (at The Jackson Lab)
A. Randy Alford, UMaine Dept. of Biological Sciences, 207-581-2964
Nick Houtman, UMaine Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine – Five University of Maine undergraduates who co-wrote a paper on genetically engineered foods for an Honors Class last fall will travel to Italy on August 18 to deliver a paper at a prestigious international conference. They are the first students ever to give presentations at the International Conference on Agricultural Biotechnology in Ravello, Italy.

The five co-wrote the paper to provide an objective perspective on the controversial topic. They are Bernice A. Cross of Costigan, Rachel A. McNamee of Fort Fairfield, Rebecca A. Samuels of Arundel, Calah H. Tenney of Ellsworth and Dana E. O'Day of Parsonsfield. Tenney and Samuels graduated last spring. A. Randy Alford, professor of entomology, taught the class which was titled: “Pesticides: From Rachel Carson to the Future.”

Their paper recommends that consumers be given objective information about genetic engineering technology to promote understanding and to offer an alternative to “the emotionally charged opinions of either GMO (genetically modified organisms) proponents or GMO opponents with little supporting data. . . .”

“We had planned on tackling issues related to pesticides and the environment,” says Alford, “and then a field of genetically engineered corn was cut down at Rogers Farm at the University. The more we talked about that incident and the issues it raised, the more it seemed to fit our purpose.”

The students will present their paper on August 27 in the consumer acceptance division. Their paper is titled “Genetically Modified Foods: An Analysis of Issues, Perceptions, and Concerns Conducted by University of Maine Honors Program Students.” The students, none of whom have been to Europe, will tour Venice, Florence, Rome and other Italian cities before the meeting.

Another UMaine presentation will be given by John Jemison of Cooperative Extension. He was managing the experimental plot that was cut down at Rogers Farm and will deliver a paper, “Pollen Transport from Genetically Modified Corn,” that he co-authored with Michael Vayda of the Dept. of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Molecular Biology.

The students had presented the results of their work in a campus forum last December, Alford says. He then submitted their paper to the conference organizing committee which accepted it on the basis that he deliver the talk. “I told them that was not appropriate and that the students should give the presentation,” he adds. “I pointed out that I could not take credit for their work and that student involvement is important to the resolution of this difficult issue. The committee agreed and accepted the students as the presenters.”

“It was my proudest moment as a professor,” says Alford, who studies the interactions between insects and plants and teaches courses on insect ecology. He then assembled the students in January and gave them the news that their paper had been accepted at the international conference. “I was shocked,” says Tenney. “I couldn’t believe it.”

Cross says that she assumed that Alford would present the paper and congratulated him. “I sent him an e-mail right away and told him to have a good trip,” she says.

However, Alford soon set everyone straight and began the process of raising funds to cover their expenses. He contacted Charles Slavin, associate professor of mathematics and director of the Honors Program, and the two of
them scoured the campus for donations. By making a strong case for supporting the students, they succeeded in raising more than $10,000 from department chairs, deans and administrators. Additional contributions are still being sought.

“These students are our best,” he adds. “This whole experience raises my faith in the university community that has rallied around them.”

The students will present information on five related topics: public policy, food labeling, insect resistance, evolutionary impact and legislation/regulation. Each writer selected a different aspect of the issue to study.

The paper compares public policies in the U.S. and Europe and suggests that “if consumers are given more unbiased and more data-supported information about GMO, consumers have the potential to serve as helpful advisors in the GMO debate.” It reviews potential benefits as well as dangers and raises a variety of questions that could be answered through research.

“I knew very little about genetics before this class,” says Cross, who is an art student and the only non-science major among the five. “I'm less likely now to accept statements that I read in the media at face value. I'll ask my friends if there's really something to some new claim or if it's hype. We want to make sure that the good stuff doesn't get lost in the controversy.”

“We all come from different perspectives, but we've learned to respect each others' opinions,” adds Tenney. “This is a very complex issue. Genetically engineered foods could provide us with some amazing tools to feed people and improve the lives of poor people around the world. I have a better understanding about how people accept these new technologies.”
Born to Read Program Goes Statewide

August 15, 2000

Contact: Shirley Hager, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1458
Myrna Koonce, Maine Humanities Council, 207-773-5051
Nick Houtman, Department of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Note: Shirley Hager of Cooperative Extension has identified a family in the Lewiston area that is willing to be interviewed for follow-up stories. She can be contacted at the phone number above.

ORONO, Maine -- Maine families that receive training in food and nutrition are being served a helping of children's books through an expanded collaboration between the Maine Humanities Council and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

Since 1997, the Council and Extension's Expanded Food and Nutrition Program have collaborated in promoting literacy and family well-being through Born to Read. In the last two years, more than 200 families with preschool children have participated in the nutrition and reading program in eight southern Maine counties, and families in central, northern and eastern Maine will now have the same opportunity.

Born to Read is also offered by other service agencies in Maine. In the last three years, it has distributed 10,478 books, reached 3,470 families and 5,475 children and served 125 child care sites, according to a report from the Council.

"Our goal is for reading to become a regular lifelong activity of all Maine people," says Myrna Koonce, program director for Born to Read. "The partnership has surpassed our expectations. Not only have families embraced books as a way to spend positive time with their children, but the aides themselves have described moments when sharing a book with a family helped deepen their relationship with both parent and child."

Extension aides who conduct the reading and nutrition activities report that families show more interest in reading as a result of participation in the program, says Shirley Hager of the Androscoggin-Sagadahoc County Extension Office. Children enjoy the stories that often have food related themes, and aides have noted an increase in the amount of reading material present in the homes that they serve.

"The nutrition aides work the books into their home-visit lessons, reading books to the child with the parents present and talking about the benefits of reading to children," says Hager.

"The nutrition theme fits hand-in-glove with the Council's desire to see people make connections between books and life," adds Koonce.

"According to neuroscientists, the most rapid brain growth occurs in the first three years of life, when fifty percent of our ability to learn is developed," notes the Council's report. "During this critical period, a child must have certain kinds of stimulation to ensure proper brain development. Those children who are read to, talked to, sung to and played with develop stronger verbal skills than children denied this kind of early intellectual stimulation."

Extension aides have reported that some low-income families had no books visible in their homes at the start of the program. "Clearly, many children are not receiving early, regular exposure to books and reading aloud," says the report. "Such lack of preparation has a far-reaching impact. In Maine, where nearly one in six adults cannot read well enough to fill out a Social Security application, an early intervention reading program is of urgent necessity."
Funding for the expanded effort has come from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, the New Century state funding for arts and culture programs, and the Betterment Fund. The Council trained northern Maine Extension staff last winter to work with families and children on reading, and additional training sessions are planned for this fall.
Conservation Options Forums for Maine Farms

Aug. 24, 2000

Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571
Trish Westenbroek, Extension Educator, at (207) 933-2100

ORONO -- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District will conduct a series of Conservation Options for Farmers forums, beginning with a meeting at the East Vassalboro Grange from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

This forum will provide a unique opportunity for farmers to become familiar with the agencies and programs available to work with them to protect farm and open space. The Maine Farmland Trust, Maine Department of Agriculture, Land for Maine's Future, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will participate in the East Vassalboro event. Topics will include purchasing development rights, setting up conservation easements and other options which may be available to farmers.

There is no fee, but participants are asked to pre-register by the deadline, the day before each forum. Light refreshments will be served.

Additional forums will be held at the Somerset County Cooperative Extension office in Skowhegan on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at the Penobscot County Extension office in Bangor Tuesday Oct. 10 and at the Forest Service Building in Gray on Thursday, Oct. 26.

For more information, contact Trish Westenbroek, Extension Educator at Highmoor Farm, (207) 933-2100.
Maine Film Series Featured at Hutchinson Center

August 28, 2000
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

BELFAST – The University of Maine’s Certificate in Maine Studies program will sponsor a Maine Film Series at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast this fall.

The series will feature films that examine Maine history, literature and social issues, including stories of the Penobscot Nation, immigrant workers, the logging industry and others.

Discussions following each film will raise questions about life in Maine. The films will be shown at 6:30 p.m. and the series is free and open to the public. For more information on the film series, call the Maine Studies Program at 581-3147.

September 6, 2000, "Roughing the Uppers" – With live footage and still images from the 1930s, this film documents the 1937 shoe workers’ strike in Lewiston-Auburn.

October 4, 2000, "Penobscot: The People and their River" – The Penobscot River is central to the culture of the Penobscot Nation. This film looks at myth, history and current environmental issues.

November 1, 2000, "Sins of Our Mothers" – This film explores the life story of Emmeline Mosher of Fayette, Maine. Emmeline’s story reflects the world of women, work and 19th century Maine community values.

December 6, 2000, "From Stump to Ship" – Mill owner Alfred Ames shot this film in the 1930s, capturing the life and work of Maine loggers.

The Hutchinson Center, named for former UMaine President Frederick E. Hutchinson, is a collaborative effort between the University and MBNA, the financial services company. The center offers graduate and undergraduate courses, along with outreach services and cultural opportunities, at a new facility built for UMaine by MBNA on land adjacent to the company’s Northeastern Regional Headquarters in Belfast.
Agent Institute Conference Series Kicks off in Orono Sept. 27

Aug. 29, 2000 Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571
Angela Dudley at (207) 581-2023

ORONO, Me. -- The Agent Institute of the University of Maine’s Department of Computer Science will host six conferences around the state over the next ten months. These forums are designed to increase awareness of the role agent-based technologies play in our industrial, commercial, and research environments.

Agents belong to a field of computer science that includes artificial intelligence, intelligent robots, and software agents. The term "agent" is used to describe a program that has complex problem solving ability and/or acts as a human’s proxy when performing an operation. For example, a trip planning agent may gather information, such as weather reports and flight data, via the Internet, and then schedule a vacation for a family -- remembering to request children’s meals on the flights and that the adult male prefers the aisle when flying.

The conference schedule is as follows:
Sept. 27, 2000 The University of Maine Orono
Nov. 28, 2000 The University of Southern Maine Portland
Jan. 31, 2001 The University of Maine at Augusta Augusta
Mar. 28, 2001 The University of Maine at Farmington Farmington
May 30, 2001 The University of Maine at Machias Machias
June 27, 2001 The University of Maine at Presque Isle Presque Isle

Each conference will present current research, industrial/commercial case studies, and panel discussions. The program aims to build partnerships among the research, development, and application communities and plans a second year of workshops to develop business models and grant-writing in an effort to bring ideas to reality in Maine.

The University of Maine has a number of researchers who are currently working on agent-based technology. The UMaine Department of Computer Science has been awarded an National Science Foundation grant to build the Agent Institute and to foster agent-based research and applications in Maine. George Markowsky, the chair of the Department, is the principal investigator for the research program and Tom Bickford is the director of the Agent Institute.

More information and registration forms may be found at the Agent Institute's Website (http://www.agent.maine.edu).

The conferences are open to the public.
UMaine President Hoff to Hold Annual News Conference

Aug. 29, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Me. -- University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff will discuss the characteristics of UMaine’s incoming class of first-year students and preview the 2000-2001 academic year at a news conference at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

The news conference will be held in Heritage House, the former Sigma Chi fraternity building, on College Ave.

Tuesday is the first day of classes for the fall semester at UMaine, which will see significant enrollment growth for the third consecutive year.
UMaine Students to Return Sunday and Monday

Aug. 29, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Me. -- A variety of activities are planned for Sunday, Sept. 3 and Monday, Sept. 4 as the University of Maine welcomes new and returning students to campus for the beginning of the fall semester. (corrected dates)

First-year students will arrive on Sunday, with residence halls opening for new arrivals from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. UMaine President Peter S. Hoff will be among the group of faculty and staff members who will greet and help new students as they move into their residence halls as part of the traditional "Maine Hello" program.

Social and recreational activities are scheduled on Sunday from 2-3:30 p.m. at various campus locations, to be followed by an Academic Convocation ceremony at 4 p.m. in the Maine Center for the Arts. Heather Blease, a 1986 UMaine graduate who is president and CEO of EnvisioNet Computer Services, Inc., will be the convocation speaker.

Residence halls will open for returning students on Monday, Sept. 4 at 8 a.m. Program highlights on Monday include a noontime Labor Day picnic on the mall and an 8 p.m. spirit rally to be followed by a concert featuring Bim Skala Bim, also outside on the mall.

Classes begin on Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 8 a.m.
Katahdin Hair Sheep Field Day Planned

August 30, 2000
Contact: Richard Brzozowski, Cooperative Extension, 800-287-1471
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Bowdoin College recently received a four-year sustainable agriculture grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study and further develop the Katahdin Hair sheep breed. The public will have a chance to learn about the breed, which was developed in Maine, in a free field day on October 14 in Buxton.

Although the animal can thrive in cold weather, its body is not covered with wool like most common breeds of sheep, says Richard Brozozowski of Cooperative Extension. The Katahdin does not need to be shorn or docked.

The Maine-based research will focus in on ewe productivity, numbers of progeny, rate of gain, leg muscle scoring and parasite resistance. The research flock of Katahdins will be crossbred with other sheep breeds in an effort to improve certain traits. Tom Settlemire of Bowdoin and Brzozowski are the key researchers for the project.

The field day is planned for noon to 4:00 p.m., October 14, at Wooly Meadow Farm on state route 22 in Buxton, Maine.

Charles Parker, Ph.D., a nationally known sheep specialist from Ohio, will be the featured speaker. Field day participants will be introduced to the researchers and shepherds, see the sheep and hear about the objectives of the project.

Hands-on exercises will include condition scoring, leg scoring and a pasture walk. The field day is free and open to the public, but participants should register with the Cumberland County Extension office, 207-780-4205. A printed program and map will be mailed to those who register.

The 2000 Annual Meeting of the Maine Sheep Breeders Association will follow the field day at a site nearby.
"Volcanic Panic" Robotics Competition Coming to UMaine

Aug. 30, 2000 Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571
Angela Dudley at (207) 581-2023

ORONO, Maine - On Dec. 9, 2000 the University of Maine and the Agent Institute of its Department of Computer Science will host the FIRST LEGO League’s "Volcanic Panic" competition. This robotics fair and competition is open to teams of elementary and middle school children, ages 9 to 14.

The FIRST LEGO League (FLL) was started by the FIRST Foundation, an educational group based in New Hampshire, utilizing the LEGO MindStorm robotics kits.

Teams are responsible for planning, building, programming, and testing their robots to complete a challenge course. Each year, courses have a different theme; this year the course has been titled the "Volcanic Panic." Teams have from Sept. 29, when the course is announced, until Dec. 9 to perfect their robot.

In 1998, the first year for this age group, 2000 children competed. Last year the FLL hosted over 10,000 children in 9 different states, and this year over 20,000 children are expected to participate. This program fosters interest and excitement in the computer, science, and engineering fields while also creating a forum for learning about the scientific process.

Registration for the event is done on-line through the LEGO website at http://www.legomindstorms.com/fll/. Schools, teachers, parents, or children who are interested are advised to start a team and register by September 22nd. Spots are limited, so all teams are encouraged to register early.

The cost for a new team to participate is approximately $400. The cost includes a $25 registration fee to FLL, the LEGO computer brick, all of the necessary parts and the software. Costs for a veteran team are approximately $175.
Groundbreaking Set for New Research Laboratory at Darling Marine Center in Walpole

Sept. 1, 2000
Contact: Linda Healy, Darling Marine Center, 207-581-3321, ext. 200
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A groundbreaking ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. Sept. 8 for a new $2.5-million Marine Culture Laboratory (MCL) at the University of Maine’s Darling Marine Center in Walpole. The MCL will be located a stone’s throw away from the existing Flowing Seawater Laboratory (FSL) on the Center’s waterfront and will support the expansion of several research programs. The laboratory was designed by Weinrich & Burt Architects of Damariscotta and should be completed by next May.

A visiting team of national marine science experts identified the need for a cold-water research facility as a top priority for the Darling Center in 1996. The new two-story building will provide the necessary resources, space and equipment for three new directions of marine research: the study of ocean phytoplankton and optical oceanography, the study of genetics and diseases in aquaculture species and the culture of living cold water species. It will also include a much needed 30-student flowing seawater classroom and molecular biology laboratory.

The flowing seawater system in the new wet lab will double the Center’s current capacity to raise living marine organisms, and it will be the most advanced system available in the state. The new wet lab will have chillers built into the seawater system, allowing researchers to maintain cold, deep-water species for observation, life history studies and experimentation.

This chilled seawater system complements the existing seawater system in which heat exchangers make it possible to maintain summer seawater temperatures year round for aquaculture research. In addition to holding tanks and aquariums, the wet lab area will also include an algal culture room and research bays for visiting scientists.

A wing of the new building will be dedicated to phytoplankton research by Mary Jane Perry, faculty member in the UMaine School of Marine Sciences. In addition to lab and office space, the Perry lab will include artificial environmental chambers and a radioisotope laboratory.

The new flowing seawater classroom will be equipped with teleconferencing equipment allowing live, interactive teaching to be broadcast to all major marine institutions in Maine. The classroom will support University of Maine marine courses as well as those taught by the 26 visiting out-of-state universities who use the Center’s facilities each year.

Funding for the MCL has been secured from a variety of sources including two National Science Foundation programs, the Maine Science and Technology Foundation, the University of Maine and the State of Maine’s research and development bond issue.
UMaine Professor to Receive Honorary Doctorate at the University of Stockholm

Sept. 1, 2000
Contact: Ann Zielinski, Climate Studies Center, 207-581-2680
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Paul A. Mayewski, professor in the University of Maine Institute for Quaternary Studies and Dept. of Geological Sciences, will receive an Honorary Doctorate from Stockholm University in a ceremony September 29. The degree will be conferred by the faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of Stockholm University.

Mayewski, who lives in Castine, directs the newly created Climate Studies Center at UMaine in the Sawyer Environmental Research Center. Before coming to UMaine this summer, he was director of the Climate Change Research Center at the University of New Hampshire.

He is internationally known for pioneering contributions to the understanding of historic changes in atmospheric chemistry and climate change through the study of ice cores. Ice core records provide the most direct, detailed and complete measure of past climate change. Scientists use them to create a base line for helping to decipher the influence of human activity on climate. Eventually, the records can help to predict future climates.

The modern era of climate is complicated by the combined influences of natural and human activities. Hence, understanding and predicting climate poses an immense challenge to scientists.

Mayewski is a member of the Explorers Club whose 3,000 members include Sir Edmund Hillary, Robert Ballard and Sally Ride. The Club bestowed its Citation of Merit on Mayewski in 1995 in recognition of his contributions to the field of climatology. He is also a fellow of the American Geophysical Union. Only 0.1 percent of AGU members are elected to fellowship annually.

A mountain in Antarctica was named for Mayewski by the Board of Geographic Names.

Mayewski has lead more than 30 expeditions to the Antarctic, Arctic, the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau. On his forthcoming expedition this winter, he will once again lead the International Trans-Antarctic Scientific Expedition. The Museum of Science in Boston will follow the expedition through an exhibit at the museum, daily updates from the field team and a Web site www/secretsoftheice.mos.org.

Mayewski’s Honorary Doctorate will be presented in the Stockholm City Hall. He returns to the Antarctic a month later.
Community Service Organizations Agree to Continue Collaboration

Sept. 5, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
          Rhonda Frey, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-3195
          Robert Ho, Maine Rural Development Council, 207-581-3192

ORONO, Maine -- Two organizations that work to strengthen rural Maine's economic muscle power and build vibrant communities have agreed to continue collaborating. In a new agreement signed August 17, University of Maine Cooperative Extension (UMCE) and the Maine Rural Development Council (MRDC) will share resources in an effort to help rural communities.

“"I believe this partnership results in more bang for the buck," says Lavon Bartel, director of UMCE. "We have mutual goals in seeing local citizens change their communities for the better."

“The problems we face in rural areas are complex and run the gamut from growth pressure on rural communities and the working landscape to the mire of poverty that some communities have been stuck in for half a century,” says Robert Ho, MRDC director.

According to Ho, recent collaborative efforts between the two organizations include a new initiative on aging and a Kauffman Foundation funded policy academy project to help support rural entrepreneurs.

The agreement specifies that Cooperative Extension will accept funds from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture on behalf of the MRDC and provide office space and a support staff person.
UMaine Faculty Collaborate on "Women and War" Class and Oral History Project

September 5, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- It has been over 50 years since Allied troops pushed Hitler's army out of France to win World War II. Since that time, thousands of histories have been written to tell the story of this victory.

Most of these histories have focused on the generals and the major battles fought by the average soldier. Largely ignored have been the stories of women who provided logistical and medical support for the men on the field.

Two historians at the University of Maine are working to discover and tell these stories with a class offered this fall through the Women's Studies Program. "Women and War," taught by Carol Toner, director of Maine Studies and Mazie Hough, associate director of the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program, will examine the experiences of women in World War II and the Korean War.

Students in the course will be required to interview a woman veteran of one of these conflicts. These interviews will be included as part of a larger Maine Women Veterans Oral History Project that the Maine Commission on Women Veterans is conducting.

“We want to give a social history context to the war years so that students have some sense of what might have motivated women to join the military during these conflicts,” says Toner. “We'll then spend some time focusing on oral history.”

Toner says the idea for the class came about as the result of work started by Donna Loring, the Penobscot representative to the Maine Legislature and the chair of the Maine Commission on Women Veterans. Toner says there are approximately 8500 women veterans in Maine.

“The mission of that group is to find out who these veterans are and what their needs are,” says Toner. “Loring has argued that women veterans have been overlooked and haven't had a chance to speak with one another about their experiences during the war.”

Toner and Hough have already begun the project, interviewing a 92-year old veteran of World War II who worked in the Army Nurse Corps.

“This woman was on a hospital ship during the Normandy invasion and followed the troops as they liberated Europe,” says Hough. “She saw some amazing things and learned how to negotiate her way through what was essentially a male-dominated organization. Her story is an example of how women managed to deal with their wartime responsibilities in ways that are surprising and wonderful.”

Toner says when she and Hough visited, the woman had laid out her newspaper clippings, awards and medals to help illustrate her service during the war.

“These woman haven't had the chance to tell their stories,” says Toner. “It's one thing to study the war from a national or political perspective, but another to see how these events changed the lives of individual people.”

Most of the women who served in World War II and Korea worked in the medical and secretarial field.

“The one thing they didn't do was fight,” says Hough. “They were welcomed into the military to do the support jobs so that the men could go into battle. How did the men look at these women who did the safer jobs? That's another question we want to explore.”
In later courses and interviews, Toner says she hopes to speak with women veterans of Vietnam and the Persian Gulf War, and compare the differences in how the women served.

“We're interested in the change over time. Things were very different for women during World War II than they are now,” says Toner. “We may find that women's experiences in the military have changed tremendously.”

Another topic that will be explored in the class and through interviews is the motivation these women had for joining the armed forces.

“What kind of women were attracted to being in the military and why?,” says Toner. “We just don't know and are looking forward to asking a lot of questions that can only be answered on an individual level.”

The interviews will be given to the archives of UMaine's Folklife Center for use by researchers, scholars or other interested people.

The course will be offered through the University of Maine's distance learning program.

“We hope to get students from many sites around Maine because the veterans are scattered throughout the state,” says Toner. “We want to conduct as many interviews as possible to give this project a real jump start.”

Toner and Hough are looking for women veterans from any conflict willing to be interviewed for this project. If interested, call the Maine Studies program at 581-3147. Students who wish to register for this class should call 581-3144.
UMaine Welcomes Largest New Class Since 1990

Sept. 5, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Me. -- The University of Maine's Class of 2004 -- 1,707 in number -- began classes today as the state's land-grant university opened its doors for its 133rd fall semester.

The new class of first-year students is the largest since 1990 and reflects a four-year steady trend of larger numbers of students in UMaine's entering classes. While admission standards have remained constant, the number of students choosing UMaine has risen -- the Class of 2004 is 47 percent larger than the class which entered the University in 1997.

UMaine's overall student population this year is expected to be 10,200, the largest number of students since 1996-97. That number is eleven percent larger than the number of students who enrolled at UMaine in the fall of 1997.

UMaine is attracting more of the state's college-bound students, while gradually increasing the number from other states who choose to study in Orono. Speaking at his annual new academic year news conference, UMaine President Peter S. Hoff today cited UMaine's enhanced reputation as a primary reason for the growth.

"Guidance counselors, principals, students and parents mention several reasons for the increased interest in UMaine: the quality of our programs; the breadth of academic and cultural opportunities we offer; and, as a state university, the value we provide for each tuition dollar. We are pleased that our reputation has rebounded so well from where it was during the financially strapped days of the early 1990's," Hoff said.

Hoff, who took over the UMaine presidency in the fall of 1997, followed custom by describing the characteristics of the new class:

- A record number of new students are recipients of the Top Scholars Award, a full tuition scholarship offered to the valedictorian and salutatorian of each high school in Maine. This year that number is 89, or more than 40 percent of those eligible to receive the prestigious awards.

- 21 percent of the incoming students finished in the top ten percent of their graduating class. Forty percent finished in the top 20 percent of their graduating class.

- The average SAT score for this new first-year students is 1085, virtually the same average as UMaine first-year students over the past few years. That average score is 76 points above the national average, and 78 points above the state average.

"This incoming group of new students satisfies the various measures of quality and preparedness we have maintained for the past several years," Hoff said.

Almost three-quarters of UMaine students are full-time students; 21 percent are graduate students. Residence halls are at capacity, with 3,450 students choosing to live on campus.

Some 72 percent of the new first-year students reported that UMaine was their first choice of a college. More than half of those students aspire to earn a graduate degree, with thirteen percent setting their sights on a doctorate.

Hoff also noted that UMaine's student population "reflects a global perspective," with students representing 41 states and more than 50 foreign countries.
"We are excited about the upcoming year and are pleased with the quality of our new and returning students," Hoff said. "Whether they are undergraduates or graduate students, they are both beneficiaries and participants in helping the University of Maine fulfill its overarching mission: to provide a world-class education, and -- through research and engagement with others -- to help create the kind of state where citizens of all ages can put their educations to work right here in Maine at the highest and most rewarding levels."
University of Maine Facts
Sept. 5, 2000

• The new class of first-year students (The Class of 2004) began classes today with 1,707 members. It is the largest new UMaine class since 1990 and marks the third consecutive year of significant growth. The new class is 47 percent larger than the class which entered the University in 1997.

• The new students bring an average SAT score of 1,085 -- 76 points above the national average and 78 points above the state average.

• Twenty-one percent of the members of the class finished in the top ten percent of their high school class; forty percent finished in the top 20 percent.

• Eighty-nine members of the new class are recipients of Top Scholars scholarships, given to the valedictorians and salutatorians of Maine’s high school classes. That number is more than 40 percent of those eligible for the award and is the largest number to enroll at UMaine since the Top Scholars program began in 1996.

• Seventy-two percent of the members of the new class say that UMaine was their first choice of a college. More than half aspire to attend graduate school, with 13 percent aspiring to a doctorate.

• UMaine’s overall student population is expected to be 10,200, which is two and one-half percent larger than last year, eight percent larger than 1998 and eleven percent larger than 1997.

• The student population is made up of 79 percent undergraduate students and 21 percent graduate students.

• Eighty-three percent of UMaine’s students are from Maine. The rest are from 41 other states and more than 50 nations.

• The University of Maine has 650 faculty members, 41 of whom are new this year.

• UMaine’s residence halls are at capacity, with 3,450 students living on campus.
Walter Robillard Seminar to Focus on Boundary Disputes

September 5, 2000
Contact: Eeva Hededefine, Dept. of Spatial Information Science and Engineering, 207-581-2146
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine students and faculty will meet with members of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors on September 29 to hear a presentation on the use of evidence to settle boundary disputes. The all-day meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the University College Center on Texas Ave. in Bangor.

The student chapter of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) and the American Society of Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing (ASPR) at UMaine are hosting the event. All proceeds will go to the student chapter for travel to the ACSM national conference in Las Vegas in March, 2001.

Walter Robillard of Atlanta, Georgia is volunteering his time to travel and present the seminar as a benefit to the chapter. He has presented similar seminars to benefit student chapters at universities throughout the country.

He is a graduate forester, a professional surveyor and an attorney-at-law. His practice has taken him to all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico, Nepal, South Africa, Jordan and Armenia.

The seminar is the first major event that the student chapter has planned for the 2000-2001 academic year. Registration is $10 for students, $70 for members of MSLS and $125 for non-members. More information about the event and the UMaine ACSM/ASPRS student chapter is available over the Internet at www.spatial.maine.edu/homeie.htm
Reward Offered for Hancock Hall Fire Information

Sept. 6, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine announced today that a reward of $10,000 will be given for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who set the fire at UMaine's Hancock Hall on May 7, 2000.

The fire, which was quickly ruled arson by fire investigators, caused more than $500,000 in damage to the residence hall. No one was seriously injured in the fire, but more than 200 students were displaced for the final two weeks of the spring semester.

The interior of the building was renovated during the summer and is currently occupied by more than 230 UMaine students.

"This reward shows that we are committed to finding out who set the fire," says Edward Nobles, risk manager at the University of Maine System. "The safety of our students is of primary concern, which is why we take this incident so seriously."

The investigation into the fire is active and the matter is being vigorously pursued. State fire investigators and the University of Maine Department of Public Safety have continued to interview potential witnesses and to follow leads through the summer months.

A telephone line is available for those who may wish to volunteer information for the investigators to use. That number, where callers may record a message, is (207) 581-4072.
UMaine Establishes New Program in Early Detection of Infant Health Problems

September 6, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Kimbrough Oller, Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders, 207-581-2036
Eleanor Mulcahy, Maine Bureau of Health, 207-287-4623

Note: This and other science news can be seen on the MaineSci web site, www.umaine.edu/mainesci

ORONO, Maine -- With support from $1.45 million in federal funds, the University of Maine is establishing a program to improve early identification of children and infants who are at risk for communication disorders. Maine's congressional delegation actively supported the effort and worked to maintain federal funding to benefit Maine children.

The Children at Risk Project has several major components including research on new ways to detect disorders and a state-wide information management system. A particularly important focus in the early phases of the program will be detection of hearing impairment in infancy. UMaine will provide database assistance to the Maine Bureau of Health which is now implementing Maine's new Universal Hearing Screening Program.

The project will also include research on predictors of a variety of developmental disabilities. A confidential information database will be established to track children from diagnosis through treatment, says Kimbrough Oller, chair of UMaine's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Researchers will use that information to develop new early detection techniques for conditions ranging from autism and deafness to stuttering, language, and conduct impairments.

Oller will guide the university-based program. It does not replace existing infant diagnostic services that will continue to be provided by education and health care personnel in public and private facilities.

“We envision creating a national model of rural health care delivery for infants and children,” Oller says. “The child development field has just exploded with new information in the last decade, and this will help us understand the factors that can predict what's down the road for infants at risk. Maine children will benefit from earlier diagnosis and treatment of conditions that can affect their development and ability to learn,” he says.

Both of Maine's U.S. Senators have advocated for the program. “In the last several years, scientists have begun to emphasize the importance of detecting hearing impairment in the first year of a child's life,” said Senator Olympia Snowe.

“Without early diagnosis and intervention, these children are behind the learning curve before they have even started. They should not be denied a strong start in life simply for lack of a simple screening test. We owe every child a strong start on that future by ensuring that, if they have a hearing impairment, it is diagnosed and treatment started well before their first year of life is completed. As a supporter of initiatives to ensure this service for all children, I am pleased that the University of Maine has taken the lead on this issue in Maine and will benefit from this federal funding,” she adds.

“The ability to hear is a major element of a child's ability to read and communicate,” says U.S. Senator Susan Collins. “To the extent that we can help infants and small children overcome disabilities detected early in life, we will improve their ability to function in society, receive an education, obtain meaningful employment, and enjoy a better quality of life. I'm gratified that my efforts in the Senate helped secure funding for this most worthwhile program.”
In his research, Oller has identified sound patterns that babies commonly make during the first year of life. The patterns are remarkably similar across cultures, he has found, and may be linked to important factors in human development. Oller has shown that babies who deviate from the normal patterns are at higher risk for deafness or mental disorders.

Early detection efforts could include a range of activities such as well-baby visits by service agencies and telephone surveys of parents to determine how their children are developing.

The program will also include efforts to develop new diagnostic tests of all infants to determine if they are at risk for disorders as they grow. Such tests will include hearing screening that has already been shown to be useful in identifying children with developmental impairments. Using information from hospitals and other health care providers, UMaine will maintain the database of infants who are judged to be at risk.

Corbett Hall on the UMaine campus will be the home for the new program. Faculty, staff and students will be involved in developing and maintaining the database which will be operated under conditions of strict confidentiality. Students will also help to conduct research with professors. Among the other faculty members who will be involved with the project are

Rebecca Eilers, Peter Lafreniere and Marie Hayes in the Department of Psychology; Alan Cobo-Lewis in Interdisciplinary Studies; and Nancy Hall, Suneeti Nathani and Amy Booth in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Other departments will be engaged as the program develops.

The program will also maintain strong ties to two state agencies, the Department of Education which conducts a federally funded program known as Children's Developmental Services and the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health which oversees health related services. The collaboration between the University of Maine and the Bureau of Health has already established a plan for implementation of the state's hearing screening program. Other efforts are being pursued jointly.

First year goals include hiring a full-time director, establishing the database and developing grant proposals to organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and private foundations, says Oller.
**Whitehouse to Present Faculty Recital**

**Sept. 6, 2000**

Contact: **Joe Carr** at 581-3756

*Faculty Recital by Joshua Whitehouse on trumpet, with pianist Phillip Silver, both University of Maine assistant professors of music, part of the UMaine School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 15, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall, University of Maine, Orono. $5. 581-1755.*

ORONO -- A dynamic, lyrical sonata performed by leading trumpet players throughout the world will be presented in a University of Maine faculty recital Friday, Sept. 15.

Joshua Whitehouse and Phillip Silver, both UMaine assistant professors of music, will perform Eric Ewazen's “Sonata for Trumpet and Piano,” as well as works by four other composers, in the Sept. 15 concert beginning at 7:30 p.m., Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall at the University of Maine.

The concert opens the 2000-01 season of the School of Performing Arts.

Tickets are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

“Sonata for Trumpet and Piano” was commissioned by the International Trumpet Guild and debuted in 1995. This and other works are earning Ewazen recognition as a master composer and are destined to become part of the standard literature for brass instruments.

Also on the program are “Triptyque” by Tomasi, “Entrada” by Honegger, “Concerto St. Marc” by Albinoni and “Variations on a Theme from Norma” by Arban.

Whitehouse has been playing trumpet for 17 years. The Maine native attended Eastman School of Music and graduated from Curtis Institute of Music in 1995. He earned a master's degree in music performance at UMaine and has been on the faculty for three years. His first CD will be recorded this fall.

Silver, an internationally acclaimed chamber musician, is the pianist of the Rachmaninov Trio. Along with a substantial number of recordings and broadcasts for national radio in the United States, Britain, Israel, Europe and Scandinavia, Silver has recorded several CDs for the Koch/Schwann label.

**Editors Note:** Digital images to accompany this story are available by contacting Joe Carr, 581-3571.
Smith Center to Host Tax Lecture

September 7, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy will host a lecture on state tax policy by Matthew N. Murray, chairman of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Tennessee.

The lecture, “Analyzing State Tax Systems,” will be held on October 13 at 3 p.m. in Room 115 of Donald P. Corbett Hall at the University of Maine.

In his lecture, Murray will discuss the scope of a state tax reform initiative, determination of policy goals, identification of key policy tradeoffs and establishment of a process to facilitate formulation of tax policy.

The Center for Business and Economic Research studies national and state economic trends for the University of Tennessee, state agencies and public and private organizations.

Murray’s recent research has focused heavily on the sales tax, including compliance problems with state sales tax, the administration and compliance issues associated with a national retail sales tax and the implications of telecommunications and e-commerce for the existing state and local sales tax. He has published several articles on tax issues that have appeared in “Public Finance Review,” “Local Government Tax and Land Use Policies” and the “National Tax Journal.”

For more information, please contact Eva McLaughlin at 581-1646 or eva.mclaughlin@umit.maine.edu.
UMaine Professor to Chair National Research Committee

September 7, 2000
Contact: Harlan Onsrud, Dept. of Spatial Information Science and Engineering, 207-581-2175.
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Harlan Onsrud of Orono, professor in the University of Maine Dept. of Spatial Information Science and Engineering, has been appointed to a three-year term as chair of the U.S. National Committee (USNC) for the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA).

Operating under guidelines from the National Research Council, CODATA is concerned with all types of quantitative data resulting from experimental measurements or observations in the natural and social sciences and in the engineering disciplines. Working on an interdisciplinary basis, CODATA seeks to improve the quality, reliability, information and knowledge processing, management and accessibility of data of importance to science and technology.

As part of his initial responsibilities, Onsrud will lead the U.S. delegation to the 17th International CODATA Conference in Baveno, Italy in October and will lead another U.S. delegation for a US-China Bilateral Data Symposium to be held in December in Beijing, China.
UMaine Professor Developing Technique to Evaluate Tire Integrity

September 8, 2000

Contact: "Mick" Peterson, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, 207-581-2129
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Note: Peterson is available at 207-581-2129, mpeterson@umeme.maine.edu,
Between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays to discuss his research and how it could improve tire safety.

ORONO, Maine -- While questions continue to be raised about the failure of Firestone tires on Ford Explorers, Michael "Mick" Peterson, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering a professor at the University of Maine, has developed a unique machine that evaluates the structural integrity of tires. The machine uses ultrasonic waves to pinpoint the location of small cracks or other weaknesses that may affect tire performance. Such imperfections are often invisible to the naked eye and other methods of analysis, such as x-ray and laser shearography, and thus escape detection.

Peterson has been working on tire integrity for ten years since his graduate student days at Northwestern University in Illinois. Today, he operates a laboratory for tire analysis in Crosby Lab at UMaine. "Ultrasonic waves are the same as the ultrasound that doctors use," he says. "The machine can scan an entire tire in about seven minutes and identify the spots where there may be damage."

The ultrasound method is based on the principle that the attenuation of the sound waves depends on the nature of the material through which the waves travel. As sound waves travel through sections of a tire, possible problem spots show up as lower points in the amplitude pattern.

Peterson’s research is aimed at determining exactly what those points mean for the tire integrity and performance. He has teamed up with the nation’s largest tire retreading company, Bandag, Inc. of Muscatine Iowa to propose that the National Science Foundation help to fund a new research facility to be located at UMaine.

"Tires are not semi-conductors, and I think this kind of research may be viewed as old technology. However, when the tire companies say they don’t know exactly why a particular tire failed, they’re probably telling the truth. The scientific approach can get very complicated, and it’s easier to just test tires to determine how they’ll perform. What we’re proposing is to go back to the first principles, to understand exactly why the belts separate or the tread comes apart from the casing. As things stand, we don't know."
New 4-H Agent for Washington and Hancock Counties

September 12, 2000

Contact: Jennifer Lobley, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1542 in Washington County or 1-800-287-1479 in Hancock County
Rhonda Frey, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-3195

ORONO, Maine -- Jennifer Lobley of Machias will be working with 4-H clubs in Hancock and Washington counties as the new 4-H/Youth Extension Educator. She has taught in public schools for 11 years in Maine and Massachusetts.

“As a 4-H Extension Educator, I will work to develop youth oriented programs for the young people of Washington and Hancock counties. 4-H programs and activities provide a wonderful opportunity for kids to develop real-life skills such as responsibility, decision making and working cooperatively,” she says.

In Washington County, Lobley will be working to bring back “Voices From Our Future,” a leadership program for high school students.

There is a strong interest in both counties in starting new 4-H clubs, she adds. Lobley will be recruiting adult volunteers to become involved in the program. 4-H programs are open to youth ages 5-19.

Lobley is a native of Orrington, Maine and graduated from Brewer High School. She has a master's degree in education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

People interested in learning more about 4-H as participants or volunteers can contact county Extension offices, 1-800-287-1542 in Washington County or 1-800-287-1479 in Hancock County.
Business Breakfasts Begin Oct. 10

September 13, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The University of Maine Business School will host a series of business breakfasts dealing with “Emerging Business Issues” in the state.

On October 10, L. Joseph Wischerath, executive vice president of Maine and Company will speak on “Attracting New Businesses to Maine: How Does Maine Stack Up?”

John Mahon, the newest member of the business school faculty will give a talk on November 14 titled “Internet and Global Competition: Business Unusual.” Mahon is the new John M. Murphy Chair of International Business Policy and Strategy at UMaine.

On December 12, Robert Rice, associate professor of wood science at UMaine, sill speak on “Maine's Pulp and Paper Industry: Current Status and Future Prospects.”

The meetings will be held at the Bangor Motor Inn and Conference Center on the Hogan Road from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. The buffet breakfast costs $10, payable at the door. Call 581-1968 for reservations.
Hudson Museum Just for Kids Schedule

September 13, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine makes learning fun during its Just for Kids programs this fall.

The Just for Kids programs feature a tour of the museum, followed by educational programs and crafts. The Hudson Museum is located in the Maine Center for the Arts at the University of Maine.

Pre-registration is required for all sessions, which are open to ages 6 and up. Programs generally run from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call the Hudson Museum at (207) 581-1901 to register.

Friday, September 22 11:30 am
Northeastern Native American Games
Join the Hudson Museum at the Common Ground Fair, in Unity. Come and play games of chance and skill, such as wa'lade hama'gan (the dish game), aba'sizal (little sticks), and ad'wis (ring and pin game). No pre-registration required.

Saturday, October 28 10:00 a.m. to noon
Day of the Dead
November 1, All Saints Day, and November 2, All Souls Day are marked throughout Mexico by lively reunions at family burial plots, the preparation of special foods, offerings laid out for the departed on commemorative household altars and religious rites. Join Eunice Kullick Loredo in making Day of the Dead decorations. Pre-registration required. Materials fee $3

Saturday, November 18 10:00 a.m. to noon
Shadow Puppets
Shadow puppets are used in the creation of plays, where the characters are the shadows cast by these puppets on a rice paper screen. Draw inspiration from Ustamdan Ogrendim, "I Learned from My Master": Traditional Turkish Occupations and make a shadow puppet of your own. Pre-registration required. Materials fee $3

Saturday, December 9 11:00 a.m.- noon
Holiday Candy Basket Workshop
Theresa Secord Hoffman, Penobscot Master Basketmaker will show you how to make a brown ash and sweetgrass candy basket. This Just for Kids program is scheduled during the Museum's 6th Annual Maine Indian Basketmakers Sale and Demonstration, which features Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot basketmakers and artists and their works. Pre-registration required. Materials fee $10
Public Invited to Mitchell and King Speeches

September 13, 2000

Contact:
Steve Kahl, Mitchell Center, 207-581-3286 (research questions)
Willow Wetherall, Mitchell Center, 207-581-3454 (event details)
Nick Houtman, Office of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to attend a presentation by former Maine Senator George J. Mitchell at the Maine Center for the Arts at the University of Maine on October 6 at 10 a.m. Mitchell will deliver the keynote address at a ceremony dedicating the UMaine Water Research Institute in his name. Governor Angus King will also give a speech at the event addressing the importance of the environment to the Maine economy and quality of life and the role of Senator Mitchell in protecting the environment.

Students from Maine middle and high schools as well as colleges and universities have been invited to attend. There is no cost for the event.

During his years in the Senate, Mitchell played key roles in such landmark environmental legislation as the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act.

The Institute conducts research on topics related to each of those measures. It will be known as the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research.

Tickets for the event are available from the Maine Center for the Arts box office, 581-1755.

Mitchell was appointed to the Senate in 1980 to complete the term of Senator Edmund Muskie who had resigned to become Secretary of State. He left the Senate as Majority Leader, a position he had held since 1989. He was voted the most respected member of Congress six times.

He is the author of four books, including “World on Fire” that describes the threat of global warming and outlines steps to reduce it. He co-authored “Men of Zeal” with Maine's Bill Cohen, presently Secretary of Defense.

Today, Senator Mitchell is a member of the law firm of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand in Washington D.C. He has received numerous awards for his work for peace, including the Tipperary International Peace Award in July for his negotiations in Northern Ireland.
UMaine Hudson Museum Celebrates Turkish Culture

September 14, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The art of apprenticeship has, for the most part, been lost in this country, a victim of modern training programs and mass production facilities. In other parts of the world, though, the tradition remains.

A new exhibit at the University of Maine's Hudson Museum highlights the Turkish tradition of craftsmanship. "I Learned from My Master": Traditional Turkish Occupations, a new exhibit at the museum, will be on display from September 26, 2000 to June 3, 2001 in the temporary exhibit area on the ramp panels leading from the first to the third level.

The exhibit features photos of artisans of the last generation of Turkish master craftsmen taught in the centuries-old tradition of the trade guild. UMaine graduate Angela Waldron created the exhibit.

After graduating from the university with a degree in anthropology, Waldron spent three years in Turkey. In that time, she and her husband amassed a photo archive of over 10,000 images documenting the people and the archaeological, historical, cultural and religious sites.

In the beginning, Waldron says she photographed the most accessible, everyday scenes of street vendors and agricultural workers. As she became more proficient in the language, she began seeking out master craftsmen so she would interview them and chronicle their traditional occupations.

She spent hours, sometimes days, with the craftsmen to watch the entire process and to acquire the item being made.

The exhibit consists of over 50 photographs of these craftsmen, which will be displayed on the walls of the ramps leading to the upper floors of the museum. The crafts and objects Waldron brought back from Turkey will be on display in the temporary exhibit area.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Hudson Museum Friends will hold an “Evening in Turkey” at the Hudson Museum on October 21, a dinner and celebration of Turkish culture. On Saturday, November 18, the Museum's Just for Kids series will center on the exhibit. Children attending this program will draw inspiration from the exhibit and make shadow puppets. For more information on these programs, call 581-1901.

The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine is located in the Maine Center for the Arts. Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.
Glickman Names Maine Community Gardening Coordinator

Sept. 19, 2000

Contact: Gleason Gray, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 207-942-7396
Nick Houtman, Department of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Joel Berg, USDA, 202-720-5746,

ORONO, Maine -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has named Gleason Gray of University of Maine Cooperative Extension (UMCE) as the Maine Community Gardening Coordinator, to provide advice on establishing and expanding community gardens in Maine.

Gray is as an educator in the Penobscot County office of Extension. For the past 18 years, he has worked extensively with small farms, farmer's markets and UMCE's Master Gardener Program.

“Community gardens not only produce fresh fruits and vegetables; they can also help create more livable communities by replacing unused lots with productive green spaces,” said Glickman, in videotaped remarks prepared for the American Community Gardening Association conference in Atlanta. “These gardening projects can be vital for communities, so I have selected coordinators in each state to help faith-based organizations, nonprofit groups, state and local governments, and individuals create or expand gardens in their neighborhoods.”

The newly named coordinators will offer information and technical assistance to nonprofit groups, Indian tribes, school districts, private businesses, individuals, and state, local, and federal governments, as they start or expand local community gardens. The coordinators will offer advice on site location and planning, what and when to plant, soil surveys, soil conservation and volunteer recruitment, and provide links with government agencies.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has provided technical assistance, national publicity, and limited seed money to local gardening projects, and has created a national gardening web site, www.gardening.usda.gov

“I hope to use the networks I have developed over the years to reach interested groups so we can provide them with the assistance we have to offer,” Gray said. “I look forward to this project and expect UMCE's Master Gardener program to actively participate as we move ahead with this effort.”

All of the new coordinators are working with nonprofit groups and other partners to develop specific plans to assist community gardening efforts in their states, which may include partnerships, technical assistance workshops and public events in each state to encourage community gardening.

“Community gardens can bring people together, enhance communities, and help fight hunger,” said Glickman. “And, by giving schoolchildren a chance to plant and care for community gardens, we offer them a healthy and productive way to have fun and improve their neighborhoods,” he said.

No additional funding is required, since the new community gardening coordinators are existing USDA employees.
MRDC Board Holds Island Listening Forums

September 19, 2000

Contact: Robert Ho, Maine Rural Development Council, 207-581-3192
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine Rural Development Council Board of Directors is scheduled to visit Great Cranberry Island and Frenchboro, two offshore island communities, on September 21 to hold “community listening forums.”

The visits are designed to deepen the directors' understanding of the issues confronting small rural communities in the state. The Maine Sea Coast Mission Society's vessel “Sunbeam” will transport the directors and other invited guests in the company of Rev. Gary Delong, Society executive director, and Ted Hoskins, chaplain. Hosting the delegation on behalf of Cranberry Isles and Frenchboro are selectmen Beverly Sanborn and David Lunt respectively.

The delegation is scheduled to leave Northeast Harbor at 8 a.m. and arrive in Frenchboro at 9:20 a.m. The listening forum is scheduled for 10:15 to 11:45 a.m., and the group will then proceed to Great Cranberry Island. That forum is scheduled for 2 to 3:30 p.m., and the delegation will return to Northeast Harbor at 4:30 p.m.

MRDC executive director Bob Ho says, “our challenge is for the members of the visiting delegation to think strategically about what they and their agencies and programs can do together to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future of Maine's island communities.”

Members of the MRDC delegation include representatives of USDA-Rural Development; Department of Economic and Community Development; Maine Center for Women, Work, and Community; Coastal Enterprises, Inc.; Eastern Maine Development Corporation and Island Institute as well as Community Action Program agencies from the coastal counties. Senators Marge Kilkelly and Jill Goldthwait will also be part of the visiting delegation.
UMaine Engineers Suggest Steps to Reduce Heating Costs

September 19, 2000

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Michael Mayhew, Industrial Assessment Center, 207-581-2349

ORONO, Maine -- Homeowners who are looking for ways to reduce their heating costs this winter can consider immediate steps such as lowering thermostats and covering windows at night. Long-term solutions such as improvements to heating equipment and homes are more expensive but may lead to greater savings over the years, according to three University of Maine engineers.

Herbert Crosby, professor in the School of Engineering Technology, and Charles Foster and Michael Mayhew of the UMaine Industrial Assessment Center point out that keeping thermostats at 68 degrees or below is the easiest step to take. Setting thermostats lower at night and making sure that windows are covered with insulating fabrics or other materials can significantly reduce fuel use.

Buying fuel oil at a fixed price can also help cushion homeowners from price spikes that might occur during the winter, they add. Oil suppliers may be willing to sell a large amount of fuel early in the season on the condition that payment be made immediately. Deliveries would then be made until the amount purchased is used up.

Longer term solutions include improving heating systems and adding insulation to walls, attics and building foundations. A simple improvement, for example, is a programmable thermostat. It can regulate temperatures automatically according to a pre-set routine. Losses occur when the furnace is allowed to run too often at night or when the house is unoccupied.

Adding insulation has long been shown to reduce heating costs, but a design known as “superinsulation” exceeds current building standards by about 25 percent. In the 1980s, the State of Maine promoted the construction of new superinsulated, solar heated homes through the Office of Energy Resources. Reducing heat loss to this degree has made it possible in some cases to meet heating needs with a standard hot water heater that pumps warm water under the floor in an exceptionally efficient, comfortable, and cost effective heating system.

Installing a wood stove or space heater that uses gas or kerosene also offers the flexibility of using more than one fuel and thus avoiding spikes in oil prices. The engineers recommend using stoves that bring in outside air for combustion and vent exhaust air outdoors.

Solar heating options range from simple units that hang below a window to sunrooms or greenhouses that can vent warm air during the day into the house. A small building that houses the UMaine Onward Program on the Orono campus is heated by a roof-mounted solar energy collector and an air-to-air heat pump. The engineers suggest contacting the Maine Solar Energy Association which coordinates tours of solar homes in October. A list of homes can be seen at http://www.ases.org/hometr/index.php?state=ME

Hudson Museum Seeks Docents

September 20, 2000

Contact: Peter Cook, Dept. of Public Affairs, 581-3756
Gretchen Faulkner, Hudson Museum, 581-1904

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 cultures from around 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. Docents receive a 15% discount on all Hudson Museum Shop merchandise, a University of Maine docent parking permit, and invitations to special Museum events.

Training sessions are required for Hudson Museum docents. The training schedule is as follows:

September 26
Introduction to Docenting at the Hudson Museum
John Pickering, Hudson Museum docent and advisory board member;
Gretchen Faulkner, development coordinator and acting education specialist;
Stephen Whittington, director will introduce docents to the “world” of museum docenting.

October 3
Realms of Blood and Jade: Prehispanic Mesoamerica
Stephen Whittington, curator of Realms of Blood and Jade, will introduce docents to the gallery.
Docents will be provided with a tour outline and shown a variety of gallery activities.

October 10
The Inuit
Richard Emerick, director emeritus, will discuss his fieldwork among the Iglulingmuit and introduce docents to the peoples of this region. Renee Minsky, Hudson Museum docent, will discuss the Inuit Toys and Games program associated with this gallery.

October 17
The Penobscot Gallery
Gretchen Faulkner will provide an overview of this gallery, focusing on the lifeways and artforms of the Penobscot. She will include a discussion of gallery activities, including a new activity which features three Northeastern Native American games.

October 24
Peoples of Cedar and Sea
David Sanger, professor of anthropology at UMaine, will provide background information on the peoples of the Northwest coast. His presentation will be followed by a discussion of the resource materials and activities associated with this gallery.

October 31
Beauty Revealed: Panama's Dynamic Art
Stephen Whittington will provide an overview of the exhibit, focusing on both the prehispanic and contemporary cultures and Panama and their artforms. Docents will learn how to do the mola activity.
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 Gretchen Faulkner, development coordinator and acting education specialist, at 581-1904. Information about the Hudson Museum can be found on the web at http://www.umaine.edu/hudsonmusuem
Growing Native Plants for Maine Gardens

Sept. 26, 2000

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, Donglin Zhang, Landscape Horticulture Program, 207-581-2918,

ORONO, Maine -- With financial support from the Maine Landscape and Nursery Association and the University of Maine, a UMaine professor is collecting and growing new varieties of native Maine plants that may one day find their way into home gardens in the state.

At the Clapp greenhouse on the UMaine campus, Donglin Zhang, professor in the Landscape Horticulture Program, has amassed an array of rhododendrons, Atlantic cedars, black-eyed Susans and other plants that have unusual foliage or flowers. He is propagating the plants with the goal of establishing reliable varieties of native Maine plants that could be sold by nurseries.

His project, titled New Plant Production for Maine, has received $5,000 in research and development funds from the university. “Maine has so many native plants. We are encouraging people to bring in plants that they think may have potential for our garden landscapes,” he says.

During the summer, Zhang and his colleagues Bill Mitchell and Reeser Manley visited nurseries and private gardens in Maine and adjacent states. To date, they have identified 37 unusual varieties of plants for further study, such as a rhododendron that produces a double pistillate flower where normally only one is present. They also have several unusual varieties of black-eyed Susans that have many more petals than the common variety that decorates road sides.

All of the varieties are the result of natural mutations in the plants. Helping to identify varieties and breed them are both graduate and undergraduate students who receive training in horticultural techniques.

In a pilot program with Acadia National Park, Zhang is also propagating plants that are native to Mt. Desert Island. In each case, populations of the plants have been reduced by human activities such as tourism on top of Cadillac Mountain. The intent is to generate a supply of native plants that can be used to restore damaged areas.

While native Maine plants are a focus of Zhang's work, he also collaborates with horticulture scientists in other states to test the cold hardiness and performance of non-native plants. “My purpose is also to select some good, adaptable, non-invasive plants for our Maine gardens,” he says. He screens these plants for indications that they might be invasive and thus pose a threat to native vegetation.

“If a plant has relatives that are aggressive or quickly invade disturbed areas, then we assume that it could be a problem and do not want to use it in our landscape,” he says.

Among the non-native plants that he is testing are varieties of magnolia, dogwood and ornamental cabbage. Magnolias have been grown for many years in the Lyle E. Littlefield Ornamentals Trial Garden on the UMaine campus.

One variety that blooms early and has large flowers with many more petals than most magnolias has been named “Lyle's Legacy” in honor of Lyle E. Littlefield, former UMaine professor. The original tree grew from a seed grown in Orono and now measures 14 feet tall. John Smagula, professor of horticulture, and Paul Cappiello, formerly of UMaine, identified the characteristics of the new tree.

“Maine has a great horticultural tradition,” says Zhang. “It takes many years from discovering and breeding plants to identifying characteristics and developing a marketable stock. With this project, we will find that Maine
has many more potential garden plants than we can imagine.”

Zhang's project dovetails with an effort by Manley and Lois Stack of Cooperative Extension to identify commercially viable native Maine plants for the nursery industry. They plan to release a catalog of such plants that can be propagated with currently known growing methods.
Mental Illness Awareness Week Schedule

September 27, 2000
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The University of Maine will hold its fifth annual Mental Illness Awareness Week Oct. 2-4, an event designed to provide information on this issue to the campus community.

The theme of this year's program is “Turning Promise into Practice.” Each day, an information table will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the lobby of the Memorial Union.

The week's events include two panel presentations on Monday, in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union. “Accommodations and Incentives that Allow Individuals to Maintain Access to Health Care While Returning to Work” will be held from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. “Vicarious Trauma in the Helping Profession” will be held from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday will feature a confidential depression screening from 10:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the FFA Room of the Memorial Union. In the evening, the movie “Girl, Interrupted” will be shown at 7 p.m. in 100 DP Corbett.

On Wednesday, a panel discussion will be held on “SOS (The Signs of Suicide) Program” in the FFA Room of the Memorial Union from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and a panel on “Inclusive Schooling, Supporting All Students” in the Bangor Lounge from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The activities of the week will culminate with a keynote address sponsored by the Community Health and Counseling Center featuring Dr. Frederick Frese, Wednesday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in 101 Neville Hall. In his talk, Dr. Frese will describe living with schizophrenia, and the 12 aspects of coping with this illness.

For more information or special accommodation, please call Pam Stokes or Nancy Kelly at 581-2378. Parking permits are available at University of Maine Public Safety, located on 375 College Ave.
Invasive, Non-Native Plants will be Subject of UMaine Conference

September 29, 2000

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Reeser Manley, Landscape Horticulture Program, 207-581-2937

ORONO, Maine -- “Creating Sustainable Landscapes: Plants to Plant, Plants to Avoid” will be the subject of a two-day symposium Oct. 14-15 for horticulturists and environmentalists this fall at the Holiday Inn Regency Hotel in Bar Harbor.

The regional symposium will bring together scientists and members of New England's “Green Industry” to share information about non-native invasive species that are posing a threat to natural landscapes, and how to cultivate and market more native species.

“Non-native invasive plants are creating a changed landscape,” says Reeser Manley, associate professor of landscape horticulture at the University of Maine and the conference organizer. “What concerns us is what biologists call the homogenization of native flora – reduction in native plant diversity. Such invasive species have the potential to destroy biodiversity.”

Non-native invasive species are plants that have the reproductive biology to be spread widely. Most non-native invasive species in the Northeast such as shrub honeysuckle (Lonicera sp.), burning bush (Euonymus alatus) and Japanese barberry (Berberis thunbergii) reproduce by seeds that are widely dispersed by birds. Seeds of other potentially invasive species such as Norway maple (Acer platanoides) are wind-dispersed.

Non-native invasive species have fast growth rates. Often, they are among the earliest plants to leaf in the spring and hold their leaves longer in the fall. As a result, their affect on native vegetation can be dramatic.

“This is not seen as an issue of non-native versus native species, but rather as an issue of determining the invasive potential of any species before introducing it or continuing to use it in landscapes,” says Manley.

Among the experts slated to make presentations are Les Mehrhoff of the University of Connecticut Torrey Herbarium; Sara Webb of Drew University; Sarah Reichard of the University of Washington; Reeser Manley, Donglin Zhang and Hildy Ellis of the University of Maine; Janet Marinelli of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; Heather McCargo of Wildland Flora Associates and Rick Sawyer of Fernwood Nursery, both Maine-based groups; and Bill Cullina, New England Wildflower Society based in Framingham, Mass.

The symposium includes a field trip led by Acadia National Park botanist Linda Gregory and her staff who will discuss the identification and management of invasive species in the park.

The conference is sponsored by the University of Maine Lyle E. Littlefield Ornamentals Trial Garden, in cooperation with the University of Massachusetts Extension Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program; the National Park Service; and University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The registration fee is $195 and includes meals, including a banquet, and the field trip.

Lyle E. Littlefield Ornamentals Trial Garden at UMaine is a horticultural learning resource. It is the northernmost ornamentals trial garden in New England and offers visitors an opportunity to learn about the numerous species and varieties of ornamental plans for cold-climate landscapes. The six-acre garden, devoted largely to woody and herbaceous plants, is managed by UMaine's Landscape Horticulture Program.
More information about the symposium is available on the Web (www.ume.maine.edu/ced-conf/hort.html) or by calling Manley at 207-581-2937.
UMaine Offers After-School Art Program for Kids

September 29, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – ArtWorks, the University of Maine's after-school art program for children, is expanding. This year, ArtWorks will be offered during both fall and spring semesters.

Students from the Department of Art will teach the ArtWorks classes, under the supervision of Laurie E. Hicks, associate professor of art. The program provides children an opportunity to explore art as a form of personal and cultural expression. As part of this exploration, children will work in a variety of media and be exposed to diverse forms of art. Fall session begins Oct. 20 and continues through Nov. 17. Spring session begins March 30 and continues through Apr. 27.

Classes are held on Friday afternoons from 3:45 to 5 p.m. at Carnegie Hall on the UMaine campus. The class sections are organized by grade levels and are limited to 22 students. Due to this limited enrollment, acceptance for both fall and spring courses will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. A list of alternates will be kept in case of vacancies.

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. Parents or guardians are responsible for their children's transportation to and from the program. Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom until a parent or guardian has come to the room to pick them up.

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 per session for supplies used during the class. If you are interested in participating during both the fall and spring sessions, a special rate of $32 will be charged for both sessions. A small number of scholarships are available.

For more information on ArtWorks, contact the Department of Art at 581-3245. The application deadline is Oct. 9.
UMaine to Host Marching Band Competition

September 29, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – Bands from across the state will converge on Morse Field as the University of Maine hosts the Maine Band Directors Association Marching Band Finals on November 4.

This year, the event will begin at 4 p.m. and end at 10:30 p.m. Nearly 1000 students from 13 high schools will perform for evaluation in the event, with each school having a 15 minute time slot.

This year's format will be a rating system with bands able to receive a gold, silver or bronze medal or a merit award. There will also be star ratings to go along with the medals.

“This is the second year in a row that the University of Maine Marching Band has hosted the show,” says Christopher White, director of sports bands at UMaine. “The work to coordinate this event and keep it running smoothly is done by members of the marching band.”

Tickets are available in advance from White at 581-1232 or at the gate starting at 3 p.m. on Nov. 4. The cost is $8 for reserved seats and $5 for general admission.
Internationally Recognized Violinist to Debut 'Swan Song'

October 2, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 207-581-3571

Faculty Recital by violinist Anatole Wieck, associate professor of music, part of the UMaine School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 20, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of '44 Hall, University of Maine, Orono. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO -- Maine-based composers Beth Wiemann and Elliot Schwartz will be in the audience when violinist Anatole Wieck performs two of their works in a recital Friday, Oct. 20 at the University of Maine.

“Swan Song,” written by Wiemann, UMaine assistant professor of music, will premiere at the 7:30 p.m. concert in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of '44 Hall. Commissioned by Wieck, associate professor of music, the work for violin uses excerpts from bird songs as the basis for the electronic sounds that are in the accompaniment.

“Prelude, Aria and Variations” for violin and percussion is written by Schwartz, the Robert K. Beckwith Professor of Music at Bowdoin College. The work is emotional – oscillating from sweet to powerful in seconds – and leaves some freedom for interpretation by the performer. Schwartz will introduce the composition, which Wieck performed at the Bar Harbor Music Festival this summer. Wieck will be joined in this performance by percussionist Stuart Marrs, associate professor of music.

Also on the program: H.I.F. Biber's “Sonata Representativa” in A major for violin and basso continuo; Anton Rubinstein's “Sonata,” to be performed by Wieck and pianist Phillip Silver, assistant professor of music; Ludwig van Beethoven's “Duet for Two Eyeglasses Obligato,” with Wieck on viola and on violoncello, Inna Nassidze, a returning member of Le Stagioni, the University of Maine String Quartet; and W.A. Mozart's “Kegelstatt Trio,” with Silver on piano and Wiemann on clarinet.

Wieck, assistant concertmaster for the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, performs throughout Europe as a soloist and chamber musician. Among his performances this summer: two violin recitals in Madrid in May, and concerts in July at a baroque music festival in Castellon de la Plana, Spain, with distinguished musicians from Europe.

Tickets for the University of Maine recital are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

Editor's Note: Digital images to accompany this story are available by contacting Joe Carr, 581-3571.
Murray Schisgal's 'Luv' Comes to UMaine

October 2, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 207-581-3571

“Luv,” a play by Murray Schisgal, directed by Marcia Joy Douglas, UMaine assistant professor of theatre, part of the UMaine School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 18-21; noon Oct. 19; 2 p.m., Oct. 22, Hauck Auditorium, University of Maine, Orono. $8. 581-1755.

ORONO -- New York drama critic Walter Kerr once described “Luv” as “a criticism of fraudulent, opulent heartache” and its playwright Murray Schisgal as avant-garde.

“Schisgal,” Kerr wrote of the 1964 play, “is ready to put a pin to the soapy bubbles of cheap pessimism.”

“Luv,” the Broadway hit that takes a humorous yet highly perceptive look at love, opens the theater segment of the School of Performing arts season Oct. 18-22. Bringing the farcical comedy to the Hauck Auditorium stage is a student cast of three and its UMaine director Marcia Joy Douglas, assistant professor of theatre.

Douglas first encountered “Luv” as an undergraduate at Colorado State University. She served as stage manager for the production.

“I really enjoy doing plays that have me laughing as I walk out of rehearsal,” she says. “The characters in the play are so concerned with their own little traumas. As a result, they offer us the opportunity to laugh at our own little melodramas.

“Throughout the play, they repeatedly ask, ´What about love?’”

Making comedy work on stage is no easy task. Performing comedy requires technique – from line delivery to physical humor. The UMaine student actors not only have to learn the art of carrying off comedy but something about the era in which the play is set.

For instance, the female character in the play, Ellen Manville, finds herself caught between two worlds in 1964 – caught between society's June Cleaver-stereotypes and her internal determination to find her own way. At one point in the play, Ellen bemoans her college education that has caused men to be afraid of her mind.

The “Luv” cast members are senior Tim Simons of Readfield as Milt Manville; graduate student Rick Solomon of Portland as Harry Berlin; and grad student Kim Tripp of Sunnyside, N.Y. as Ellen Manville.

The production is the UMaine's entry in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival competition.

“Luv” showtimes: 7:30 p.m., Oct. 18-21; noon Oct. 19; 2 p.m., Oct. 22. For tickets, call the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

Editor's Note: Digital images to accompany this story are available by contacting Joe Carr, 581-3571.
Three Maine Women to Receive Hartman Awards

October 2, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 581-3571

ORONO -- The 15th annual Maryann Hartman Awards will be presented to three outstanding women in Maine – Theodora June Kalikow, president of the University of Maine at Farmington; Belfast artist Jude Spacks; and women's rights activist Ruth Lockhart, executive director of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center in Bangor.

The awards, named for the late Maryann Hartman of the Department of Speech Communication, recognize women whose achievements provide inspiration to others.

The Hartman Awards ceremony, sponsored by the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program, begins at 5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 19, Wells Conference Center.

- Theodora June Kalikow has worked enthusiastically for the advancement of women both within the University of Maine System and the state. Whether spearheading a management training course for women in higher education or participating in the High School Visiting program to interest young women in science careers, Kalikow demonstrates the power and effectiveness of a feminist style of leadership. She has served on the Millennium Economic Development Advisory Committee formed by Sen. Olympia Snowe and chaired the University of Maine System Diversity Task Force.

- Jude Spacks is an artist who creates fabric pictures. Her work has been exhibited in galleries nationwide and has been commissioned from as far away as England and Japan. Some of her most impressive works are portraits of such memorable women as Rosa Parks, Emma Goldman, Harriet Tubman, and Eleanor Roosevelt. She says her work draws from “a kind of spiritual dialogue with her subjects and a higher being.” According to Spacks, “fabric is a woman's medium without the status of other fine artwork.” Art, she believes, whether homegrown or well-known, answers a longing for soulful connection.

- Ruth Lockhart has been active in the women's movement since the 1970s. She is a founder and current executive director of The Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, the only private, non-profit feminist women's healthcare center in the state. She has provided advocacy services for women and healthcare providers, and educational services for the community in women's health. She was one of the first AIDS educators trained in the country and was a member of the first Governor's Task force on AIDS until 1989. For her many achievements, she has been honored by the Maine Women's Fund, the American Association of University Women, the National Association of Social Workers and the Maine Civil Liberties Union.
Museum of Art Receives Donation of Photographs by Bernice Abbot and Eugene Atget

October 3, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Works by two of the major figures in the history of photography – Berenice Abbott and Eugene Atget – have been donated to the University of Maine Museum of Art.

The 39 photographs by Abbott, an American artist who lived the last 27 years of her life in Monson, Maine, and the 15 works of Atget, a French photographer, add to the museum's outstanding university collection of works on paper.

The gift of the photographs came in late September from Susan Blatchford of Monson, who knew Abbott throughout the last decade of the artist's life. The gift offers perspectives on the individual photographers, the continuum of their art and the circumstances that brought them together.

"Berenice Abbott could easily be considered one of the most important photographers of the 20th century if one were to simply address the Changing New York work," says Wally Mason, director of the UMaine Museum of Art. “The fact that she also was a sensitive portrait photographer, science photographer and an inventor changed the medium of photography as significantly as individuals like Alfred Stieglitz and Ansel Adams.”

Throughout its first half-century, the UMaine Museum of Art exhibited Abbott photographs, including Photographs by Berenice Abbott in 1957 and Berenice Abbott, Photographs in 1971.

In August 1971, Abbott received an honorary degree from the University. In 1986, she was honored by UMaine for her inspirational achievements with a Maryann Hartman Award.

The most recent exhibit, North & South: Berenice Abbott's U.S. Route 1, featuring photos taken by Abbott during two trips in 1954 from Fort Kent to Key West, was on display in the museum in 1998. In its two-and-a-half-month run, the show drew the largest museum audiences in the last four years. With the support of a Maine Community Foundation Grant, the show also toured schools.

The first of Abbott's photographs in the University Collection, Nightview, was donated by the artist. Blatchford made her first donation of seven Abbott prints and books following the 1998 show.

Today, 52 works by Abbott are an important part of the University's extensive works-on-paper collection. Works on paper, largely prints but also including paintings and drawings, constitute 70 percent of the nearly 6,000-piece University collection – the largest fine arts collection owned entirely by the citizens of Maine.

In 1997, a $1 million gift of art, including some of the finest 20th-century prints in the world, was made by alumnus Robert Venn Carr Jr. The donation from his private collection was Carr's second gift of prints to UMaine in 11 years. As a result, UMaine now has one of the outstanding collections of 20th-century works on paper in New England.

The newest donation of Abbott photographs is as significant as the Carr prints to the University Collection, says Mason.
“This is a gigantic boost in getting our photography collection established,” says Mason. “Our collection includes photos from other artists, but none of such historic significance as Abbott’s. This newest gift puts us on the map photography-wise and gives us a real running start to put together a critical mass of photos.”

The latest prints reflect the breadth of the artist's work, representing her four major thematic categories – portraits, New York City, science and American scenes. New York Public Library has one of the largest collections of Abbott photos – both vintage photos and subsequent prints developed under her supervision.

Abbott, born in Ohio in 1898, retired to Monson in 1964. She died in 1991 at the age of 93. She was first known most for the portraits she took in Paris of the celebrated literary and artistic figures of the day. It was while she was in Paris that she became interested in the work of French photographer Eugene Atget, the pioneer of documentary photography. Atget (1857-1927) documented in photos the changing life and architecture of Paris in the first quarter of the century.

After his death, Abbott purchased Atget's extensive collection of glass plates and prints. Abbott not only preserved the work of Atget but brought his mastery of historic documentary photography to the attention of the world.

Atget's poignant perspective of Paris inspired Abbott to document a changing New York in the 1930s and '40s in now famous photos and a book.

The Atget photos donated to the University were printed by Abbott.

“The Museum is fortunate to be able to now construct a context for Berenice Abbott's accomplishments through Eugene Atget's sensitive views of Paris during the first 25 years of the 20th century,” Mason says. “The extensive selection of portraits taken in Paris and New York provides a bridge between Abbott's early interest in photography, her return to New York in 1929 and the beginning of the Changing New York series, which consumed her interests throughout the 1920s.”
UMaine Professor Teaches Percussion Seminar in Argentina

October 3, 2000
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Cultural Foundation of Patagonia, an arts institute in Argentina, was founded by philanthropist Norberto Rajnieri, who wanted to expand the reach of the arts in his home country and bring about a cultural revolution.

This summer, he invited Stuart Marrs, a professor of music at the University of Maine School of Performing Arts, to be part of his vision.

This summer, Marrs spent a week in Argentina as an invited artist at the International Percussion Seminar Series sponsored by Rajnieri's foundation. Marrs is one of four professors invited to teach the seminars, which are held one week a month until November.

“Professionally, this was a dream situation,” says Marrs. “The level of the students was quite high, and they had prepared to the best of their ability for the seminar.”

Twenty-three Argentine students came from all parts of the country to travel to the percussion seminar.

“The fact that this seminar was held in Patagonia is tremendously significant,” says Marrs. “Rajnieri is desperately trying to make this region, Patagonia, a decentralized center of artistic activity.”

The Argentinean capital city of Buenos Aires is generally considered the cultural center of the country. The institute, located in the Rio Negro province, is Rajnieri's home. It hosts a variety of artistic styles, including the visual and theatrical arts.

“Rajnieri told me that he has a lot of money, and although he could use it to buy a villa on the Riviera or a yacht, he didn't want to do that, because that's not going to be meaningful,” says Marrs. “What's important to him is that he leaves a legacy for his homeland.”

Marrs gave clinics and master classes on solo timpani literature and orchestral repertoire and directed percussion ensemble rehearsals leading up to a final concert in which all participants performed.

“Rajnieri's plan is that people who graduate from this institute will go back and seed their areas of the country with artistic excellence,” says Marrs.

Marrs brought some of that musical excellence back with him to Maine.

“Some of the people who attended were composers and they gave me their music, which I plan to perform here with the University of Maine Percussion Ensemble,” he says. “One piece in particular, El Conde Spatula, is a piece played with spatulas, and it is just amazing. The sounds and rhythms they get out of four spatulas is just incredible.”

For Marrs, visiting and teaching in Latin America was like a homecoming.

“I lived and worked in Latin America for 12 years so the culture of that part of the world is part of who I am,” says Marrs. “When I go back there, I don't feel as though I'm in a foreign place. I actually feel quite at home because I have one foot in the American culture and lifestyle and another in Latin America.”

Marrs' visit to Argentina attracted some attention from the local media, as well. He was interviewed by Rio Negro, the regional newspaper and will be featured in a documentary about the seminar, which will be broadcast
in Buenos Aires and in the Rio Negro province of Argentina.
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author and Historian to Deliver Schonberger Memorial Lecture

October 4, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 581-3571

ORONO -- This year's Pulitzer Prize-winning author of nonfiction will speak about peace and democracy in Japan after World War II in a lecture Thursday, Oct. 26 at the University of Maine.


Dower, the Elting E. Morison Professor of History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is a distinguished historian of modern Japan. For decades he has studied issues of war, peace, power and justice in modern Japanese history and U.S.-Japan relations.

His many publications include the 1986 book “War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War.” The volume, which also won awards, is considered a pioneering comparative study of the racial, psychological and propagandistic aspects of the war from Anglo-American and Japanese perspectives.

That same year, Dower was nominated for an Academy Award as executive producer of the 1986 documentary film “Hellfire – A Journey from Hiroshima.”

In his scholarship, Dower also has explored the links and discontinuities between prewar and postwar Japan in two books: the Japanese best seller “Empire and Aftermath: Yoshida Shigeru and the Japanese Experience, 1878-1954,” and a collection of his essays, “Japan in War and Peace.”

In “Embracing Defeat,” Dower illuminates how shattering defeat, followed by more than six years of American occupation (August 1945-April 1952), changed Japanese society in ways that neither victors nor vanquished anticipated. The book presents a panoramic portrayal of how the Japanese met the challenge of starting over. It also provokes new ways of thinking about Japan in the postwar U.S.-Japan relationship.

“Embracing Defeat” not only won the Pulitzer Prize in Letters for General Nonfiction, but also the 1999 National Book Award for Nonfiction, the 2000 Bancroft Prize and the 1999 Los Angeles Times Book Prize in History.

The volume is dedicated to Dower's colleague and friend of almost 20 years, the late Howard Schonberger, UMaine professor of history and a scholar of American foreign policy history. In 1992, Dower delivered the first Schonberger Lecture, established to honor the scholarship and activism of its namesake.
UMaine Students Sweep National Competition

Oct. 4 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- University of Maine students took the top two places in the National Collegiate Game of Logging competition held last weekend in Appleton, Wisc. Charles Koch, a senior Forest Management major from Machias, became the third UMaine student to win the competition in its eight-year history. Lawrence Cronkite, a senior from Old Town who is also a Forest Management major, took second place. Students from 17 colleges and universities competed for the top prizes, a $1,000 scholarship and a $500 scholarship.

The Game of Logging was developed by internationally known safety instructor Soren Erikkson as a competitive training program in chain saw safety. The competition focuses on the use of exacting chain saw skills to safely and productively fell trees and harvest timber. Koch and Cronkite were chosen to travel to Wisconsin after winning a competition among the UMaine students who work in the University Forests operation, which manages the 12,000 acres of forest land owned by UMaine and the University of Maine Foundation.

In addition to the scholarships, Koch and Cronkite each won a new Husqvarna chain saw and a complete set of safety apparel. Koch and Cronkite were accompanied on their trip by Robin Avery, operations manager for the University Forests, and Francis Avery, Jr., chair of the Board of Directors of the Maine Certified Logging Professional Program (CLP). The CLP program sponsored the trip, as did the University of Maine Foundation, the Professional Logging Contractors Association of Maine, Civil Engineering Services, International Paper Co., Seven Islands Land Co. and the Georgia Pacific Corporation.
UMaine to Host Weekend Geological Conference

Oct. 4, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571
Martin Yates at (207) 581-2154

ORONO – Over 250 students and professionals from the northeast will be in Maine this weekend to attend the New England Intercollegiate Geological Conference 2000 (NEIGC 2000), sponsored by the University of Maine Department of Geological Sciences.

Meetings of the group, which began in 1901, feature field trips designed to give participants first-hand exposure to New England's unique regional geology. Maine has hosted more conferences than any other state except Massachusetts.

"Each year, this conference provides an opportunity for students, professors and others who work, teach or study geology to get together and examine the regions rocks and landforms. It's a great opportunity to discuss the processes which have helped to shape the earth as we know it today," says Martin Yates, a laboratory manager and associate scientist in the UMaine Dept. of Geological Sciences.

The NEIGC 2000 conference begins with a welcoming reception and on-site registration at UMaine's Bryand Global Sciences Center from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 6. Eighteen field trips, covering many parts of the state, are scheduled between Friday and Sunday. One of the trips, which examines the geological evolution of the Central Penobscot Valley, will take place in the Orono area on Saturday October 7. Another trip will travel along the western shore of Penobscot Bay on Sunday to observe evidence for past glaciation and sea-level changes.

News reporters are welcome to join the group for part of either of these tours. Those interested can contact Martin Yates (581-2154), Alice Kelley (581-2056), or Joe Kelley (581-2162) for a field trip itinerary or other details.
Peace Week Events Scheduled at UMaine

October 5, 2000
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756
Barbara Blazej at 581-2609

ORONO – John Artis, who was unjustly imprisoned along with Rubin “Hurricane” Carter for a triple murder neither committed, is the featured speaker during this year's Peace Week activities at the University of Maine.

The theme for this year's activities is “Creating Cultures of Peace: Truth and Reconciliation.” Events will begin Oct. 23 and run through Oct. 27.

In 1966, Artis was sentenced to three concurrent life terms at Rahway prison. He spent 15 years behind bars, and instead of becoming bitter, spent the time getting involved in the lives of his fellow inmates.

Artis taught adult education classes and helped hundreds of men get their GEDs. He also acted as a prisoner representative and president of the prison's branch of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. After his release in 1981, Artis began working with young people and is presently a counselor for at-risk youth.

Artis will speak on “Truth, Reconciliation and the Search for Personal Peace” on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. in 100 D.P. Corbett Business Building, with reception to follow. The next day, he will speak in a more informal setting in 310 Boardman Hall from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

To prepare for his talk, the Peace Studies Program at UMaine will sponsor two free showings of the movie The Hurricane: Thursday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 22 at 3:30 p.m., both in 100 DP Corbett.

On Oct. 24, the focus will be on reconciliation with the environment. Connie Baxter Marlow will speak on “Ecology, Spirituality and Reconciliation with Nature” at 7 p.m. in 100 Neville Hall, with invited guest Arnie Neptune, Penobscot elder. Marlow is the author of “Greatest Mountain: Katahdin's Wilderness” and great niece of Percival Baxter, former governor of Maine and founder of Baxter State Park.

A conversation on restorative justice will be held on Oct. 26 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union. Participants from the law enforcement community will be on hand to propose an alternative to the current way of thinking about crime and criminal justice.

Monday through Wednesday, peace and justice books will be on sale in the Memorial Union lobby from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The full Peace Week schedule is as follows:

Monday, October 23

Luncheon Presentation: “Bridging Cypriots: Humanizing the 'Enemy' through Forgiveness,” by TamThanh Huynh, University of Maine student majoring in International Affairs/Political Science. Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, 12:15-1:30 p.m.

Keynote Presentation: “Truth, Reconciliation and the Search for Personal Peace,” by John Artis, currently a counselor of at-risk youth, who was imprisoned in 1966 with Rubin “Hurricane” Carter for a triple murder he didn't commit. Artis will recount his experiences during his 15-year imprisonment and since his release in 1981. 100 DP Corbett Business Building, 7:00 p.m., with reception to follow.

Book Sale: Peace and justice books for sale. Memorial Union lobby, 9-3 p.m.
Tuesday, October 24

Informal Conversation with John Artis: John Artis will speak about the prison system and other topics. 310 Boardman Hall, 11-12:30 p.m.


Book Sale: Peace and justice books for sale. Memorial Union lobby, 9-3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 25

Luncheon Talk: “U.S. Jewish Women Standing in Solidarity with Israeli Women in Black: The Challenges of International Feminist Peace Efforts,” by Sandra Berkowitz, Assistant Professor, Communication and Journalism. Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, 12:15-1:30 p.m. (Part of the WIC Luncheon Series)

Book Sale: Peace and justice books for sale. Memorial Union lobby, 9-3 p.m.

Thursday, October 26

Luncheon Talk: “Truth and Reconciliation: Report from South Africa,” by Doug Allen, Professor, Philosophy. Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, 12:30-1:45 p.m. (Part of Socialist and Marxist Studies Controversy Series)

Conversation on Restorative Justice: A philosophical framework that has been proposed as an alternative to the current way of thinking about crime and criminal justice. Participants include: Lauren Bustard and Dotty Small, members, Hancock County Community Reparations Board; Ed Snyder, executive board chair, MDI Restorative Justice Program; Scott Welsh, Orono Police Department; Paul Goodness and others from the Hampden Juvenile Resolution Team. Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Friday, October 27

Poetry Free Zone: Open invitation to the community: Bring your poetry or other short writings or readings on peace to share with others. Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, 12-1:00 p.m.

For more information, call Peace Studies at 581-2609. All events are free, open to the public and accessible.
Certification Training for Nutrient Management Plans

October 6, 2000
Contact: Rick Kersbergen, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1426

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a one-day training session for anyone interested in taking Maine's Nutrient Management certification test. This one-day training is for both the private and commercial category of certification.

The training will be held November 1st at the Penobscot County Extension office on 307 Maine Avenue in Bangor (near the airport). The sessions will run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration is required and can be done by calling 1-800-287-1426. There will be a $25.00 fee for those individuals who wish to purchase the training manual. Participants should make their own arrangements for lunch.

Under Maine's new Nutrient Management law, farmers will need to have a certified plan for how they will store and utilize manure nutrients by January 1, 2000. Plans will be required of producers who meet the following criteria: have 50 or more animal units, import more than 100 tons of manure onto their farm, utilize regulated residuals, or are the subject of a verified complaint for how they store or handle manure.

The training will cover all the necessary competencies for successful completion of the exam. Both the private and commercial certification tests will be available for interested individuals following the training. The private exam is for producers who want to write and certify their own plan. Commercial certification allows individuals to write and certify plans for other producers needing assistance.

For more information, contact Rick Kersbergen at the Waldo County Extension at 1-800-287-1426.
UMaine Hutchinson Center to Host Mainely Girls Conference

October 6, 2000
Contact: Peter Cook, Public Affairs, at 581-3756
Women's Resource Center at 581-1508

ORONO – Representatives from the Women's Resource Center at the University of Maine and girls' program organizers from throughout the state will gather to discuss issues and initiatives related to girls' development, education, and empowerment.

The meeting will be held at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast on Oct. 27. This year, each adult who attends is encouraged to invite one girl who is a leader and/or activist.

The keynote address, "The Girlfighting Project: Power Dynamics Among Girls," will be delivered by Lyn Mikel Brown and Sharon Barker. Brown is the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation's scholar-in-residence at UMaine and associate professor of education and human development at Colby College. She is the author of "Raising Their Voices: The Politics of Girls' Anger." Barker is director of the Women's Resource Center at UMaine.

In the talk, Barker and Brown will discuss their collaborative project, funded by a grant from the AAUW Educational Foundation.

Other workshops include "Women and Girls Working Together – Negotiating the Challenges, Celebrating the Opportunities;" "Geared for Girls: Virtual Communities on the Web;" "Opportunities and Obstacles for Girls' Programming;" and "Power and Leadership – A Workshop for Girls."

This networking occasion will allow attendees to strengthen already existing programs as they consider new work being done in their field.

This event is being organized by Mainely Girls, a state-wide non-profit organization, which focuses on girls' needs in a preventative, proactive and positive manner to bring about positive change for girls, and by the Women's Resource Center at the University of Maine.

For information and registration contact Mainely Girls at megirls@midcoast.com or call 230-0170; or contact the Women's Resource Center at the University of Maine at 581-1508. The registration deadline is Oct. 20.
Critical Theorist to Keynote Educators’ Conference

Oct. 10, 2000 Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine – A widely recognized expert on the teaching of multicultural literature and poetry and the use of critical theory in high school curricula will highlight the Maine Writing Project’s annual fall conference. Deborah Appleman, chair and professor of educational studies at Carleton College, gives the keynote address on Friday, Oct. 20, following an afternoon of workshops on best practices for teachers of reading and writing at all levels.

The conference, sponsored and conducted by fellows of the Maine Writing Project, runs from 2:30-7:30 p.m. at the Black Bear Inn & Conference Center in Orono. The Maine association is an affiliate of the National Writing Project, an organization of highly trained teachers dedicated to the improvement of student writing and the teaching of writing across the curriculum and in all grade levels. The University of Maine is the state’s official National Writing Project training site.

Appleman, who received her doctorate in English Education from the University of Minnesota, directs Carleton's Summer Writing Program for high school juniors and seniors and teaches the English section of the Northfield, Minn., college’s summer workshop for teachers. Co-editor of Braided Lives, a multicultural literature anthology published by the Minnesota Humanities Commission, Appleman’s most recent book is Critical Encounters in High School English: Teaching Literary Theory to Adolescents (Teachers College Press, 2000).

Appleman’s address, “Critical Encounters through Literature,” is part of the dinner program, which begins at 5:30 p.m. For conference registration information, contact the Maine Writing Project, (207) 581-2438.
New Director at UMaine Research Center

Oct. 10, 2000 Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- The Center for Research and Evaluation at the University of Maine's College of Education and Human Development has a new director. Walter Harris of Orono, veteran faculty member and administrator in the College, succeeds Walter McIntire, who retired after a long career at UMaine.

The Center is the primary research arm of the College and its various inquiry units and serves as a public resource for providing and explaining educational data, analysis and trends at the state and national levels. Center staff conduct qualitative and quantitative research, develop custom-designed studies and program evaluations, and generate comparative data to inform decisions and help policymakers forecast and more effectively address challenges and opportunities.

Harris also serves as co-director of the Maine Education Policy Research Institute. The Institute was established by the State Legislature in 1995 as a joint effort of the UMaine and University of Southern Maine educational research units to provide an unbiased source of research, assessment and projections regarding Pre-K-12 education. In addition, he is responsible for overseeing the College’s externally funded projects representing more than $5 million in federal and state grants and contracts.

“Research and data hold up a mirror that reflects a reality,” says Harris. “It can confirm what we know or present a totally new picture, and nearly always offers a different way of looking at and using information.”

Among his goals, Harris wants to better use technology in conducting and presenting the Center’s work, including electronic surveying to gather information and making data and publications more fully available on the Internet. School leaders and policymakers around the country regularly request copies of the Center’s research on controversial educational issues such as weighted grades, challenging behaviors and commercialization of public schools, in addition to in-depth statistical analyses of policy and factors influencing educational equity and student achievement.

“The data we have and constantly produce is highly relevant to the contemporary scene,” says Harris. “Information is a valuable product that helps people find solutions, make research-based decisions and to understand what’s happening in education in Maine and nationally.”

Harris’ broad view of educational issues and policy, his collaborative leadership style and grant-procurement and technology skills will continue and build the Center’s extensive connections and high credibility, according to Robert Cobb, dean of the College of Education and Human Development. “His genuine caring about Maine schools, children and families will strengthen the research that influences policy and practice,” says Cobb.

Harris joined the UMaine faculty after receiving his Ph.D. in special education and behavioral disorders from Syracuse University in 1973. As the College of Education and Human Development’s Associate Dean of Instruction from 1985 to January 2000, he has helped shaped its academic mission and steer the faculty’s teaching, scholarship and service during an era of intense challenge and change in K-12 and higher education.

For more information about the Center for Research and Evaluation, Harris can be reached at (207) 581-2467; e-mail: wharris@maine.edu.
Maine Folklife Festival Planned for Nov. 4 in Brewer

October 11, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine will celebrate the cultural connections between the United States and Canada at its third annual Folk Traditions Festival Nov. 4.

This year, due to construction at the Memorial Union, events will be held at Jeff's Catering in Brewer, located on Industrial Park Rd., off Parkway South, I-395 exit 5.

The festival begins in the afternoon, with a choice of workshops from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Gordon Bok, a songwriter from Camden and Jeff McKeen, an oyster farmer and musician from Montsville will teach a workshop on songmaking.

Bok is a leader in preserving, collecting, creating and sharing a wide variety of rich and beautiful songs of both land and sea. His music has been used in films and published in folk music anthologies, including "Rise Up Singing" and his own collection, "Time and the Flying Snow."

McKeen is one-third of the musical group known as Old Grey Goose. He spends some of his time hunting down old songs and tunes from Maine for his group to perform. He has long been interested in the songs of lobster fisherman Boney Quinn of Deer Isle.

Members of the band Old Grey Goose, which specializes in old-time country-dance music and songs of Maine and the Maritimes, will teach a class on Maine Fiddle Tunes. Old Grey Goose has been playing for over twenty years. In concert, the group presents stories and songs, some humorous, some historical.

Songwriter Gordon Bok

The Bangor Dancers will lead a workshop on beginning Irish Dance.

At 6 p.m., festivalgoers will be served a harvest supper. During dinner, Joe Bennett, McKeen and Bonnie Quinn take the stage. At 8 p.m., Bok will perform his particular blend of old and new folk.

At 9 p.m., the January Men (and then some) will perform a new piece written by Gordon Bok about Maine's herring fishery. The group, which contains members Jamie Huntsberger, Tony Bok, Will Brown, Carol Rohl, Gordon Bok, David Dodson, Cindy Kallet, Ken Gross and Forrest Sherman. They first gathered together as a male chorus to explore working songs of the sea.

The evening ends with a contra dance led by Old Grey Goose from 10 to 12 p.m.

The Maine Arts Commission and the Maine Folklife Center sponsor the Maine Folklife Festival. The cost is $5 for a workshop and $24 for the dinner and entertainment. Children's tickets are half-price. To order tickets or for more information, call the Maine Folklife Center at 581-1891.
Phi Kappa Sigma Plans Haunted Fundraiser

October 11, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – This Halloween, students from the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity at the University of Maine hope to scare up some funds for cancer research with their fifth annual haunted house.

The tours begin Oct. 27 at 4:30 p.m. and continue until 11 p.m. at the Phi Kappa Sigma house on 89 College Ave. Radio station Z107.3 will participate, with live broadcasts from the event from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Admission is $3 per person with additional donations accepted. All of the proceeds will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which conduct research into blood-related cancers like leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma.
Got Math? UMaine Mathematics Department Starts Interdisciplinary Seminar Series

October 12, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman at 581-3777

ORONO -- If mathematics is the common language of science and engineering, then the Department of Mathematics and Statistics is a logical place for interdisciplinary studies. To promote such work, the department has begun Got Math?, a new weekly seminar series that brings mathematicians together with computer scientists, wildlife ecologists, civil engineers, nurses, chemists, horticulturists and others.

“Our goal is to give faculty from other departments the chance to describe how they use mathematics in their work,” says Bob Franzosa, professor and associate chair of the department. “We also hope to promote some collaborations between other departments and people in math and to give students ideas about what kinds of careers they can consider with a math degree. There are companies out there that hire mathematicians. Many people do not realize the wide variety of career opportunities available with a degree in mathematics.”

Franzosa knows the opportunities that can evolve from interdisciplinary work. In years past, he teamed up with Max Egenhofer in Spatial Information Science and Engineering, now the director of the National Center for Geographical Information and Analysis, and with Terry Hughes in the Institute for Quaternary Studies. Franzosa's specialty is topology, the study of geometrical features that do not vary with changes in the shape of a figure or solid. He is currently co-authoring a text on applied topology which highlights some of the interdisciplinary work in which he has participated.

In mid-October, a team of students from the UMaine Tour de Sol team gave a presentation on mathematical techniques in the design and construction of their solar electric vehicles. Earlier speakers discussed mathematical approaches to optimizing manufacturing processes and applications to geographic information systems.

The seminar is held at 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays in 119 Barrows Hall. Upcoming speakers in November include David Yarborough of Cooperative Extension (Nov. 9), George Markowsky of Computer Science (Nov. 16), and Raymond O'Connor of Wildlife Ecology (Nov. 30).
Program Set for Maine's 13th Annual Beef Conference

October 12, 2000
Contact: Dee Potter, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1421
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The 13th Annual Beef Conference will be held December 2 at the Ramada Inn in Bangor. This year's conference is titled Foundation for the Future and is geared for new and veteran beef producers.

Steve Suther, director of industry information for the Certified Angus Beef program (CAB), is the keynote speaker. He will summarize ways in which the beef industry, production and management have changed over the past generation. Steve's second presentation titled “Under the Hide” will cover cattle type and composition and how they translate to carcass quality.

Steve has been an agricultural journalist for the past 22 years, including 10 years with Farm Journal's Beef Today. A native of Kansas, Steve has been with the CAB program for two years. His main responsibility is reaching out with news and information to all 850,000 cow-calf producers in the U.S. to raise awareness of producing the kind of Angus cattle that make money for every segment of the beef industry.

As managing editor of Beef Today, he produced the first publication on the Internet and has won first place writing awards from the Livestock Publications Council every year since 1997. His syndicated column, “Black Ink,” is in its second year of commentary about profitable cattle production. It is published in more than 30 papers across North America, reaching 500,000 producers each month.

Also on the program is Kevin Budd, a Provincial Veterinarian with the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture. A cattle producer himself, Budd will review some of the more common cases he treats on farm calls and elaborate on their root cause and prevention. Dee Potter, UMaine Cooperative Extension Educator, will give a presentation on nutrition, and rounding off the program will be four producer presentations. The meeting will include a tradeshow.

More information about the conference, is available from Dee Potter, 800-287-1421 in Maine or 207-834-3905 from outside the state.
Scandanavian Theme Highlights Nancy Ogle Recital

October 13, 2000
Contact Joe Carr, 581-3571

Faculty Recital by soprano Nancy Ogle, associate professor of music, part of the UMaine School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 27, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of '44 Hall, University of Maine, Orono. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO --As a tribute to the late Jenny Lind, the first Swedish soprano to tour the United States 150 years ago, a Scandinavian theme has been chosen for an Oct. 27 recital at the University of Maine.

Soprano and UMaine Associate Professor of Music Nancy Ellen Ogle will present "Reflections on Water: The Songs of Edvard Grieg and Their Influence" at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 27 in Minsky Hall on campus.

Ogle will be accompanied by pianist Ginger Yang-Hwalek and narrator Nancy Lewis.

The program will feature works by Grieg, as well as songs by composers musically influenced by the internationally renowned Norwegian composer, including Edward MacDowell, Maurice Ravel and Frederick Delius.

Tickets for the University of Maine recital are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.
UMaine Franco-American Center Assists in Building Virtual Franco Community

October 16, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Franco-American Center at the University of Maine is working with the Hermon School System to set up a virtual Franco community model on the Internet as well as an internet-based resource center.

On October 17, the Franco-American Centre's new internet based atlas of Maine French communities will be launched officially in Lewiston which has Maine's largest Franco-American concentration.

The bilingual website is a collaborative effort between the Center and the Department of Geography at Laval University in Quebec. The University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College and the Conseil de la Vie Franaise en Amerique based in Quebec City will collaborate in launching the new site.

"With the assistance of the Hermon School administrators, this project will make the Franco-American resources at the University of Maine available to the community," says Yvon Labbe, director of the Franco-American Center.

In exchange for the technical support given by Hermon public schools, the Franco-American Center at the university will provide assistance in developing a Franco studies curriculum in the Hermon school system.

The website, located at [http://www.FrancoMaine.org](http://www.FrancoMaine.org) presents a multi-faceted look at the history, migration routes, and culture of Franco-Americans in Maine and the Northeast. One section, "historic roadways" focuses on the major routes of entry that had come into use by the time of the large French-Canadian and Acadian migrations between Maine, Quebec and New Brunswick in the late 1800s.

Another section, "today's population," examines the distribution of Maine's French communities at three different geographical scales – the state, the county and the urbanized area.

Barry Rodrigue, a professor of geography at the USM Lewiston-Auburn College and a co-developer of the atlas site, says that when completed, this site will offer the most detailed geographical breakdown of available of Franco ethnicity and linguistic vitality.

"In the future, we would like to expand the site to make research done by undergraduate and graduate students available," says Labbe.

The website will be unveiled at a ceremony scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. on Oct. 17 at the USM Lewiston-Auburn College. The event is free and open to the public and anyone interested in attending should call 753-6500.

Following the unveiling, Labbe and Dean Louder, coordinator of the Centre's atlas project and professor of geography at Laval University in Quebec, will deliver guest lectures in Rodrigue's class on French North America.

The atlas site also received support from the Maine Legislature, the University of Maine System, Bangor Savings Bank and the Quebec Ministry of International Relations.

The Franco-American Centre's main site being renovated will also be housed with the Hermon School System, where according to Labbe, their technical expertise will be invaluable.

For more information on the sites, call Yvon Labbe at the University of Maine Franco-American Center at 581-3764.
Sheep Demonstration Scheduled at UMaine

October 17, 2000
Contact: Donna Lamb, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1491

ORONO, Maine -- The Central Maine Sheep Breeders Association, University of Maine Witter Teaching and Research Farm and UMaine Cooperative Extension are sponsoring a public “Meet the Breeds Sheep Demonstration” program on October 28th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is free and will be held at the Witter Farm on the UMaine campus.

Members of the association will bring sheep representing many different breeds now raised in Maine. Included will be Romney, Kathadin, Targee, and Hampshire as well as other breeds. A description of the breed characteristics and its uses (meat, wool, or milk) will be given.

In addition to the sheep breed demonstrations, this event will include lamb tasting, shearing demonstration, wool grading, spinning, a video on sheep production, and sheep related crafts. A specialized sheep show and judging will help the audience understand the desirable characteristics of the various sheep breeds displayed.

More information is available from Donna Lamb, Cooperative Extension, Piscataquis County office in Dover-Foxcroft, 1-800-287-1491 in Maine, or from Wally Sinclair, Secretary, CMSBA, 965-8432.
Leon Golub Exhibit Coming to UMaine Museum of Art

October 18, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr, 581-3571

“While the Crime is Blazing: Paintings, Drawings and Prints, 1994-1999,” works by Leon Golub, a University of Maine Museum of Art exhibit, Nov. 3-Dec. 16, Carnegie Hall, Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Call 581-3255.

ORONO -- Art of political activist, printmaker and painter Leon Golub will be on display in an exhibit Nov. 3-Dec. 16 at the University of Maine Museum of Art.

“When the Crime is Blazing: Paintings, Drawings & Prints 1994 –1999” is an exhibition that includes large-scale paintings on unstretched linen and a selection of drawings. Also included are four prints from the Museum of Art's permanent collection.

An opening reception for the exhibition will be held from 5-7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 3 in Carnegie Hall. Highlighting the reception will be a 6 p.m. discussion of Golub's work by Stuart Horodner, curator of the exhibition and director of the Bucknell University Art Gallery.

Golub was born in Chicago in 1922. As a leader of Chicago's figurative movement in the 1950s, he challenged the dominant styles of the time, Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art. An existential and activist painter, Golub's interest in the depiction of the figure never waned. He has gained international recognition for his large-scale unstretched paintings – politically charged works that directly address issues of war, racism, sexism and power. Political terror and people's abuse of power are the primary subjects in his monumental and highly topical paintings.

Golub has had more than 60 individual museum exhibitions. His work is included in numerous collections, including the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Malmö Konsthall, and the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art.

The Golub exhibition in Carnegie Hall at the UMaine Museum of Art is open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. Support for the exhibit is provided by the Friends of the Museum of Art and the Cultural Affairs Committee and The Arthur R. Lord Fund.

For more information, contact Shawn Rice, 581-3255 shawn.rice@umit.maine.edu

Museum Information:
The Museum of Art is located in Carnegie Hall at the University of Maine. The Museum is easily reached from the Kelley Road, Exit 50, I-95 North or South. Turn right onto Kelley Road from I-95 North, or left from I-95 South; follow it until the end. At the flashing light, turn left on Rt. 2. Follow Rt. 2 through Downtown Orono, across the bridge and turn left onto College Avenue at the first light after the bridge. Follow College Avenue for .5 mile and turn right at the University of Maine sign. Take third left at Museum of Art sign. Guest parking permits available at the Museum office. Museum hours are Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The Museum is closed on Sundays and national holidays. Admission is free and open to the public. For individuals needing special accommodations, contact the Museum. Gallery talks and tours are available when scheduled in advance. Visit our Web site (www.umaine.edu/artmuseum) for further information, including previews of upcoming exhibitions.

Editor's Note: Digital images from this exhibit are available on request.
New Technique to Protect Water Quality Developed at UMaine

October 18, 2000

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Barry Goodell, Dept. of Forest Management, 207-581-2888,

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine System has received a patent on a chemical process that could be used to clean up toxic waste sites, treat industrial wastewater or bleach wood pulp without generating toxic wastes. The research was performed by a team led by Barry Goodell of Bangor, wood scientist in the Department of Forest Management, and Jody Jellison, also of Bangor, molecular plant pathologist in the Department of Biological Sciences. Two former graduate students, Jing Liu and Srinivasan Krishnamurthy assisted with the work.

The process specifies a technique that results in the production of molecules known as free-radicals. These molecules are highly reactive and known for their ability to attack larger compounds. The technique can also be used in reverse to protect organic compounds from damage by free-radicals.

The patent is titled “Degradation and protection of organic compounds mediated by low molecular weight chelators.” It was issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 4.

The technique has been used to break down dyes in industrial wastewater, according to Goodell. “A lot of the dye used in paper and textile production ends up in the wastewater instead of the product. Dyes are meant to persist, and it's no surprise that they go through treatment and end up in rivers. We have found that this technology can produce a dramatic color reduction without the use of more expensive enzymes,” he says.

Research to develop the technique was conducted in Nutting and Hitchner halls on the UMaine campus, and funding was provided by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
Antarctic Research Event Set for Oct. 24

October 19, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Note: Media representatives are welcome to attend the event starting at 10 a.m. Oct. 24 in the Bryand Global Sciences Building on the UMaine campus.

ORONO, Maine -- With the Antarctic summer research season about to get underway, a team of University of Maine faculty and students will head south at the end of October to lead a major international expedition. Known as the International Trans-Antarctic Scientific Expedition (ITASE), the program involves scientists from 15 countries who will drill ice cores along specified routes across the continent.

In preparation for their departure, participating scientists will describe their research and show examples of clothing, tools and a tent in an event starting at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24 in the second floor lobby of the Bryand Global Sciences Building. Media representatives are welcome to attend.

Speakers at the event will include Hal Borns, professor in the Dept. of Geological Sciences and Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies (IQCS) and a former program officer with the Office of Polar Programs in the National Science Foundation; Paul Mayewski, professor of geological sciences, founder of ITASE and co-director of IQCS; Bruce Sidell, director of the UMaine School of Marine Sciences; and John Dearborn, emeritus professor of marine sciences.

In addition to Mayewski, who leads the expedition, members of the UMaine ITASE team include Benjamin Cavallari, who is a senior in geological sciences from Deering, New Hampshire, assistant team leader Zach Smith and research assistant professor Gordon Hamilton, all from the Institute.

The U.S. ITASE program is headquartered at UMaine. It is a significant expansion of the university's long tradition of Antarctic science. Researchers in the Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies, Department of Geological Sciences and the School of Marine Sciences have contributed significantly to the U.S. Antarctic Program since the 1950s. John Dearborn of SMS and Harold Borns of IQCS participated in some of the earliest expeditions of the modern era. More than 50 UMaine faculty and students have received the Antarctic Service Medal, and several Antarctic mountains are named for UMaine scientists.

In his October 24 presentation, Bruce Sidell of SMS will discuss his research on Antarctic ice fish that display unique physiological characteristics that are useful for medical studies of stress and disease. He is scheduled to lead a research cruise to Antarctica in June.

The goal of ITASE is to determine the environmental history of Antarctica during the past 200 years and, where conditions allow, up to the past 1,000 years. Researchers will collect climate and ice core data that will reveal trends in atmospheric circulation and sea ice as well as human related changes in the global environment.

U.S. ITASE researchers began collecting data last year and, through 2003, will sample snow and ice along four traverses in West Antarctica. They travel by snowmobile and Tucker Sno-Cat, live in tents and don white gloves and “clean suits” to handle their pristine samples. At each site, they dig deep pits in the snow and drill three-inch wide cores that extend more than 200 feet into the ice.

This year, they will also fly a University of Maine flag from one of their vehicles. Scientists from eight other U.S. universities and the U.S. Army's Cold Regions Research Laboratory in New Hampshire will participate in the upcoming trip.
Reporters from the science program NOVA and National Public Radio have already scheduled coverage of the trip. The public can follow the expedition through a Web site, www.secretsoftheice.org maintained by the Boston Museum of Science. Efforts are also being made to interact with middle and high school students.
Ground Broken for UMaine Hitchner Hall Project

Oct. 19, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO - A groundbreaking ceremony for the University of Maine's Hitchner Hall addition and renovation project was held on the UMaine campus this morning, not far from the elm tree which was once threatened by the project.

UMaine President Peter S. Hoff and State Sen. Mary Cathcart (D-Orono) were among the speakers at the groundbreaking.

The $11.8 million project, which will be funded by a combination of state and federal money, will create new space for teaching and research in biotechnology and in Food Science and Human Nutrition.

The design was created by combining two planned construction efforts - one to renovate Hitchner Hall to add biotechnology laboratories and one to build a new building for Food Science and Human Nutrition.

The combination of those projects led to a blueprint which leaves the historic tree, estimated to be 150 years old, standing. An early plan called for the removal of that tree, which was cured of Dutch Elm Disease through the groundbreaking research of retired Prof. Richard Campana during the 1970s.

The tree was dedicated in honor of Campana, now retired and living in Orono, in May of this year.

Site preparation work will take place this fall, with building construction anticipated to get underway in the spring of next year. The project should be completed in the early fall of 2002.

Plans call for 46,000 square feet of new construction and 16,000 square feet of renovated space.
Economic Contribution of Maine Harness Racing Industry

October 20, 2000

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Todd Gabe, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3307

Note: This and other science news can be seen on the MaineSci web site, www.umaine.edu/mainesci.

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine harness racing industry contributed about $50.7 million in 1999 in gross revenues to the state economy, according to a report from the University of Maine Department of Resource Economics and Policy (REP). That figure includes the revenues received by racetracks, off-track betting operations and some tourism-oriented businesses in the state as well as the spending by businesses and workers affiliated with the harness racing industry.

The study was conducted by Todd Gabe and Stewart Smith, faculty members in REP, with assistance from graduate research assistants and staff members at the university. They conducted surveys of racehorse owners as well as the owners and managers of racetracks and off-track betting facilities. Study findings are presented in a report titled “The Contribution of the Harness Racing Industry to the Maine Economy”, which is available from the department.

The Maine Harness Racing Promotion Board requested the study and donated $8,957 to REP to support the work.

Among the study results are the following:

• Direct contributions by the harness racing industry amount to $27.1 million and include revenue from racetracks and off-track betting facilities as well as spending by tourists and horse owners above what they receive in prizes and purses. The remaining $23.6 million of the industry's annual contribution, referred to as the industry's “multiplier effects”, is generated by the spending of businesses and workers affiliated with the industry.

• Total wagering for in-state and out-of-state races at off-track betting and simulcast facilities was $61.2 million in 1999. Total wagering at racetracks amounted to $8 million.

• Total attendance at live racing events in Maine amounted to 614,611 in 1999. Out-of-state attendance was an estimated 20 percent or 122,922 people.

• Race horse owners earned an average of $3,604 per horse and spent an average of $5,441 per horse in 1999.

• The industry supports a total of 1,671 part-time, seasonal and full time jobs. The total contribution in wages, salaries and distributed profits amounted to $14.7 million.

Focusing on the harness racing industry's contribution to the Maine economy, the study does not address the impact of the industry in terms of how much revenue would be lost if the industry did not exist. “Some of the money that people spend at races and off-track betting facilities would have likely been spent for things such as movies or other forms of recreation,” says Gabe.

The size of the industry's contribution in 1999 reflects a decline in revenues generated by the harness racing industry in Maine over the past two decades. A 1975 study by the Social Science Research Institute at the University of Maine found that the industry contributed $54.3 million. Inflation would make that figure considerably higher in today's dollars.
Rick Simonds, executive director of the Maine Harness Racing Promotion Board, acknowledges the findings of the study and while recognizing the decline in monies generated by the industry, feels that harness racing remains a vibrant sport and a constant tie with the agricultural heritage of Maine. “If you examine the viewing figures of Major League Baseball, or any number of other entertainment options, you will see that they are all down in numbers,” he offers. “There are just so many more things to do today than there were 25 years ago. Nationwide harness racing figures are up in terms of all the barometers so I believe it will just be a matter of time before Maine reflects that growth.”
Jordan Planetarium Takes Tour of the Universe

October 20, 2000

Contact: Alan Davenport, Jordan Planetarium, 581-1341
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- What stars are those? The autumn sky is filled with interesting characters that can be seen with a practiced eye. The Jordan Planetarium at the University of Maine will guide sky watchers in a tour of the fall sky and beyond to the edge of the universe in a program called Our Place in Space Fridays at 7:00 p.m. from November 3 – 17.

In all Jordan Planetarium programs, seating is limited to 45 visitors. Advance tickets for all showings can be purchased at the office in Wingate Hall during regular office hours or by mail to the Jordan Planetarium, 5781 Wingate Hall, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469-5781.

Remaining seats go on sale at the door 30 minutes before each showing. Admission for all showings is $4 adults, $3 for children under 18 and adults over 62.
Rezendes Lecture to Focus on Economic Class

October 24, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – American schools may be integrated by race, but they are still segregated by economic class, according to Richard Kahlenberg, a visiting lecturer at the University of Maine.

Kahlenberg, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation (formerly the Twentieth Century Fund) will visit UMaine Nov. 1 and 2 to deliver a series of lectures on the topic of education and equal opportunity.

On Nov. 1 at 7 p.m., Kahlenberg will deliver the Rezendes Lecture, "Affirmative Action by Economic Class," sponsored by the John M. Rezendes Ethics Fund and organized by the Philosophy Department.

The next day, Kahlenberg will speak at the Socialist and Marxist Studies Luncheon Series. In his lecture, "Whatever Happened to Class?" Kahlenberg will discuss the left's focus on race, gender and sexual orientation to the detriment of issues of class.

Kahlenberg will also discuss his new book on K-12 school integration and an article he wrote in "The American Prospect" suggesting that labor organizing should be treated as a civil right.

The visit is sponsored by the John M. Rezendes Ethics Fund. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the department of philosophy at 581-3866.
Collegiate Chorale Concert

October 25, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr, 581-3571

Collegiate Chorale in Concert, directed by Margaret Katherine Jellison, part of the UMaine School of Performing Arts season, 2 p.m., Nov. 12, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of '44 Hall, University of Maine, Orono. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO – Daniel Pinkham's “Christmas Cantata” will highlight an afternoon of choral music on Sunday, Nov. 12 at the University of Maine.

UMaine's Collegiate Chorale concert begins at 2 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of '44 Hall. Also on the program are selections from the Celtic and Scottish traditions, and works by Felix Mendelssohn and P.D.Q. Bach.

Margaret Katherine Jellison directs the Collegiate Chorale. Assistant director is James Joinville; accompanist is Laura Artesani.

Concert tickets are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.
History Department Hosts Teachers Conference

October 25, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The department of history at the University of Maine will encourage teachers to engage students more directly in the practice of history at its annual conference on Nov. 3.

“Every Student a Historian: Involving Students in the Practice of History” will be in Wells Commons at the University of Maine. Registration for the conference is $25 and people can register the day of the event.

“This conference is a forum for discussing and disseminating recent scholarship and for moving aspects of this scholarship into Maine's middle and high school curriculum,” says Richard Judd, professor of history at UMMaine.

The annual conference is the department's major community outreach event, and draws teachers from throughout the state.

“Not only does the conference offer a venue for demonstrating the relevance of new history scholarship for high school and elementary teachers, but it also provides a wonderful opportunity for university faculty to meet and chat with teachers who are educating our own future students,” says Judd.

The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration and a coffee time. At 9 a.m. in the Main Dining Room, welcoming remarks will be given.

Faculty from a variety of academic disciplines on and off campus will lead workshops and give lectures at the conference.

The schedule is as follows:

9:15-10:45 Concurrent Sessions

1. Murder She Wrote: Crime and Social History in Maine
Joshua M. Smith, University of Maine, “Murder on Isle au Haut”
Dena York, University of Maine – Presque Isle, “The Lynching of Jim Cullen: Using Legends and Stories to Involved Students in History Research”

2. Women's Words: Oral History and the History of Women
Mazie Hough (Women's Resource Center, University of Maine)
Pamela Dean (Northeast Folklife Center, University of Maine)

3. New Audiovisual Materials for Social Studies
Scott Woodward, Bucksport High School, “The Making of an American (1920)”
Andrea McCarty, Northeast Historic Film, “Contemporary Film Resources”
Karan Sheldon, Northeast Historic Film, “Northeast Historic Film's Services to Teachers”

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Concurrent Sessions

1. History and the Web
Dan Kaplan and Stephanie Philbrick, Maine Historical Society, The ‘Maine Memory' Website”
Laura Richter, Skowhegan Area Middle School, “Students Publish Rich Cultural Heritage Project Online”
Tami Kennedy, Maine Public Broadcasting, “Stay Curious: Maine PBS in the Classroom”

2. Creating Narrative from Documents
David Richards, Margaret Chase Smith Library, “Using Primary Sources: Ties My Teacher Taught Me”
Jim Henderson, Maine State Archives, “Community History in the Classroom: Resources from the Maine State Archives”
Renny Stackpole, Penobscot Marine Museum, “Ships, Letters, and Best Sellers: Maritime History in the Classroom”

3. The Built Environment as History
Roxanne Elflin, Maine Preservation, “Jane Carpenter Poliquin Grants for Heritage Education”
Rosemarie DeAngelis, South Portland High School, “The City as a Teaching Tool”
Nancy Hohman, Gifted and Talented Program, SAD #17, “The Norway Opera House: Preservation and Community History”

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30-3:00 Concurrent Sessions

1. Bringing History to Life: Museums, Material Culture, and Historical Imagination
Anu Dudley, University of Maine, “Dr. Hubbard's Obstetrical Supporter: Childbirth in the Nineteenth Century”
Deborah Pulliam, University of Maine, “Knitted Stockings: 'Handsome and Comfortable' Wear for the Whole Family”
Nancy Alexander, University of Maine, “The Farm Woman as Entrepreneur”

2. “A Day's Work”: History through Photography
Jennifer Elliott (Tilbury House Publishers),
Rae Pelletier (Boothbay Middle School),
Steve Dexter (Leonard Middle School, Old Town)

3:00-3:15 Wrap-Up

For more information on the conference, call the history department at 581-1908.
UMaine Engineer to be Honored at Pajama Party

October 25, 2000

Contact: Steve Adam, College of Engineering, 207-581-2262
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to honor one of the University of Maine's distinguished engineering faculty members in a “pajama party” Saturday, Oct. 28.

The event will recognize the contributions of Richard Hill who is well known in Maine for his expertise on energy matters. His legacy as a University of Maine professor of mechanical engineering is demonstrated daily by the thousands of UMaine students who learned their engineering skills in his classroom between 1946 and 1992.

During the UMaine Homecoming weekend, former students, friends and alumni will honor Hill with a party that is inspired by a comment that the professor frequently made to his students. The result will be a party featuring a unique pair of pajamas that is embroidered with some of the most important equations in thermodynamics.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. in Wells Commons and include a luncheon just prior to the UMaine football game.

In order the stress the importance of certain equations to mechanics, Hill would say to his students, “that's one to embroider on your pajamas.” When Hill found a student using another formula that was less important, he would make the point by saying, “that's not an equation on your pajamas.”

In 1956, students expressed their appreciation for Hill's teaching methods by buying a pair of pajamas, embroidering them with the critical equations and presenting them to him as a Christmas present.

“We want to honor Dr. Hill for his 46 years of distinguished service in educating Maine engineers,” says Steve Adam of the College of Engineering. “We have already registered almost 70 people, 45 of whom are alumni who graduated between 1948 and 1965.”

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Information is available from Adam at 207-581-2262 or via e-mail, steve.adam@umit.maine.edu.
Third Annual Women Composers Recital

October 26, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

The Third Annual Women Composers Recital, organized by Laura Artesani and featuring performances by University of Maine music faculty and the Athena Consort, directed by Francis John Vogt, part of the UMaine School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 1, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall, University of Maine, Orono. 581-4700.

ORONO – The music of women composers, contemporary and classic, will be featured in a concert Wednesday, Nov. 1 at the University of Maine.

The Third Annual Women Composers Recital begins at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall. There is no admission fee.

School of Performing Arts faculty and the Athena Consort will perform instrumental, vocal and choral works by Hildegard of Bingen, Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Beth Wiemann, Katherine Hoover, and Grazyna Bacewicz.

The recital is organized by music instructor and pianist Laura Artesani, music coordinator of the School of Performing Arts. It complements a course she teaches each fall on women and music.

Participating faculty members include Beth Wiemann, Baycka Voronietsky, Ginger Yang Hwalek, Elizabeth Downing, Anatole Wieck, Phillip Silver, Noreen Silver, Peggy Jo Wilhelm, and Francis John Vogt, who directs Athena Consort.
UMaine Murphy Professor Next Business Breakfast Speaker

October 26, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – John Mahon, the University of Maine Business School's newest faculty member, speaks at the next “Emerging Business Issues in Maine” Business Breakfast on Nov. 14.

Mahon's talk, “Internet and Global Competition: Business Unusual,” takes place at the Bangor Motor Inn and Conference Center on the Hogan Road from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

In January 2001, Mahon will assume the John M. Murphy Chair in Global Strategy and Policy at the UMaine Business School. He is currently a professor at the Boston University School of Management and chair of the business policy department, where he teaches management systems.

The buffet breakfast costs $10, payable at the door. Call 581-1968 for reservations.
Consumers Need Better Information to Judge Environmentally Green Wood Products

October 27, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Mario Teisl, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3162

ORONO, Maine -- Green certification consumer labels on forest products need to backed up by educational efforts and enough information to overcome concerns about the credibility of the certifying organization, according to a new University of Maine report. Mario Teisl, assistant professor in the Department of Resource Economics and Policy, is the lead author on the report that is based on information gathered from consumers in Bangor, Cleveland, and San Francisco.

Teisl and three colleagues from market research firms in Pennsylvania conducted two focus group sessions in each city in which they showed consumers a variety of labels and discussed forest harvesting issues. The purpose of the project was to identify the types of environmental information that consumers would find useful and the effect of different labels on perception of the environmental impacts associated with forest products.

The project was supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Teisl is an expert in market information and has led efforts to design effective labels for electrical generation and food safety.

Participants in the forest product groups expressed concern about the familiarity of certifying organizations as well as the presentation of details about forest practices.

“In general, most participants did not inherently trust environmental marketing information,” the report notes. “They stated that environmental claims are often too vague. . . . Further, participants did not know who the certifying organization was. In reaction to potential labeling approaches, many participants felt the environmental labels were just a marketing scam or an industry logo.”

Participants also identified environmental concerns that were most important. Those concerns included clearcutting, harvest sustainability, habitat protection, waste generation and impacts on threatened or endangered species. They were less concerned about local economic impacts and the use of non-native or genetically modified species.

The report, Designing Effective Environmental Labels for Forest Products: Results of Focus Group Research, is published by the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station as Miscellaneous Report #420. It is available through the Internet at http://www.umaine.edu/mafes/elec_pubs/mr420.pdf or from Barbara Harrity, 207-581-3211.
Jazz Concert at the University of Maine

October 31, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

University of Maine Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo in Concert, directed by Karel Lidral, associate professor of music, part of the UMaine School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 9, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall, University of Maine, Orono. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO – A tribute to the Duke Ellington Orchestra and legendary trumpeter “Bubber” Miley will be among the works performed by some of the finest young jazz soloists in the state when the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo take the stage at the University of Maine Thursday, Nov. 9.

The concert is at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall. Tickets are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

Director of the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo is Karel Lidral, UMaine director of jazz studies and associate professor of music.

The program of the 18-member Jazz Ensemble includes “Blues For Bubber,” a Kevin McElrath composition that is a tribute to the Duke Ellington Orchestra, particularly the 1928-1932 period, and to trumpeter “Bubber” Miley, who was fond of the plunger mute. Soloists include graduate student Chris Malm (in the role of Miley) on trumpet, Patrick Bolin on the baritone saxophone, Marc Heskett on alto saxophone, and Becky Borja on “stride” piano.

Billy Strayhorn's “Chelsea Bridge,” arranged by jazz veteran Sammy Nestico, will feature trumpeter Trevor Marcho. Among the soloists for “Dominga,” a cha-cha by Jeff Jarvis, will be Chris Strange on tenor saxophone and trombonist John Maclaine.

“Duke It Out!” by Indiana University's director of jazz studies Dominic Spera, is a hard-driving shuffle that will feature improvisations from tenor saxophonist Tim Hart and others. The medium-up swing chart “When The Time's Right” by Lennie Niehaus will highlight Josh Guthrie on electric bass and Christina Lamare on trumpet.

No concert would be complete without a slow, 12/8-style blues like Doug Beach's “Jefferson Blues.” Solo performances include a trombone “duel” by John Maclaine and Zach Lampron. Similarly, Shelton Berg's medium shuffle “Yo' Baad Self” will feature a tenor (saxophone) “battle” between Chris Strange and Tim Hart, and a brief drum solo by Art Lidral.

Fans of the University of Maine jazz programs will remember the recent performance of a Kenton version of the “Star Spangled Banner.” This time, the arrangement of the national anthem will be by Bill Cunliffe in a swing style.

The nine-member Jazz Combo has an equally ambitious program this fall with eight arrangements by Frank Mantooth. Four of these works will be performed in the Minsky concert: “Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man,” including soloists Tom Painter on guitar and Yukiko Miura on the vibes; “Here, There, and Everywhere”; “Love Walked In,” with pianist Aaron Hermes, Sean Ociepka on electric bass and other soloists trading fours with drummer Kevin Mania; “The Nearness of You”; “Night and Day”; “Skylark”; “Stella By Starlight,” featuring trumpeter Zach Brandmeier and others; and “Tangerine,” with soloists including drummer Tom Schmidt.

The Jazz Combo will perform its complete program during the TGIF music series at noon, Friday, Nov. 17, Bangor Lounges, Union.
New Position a Homecoming for Career Educator

Oct. 31, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Career educator Owen J. Logue has returned to the University of Maine to coordinate and guide student academic services in the College of Education and Human Development.

As assistant dean for Academic Services, Logue provides support and direction for students progressing through their programs and undertakes special initiatives to further the College's statewide work in support of Pre-K-12 education.

Logue has extensive experience in both higher education and K-12 schools and with students of all abilities, as well as a background in social welfare. These attributes give him a broad perspective and developmental understanding of today's complex educational and societal systems and their challenges, says Robert Cobb, dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

“OJ is extremely well suited to creatively approach and enhance the overall University experience for students,” says Cobb.

The position was recently reconfigured when Anne Pooler, former associate dean for Academic Services, became associate dean for Instruction, responsible for academic programming and faculty issues within the College.

For Logue, the UMaine opportunity meant a return to his home town, as well as to his alma mater and former work place. The Orono native worked at UMaine from 1984-90, first as a coordinator and counselor with Upward Bound, the federally funded educational opportunity program for high school students, and for five years with the campus' academic support Onward Program, where he was a counselor and coordinator of services for students with disabilities.

Logue, who held a similar academic services position at Providence College from 1993-95, comes to UMaine from School Union 98 in Mt. Desert, where he served as director of Special Services, overseeing special education and Title 1 services to the nine schools throughout the district. Earlier, he served as coordinator of Kennebec Valley Technical College's Education Technician Program and as a regional director for the New England Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center, providing training and technical assistance to help businesses and municipalities comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In the early '80's, he taught hearing-impaired students at Bangor High School.

Logue holds a bachelor's degree in social welfare from the University of Southern Maine, a master's and Certificate of Advanced Study in special education and counseling from UMaine and a doctorate in education, with specialization in higher education administration, from Vanderbilt University. An avid runner and former deaf Olympian, Logue represented the United States in track and field in the 1981, '85 and '89 games.

Logue, his wife, Barbara, a UMaine graduate and nurse practitioner, and their three children live in Southwest Harbor.
Fiber-Reinforced Composite Strip Could be a Tonic for Ailing Structures

November 1, 2000

Contact: Habib Dagher, Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center, 207-581-3138
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-377

ORONO, Maine -- Building owners and contractors who need to strengthen floors, roofs and other structural components may find that a new repair technique developed at the University of Maine Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center (AEWC) is the right tool for the job. Habib Dagher, director of the AEWC, and Benjamin Foster, a master's student from North Vasselboro, have developed a fiber reinforced composite strip that can be used to strengthen wood beams.

The strip is not available in retail stores, but arrangements to use it on a limited trial basis can be made with the AEWC. Increasing structural strength may be particularly important when insulation is added to reduce energy bills, Dagher notes.

The research recently received national recognition at the Composite Fabricator's Association (CFA) annual conference in Las Vegas, attended by over 5,000 people, where Dagher received the Best Technical Paper Award.

The paper describes an efficient method to repair or strengthen wood beams in service using fiber-reinforced polymer strips bonded to the underside of the beams.

“This is an increasingly common problem as much of our building infrastructure continues to age, including schools and municipal buildings,” says Dagher. “Owners and policy makers are often faced with the choices of tearing out a structure or finding an efficient and safe way to repair it.”

“Adding insulation above a ceiling or renovating a structure to accommodate a new use can mean that beams must carry a heavier load,” he adds. “There are known occasions in Maine and other northern states where roofs of older buildings have collapsed in a major snow storm soon after they have been insulated.”

Dagher and Foster conducted full-scale tests showing that beams almost sawn in half can be restored to full strength. The researchers bonded strips to the bottoms of thirty beams that had been intentionally damaged by sawing through three quarters of the depth. The beams where structurally tested in the lab to the breaking point. Evidence generated by the tests showed that the reinforcing strip had restored the beams to their initial strength.

The strip typically extends twice the depth of the beam to either side of the damaged area. “The technology presents a practical, efficient way to save a roof or a floor rather than replace it,” says Dagher.
Percussion Ensemble in Concert

November 2, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

Percussion Ensemble in Concert, directed by Stuart Marrs, professor of music, part of the UMaine School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 14, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall, University of Maine, Orono. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO – Classical percussion, ragtime and jazz are on the program for the Tuesday, Nov. 14 concert of the University of Maine Percussion Ensemble.

The 10-member ensemble, directed by Professor of Music Stuart Marrs, will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall, University of Maine. Tickets for the concert are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

Works on the program will include Carlos Chávez's “Toccata,” one of the early works for classical percussion ensemble. Chávez uses European forms and musical structures while sprinkling in a mixture of European and Mexican indigenous instruments, such as maracas, claves, and Indian drum.

Like “Toccata,” Gabriel Amadeo Videla's “Chacarenio” blends folk and classical European traditions. The rhythms will be easily recognizable by those familiar with Argentine folk music.

“Lift-Off” is described by its composer Russell Peck as “spiritual, physical and visual, as well as musical... The performance should be totally committed to the physical act of beating drums.” In it, each percussionist plays three low-sounding drums that are only slightly differentiated from player to player. The piece is a musical juggling act, with the performers tossing accents and rhythmic figures back and forth across the front of the stage.

Scott Joplin's “Maple Leaf Rag,” a long-time favorite of xylophone soloists, and “Encore in Jazz” by Vic Firth, solo timpanist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and percussion instructor at the New England Conservatory of Music, round out the program.
Winter Parking Rules in Effect at UMaine

Nov. 2, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine's winter overnight parking ban will be in effect from now through May 1, 2001, 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 866-0290 or the Public Safety dispatcher at 581-4040.

Vehicles parked in violation of the ban will be towed at the owner's expense.
Libra Professor Lecture at UMaine

November 3, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – Lenard Kaye, the visiting Libra Professor in the University of Maine's School of Business, Public Policy and Health, will deliver a keynote address on the issue of caring for the nation's elderly on Nov. 13.

The talk, “Family Transformations and the Demand for Elder Care in America,” will be given in the Devino Auditorium of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Kaye, the 2000-2001 visiting Libra Professor, has been on the faculty of the graduate school of social work and social research at Bryn Mawr since 1986. He has served as director of the Ph.D. program since 1997 and served as associate director and coordinator of Brookdale Institute on Aging and Adult Human Development at Columbia University in New York.

After the talk, a panel discussion on the issue will be held with participants Kevin Concannon, Roberta Downey and Christine Gianopoulos.

Concannon is the commissioner of the Maine Department of Human Services, a position he has held since 1995. He has overseen major programs and innovations in Maine and Oregon. Downey, the executive director of the Eastern Agency on Aging, has served as regional planner for the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and has held management positions at Penquis CAP and the Department of Human Services. Gianopoulos is the director of the

Bureau of Elder and Adult Services at Maine's state unit on aging. Prior to joining the bureau, she was a research associate at the University of Southern Maine's Edmund Muskie Institute on Public Affairs.

There will be a reception in the D.P. Corbett atrium following the talk and panel discussion. The events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 581-1896.
Messalonskee, UMaine to Offer Night of Traditional Band Music

November 3, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

Concert by the University of Maine Symphonic Band and the Messalonskee High School Concert Band, part of the UMaine School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 20, Hutchins Concert Hall, Maine Center for the Arts, University of Maine, Orono. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO – The Messalonskee High School Concert Band will share the stage with the University of Maine Symphonic Band in a concert Monday, Nov. 20 at the Maine Center for the Arts.

A highlight of the evening will be a performance of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" by pianist Phillip Silver, UMaine assistant professor of music and international performer with several recordings on the Koch\Swanson label.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in Hutchins Concert Hall on the UMaine campus with music by the Concert Band from Messalonskee High School in Oakland. The Symphonic Band will perform the second half of the program.

Directing Messalonskee's Concert Band in a program of traditional band music is Andrew Forster. Works will include “Intrada for Winds” by Shaldon, “Nimrod” from the “Enigma Variations” by Copland, and “Mazama” by Chattaway.

The Symphonic Band will be led in a performance of American band literature by Curvin Farnham, UMaine director of bands. Assistant conductors are Shianne Wheeler, director of bands at Old Town Middle School, and Robert Frazier, a graduate student in instrumental conducting. Their program will include “Ceremonial Fanfare” by Reineke, and “Pastime by Stamp” and “Shenandoah” by Ticheli.

Tickets for the University of Maine recital are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.
UMaine to Host Student Journalists

November 3, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- "Power of the Media: Past, Present and Future" is the theme for the eighth annual student journalism conference scheduled for March 23, 2001, at the University of Maine.

High school students from across the state will gather in Orono for a wide variety of sessions led by professional journalists on topics such as news, feature, sports and editorial writing, layout and design, interviewing, photography, ethics and a variety of other topics. Robert Klose of Orono, author and writer for the Christian Science Monitor, will be the keynote speaker.

"Students are energized by the open exchange of ideas and experiences with their peers from other schools and with professional and college journalists," said Kathryn Olmstead, associate professor of journalism and director of the Maine Center for Student Journalism, which sponsors the conference. "This year's conference will include new sessions on the role of the student newspaper, power and responsibility and 'Does the press make a difference'?

"The conference will conclude with presentation of awards to winners in the 2001 Student Newspaper Contest. Individual student journalists will be recognized in the categories of news writing, editorial and opinion writing, review writing, sports writing, feature writing, photography, page layout and design.

This year, a new category has been added to the list. Student newspapers that have not entered past contests will be eligible for the "Best New Paper" award.

The James Russell Wiggins Trophy, provided by the Ellsworth American, will be given to the student newspaper that demonstrates overall general excellence in all categories.

For more information on the conference, contact the Maine Center for Student Journalism at (207) 581-1939 or 581-1278.
Maine Women's Studies Conference at UMaine Nov. 18

Nov. 6, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO - “Women Around the World: Bringing the Global Home” is the theme of the 15th Annual Maine Women's Studies Conference scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 18 at the University of Maine.

The daylong conference features panel discussions, presentations, a women's organizational fair, exhibits and videos. Highlights include a keynote address by Amrita Basu, professor of political science, and women's and gender studies at Amherst College, speaking on local women's movements in global perspective. The conference ends with a public reading by poet June Jordan.

This year's conference is sponsored by the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program, the Women's Resource Center, and the Maine Women's Consortium, which is made up of public and private higher education institutions in the state. The registration deadline is Nov. 13; the fee is $25, $8 for students. To register or for more information, call 581-1228 or visit www.umaine.edu/wic/.

The Maine Women's Studies Conference was established by Colby College in 1986. Last year, it was held at the University of Maine at Augusta, co-sponsored by Bowdoin and Unity Colleges.

The theme of this year's conference focuses on the global issues of women in conjunction with the "Beijing + 5" initiative that grew out of the International Forum on Women, held in Beijing in 1995. In addition, the theme reflects UMaine's leadership in international programs. The University has more international students, more travel-study courses, and more international research and public service projects than any other member of the Consortium.

“The point is not to be 'tourists' but to make the links between global issues and experiences, and the work we do here in Maine,” says Ann Schonberger, director of the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program.

The conference begins at 8 a.m. with registration in D.P. Corbett Business Building. At 9 a.m. in the Devino Auditorium of D. P. Corbett, an opening plenary session, a signature of the UMaine event, will set the stage for the keynote speaker. The session, moderated by UMaine Assistant Professor Renate Klein, will feature a panel of Maine women who have global connections that link to their work in the state. They include Joanne Kilgour, Youth Adelantando of Bangor; Sherri Mitchell, Penobscot recipient of an American Indian Ambassador fellowship; Rhea Côté Robbins, Franco American Women's Institute; Tara Schnitker, UMaine women's studies major; Stephanie Seguino, University of Vermont; Jean Symonds, associate professor emerita of nursing.

Amrita Basu will deliver the conference keynote address at 10:15 a.m. Basu is the author of "Two Faces of Protest: Contrasting Modes of Women's Activism in India" and editor of "The Challenge of Local Feminisms: Women's Movements in Global Perspective."

Concurrent sessions throughout the day in Corbett Business Building and Shibles Hall will address a number of topics: “The Subject is Not Woman: Internationalizing the Women's Studies Curriculum”; “Transformations of Gender Roles in Russian Film at the End of the Millennium”; “Trafficking, Migration, and the U. S. Law”; “Chez Nous: Franco American Women Traveling Home”; “Writing in Nazi-Occupied Paris”; and the movement toward democracy in India and South Africa.

In addition, UMaine's AAUW Educational Foundation Scholar in Residence, Lyn Mikel Brown, and Sharon Barker, director of the Women's Resource Center, will discuss their yearlong research project on girls' friendships.
A women's organizational fair from 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in Corbett Business Building will feature exhibits by campus and community organizations. Videos about women's issues and women activists in countries throughout the world, available from the library and media resource center of Women in the Curriculum/Women's Resource Center in Fernald Hall, will be shown continuously in a room in Shibles or D. P. Corbett.

The public is invited to attend the conference's closing reading at 4:30 p.m., Wells Conference Center, by June Jordan. Jordan is a poet, essayist, activist and professor of African American studies at the University of California-Berkeley. She will read from her latest book, "Soldier: a Poet's Childhood" (reviewed in the November 2000 "Women's Review of Books"), as well as from her other work.
Student "Broadway Rocks" Concert to Benefit Youth Shelter

Nov. 6, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – University of Maine students will perform songs from rock musicals in “Broadway Rocks,” a concert scheduled at Hauck Auditorium on Nov. 16 and 17. The performance will benefit The Shaw House, a youth shelter in Bangor.

Admission to the 8:30 p.m. concerts is free for UMaine students who bring non-perishable food items. General admission is $5.

The performance includes songs from “Chess,” “Godspell,” “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Rent” and “The Who's Tommy.” The program's goal is to provide students with entertainment by their peers, along with the opportunity to contribute to the community.

Producer Matthew Blake Small, a junior UMaine communication major, says his cast and crew will provide a unique musical performance for both student performers and audience members.

“The fusion of pop music and musical theater over the past few decades has begun to make songs from the stage more appealing to the masses. With the music we perform, we hope to introduce musical theater to some rookies in the crowd, as well as entertain the Broadway buffs,” Small says.

“While the performance is itself a primary focus of the event,” he says, “the community service aspect is also key into making the program meaningful. By offering free concerts to students who make food donations, we hope to show the importance of service to those in need. There are people in this area who can use our help.”

Small, formerly of The Maine Steiners student singing group, will be joined on stage by singers Suzanne Bongiorno, Emily Ann Cain, Dave Janes and Elizabeth Sauter, all members of the University Singers. Pianist Stephanie Bennett, bassist Adam McLaughlin, guitarist Benjamin Moors and drummer Thomas Schmidt will perform with the band. Eight of the performers are current UMaine students.

Students from the office for Volunteers and Organizations in Community Efforts will collect and distribute the food for Shaw House in Bangor. The mission of Shaw House is to provide emergency shelter and support services to youth experiencing problems with homelessness and to advocate for solutions to those problems.

At the beginning of the semester, Small teamed up with Lauri Sidelko, UMaine's assistant director of Campus Events and Activities to plan the concert. Sidelko's office will provide most of the funding for the show. Other sponsors include Residents on Campus and Residence Life and Programs.
UMaine Music Professor Recipient of Hartgen Award

November 6, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – Dennis Cox, director of the choral music program and professor of music at the University of Maine, is the recipient of this year's Vincent A. Hartgen Award.

The Hartgen Award is presented each fall by the University of Maine Patrons of the Arts to a person who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the arts in the University community. A ceremony to formally present the award will be held Dec. 9 at the university's Wells Conference Center.

"Dennis is one of the premier ambassadors of the University of Maine. Whether he tours the University Singers through the high schools of Maine or the concert halls of Europe, the spirit, expertise and values embodied by the state's flagship university are on display -- and an awesome display it is," says Rebecca Eilers, dean of the UMaine College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Cox came to UMaine in 1978 as the director of choral activities. He received his bachelor's degree in vocal music education from the University of Nebraska, a master's in choral conducting from the University of Colorado, a master's in music education from West Virginia University and a doctorate in musical arts in choral conducting from the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Prior to his arrival at UMaine, Cox was assistant professor of music at Salem College in West Virginia, and taught vocal music in Colorado and Nebraska. Cox is a frequent guest clinician who has conducted festival choruses in 24 states, Canada and Europe.

Cox, affectionately called “DC” by his students, is perhaps best known on campus for his direction of the University Singers, a select 64-voice ensemble whose members come from all disciplines across campus.

Under his direction, the Singers tour the Northeastern United States for one week each spring and tour abroad once every four years. These tours bring prestige to the university and influence students to attend.

The ensemble has performed for both the National Association for Music Education and the American Choral Directors Association conferences. Each spring, the Singers perform major choral-orchestral works with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra.

“I can honestly say that DC and the University Singers are the reason I am still here at the University of Maine,” says Emily Ann Cain, president of the University Singers. “He challenged me to make this experience my own and get involved and inspired me to change my major to music education with a concentration in voice.”

Cain says that Cox brings an enthusiasm for music and choral performance that is contagious, and has given students involved in the Singers opportunities they would not have had otherwise.

“He demands from us nothing less than our best as we head out to communities where alumni and prospective students gather to hear us sing,” says Cain. “DC’s students mean the world to him, and he lets them know that every step of the way.”
Cain says that at the end of each concert, University Singers alumni are invited onto stage to sing “Jabberwocky” and “The Stein Song” with the current group.

“When they come up to the risers, DC introduces them to us and the audience, and in the three years I have been here, I have never seen him miss a name, a hometown or a major,” says Cain.

Cox is the second recipient of the Hartgen Award. The award's namesake, Vincent Hartgen, the prestigious artist and professor emeritus of the University of Maine department of art, received the first award in December of 1999.

Hartgen began the art department and created the first art education program for UMaine student teachers.

Hartgen also helped found the Patrons of the Arts in 1963, a group that supports and encourages undergraduate student involvement in all the arts. His art has been displayed at the George Binet Gallery in New York and in the Maine Senate offices in Augusta.

Leonard Minsky, the current chair of the Patrons, says the group began the award last year as a way to honor Hartgen's work and also bring attention to the arts at UMaine.

“We wanted to encourage the arts on campus and recognize those who have done extraordinary work in the field,” says Minsky.

The award ceremony will be held on December 9 at the Wells Conference Center at the University of Maine. For ticket information, call the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at 581-1954.
UMaine to Refund Some Parking Ticket Fines

Nov. 6, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – Refunds will soon be sent to vehicle owners who have paid fines for specific parking infractions incurred at the University of Maine between Sept. 1 and Oct. 11 of this year.

Tickets issued for certain violations which occurred during that time frame have been converted to warnings. In cases where fines have already been paid, refunds will be issued. In cases where fines have not yet been processed, UMaine will not charge student accounts or bill vehicle owners.

A series of new regulations, which were created through a year-long study by a group made up of UMaine students, faculty and staff members, took effect on Sept. 1. Those new rules were developed under the assumption that approximately 600 new parking spaces would be available on campus at the beginning of September. Since construction work was not completed until early in October, the University administration believes that limits on available space were a contributing factor to many of the parking rule violations which occurred between Sept. 1 and Oct. 11.

Refunds will be sent to those who incurred tickets during that time frame for the following violations:

• parking on grass or an unpaved area
• parking in an improper lot

Those who are eligible for a refund will receive a letter from the University's Department of Public Safety within the next few days. The refund will be issued within 60 days of the letter.

Refunds will not be issued for fines based on parking in handicapped-only spaces, parking adjacent to a fire hydrant, parking in a loading zone or parking in a fire lane. Additionally, refunds will not be issued for vehicles that were not properly registered to park on campus when they were ticketed.

Questions should be directed to the UMaine Parking Office at 375 College Avenue. The telephone number there is 866-0290.
Public Welcome at UMaine GIS Day

Nov. 8, 2000

Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Frank Wihbey, Fogler Library, 207-581-1681
Kate Beard, Spatial Information Science and Engineering, 207-581-2147

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to see technology that is used to create virtual reality experiments and computerized maps during GIS Day, November 15, at the University of Maine. Part of Geography Awareness Week, the events will include demonstrations of the new GeoScan spatial and socioeconomic data service at Fogler Library as well as a 3-D visualization system in Boardman Hall.

The GeoScan facility will be open for demonstrations from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first floor of Fogler Library. It features equipment for combining data on population, climate, income and other factors with maps of counties, states of the U.S., and other geographic regions of the world. More information is available from Frank Wihbey at the Library, 581-1681.

Demonstrations will also be conducted by the Department of Spatial Information Science and Engineering (SIE) from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Edwards Wing of Boardman Hall. Technology on display will include the Immersadesk, the Smart Board and digital image processing.

The Immersadesk is a 3-D visualization system in which the user interacts with a simulated environment through the use of special gloves, glasses and a six-foot touch-sensitive screen. Members of the audience will have an opportunity to operate the system.

The Smart Board allows the user to interact with a computer screen by touching the screen or using tools to draw on the screen, eliminating the need for a keyboard. Digital image processing involves manipulating and interpreting digital images, such as those from remotely sensed data or video, through the use of a computer.

More information about the activities is available from Kate Beard, 581-2147, department chair.

Research information on the use of satellite imaging and mapping technology in forestry and wildlife science is also available from the Department of Wildlife Ecology. Although no special events are planned, students and other members of the public can contact Jeff Hepinstall at 581-1340 in 202 Nutting Hall. Hepinstall has been involved in projects to create statewide habitat and vegetation maps of Maine as well as to model wildlife species habitat in the state.
'Holocaust Cantata' Part of University Singers Concert

November 14, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

University Singers in Concert, directed by Dennis Cox, professor of music, part of the UMaine School of Performing Arts season, 2 p.m., Nov. 19, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of '44 Hall, University of Maine, Orono. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO --Soloists, narrators and the 70-voice University Singers will perform "Holocaust Cantata" as the feature work in a concert Sunday, Nov. 19 at the University of Maine.

The cantata by Donald McCullough is based on the stories and music of the concentration camps. McCullough, music director of the Master Chorale of Washington, spent a year researching the archives of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The 117 songs written in captivity by Polish composer Jozef Kropinski, and the 35 song texts and 52 poems by another Polish prisoner, Kazimierz Wojtowicz, form the basis of the work, which premiered at the Kennedy Center in 1998.

Under the direction of Professor of Music Dennis Cox, the University Singers will present "Holocaust Cantata" in the first half of its Nov. 19 concert that begins at 2 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall on campus.

Soloists for the cantata are soprano Christine St. Pierre, a fourth-year voice performance major from Fort Fairfield; mezzo-soprano Sandra Bisson, a graduate student in music education from Barre, Vt.; and baritone Jason Anderson, a second-year music education major from Ellsworth.

Other works on the program: a 15th-century Advent motet by Dufay and 16th-century work for double choir, "O filii et filiae" ("Let All the Nations Praise the Lord") by Volckmar Leisring; "Te Deum" by John Rutter; "Hymn to the American Spirit" from the opera "The Confidence Man" by George Rochberg; "Banks of Doon" by Donna Gartman Schultz; "She Take Me Money 'Matilda'" arranged by Larry Farrow; "Duerme Negrito" ("Sleep Little Black One") arranged by Emile Sole; the Scottish ballad "Banks of Doon" arranged by Donna Schultz; and the concluding work "The Disclaimer Song" by Tom Sivak.

The Maine Steiners and Renaissance Singers will perform during intermission.

Tickets for the concert are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.
Hudson Museum Hosts Basketmakers Sale

November 14, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine will host the sixth annual Maine Indian Basketmakers Sale and Demonstration on Dec. 9.

Micmac, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot basketmakers will sell their hand-made, one-of-a-kind ash splint and sweet grass basketry. There will also be carvings, jewelry, birchbark work and other crafts available.

In the afternoon, participants of the sale have the chance to participate in a celebration of the Museum's newest acquisitions. Added to the collection are a Penobscot canoe, circa 1888, whose conservation was funded by a grant from the New Century Project. The New Century Project is a collaborative initiative of seven state agencies providing matching grants and technical assistance. Funded by the people of Maine, the program seeks to assist Maine communities in preserving their cultural and educational resources.

The day's events will also showcase a new collection of crooked knives, supported by a grant from the Maine Antique Dealers Association. The event will be held in the Penobscot gallery on the second floor.

A food drive will be held again this year for the Fiddlehead Food Pantry, which provides food for First Nation People in the Wabanaki regions. Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable food items to the sale for collection.

Children are welcome to participate in creative activities between 11 a.m. and noon. Workshops on making brown ash and sweetgrass candy baskets 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, located in the Maine Center for the Arts on the UMaine campus, is the state's gateway for people to explore and understand the diversity of human experience. The Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance supports the event.

Schedule of Events

9 – 10 a.m.
Early Bird Shopping
$5 admission fee for this special shopping opportunity. Free for Hudson Museum Friends

10 a.m.
Opening welcome by the Penobscot Nation, the event's host tribe, and the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance.

10:30 – 11 a.m.
Brown ash pounding and work basket demonstration by Eldon Hanning, Micmac
11 – Noon
Children's Activities
- brown ash and sweetgrass candy basket 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 and open for children age 8 and up. Call 581-1901 to register.

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Traditional Foods, Bodwell Area
Featuring hull corn soup, fry bread and blueberry desserts. Food sales benefit the Penobscot Nation Boys and Girls Club

1 p.m.
Opening event in the Penobscot Gallery, 2nd level.
Two additions to the Penobscot Gallery will be featured, a Penobscot canoe, circa 1888, whose conservation was funded by a grant from the New Century Project and a new acquisition of crooked knives, which was supported by a grant from the Maine Antique Dealers Association.

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Burnurwurbskek Singers - Traditional drumming and singing

For more information on the event, call the Hudson Museum at 581-1901.

Note to Editors: Digital Images are available for this release. Please call 581-3756 for information.
International Paper Funds Accounting Scholarship

November 14, 2000
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The International Paper Company has recently funded a scholarship that will be available to students in the University of Maine's Business School.

The $1,000 scholarship will be available to the top accounting student at the UMaine Business School and will be awarded on a yearly basis based on academic merit.

“We are very pleased that International Paper has decided to continue the scholarship that Champion International had awarded to our students for several years. Several of our students have gone on to work for Champion and are now employees of IP. We hope this relationship will continue,” says Gloria Vollmers, associate professor of accounting at UMaine.

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.
New Coalition Formed to Address Impact of Demographic Changes on Maine's Aging Population

Nov. 14, 2000
Contact: Robert Ho, Maine Rural Development Council, 207-581-3192
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine - Seven Maine organizations, including the Maine Rural Development Council and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, have banded together to form the Coalition for a Maine Initiative on Aging (CMIA). The new group will address program and public policy needs related to Maine's growing elderly population.

As a first step, CMIA plans to host five regional focus groups around the state to gather timely information about issues and needs confronting Maine's aging population, particularly in isolated rural areas of the state.

The two in central and western Maine are scheduled for November 15 in Orono at the UMaine Doris Twitchell Allen Community Center and November 27 in Farmington at the UMF Olson Student Center. Coordinating these two regional efforts are MRDC Executive Director Bob Ho and UMCE educator Debbie Killam.

Other CMIA members are Maine Alzheimers Association, Maine's Area Agencies on Aging, the Maine Hospital Association, Maine Housing Authority, and the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at UMaine.

According to Maine Alzheimers Association Executive Director Eleanor Goldberg, the coalition “will seek to inform and educate policy and other decision makers about the short term, and more important long term policy implications of Maine's shifting population demographics, as they relate to our elderly citizens.”

The focus groups will assess where and how the state's current services for the elderly can be strengthened and how gaps in care can be bridged or enhanced by linkages with other resources. Additionally the focus groups will try to identify what new resources will be needed in the future and encourage systematic, carefully thought-out policy initiatives that will provide long-term and sustainable solutions. Finally, the Coalition will help develop a constituency in support of these initiatives.

According to recent study by the Margaret Chase Smith Center, the proportion of Maine's elderly population is expected to increase dramatically as the baby boom generation begins to turn 65 beginning in 2011. Currently, Maine's over sixty-five population is reported to be about 14%, but is expected to increase to 21% by 2025.

In 1990, 50% of Maine's elderly lived in rural areas, twice the national average. Such significant growth in the elderly population will clearly create significant demands on the State's service delivery infrastructure.
New Cooperative Extension Bulletins Offer Tips for Parents with Young Children

November 14, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Effective ways to involve young children in mealtime preparation and grocery shopping can make the experiences more meaningful and help parents get through two of the most trying activities of the day, according to University of Maine Cooperative Extension educators.

“Parents building relationships with their young children and understanding their development can make both mealtimes and shopping as hassle-free and effective as possible,” says UMaine Extension Educator Jane Conroy in Piscataquis County.

Tips on making the most of family mealtimes and finding winning ways to grocery shop with young children are the focus of two new bulletins available from any of Maine's 16 county Extension offices. The bulletins, part of the Eat Well Fact Sheet Series, highlight ways parents can make mealtimes and food shopping a shared experience with children, ultimately making the activities easier.

The bulletins, developed by Conroy and Extension Educator Shirley Hager in Androscoggin/Sagadahoc Counties, address nutrition from the standpoint of child development. Helping parents understand what to expect from their youngsters and providing age-appropriate tips for involving children can work “magic” at mealtime and while shopping, the authors say.

“As a parent, having tools to try and clearly communicating what you expect are key,” says Conroy. “Communicate with children so that mealtimes and grocery shopping become successful activities that you do together. Know that what you are teaching your children now will be life-long skills.”

The bulletins have been used statewide since September by Cooperative Extension nutrition aides working in the homes of limited-income parents with young children in the Limited-Income Nutrition Education programs. The educational goals of the federal program include improving nutrition knowledge, skills and understanding for healthier children and families. The program recognizes that inadequate nutrition is a risk factor that is high among limited-income families.

“Parents often are not in tune with the importance of mealtime,” Conroy says. “They see the goal of mealtime as feeding children. But mealtimes also provide an opportunity for family members to connect, communicate, check in with one another and join in family conversation.”

Another assumption is that taking young children grocery shopping automatically increases parental stress – and expense. “We encourage parents to make a shopping list and stick with it. The parent's job is to help children understand that there are limits on time and money. Communicate your expectations before the trip starts. Plan your shopping trip by bringing some of your own tools, such as snacks for the children and activities they can do to help.

“Grocery shopping with young children can be done,” says Conroy. “Most important, it can a fun learning opportunity for parent and child.”
"The Marriage of Bette and Boo" Comes to Cyrus Pavilion

Nov. 20, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

“The Marriage of Bette and Boo,” by Christopher Durang, directed by Tom Mikotowicz, associate professor of theatre, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 7-9 and Dec. 14-16; 2 p.m., Dec. 10 and Dec. 17, Cyrus Pavilion Theatre, University of Maine. $8. 581-1755.

ORONO -- The chaos and comedy of “The Marriage of Bette and Boo” will be dramatized by a student cast of 10 at the University of Maine, Dec. 7-10 and Dec. 14-17.

The Christopher Durang play will be staged in Cyrus Pavilion Theatre on campus, under the direction of Tom Mikotowicz, associate professor of theatre. Performances are at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 7-9 and Dec. 14-16, and at 2 p.m., Dec. 10 and Dec. 17. Tickets are $8 and are available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

“The Marriage of Bette and Boo” is Durang's most autobiographical play, with characters based on his family members. Durang wrote the one-act in 1974, then took the next decade to write the full-length, two-act play examining the chaos of his parents' marriage in hopes of making sense of it.

Durang sorts out the endless details of family history – incompatibility, alcoholism, mental instability, deadlocked marriages, death – as a way of “taming the past.” He faces serious subjects with irreverent, farcical humor, not only to illustrate the absurdity of life but also to use laughter as a healing salve.

“This is a very serious study of a man remembering and coming to terms with the seminal incidents in his family's life,” says Mikotowicz. “It is one of Durang's best plays because of the depth of characters and his ability to go beyond realism. He combines farce with realistic style, yet treats serious subjects with a tremendous amount of compassion.”

Mikotowicz chose “The Marriage of Bette and Boo” for the wide range of demands it places on student actors and the opportunity it provides to stretch their experience. The UMaine production spans the years 1950-85, from the lead character's childhood of chaos to his search for order as an adult.

“We have really worked to bring out the depth of the script,” says Mikotowicz. “We've also worked to shape inimitable family moments. In their roles, the students discover the complexities behind their characters' behaviors, and , as a result, feel that they've moved forward in their own understanding.”

Editor's Note: Digital images to accompany this story are available by contacting Joe Carr, 581-3571.
Basketmaking Lecture at Hutchinson Center

November 21, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

BELFAST -- Maine's oldest art form, Maine Indian baskets, is the topic of a lecture by Gretchen Faulkner of the University of Maine's Hudson Museum on December 7 at 4:00 p.m. at the Hutchinson Center, Route 3, Belfast.

Faulkner, the development coordinator at the Hudson Museum, will trace the history and evolution of this tradition from the mid-1800's to the present in her illustrated lecture. Maine Indian baskets are made from split brown ash and sweetgrass and they range from utilitarian forms, such as potato baskets, to ornate and whimsical fancy baskets, such as strawberry and blueberry-shaped baskets. Lecture attendees may bring Native American objects for identification to this event.

The majority of Maine Indian baskets found today date to the late 1800s and early 1900s, which was the period in which Maine's lakeshores and coastal communities became a popular summer destination for tourists. Maine's Native Peoples found a ready market for the sale of novelty merchandise, such as birchbark crafts, decorated paddles, toy bows and arrows, rootclubs, and especially baskets. Common basket forms, include sewing flats, glove, collar and handkerchief baskets, as well as teacups and pitchers.

Today, Maine Indian basketmakers continue to use tools passed down from their ancestors to produce sturdy work baskets and ornate, finely woven fancy baskets. Some seventy-five basketmakers from Maine's four tribes currently make baskets. Their work can be seen at the Hudson Museum's Annual Maine Indian Basketmakers Sale and Demonstration which will be held on December 9.

For more information about the December 7th lecture or the December 9th Sale and Demonstration, please call 581-1901.
'Saint Nicolas' Comes to St. John's Episcopal Church

November 21, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

Concert by the Oratorio Society, with the Orono Community Children's Chorus, and the Boys and Girls Choirs of St. John's Episcopal Church, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 6, St. John's Episcopal Church, French Street, Bangor. Donations accepted.

ORONO -- The University of Maine Oratorio Society and two children's choirs will combine their talents in a performance of the “Saint Nicolas” cantata at St. John's Episcopal Church in Bangor on Wednesday, Dec. 6.

The Benjamin Britten classic is about the life of the fourth-century bishop who became St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, and who, in contemporary times, is better known as St. Nick. Eastern and Western churches celebrate Dec. 6 as the Feast of St. Nicholas.

The performance of “Saint Nicolas” begins at 7:30 p.m. in St. John's Episcopal Church on French Street. Donations to defray the cost of the production will be accepted.

The Oratorio Society, with UMaine student and community members, was invited by St. John's to perform the work. The 80-member chorus, under the direction of Professor of Music Lud Hallman, will be joined by the Orono Community Children's Chorus, led by Terry Henry and Janet Smith, and the Boys and Girls Choirs of St. John's Episcopal Church, Fred Jones, director.

Soloists will be tenor and UMaine Instructor of Music Francis Vogt as St. Nicolas; treble Stuart Bost as Boy Nicolas; and Stuart Bost, Alexander Rose and Nigel Kass as the “Three Pickled Boys.”

Instrumental accompaniment will include a string quintet, piano, percussion and organ.

Hallman, who will conduct the production, came to know the work as a child when he sang the part of Boy Nicolas. “The piece made an impression on me then, and it still does,” he says. “One of the most delightful aspects is to take works of this kind and share them with the community and, in particular, children.”

Editor's Note: Digital images to accompany this story are available by contacting Joe Carr, 581-3571.
UMaine Graduate Student Researches New Water Monitoring Technology

November 21, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman at 581-3777

A University of Maine graduate student is wrapping up her study of a new technology that may improve monitoring of the state's rivers for dioxins and other pollutants. Heather Shoven, a master's student in the Ecology and Environmental Sciences Program, is evaluating data from devices placed this summer in the Kennebec and Androscoggin rivers.

Her two-year project has brought her into close collaboration with environmental agencies, the Penobscot Indian Nation and other scientists in the Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research at UMaine. It has also given her a headstart on a career in environmental policy and regulation.

Known as a semi-permeable membrane device or SPMD, the technology enables scientists to determine the concentration of dioxin in the water over a specific amount of time. A SPMD is referred to as a “fatbag” in water quality circles because it contains a highly refined fish oil encased in a membrane that allows water and dissolved compounds to pass through. The oil absorbs some types of pollutants such as dioxins and PCBs.

Shoven is working at the Mitchell Center with the support of grants from the U.S. Geological Survey and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. She has given presentations about her project to four state and international conferences over the past year, including a meeting of the National Council on Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI) in New Hampshire last October.

Shoven, a native of Kankakee, Illinois, graduated summa cum laude in biochemistry from Marquette University in 1999. She was attracted to the water resources option at UMaine by the opportunity to work across the boundaries between science and public policy. “I wanted to get a masters in environmental science. This project had everything I wanted to do, some public policy as well as science that enables me to use my chemistry background.”

Environmental regulators currently monitor dioxin in Maine rivers by testing fish. Since fish are mobile and accumulate the toxin throughout their lives, Shoven points out, that method cannot be used to pinpoint sources of the chemical or indicate concentrations that vary over time. In 1997, the Maine Legislature passed a law that requires information to be collected about how dioxin concentrations vary upstream and downstream from pulp and paper mills.

“By 2003, we need to figure out a way to monitor dioxin to comply with the 1997 upstream-downstream law,” Shoven says. “The law didn't say what kind of technology would have to be used. As of today, we don't have the technology in place to determine a difference.”

The focus of Shoven's work has been the development of protocols for placing the devices in the water and analyzing the data. She has found that SPMDs steadily accumulate dioxin over a period of 28 days. By knowing environmental conditions such as temperature, water flow and water chemistry, scientists can calculate the concentration that was in the water during that period. Shoven is also developing a method to correlate dioxin in SPMDs with concentrations in living organisms.

Since human health concerns require that fish continue to be monitored, SPMDs will not completely replace the current method of dioxin monitoring. However, they could reduce the need to test fish tissue and provide reliable information about actual amounts of dioxin in the water.

Shoven has worked with Therese Anderson and Steve Kahl in the Mitchell Center; Howard Patterson and Touradj Solouki in Chemistry; and David Courtemanch and Barry Mower in the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection. Patterson is her major advisor.
UMaine Plans World AIDS Day Events

November 21, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – Students in the Peer Educator Program at the University of Maine have planned a series of events to
commemorate World AIDS Day and raise awareness about the disease.

“We're trying to make a difference in the campus community,” says Jamie Rogers, a communications sciences
and disorder major and member of UMaine's Peer Educator Program.

World AIDS Day is December 1 and its purpose is to call for a spirit of social tolerance and free exchange of
information on HIV/AIDS, as well as strengthen the global effort to face the challenges of AIDS.

“We're trying to make people aware of the fact that this is a problem that is close to home,” says Amy Levine, a
food science and human nutrition major and peer education student coordinator.

An information table with facts about HIV/AIDS will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the library from Nov. 29
to Dec. 1.

The week's events begin on Nov. 27 at 8 p.m. in the lobby of Cumberland Hall with “Men and Women Sharing,”
a question and answer based workshop designed to open communication and break down the barriers between
men and women. In this event, men and women are split into separate groups and 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.

On Nov. 28, Andrew Thomits from the Eastern Maine AIDS Network will speak at 7 p.m. in the Baumann
Nelson Great Room at Doris Twitchell Allen Village. Thomits will give a talk with general information on HIV
and AIDS.

Alvin, a young man from the Down East area of Maine, will speak on his personal experiences with HIV on
Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge of the Maine Center of the Arts. A reception will follow.

The film “Philadelphia” will be shown at 7 p.m. in 101 Neville on Nov. 30.

On December 1 at noon, a service will be held at the flagpole in front of Fogler Library in recognition and
support of those affected by HIV/AIDS. If the weather is bad, the service will be held in the Memorial Union
lobby.

Red ribbons will be available at the information table each day, and in other locations throughout campus. The
red ribbon symbolizes commitment in the fight against AIDS and helps community members remember those
who are affected by this disease. Organizers of the event encourage people to pick up a red ribbon during the
week and wear it on Dec. 1.

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. The Peer Educator program at the University of Maine is made up of students that
offer support and educational programs on campus about challenges that face fellow students.
Variety of Instrument Groups Highlight Chamber Music Concert

Nov. 21, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

Chamber Music Concert, featuring student and faculty artists, directed by Music Instructor Ginger Yang Hwalek, part of the UMaine School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 28, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO -- Six chamber music groups composed of student and faculty artists will perform in concert Tuesday, Nov. 28 at the University of Maine.

The performance, under the direction of Music Instructor Ginger Yang Hwalek, begins at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall on campus.

The program opens with a performance of Johann Vanhal's “Sonate in D Major,” Op. 17, No. 1 on flute, piano and violoncello, followed by a string quartet playing Alexander Glazunov's “Five Novelettes,” Op. 15. Two movements from Haydn's “Trio in G Major” will be performed on two pianos and flute.

The six-member University of Maine Horn Ensemble will perform “Fanfare for Barcs” by Kerry Turner. Harpsichord and violoncello will complement the six-member University of Maine Flute Choir in a performance of the Antonio Vivaldi concerto “La Pastorella.”

The University of Maine Saxophone Quartet will close out the concert with renditions of “Just for Show” by Lennie Niehaus, “Elijah” by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, and “Wenn wir in hochstein Nothen sein” (“When in the Greatest Need We Stand”) by J.S. Bach.

Faculty members joining two of the student groups are Hwalek on harpsichord and violoncellist Noreen Silver.

Tickets for the concert are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.
Volcanic Panic Robot Competition

MEDIA ADVISORY

November 21, 2000

Contact: Tom Bickford, Agent Institute, 207-581-2012, bickford@agent.maine.edu
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- More than 200 elementary and middle school students from Maine, other New England states and Canada will bring their LEGO robots to the University of Maine on December 9 to compete in the Volcanic Panic at the Field House. The Agent Institute at UMaine and the FIRST LEGO League, a non-profit organization from Manchester, New Hampshire, are sponsoring the event.

Media representatives are welcome to cover the activities that will begin with registration at 8:00 a.m. Three rounds of competition will get underway at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 2:00 p.m.

A total of 28 teams have registered for the event. Those from Maine are coming from schools in Old Town, Lincoln, Warren, Lewiston, Bar Harbor, Auburn, Fairfield, Benton, Veazie, Leeds and Hampden.

What do volcanoes have to do with robots? Robots are used to explore uncharted territories and areas of danger. Modeled after current robotics-based techniques used by scientists and researchers to study volcanoes, the school teams will collect data and help create solutions to save humanity and the ecosystem from the impending doom of an eruption.

Each robot consists entirely of LEGO pieces and contains an RCX, an autonomous microcomputer that can be programmed using a Mac or PC computer. The RCX serves as the brain of the robotic creation. It uses light, touch, rotation, temperature and visual sensors to take input from its environment, process data, and signal output motors to turn on and off.

Kids begin by building their robot using over 700 LEGO pieces and creating a program using RCX code, a simple, but powerful programming language. Next, they download their program to the RCX using a special infrared transmitter. Their creation can interact with its own environment without wires or remote control devices.

See www.agent.maine.edu for more information.
Opera Workshop to Perform Mozart's 'Cosi Fan Tutte'

Opera Workshop, directed by Professor of Music Lud Hallman, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 2, Minsky Recital Hall Class of 1944 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO -- Opera fans will see a work in progress when 11 of the University of Maine's most talented singers present Act I of Mozart's “Cosi fan tutte” Saturday, Dec. 2 in Minsky Recital Hall.

The public performance is one of two the students will present this academic year as part of their Opera Workshop course in the School of Performing Arts. The fall performance focuses on the opera's music. The performance in March will be a fully staged performance in Cyrus Pavilion Theatre.

The Dec. 2 performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall, located in the Class of 1944 Hall on campus. Tickets are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts box office, 581-1755.

“Cosi fan tutte” contains some of Mozart's most famous arias and ensembles. The undergraduate singers, most vocal performance majors and all of whom auditioned for the course, are using “Cosi fan tutte” to explore operatic repertoire. The UMaine production will be sung in an English translation by Ruth and Thomas Martin. Directing the production is Professor of Music Lud Hallman.

Accompanying the performance will be pianist Baycka Voronietsky

Editor's Note: Digital images to accompany this story are available by contacting Joe Carr, 581-3571.
Annual Book Drive Under Way

Nov.23, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Children's books for needy area youngsters from toddlers to teens are again being collected by the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Maine. The public is invited to join in this annual tradition by donating new books or used books in very good condition.

The books will be distributed by the Orono-Old Town Kiwanis Club at the service organization's annual holiday party for area children, scheduled for Dec. 9.

Books, gift wrapped if possible, and marked for a particular age level may be brought to the office of College Dean Robert A. Cobb, 151 Shibles Hall, through Friday noon, Dec. 8.

The College’s annual book collection, in cooperation with the Kiwanis Club, has made thousands of books available to deserving area children for more than 20 years.
Program Set for Maine's 13th Annual Beef Conference

November 27, 2000
Contact: Dee Potter, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1421
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The 13th Annual Beef Conference will be held December 2 at the Ramada Inn in Bangor. This year’s conference is titled Foundation for the Future and is geared for new and veteran beef producers.

Steve Suther, director of industry information for the Certified Angus Beef program (CAB), is the keynote speaker. He will summarize ways in which the beef industry, production and management have changed over the past generation. Steve’s second presentation titled "Under the Hide" will cover cattle type and composition and how they translate to carcass quality.

Steve has been an agricultural journalist for the past 22 years, including 10 years with Farm Journal’s Beef Today. A native of Kansas, Steve has been with the CAB program for two years. His main responsibility is reaching out with news and information to all 850,000 cow-calf producers in the U.S. to raise awareness of producing the kind of Angus cattle that make money for every segment of the beef industry.

As managing editor of Beef Today, he produced the first publication on the Internet and has won first place writing awards from the Livestock Publications Council every year since 1997. His syndicated column, "Black Ink," is in its second year of commentary about profitable cattle production. It is published in more than 30 papers across North America, reaching 500,000 producers each month.

Also on the program is Kevin Budd, a provincial veterinarian with the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture. A cattle producer himself, Budd will review some of the more common cases he treats on farm calls and elaborate on their root cause and prevention. Dee Potter, UMaine Cooperative Extension Educator, will give a presentation on nutrition, and rounding off the program will be four producer presentations. The meeting will include a tradeshow.

More information about the conference is available from Dee Potter, 800-287-1421 in Maine or 207-834-3905 from outside the state.
Former State Department Official to Speak at UMaine

November 28, 2000
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – A former assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of State will speak on the foreign policy challenges facing the new administration in the post-Cold War world.

Phyllis Oakley, who worked for both Republican and Democratic administrations, will speak on “American Diplomacy in the Post-Cold War World” on Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Hauck Auditorium in the Memorial Union at the University of Maine.

Oakley's lecture will focus on the need for public diplomacy to function more efficiently in six global regions – Africa, Europe, Near East, Western Hemisphere, East Asia and Pacific and South Asia – to better negotiate emergencies that crop up, while remaining fully committed to U.S. foreign policy.

Oakley has served as spokesperson for former Secretary of State George Schultz, and in intelligence for Secretaries of State James Baker and Madeline Albright. She has also held positions in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, the office of Congressional Affairs and the U.S. Agency for International Development, working in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Middle East.

The lecture is sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Maine and the University of Maine's William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce. Additional funding was provided by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call the University of Maine Business School at 581-1968.
Jazz and Poetry Concert in Orono

Nov. 28, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- An evening of poetry and music will celebrate the coming of winter and the holidays on Saturday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m., at the Orono United Methodist Church.

The annual Jazz and Poetry concert blends contemporary and classical jazz, and the reading of seasonal stories and 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; Jim Artesani, bass guitar; and Don Barry of Old Town, drums.

This is the 16th 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 Wilhelms and Artesanis are members of the University of Maine faculty.

The program, a holiday offering for the entire family, is free and open to the public.
Maine Gardeners and Farmers Contributed More than 25 Tons of Food to Feed the Hungry

November 28, 2000
Contact: Barbara Murphy, Cooperative Extension, 800-287-1482
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Maine gardeners and farmers contributed more than 25 tons of fresh produce to food pantries this year through the Plant A Row for the Hungry (PAR) program. PAR was launched in 1995 by the Garden Writers of America and was supported statewide this year by University of Maine Cooperative Extension and a group including three Maine seed companies.

More than 400 home gardeners and farmers joined the PAR project and donated produce. Extension Master Gardeners grew thousands of pounds of fruits and vegetables in their demonstration gardens. Highmoor Farm, the UMaine Agricultural Experiment station in Monmouth, donated over 1800 pounds of peppers, Chinese cabbage, winter squash and onions from variety trials.

One individual in Phippsburg donated more than one ton of food to the Bath soup kitchen. His enthusiasm about the program led him to apply for and receive a grant to build a greenhouse to grow greens and vegetables throughout the winter.

Seed companies that donated seeds to the program included Johnny's Selected Seeds of Albion, FEDCO of Waterville and Sterling, Allen and Lothrop of Falmouth.

Overall, the total donation is currently at 50,160 pounds with donations still trickling in. Maine's contribution represents one-tenth of the national collection of 535,259 pounds for 2000.

People who manage food pantries say that the donations were critical during times when canned foods were in short supply. “Because of the extreme lack of donated canned goods that were made available to area pantries and shelters, PAR was a lifesaver to us! Without PAR participants donating fresh produce, we would have had very little to give to our clients,” said Bill Rae, director of Manna in Bangor.

Harold R. Conners of the Salvation Army said that he and his staff serve about 100 people every day. “This year, during the growing season, our offerings have included fresh produce made available through the PAR project. Our clients were eager to take advantage of the vegetables available to them and they were sure to check out the 'take home table' items when coming to lunch,” he added.

Plans are being made to conduct PAR in 2001, says Barbara Murphy of the Cooperative Extension office in Oxford County. More information about PAR is available from Murphy at 1-800-287-1482.
UMaine Grant to Build Coordinated Response to Crime, Prevention

Nov. 28, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- A grant from the U.S. Department of Justice will enable the University of Maine to better coordinate its response to crimes against women on campus and strengthen awareness and prevention programs. Funded by a two-year $302,256 grant from the Justice Department’s Violence Against Women Office, the Safe Campus Project will work to develop stronger collaboration among campus and community resources to improve the efficiency of continuing education and prevention, as well as advocacy for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking.

“The goal is to provide the best possible services and continuing education we can,” said Renate Klein, assistant professor of human development who wrote the successful proposal and will serve as project director. UMaine is in a good position to further integrate services because of its commitment to providing a safe learning environment and the existing high level of cooperation among campus units, from law enforcement and judicial affairs to counseling and peer education, according to Klein. She notes that UMaine’s proposal was one of 18 funded in a national pool of 120 applications in the FY 2000 grant award program.

The broad-based Safe Campus Task Force will bring together representatives of all relevant UMaine services and constituents, including faculty and students, and community agencies. Its work will focus on the collaborative development of expertise and resources appropriate for and sensitive to nontraditional, international and distance education students, according to Klein. “We want to link all resources so there will be fewer and fewer loopholes,” she says.

The project has three major components – victim advocacy, offender accountability and prevention. Primary outside collaborators providing coordination, expertise and resources will be Rape Response Service and Spruce Run Association, both based in Bangor, and Men Can End Rape, a Washington, D.C. consultant group. Grant implementation is under way, and the external agencies are preparing targeted curriculum and training materials, says Klein.

In addition, the Department of Justice provides extensive technical assistance and support to grantees nationwide, such as training institutes and workshops, field visits and telephone consultation.

Specific objectives of UMaine’s grant are to:
- strengthen victim advocacy
- enhance offender accountability
- upgrade and disseminate advocacy information
- provide education on gender and violence dynamics
- prepare student leaders and volunteers to address gender and violence issues
- develop resources and disseminate information to nontraditional, international and distance learning students

The improved service and educational opportunities provided by the grant are generating interest and excitement campuswide, according to Klein. “It is powerful to sit in the same room with representatives of a community working toward a common goal and to see how all the pieces fit together,” she says.

The grant also funds four graduate student assistantships. These students will sit on the task force and work as liaisons between the different activities.

Creating a culture in which victims are not blamed, that quickly and efficiently provides the best services and educates everyone about prevention, as well as where to go for safety, service and support requires a great deal
of awareness raising and community building, Klein explains. “That’s why we’re bringing in as many players as possible,” she says.

More information about the Safe Campus Task Force and planned grant activities is available from Klein, 581-3149; rklein@maine.edu.
Zeolite Technique Speeds Pesticide Decomposition in Water

November 28, 2000
Contact: Howard Patterson, Dept. of Chemistry, 207-581-1178
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A team of University of Maine chemists has reported that exposing pesticide-contaminated water to natural light and a mineral known as a zeolite can dramatically speed up the break down of the pesticide. The finding could be useful in developing technologies for protecting drinking water supplies or improving environmental quality.

Among the pesticides studied was malathion which has been shown to kill lobsters in laboratory studies by other researchers at UMaine and is suspected of being a contributing factor in the recent deaths of lobsters in Long Island Sound. Malathion had been sprayed in the New York area to control mosquitoes thought to be carrying the West Nile virus.

In laboratory experiments at UMaine, the team tested insecticides that are commonly used in agriculture and have been detected in rivers and drinking water supplies in the United States. Each compound breaks down naturally in sunlight, but the decomposition process showed “astonishing increases in the rate of each reaction” when an A-type zeolite was present, the team reported.

The reaction rates for malathion, carbofuran and carbaryl were 35, 120 and 164 times faster respectively than the rates for those compounds when the zeolite was not present. Zeolites have well-defined pore and channel structures, and they work by capturing pesticide molecules and enabling light to disrupt chemical bonds.

“It's important to find the zeolite with the right size channels and surface chemistry,” says Patterson. “You want it tailored to the size of the molecule that you want to break down. A pesticide molecule enters a zeolite channel and fits snuggly like a hand in a glove. When you expose it to light, a reaction occurs, and the pesticide molecule breaks apart.”

Zeolites are naturally occurring volcanic minerals. Because of their honeycomb structure, they can absorb other materials much as a sponge absorbs water. They are currently used in a variety of products such as cat litter, shoe deodorizers, and aquarium and pond filters.

Zeolites are commonly used in the petroleum industry, but the UMaine team may be the first to study the technology for reducing pesticide concentrations in water, Patterson notes.

The decomposition process is consistent with a conceptual model proposed by Sofian Kanan, Patterson and other researchers to explain the break down of another compound in a zeolite. According to an article published this year in The Journal of Physical Chemistry B, light affects the chemical bonds that hold nitric oxide within a zeolite and lead to the release of oxygen and nitrogen gas.
The model predicts that compounds with a certain size and surface charge can be degraded by this method. Further laboratory observations have confirmed the model, they note.

Participating in the nitric oxide research were Mohammad A. Omary of UMaine and Masaya Matsuoka and Masakazu Anpo of the University of Osaka Prefecture in Japan.
Los Angeles Brass Quintet to Perform at UMaine

November 29, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3756

Los Angeles Brass Quintet in Concert, sponsored by the University of Maine School of Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 4, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall, University of Maine. Free. 581-1773.

ORONO – The Los Angeles Brass Quintet will perform selections of classical, jazz and modern music in a concert at the University of Maine on Monday, Dec. 4.

The free public concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall on campus. For additional information, call the School of Performing Arts, which is sponsoring the performance, 581-1773.

The Los Angeles Brass Quintet is in-residence at the Grand Auditorium in Ellsworth. Founded in 1995, the group includes five of leading brass soloists and symphony players in LA. The members are dedicated to chamber music, having studied with such groups as the Canadian Brass and Empire Brass.
Science Information Available Statewide Via Computer

Dec. 1, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu
Jim Bird, Fogler Library, 207-581-1697, jim.bird@umit.maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- With support from the Maine State Legislature, the Raymond H. Fogler Library at the University of Maine is making the latest published scientific research more accessible to Maine citizens. Since being designated as the state's Science, Technology and Business Library last year, Fogler has gained new access privileges to three research databases for every computer user in the state.

The new databases include BIOSIS Previews and Zoological Record, two of the most comprehensive sources of information for people working in biotechnology and other biological fields. BIOSIS Previews covers the last thirty years of research published in more than 6,000 journals as well as conference proceedings and patents. Zoological Record contains research references going back to 1978.

Recently, Fogler Library added ITKnowledge to the statewide collection. This new resource provides access to over 2,200 full-text books and documentation from leading information technology publishers. Subjects include programming and web development, network and telecommunications, operation systems, and intra-and extranet development. Users can search across the collection by topic and keyword. New and updated titles are added monthly.

The on-line databases are now available at http://libraries.maine.edu/scitechbus/default.htm. Access to them was procured through the efforts of Elaine Albright, dean of cultural affairs and libraries, and Gary Nichols, Maine state librarian.

During the 1999 legislative session, the legislature provided $175,000 for new information resources, equipment and staff. "Procuring these databases for our statewide research users is the first step in what we hope is an ever-expanding list of resources for Maine’s science, technology, and business communities," notes Dean Albright.

"These new databases are a real plus for anyone interested in biological research and information technology," says Jim Bird, department head of the Science and Engineering Center in Fogler. "They will definitely enhance our state’s research capabilities. They will also be of tremendous help to college and university level students as they research topics and prepare papers."

Bird notes that BIOSIS Previews and Zoological Record will accommodate only up to five simultaneous statewide users. "Word is getting out. It’s rare for all five slots to be filled at one time, but that’s happened three times in the past few days," says Bird.

Access to the two biological sciences databases will be available until June 2001. At that point, the statewide contract will have to be renegotiated with the possibility of a substantial increase in price. Bird requests that users send him feedback on the usefulness of these databases via e-mail at Jim.Bird@umit.maine.edu.

Users can also take advantage of on-line Research and Subject Guides that provide selected lists of reference materials housed in Fogler as well as sites on the Internet that pertain to a host of subjects in science and technology. The guides include specialized resources that reflect the research and academic interests at UMaine. Among the topics covered by the guides are agriculture, environmental science, engineering standards, food science and nutrition, and patents and trademarks. The complete list of Research Guides can be seen at http://libraries.maine.edu/orogeneral/guidestop.htm. The complete list of Subject guides is available at http://libraries.maine.edu/umdainsubjectguides.htm.

Because of Fogler Library’s designation as Maine’s Science, Technology and Business Library, it is now poised
to provide significant support to the state’s scientific and business communities. The Fogler staff is hopeful that this state support will continue in the years to come.
UMaine Students Building a Paper Sail

December 5, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
John Hwalek, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, 207-581-2302

ORONO, Maine -- A team of University of Maine engineering students will attempt to sail away with another first place finish in the Energy Challenge sponsored by the Institute for Paper Science and Technology. This year's test will be to create a paper sail for an Olympic-sized sailboat and race the boat in a closed course competition on Lake Lanier near Atlanta, Georgia next spring.

In 1999, UMaine won the competition that required students to design and build a kayak out of paper. Their entry was judged on the basis of energy efficiency and paper quality as well as the best race time.

The purpose of the Energy Challenge is to encourage students to develop methods to reduce energy use and minimize waste as part of their educational programs. The forest products industry generates more than two billion tons of waste annually and is one of the most energy intensive industries in the country.

A total of 17 students are participating on the UMaine team. They will compete against teams from four other universities: Miami University; North Carolina State University; State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry; and the University of Central Florida.

“We get a laugh when we tell people we're trying to make a paper sail,” says Monique Cote of Presque Isle, a senior in chemical engineering. “It's obviously unusual. It's not nylon and not waterproof. Our challenge will be to strengthen it.”

The students are meeting weekly with John Hwalek, professor in chemical engineering who specializes in using a type of software known as a neural network to improve manufacturing processes.

At the start of the contest, each team will receive 100 pounds of wood chips. The finished sail can weigh no more than 15 pounds and must be at least 80 percent wood fiber. The other 20 percent can be composed of common chemicals and materials used in paper manufacturing.

The students will begin by processing the wood chips to make the pulp that they will use to create their paper. Their techniques will determine the energy efficiency of the process and the strength of the product.

“It's as close as I'll come in school to finding a similar project to what I was doing in my co-op job at Madison Paper,” says Ryan Baker, a senior from Belgrade.

The sail will be scored on the basis of its gross weight, materials composition, total sail area, tear and tensile energy absorption performance, aesthetics and novelty as judged by a professional sail maker.

One member of the team, Brian Dries from Windham, is a sailor. “I've been sailing since I was ten, but I never thought I'd be sailing a boat with a paper sail,” he says.

Other students involved in the project include David Talbot, Bowdoin; Brian Purdy, Raymond; Jessica Crosby, Millinocket; Jessica Esty, Waterville; Karen Johnson, Scarborough; Alex Claverie, Exeter; Matt James, Woodland; Jacquelyn Ritchie, Fairfield; Jeffrey Charette, Lisbon; Dana Cook, Jay; Rich Roy, Chatham, Mass.; Matthew Menchen, Portland; Christi Jacques, Biddeford; Jamie Royal, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

UMaine has the advantage of being able to use the pulp and paper pilot plant in Jenness Hall to produce materials and experiment with different production techniques.
In addition to the competition itself, three team members and Hwalek will travel to Washington D.C. in February to attend an energy efficiency and waste minimization trade show organized by the U.S. Dept. of Energy. They will be responsible for managing an information booth at the show and presenting a poster about their work.

“It's a good learning experience, but beyond that, it gives us a real world, hands-on chance to exercise responsibility and test our skills,” says Matt James, a senior from Woodland.

The students received a $2,000 start-up grant from the DOE to buy chemicals and other materials. In addition to bragging rights for producing the best sail, winning teams will receive $15,000 for first place, $10,000 for second and $5,000 for third.

The event is sponsored by the DOE, Hercules International (chemical manufacturer), Vanguard Sailboats and the IPST.
ORONO -- During his tenure at the University of Maine, Edward D. “Sandy” Ives worked to further the study of folklore and traditions in Maine and the Maritime Provinces. The center that he founded is now honoring his scholarship with its newest volume of essays.

“Northeast Folklore: Essays in Honor of Edward D. Ives,” introduces readers to the songs, stories, poetry, boat-building, woodcarving, rumrunning and other folk traditions that Ives taught about during his career. The book is the product of a collaboration between the Maine Folklife Center and the University of Maine Press.

“It was conceived as a project to honor Sandy for his 40 years of teaching, research and writing. He retired a year ago and he really founded this organization,” says Pauleena MacDougall, associate director of the Maine Folklife Center and one of the book’s editors. “It's built on his work, his ideas, the principles he believes in. This book pulls together the current scholarship on folklore in the region.”

MacDougall, who co-edited the book with David Taylor, folklife specialist at the American Folklife Center, wrote a biographical sketch of Ives that appears at the beginning of the volume.

Other essays deal with topics as varied as Canadian folksongs, the Ceilidh Trail, rumrunning in the Maritimes and boatbuilding in Newfoundland.

“All of the essays in this book honor him because many of the things he's known for – his fieldwork, his ballad studies, his biographies, are reflected in these writings,” says MacDougall.

The book is available for $19.95 by calling the Maine Folklife Center at 581-1891.
Richard Hill to Address UMaine December Graduates

Dec. 6, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Richard Hill, an energy expert who taught mechanical engineering at the University of Maine from 1946 until his 1992 retirement, will deliver the featured address at UMaine's 197th Commencement, to be held on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Hill, who holds the title of professor emeritus of mechanical engineering at UMaine, will also receive an honorary degree, Doctor of Science, at the Dec. 16 event.

Approximately 466 UMaine degrees will be awarded at the commencement ceremony. One hundred fifty-seven will receive graduate degrees, 30 of which are doctorates.

UMaine President Peter Hoff will preside over the ceremony, which will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will be held in UMaine's Harold Alfond Sports Arena.

In addition to Hill, other speakers will include UMaine Associate Professor of Art Owen Smith, who will deliver the Celebration of Academia. Smith, a UMaine faculty member since 1991, was the 2000 UMaine Presidential Outstanding Teaching Award recipient. Penny Harris will bring greetings from the University of Maine System Board of Trustees. Jeffery Mills, the president and executive director of the University of Maine Alumni Association, will welcome the new graduates to the ranks of UMaine alumni.
Hudson Museum Adds New Artifact to Penobscot Gallery

December 7, 2000
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine will premiere a new addition to the Penobscot Gallery on December 9 at the Maine Indian Basketmakers Sale and Demonstration.

The new artifact, a 19-foot Penobscot birchbark canoe made for Bangor's Strickland family in 1888, was repaired, cleaned, and prepared for exhibition by Ronald S. Harvey, a conservator and Kimberly Sawtelle of Tuckerbrook Conservation.

This canoe dates to the heyday of birchbark canoe building, when canoes were the predominant type of boat used on Maine's inland waterways. Today, only a handful of examples survive in museum collections. Over time, birchbark canoes become extremely fragile and require extensive conservation to preserve them.

"The Penobscot canoe at the Hudson Museum is displayed so the public can examine its construction. It is hoped that it will provide inspiration for Native American artists to preserve this tradition," says Stephen Whittington, director of the Hudson Museum.

The canoe's conservation was funded by a grant from the New Century Project, a collaborative initiative of seven state agencies providing matching grants and technical assistance. Funded by the people of Maine, the program seeks to assist Maine communities in preserving their cultural and educational resources.
UMaine Makes GeoScan Technology Available to Researchers

December 7, 2000
Contact: Nick Houtman at 581-3776

ORONO -- The benefits of combining maps with data sets are more attainable for University of Maine students and faculty as a result of a new service at Fogler Library. With support from a $4,900 grant from the Bird and Bird Instructional Development Fund, the library has established the GeoScan Service to analyze numeric data and create and print large color maps. Users can take advantage of electronic databases on file in the library and over the Internet.

Frank Wihbey, head of the government documents department, secured funding for GeoScan and provides instruction on its use. “People who want to use it need to know what types of data they want to map. We can help them search for it, but they need to have a clear idea of what they need, and it's helpful if they already have some knowledge of how to use ArcView,” says Wihbey.

ArcView is one of the software packages purchased with the system. It enables a user to combine map files with data and print the result. In addition to ArcView, the GeoScan Service includes TopoUSA and 3-D Topo Quads for Maine from DeLorme, Inc. in Yarmouth.

GeoScan includes a digital tablet and a large format color plotter. More than 4,300 data sets are available, most of them containing socio-economic information on population, income, crime, health, election results and other subjects.

“GeoScan is the result of a long-standing drive in the library for a facility like this for use by the whole campus,” says Wihbey. “A university of this size needs a data center for this purpose.” Wihbey has established a Web site for the facility, http://libraries.maine.edu/geoscan/.

Wihbey has teamed up with Renate Klein of the College of Education and Human Development to instruct students in the use of GeoScan. In September, he taught a session of CHF 452, Violence in the Family. Students learned how to combine data on family violence on a per capita basis by county with a map of Maine showing county boundaries.

In preparation for his technical assistance and teaching duties, Wihbey has attended training sessions run by ESRI, Inc., the company that developed ArcView. In turn, he has conducted training sessions for library staff and demonstrated the facility for students and two Bangor television crews on GIS Day, November 15.

To use the facility, students and faculty need to reserve a block of time and get a password from Wihbey. Although GeoScan is available whenever the library is open, assistance is available from Wihbey or his assistant Jeff McCooey between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. Wihbey plans to offer two-hour workshops on ArcView in the spring semester for the campus community.

As a government depository and a member of the Census Affiliate Network, Fogler maintains U.S. Census and other data that can provide useful resources for research and educational purposes. All of the data from the 2000 Census is expected to be available as electronic files that can be combined with maps, Wihbey adds.

In the near future, Wihbey plans to develop a GIS and numeric data interest group among students and faculty from departments across the campus. Among other functions, he anticipates that such a group could identify data sets that the library could consider securing through normal acquisition procedures.
Logo Competition Announced

December 11, 2000
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

The Maine Center for Student Journalism needs a logo and your help. High school students from around the state are invited to design and enter either a hand or computer-designed logo representing the Center.

The logo would be used on all documents that the MCSJ sends out, for the annual spring journalism conference as well as on the Web site. Each submission must be an original idea. No clip art is allowed.

The logo should symbolize student journalism or student publications in the state of Maine. Submissions may be made in color or black and white. Only one entry per student is permitted. Entries must be postmarked by February 20. Mail entries to the Maine Center for Student Journalism, 5724 Dunn Hall, Orono, Maine 04469, Attn. Kathryn Olmstead.

The winner of the contest will be recognized at the eighth annual student journalism conference at the University of Maine on March 23, 2001, and with each use of the design.

For more information please contact Kathryn Olmstead, director of the MCSJ, at (207) 581-1278 or Debra Hatch, student coordinator, at (207) 581-1939. You can also e-mail Kathryn_Olmstead@umit.maine.edu or Debra_Hatch@umit.maine.edu.
Study Highlights Local Approach to MEA Assessment

Dec. 11, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- A study from the Center for Research and Evaluation at the University of Maine provides a framework for conducting local evaluations involving the Maine Educational Assessment. While maintaining the value of the statewide MEA, the authors support the importance of local assessment and encourage educators to use it as a tool for examining curriculum and other local factors. The MEA is designed to align with the Maine Learning Results and measure schools’ progress toward meeting the new learning standards.

The study provides direction and encouragement for educators who have wondered about relationships among assessment data, but, for lack of background or confidence, have not pursued their interests, according to Walter Harris, director of the Center at the UMaine College of Education and Human Development.

“Local Evaluation and the Maine Educational Assessment” was written by Theodore Coladarci, UMaine professor of education; Robert Ervin, superintendent of Bangor schools; and David Silvernail, director for the Center for Educational Policy, Applied Research and Evaluation at the University of Southern Maine.

The research paper is organized around questions that can be answered through local evaluation. For example, “Are MEA scores related to course-taking patterns?” For many of these questions, analyses and results are provided from the recent collaboration of Coladarci and Ervin using data from the Bangor School Department. The authors emphasize that local expertise in statistical procedures is not required to conduct such analyses. The most important requirement is a curiosity about how MEA scores are related to other student characteristics and the resolve to initiate local evaluations that speak to these relationships.

Copies of the study are available from the UMaine College of Education and Human Development. Contact Kay Hyatt, (207) 581-2761; kay.hyatt@umit.maine.edu.
Last Eclipse of the 20th Century

December 13, 2000

Contact: Alan Davenport, Jordan Planetarium, 207-581-1341
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The final eclipse of the second millennium is a partial solar eclipse on Christmas day, viewable over the entire continental United States. Maine is one of the best places to observe the eclipse because we are positioned to see more shadow than most other places, says Alan Davenport, director of the Jordan Planetarium at the University of Maine. In Maine, the sun will be covered to 60% of its width.

Starting at 11:17 a.m. for Maine observers, the Moon will move onto the face of the Sun. Not until 12:53 p.m. will it reach its maximum coverage of the sun, and the shadow will then recede until it the sun is fully revealed again at 2:24 p.m. There is plenty of opportunity to catch the view during that time even if there are just holes in the clouds to see through.

Wherever people want to see this natural light show they will need protective equipment. NEVER look directly at the sun without proper protection, adds Davenport.

Very few materials can be used to filter sunlight safely so that watchers' eyes can look toward the sun. For this, one safe device is an inexpensive mylar film that has been layered with metal to allow less than 1% of the light through. These are made in the form of cards or paper eye glasses.

As a public service, the UMaine Jordan Planetarium is offering solar eclipse glasses for $2 each at its gift shop. Mail orders will be accepted while supplies last. Send check or money order for $2.10 per pair to Jordan Planetarium, 5781 Wingate Hall UM, Orono ME 04469-5781.

The safest method of viewing the sun has been used by researchers for decades- a large pinhole camera. Bright as it is, the sun can be projected onto a screen with nothing more elaborate than a tiny hole punched in a thin sheet of material such as aluminum foil. Held between the sun and a shaded white piece of paper, it will image the round disk of the sun. During the eclipse, the round disk appears to be a sugar cookie with a bite taken out.

The Moon will adopt that same odd shape during its eclipse on January 9th with one small difference. It IS safe to look directly at the Moon. Before we see it, the moon will start its pass into the shadow of the earth. It will become totally shaded, but we will not know that until it begins to move out of our shadow as it rises in the Maine sky. It comes up in the northeast at 5:10 p.m., and the dramatic part of the event ends just 48 minutes later when the full moon returns to its normal brilliance.

The Jordan Planetarium program Moon Shadows explains the history and workings of our nearest neighbor including the eclipses that can come from its movement around us. In preparation for the eclipse, special showings for families will be offered December 21, 22, and 23 at 7:00 p.m. plus a 2:00 p.m. matinee on the 23rd. Admission is $4/ $3 for children and seniors. For more information contact the Jordan Planetarium 207-581-1341 or visit our website: .
UMaine Grad Student Wins National Fellowship

December 13, 2000

Contact: Susan White, University of Maine Sea Grant, 207-581-1442

ORONO, Maine -- Deirdre Gilbert of Brewer, a master's degree student in marine policy at the University of Maine, has been awarded the prestigious Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship by the National Sea Grant College Program. Hundreds of graduate students from throughout the country competed for the 10 positions available in the U.S. Congress and 20 in the Executive Branch. Gilbert will be working in Washington, D.C. in Congressman Tom Allen's office for one year, beginning in February 2001.

Tom Allen is the Democratic co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus, a bipartisan effort to increase the House of Representatives' awareness of important issues in ocean policy and to advance ocean legislation. During the 106th Congress, the Caucus focused on issues of security, governance, biology, and pollution. As a fellow in Tom Allen's office, Gilbert will assist with Caucus activities in the 107th Congress.

Gilbert received an A.B. in Biology and Environmental Studies from Bowdoin College in 1995. During her undergraduate years, she also studied marine biology and rain forest ecology in Australia through the School for International Training and completed a research project on “Perceptions of the Effectiveness of Closures in the East Coast Prawn Trawling Fishery.”

In the past few years, Gilbert has been involved in two projects that combined her background in science with her interest in marine policy. She conducted research for a U.S. Economic Development Administration project on the collapse of the New England groundfish industry. She also assisted in the shoreline ecology program developed at Bowdoin College to mitigate the effects of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

For her master's thesis research, Gilbert has developed a model to assess the impact of marine sanctuaries and other closed areas on groundfish populations and the fisheries they support.

Gilbert is looking forward to the Knauss Fellowship program to gain practical experience in resource management. “I have had a long-standing interest in human impacts on the marine environment and the issues of effective resource management,” Gilbert says. “I believe that the next logical step in my educational and professional development is to acquire some experience working on similar issues at the federal level. Working in Congressman Allen's office will provide me with an excellent opportunity to do this.”
Folklore of the Maine Lobster Industry to be Preserved

December 14, 2000
Contact: Bob Bayer, Executive Director of the Lobster Institute, 207-581-2785
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777,

ORONO, Maine -- The Lobster Institute at the University of Maine has received a $2,583 grant from the Maine Community Foundation to assist in the Institute's oral history project. The Institute will record the stories and wisdom of some of Maine's most veteran lobstermen and their families through audio and video interviews.

The stories will then be edited and archived with assistance from the Maine Folklife Center at UMaine. Also planned is production of a broadcast quality video, with a version available via the Internet.

“The goal of the project is to capture and retain the spirit of the people and families who have made lobstering in Maine a way of life through the generations,” said Bob Bayer, executive director of the Lobster Institute and coordinator of the project. “The lobstermen's relationships with the sea, their boats and traps and the lobster itself have, quite without their intent and beyond their control, created legend and lore that have made lobstering a cultural icon for our state. The people who work the coastal fisheries are, in essence, a community unto themselves. Recording the stories of our senior lobstermen and their families will strengthen and preserve a special piece of this unique Maine community's culture and rich maritime tradition. Once completed, the project promises to educate, enlighten, and entertain.”

With further funding, the Lobster Institute has a long-range goal of including this project as just one piece of a full curriculum on the study of lobsters and the lobster industry that will be made available to Maine's public schools. This set of courses would span not only the history and culture but also the economics, marketing, biology and research science that are all important aspects of the fishery.

More information about the project is available from Cathy Billings at the Lobster Institute, 210 Rogers Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469, or at 581-2751.
Milk a Cow, Help a Maine Farmer

December 14, 2000

Contact: Richard Brzozowski, Cooperative Extension, Cumberland County Office, 800-287-1471
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Mainers with an interest in working on a dairy farm can take advantage of a new University of Maine Cooperative Extension program designed to give farmers a helping hand. Known as the Relief Milker System, the program will train people to milk a dairy herd and help relieve a shortage of labor on Maine farms.

The number of dairy farms in Maine is quickly diminishing, and the shortage of labor is a major problem, says David Marcinkowski, Extension dairy specialist. About 450 families operate family-based dairy farms around the state.

Cows are milked twice each day, every day of the year. “This type of schedule takes its toll on farmers and their families,” says Marcinkowski. “There is little time or no time for illness, doctor's appointments, educational opportunities or even just a break from the farm.”

The program will seek relief milkers statewide, and individuals will be accessible through an on-line directory or by calling a local Cooperative Extension office in every county. Cooperative Extension educators will train relief milkers in the proper cultural practices of milking, sanitation, food safety, animal handling and related topics.

People must be at least 16 years old to be a relief milker, but they can come from any walk of life. They can include students, housewives, house-husbands, retirees and anyone seeking part-time employment.

Cooperative Extension will serve as the clearinghouse for the system. Farmers who need a relief milker will call their local Extension office or access the Maine Relief Milker Directory on the Internet at . The Website will provide names of individuals within their region who are willing to milk. The parties will negotiate compensation and scheduling. Compensation may typically be money but might include an allotment toward a heifer or bull calf, hay, compost, beef or other food.

People who are interested in being listed in the Maine Relief Milker Directory or desire to be trained as a relief milker can call the Extension Livestock Office at the University of Maine in Orono at 1-800-287-7170. A one-day training is planned for March, 2001.
Population Growth and the Environment

December 14, 2000
Contact: Deirdre Mageean, Margaret Chase Smith Center, 207-581-1644, deirdre_mageean@umit.maine.edu
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ORONO, Maine -- Population growth and residential and commercial development are having environmental impacts in areas that are far from the nation's urban centers, according to an analysis by two University of Maine professors and a U.S. Forest Service scientist. Their finding results from one of the first attempts to develop a theoretical framework to define and predict how population growth affects environmental qualities such as wildlife habitat.

John Bartlett (Ph.D. ’99) of the U.S. Forest Service, Deirdre Mageean of the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at UMaine and Raymond O'Connor of the UMaine Dept. of Wildlife Ecology base their analysis on nationwide demographic and environmental data. Bartlett is a former UMaine graduate student in wildlife ecology who worked with Mageean and O'Connor to study factors that tend to reduce biodiversity.

Support for the research was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Forest Service and the National Science Foundation.

For this project, the researchers applied a method known as classification and regression tree (CART) modeling to identify what they call "a particularly damaging form of sprawl" in areas where growth is associated with non-agricultural land use changes involving “green field” building.

Such growth is strongly associated with high concentrations of endangered plants and animals, the authors report. In particular, growth threatens coastal species that depend on large blocks of sand dunes and other barren coastal habitats.

Their report titled "Residential Expansion as a Continental Threat to U.S. Coastal Ecosystems" was published last spring in Population and Environment: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Ecologists and demographers have long known that human population growth and development affect the environment by eliminating wildlife habitat and reducing air and water quality. Indeed, in the last decade, some environmental groups have advocated steps to slow the rate of population growth in the U.S. as a means of protecting the environment.

However, a detailed model that explains how a growing population affects the environment at both local and continental scales has been lacking. In part, that is because demographers and ecologists work with different kinds of data.

“There's a lot of the work going on in human dimensions of change,” says Mageean. “A lot of it is taking place in ecological hot spots around the world, such as Amazonia, Nepal, China and so on. One of the virtues of doing this research in the U.S. is that while we have a very extensive physical area to study, we also have a fairly homogenous political, social and economic structure. That can reduce the variance of those factors that tend to mediate between population and environmental impact.”

Multiple variables can significantly complicate the analytical approach, O'Connor points out. “A few variables can be handled by standard regression techniques, but if the number of variables increases to five or six or more, the number of possible interactions among them, and therefore the size of the computational problem, explodes very rapidly. CART provides a way to partition the data and to simplify the analysis and examine cases in which variables fall within specific ranges.”
In addition, says O'Connor, CART is suited to the analysis of large data sets in which the rules that govern relationships among the variables change across the full range of data. Over a continental scale, changes occur in relationships among species and in the responses of plants and animals to shifts in climate, land use and other factors. CART helps researchers tease out the most significant factors that define the relationship between population growth and environmental quality.

In their paper, Mageean, O'Connor and Bartlett used climate data as well as information from the U.S. Geological Survey and from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP). The USGS provided remotely sensed satellite data on land cover for 8 million 1km$^2$ pixels in the conterminous United States. EMAP provided land cover pattern data and information on streams and roads for 12,600 hexagon shaped regions across the area. For population and socio-economic factors, the researchers used county level data from the U.S. Census as well as information about land ownership and building construction.

Through CART analysis, they identified specific ranges of values for environmental variables that are associated with distinct patterns of settlement. They focused on temperature averages and extremes, land use classification and listings of endangered or threatened species. They were thus able to correlate changes in population density and development with changes in vegetation and threats to wildlife.

Development in remote areas, they point out, is consistent with population increases in Sun Belt states and along sea coasts. Since it occurs in areas that are relatively pristine, such growth may drive out very rare wildlife species that cannot tolerate the presence of humans, thus contributing to a loss of biodiversity.

While the authors focused on growth impacts in coastal areas, they suggest that a similar analysis can be extended to deserts. "We have just started looking at the desert systems in some depth, and we've found some interesting patterns," says Mageean. “For example, when you look at Nevada, what self-respecting demographer or ecologist would have predicted years ago that Las Vegas would grow so fast? You have very severe constraints imposed by desert conditions. It's very interesting to see how these factors literally shape growth out there. You can see that they're being pulled to water bodies and constrained by federal land and mountain ranges.”

The authors suggest that their model can assist policy makers by identifying patterns of human settlement likely to occur in different areas and predicting future environmental impacts.
UMaine Holds December Commencement

Dec. 16, 2000
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – University of Maine degrees were awarded to 462 students during the University’s 197th Commencement, held this morning at Harold Alfond Sports Arena on campus in Orono. One hundred forty-three of the students received graduate degrees, 20 of them doctorates.

About 2,500 people attended the ceremony, presided over by UMaine President Peter Hoff.

Retired UMaine engineering professor Richard Hill delivered a lively commencement address on the world's energy future. He described the practical limitations of solutions based on renewable sources such as wind and the sun. In noting that coal energy is so efficient that the work of “one coal miner for one hour can produce enough coal...to keep a Maine household in electricity for ten years,” Hill refuted those who predict a conversion to renewable energy sources.

The reason that will not happen is “not because renewables are difficult, awkward and expensive, which they are. It's because coal miners are awful good at what they do,” he said.

Hill, who taught mechanical engineering at UMaine from 1946 until his 1992 retirement, also received an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

In concluding his talk, Hill reflected on the advice he received from a faculty colleague when he arrived at UMaine in 1946, having come from the experience of working in the industrial sector.

“The old professor tapped me on the chest and said, `there are only two rules: don't lie to `em and don't bore `em. Anything beyond that is like money from home.' I hope I have lived up to those rules today.”

Jeffery Mills, president and executive director of the University of Maine Alumni Association, welcomed the new graduates to the ranks of the more than 85,000 UMaine alumni. He also presented an Outstanding Graduate Award to Joseph Mayo, the recently retired clerk of the Maine House of Representatives who has been battling Lou Gehrig's Disease for the past two years. Mills, a former Legislative colleague of Mayo's, referred to Mayo as a “great friend” during a heartfelt tribute.

Mayo, who was elected to the House shortly after his 1982 graduation from UMaine, served as class president in his senior year at the University.

Owen Smith, a professor in the UMaine Department of Art, delivered the Celebration of Academia address. He told the graduates that the realization of “the power and joy of learning, learning as valuable in and of itself, as something that is part of your life and that can continue to be an important part of your life for the rest of your life,” is the most significant aspect of their college experience.

“My charge to you is to know the unknowable, see the unseeable and hear the unhearable. I know you can do it. All it takes is your mind,” said Smith, the recipient of the 2000 UMaine Presidential Outstanding Teaching Award.
Lobster Institute Receives Grant to Develop Seafood Pasta

December 18, 2000
Contact: Bob Bayer, Lobster Institute, 207-581-2785,
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777,

ORONO, Maine -- The Lobster Institute at the University of Maine has received a $10,000 grant from the Maine Technology Institute's Seed Grant Program for a project titled “Formulating Pastas from Underutilized Lobster and Crab Mince.” The grant will be matched by funding from UMaine's Department of Industrial Cooperation.

The Lobster Institute will partner with researchers from the UMaine Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition as well as Cranberry Point Products, a commercial seafood processing company based in Gouldsboro, Maine. Michael Murphy, a UMaine graduate who obtained his master's degree in Food Science and Human Nutrition, will be the lead research technician for the project.

The grant will support product development research to create commercial food products utilizing lobster and crab processing by-products. A variety of fresh, seafood pasta prototypes will be developed from the mince extracted from lobster and crab legs and bodies.

Mince consists of meat that cannot easily be removed for marketing. Technicians run legs and bodies through a mechanical de-boner to remove residual meat as slurry. This slurry will then be incorporated as a primary ingredient in an assortment of pasta products with enhanced nutritional value as compared to traditional pastas.

“The pastas will bring a value-added component to current seafood processing operations,” says Bob Bayer, executive director of the Lobster Institute. “Lobster and crab legs and bodies are presently considered by-products of processing, and companies must pay to have them hauled away as waste. The de-boning process will allow for a more complete utilization of natural and commercial resources.”

According to Bayer, this process adds value all the way through the line from harvester to dealer to processor. The new venture will fit well into the existing infrastructure of processing plants, take advantage of processing by-products, and create new jobs in production and marketing of a product that is a natural fit with the existing economic base of Maine's fishing communities.

This project is the second phase of a project begun by UMaine graduate student Barbara Gilman and Denise Skonberg, assistant professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, in conjunction with the Lobster Institute and Cranberry Point Products. The first phase included initial testing on mechanical separation procedures, chemical and microbiological evaluation of the mince and pasta ingredient ratios and variables. The second phase will refine both the procedure and the product leading to a commercial prototype suitable for test-marketing.

The Maine Legislature created the MTI in 1999 to stimulate the development of new commercial products and services in Maine's technology intensive economic sectors. The MTI is located in Gardiner. More information is available at its Web site,
Students’ Good Works Help Others

Dec. 19, 2000
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- In this season of good will, University of Maine Upward Bound students can reflect on their good works. As winter embraces their area high schools, members of the Public Service Group can find warmth in remembering the community-spirited deeds they performed around the Greater Bangor area during the summer and in planning for future projects.

In addition to their summer academic courses and job schedules at UMaine, the students worked daily on public service projects, ranging from washing windows to conducting a major blood drive. But the most lasting example of their work is the handicapped-accessible ropes course obstacle they built on campus.

Upward Bound is a federally funded educational opportunity program for high school students from low-income, first-generation college families. The UMaine Classic UB program serves approximately 100 students in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo and Hancock counties. The students receive tutoring and counseling at their schools during the academic year and spend six weeks on campus during the summer, where they take courses, work in jobs throughout the community and participate in a variety of activities, including public service.

The 2000 Public Service group was especially enthusiastic and industrious, according to Upward Bound counselor Nathan Larlee, and Kate Muzzy, a UMaine secondary education major, who worked with the students on their various projects. For example, the students helped the Orono Land Trust clean up trails; visited and participated in activities with elderly residents at the Phillip-Strickland in Bangor; washed windows at the Good Samaritan Agency in Bangor; helped with landscaping and gardening in Orono public areas; and collected cans and bottles to benefit Upward Bound scholarships. In cooperation with the American Red Cross, the Public Service group conducts an annual summer blood drive on the UMaine campus.

In clearing the land and building the 6-foot x 12-foot wheelchair-accessible “Whale Watch” obstacle at UMaine’s Ropes Course site, the students worked in collaboration with Maine Bound, the university’s outdoor adventure education program, and learned skills from Brewer contractor Bill Higgins. Danny’s Team of Maine, a non-profit organization that serves individuals who are challenged physically, mentally, economically or socially, funded materials for the project, and three Danny’s Team members helped Upward Bound students with the work.

The project fit well into the recent expansion and upgrading of the ropes course facility, according to Jeff Hunt, Maine Bound assistant coordinator. The Whale Watch – a teeter-totter type platform – has been a great addition and was used by many groups during the fall, says Hunt.

The ropes course facility is part of the Maine Bound program and is used by students and various campus units, public schools, non-profit organizations, corporations and other groups.

The new obstacle is designed to build team work, improve communication and develop trust among participants. A group attempting to conquer the obstacle must try to get everyone to balance on the teeter-totter without the platform touching the ground.

Students working the project were: Matt Tourgee, Etna; Rebecca Norris, Corinna; Allison Grant, Dover-Foxcroft; Amanda Jameson, Crystal Boyington, Millinocket; Danielle Pelletier, Medway; Richard Veysey, Lincoln; Laura Dorman, Michelle Gudroe, Dexter; Seth Laplant, Jackie Henderson, Old Town; Phoebe Ploude-Rogers, Wellington; Stephanie White, Burlington; Alison MacArthur, Crystal; and Cherry Drew, Howland.