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Division of Marketing and Communications

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Conference to Explore Relationship Between Higher Education and the Workplace

Sept. 15, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The nature of work is changing in the 21st century workplace. Skills that have traditionally been taught may no longer be useful to modern-day employers. Education has to be prepared to give students the skills they need to compete in a global economy.

Major Maine employers and University of Maine faculty and staff will discuss these changes and trends at a day-long conference, "Education for What? Higher Education and the 21st Century Workplace." on Oct. 1.

"This is the first time something like this has been done at UMaine," says John Dorrer, assistant professor of economics at UMaine. "We hope this event will stimulate a dialogue about the relationship between the university and the modern workplace."

The day will begin at 11 a.m. in Hauck Auditorium with a Keynote Address by Anthony Carnevale, Ph.D., vice president for public leadership at Educational Testing Service (ETS). Carnevale is a nationally recognized authority on education, training and employment and also chairs the National Commission on Employment Policy by appointment of President Clinton. The title of his address will be "Education for What?"

After Carnevale's talk, 10-minute presentations will be given by members of a panel made up of major Maine employers. The panelists will describe the skills and qualities that employees in their firm and industry must have to function effectively and develop personally rewarding careers. Panelists are: Roxanne Bradshaw, manager of employee and organizational development at Central Maine Power Co.; Ann Houser, vice president of human resources at UNUM America; Margaret Orth, organizational development consultant for L.L. Bean and Jack Quirk, training and organizational development consultant for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Maine.

At 2:10 p.m. in 101 Neville Hall, there will be a panel discussion on "Higher Education and the 21st Century Workplace." Panelists for this discussion will be the presenters listed above as well as representatives from the University of Maine: John Alexander, vice president for academic affairs and provost; Chet Rock, interim dean of the College of Engineering; Howard P. Segal, Adelaide C. and Alan L. Bird Professor of History and director of the Technology and Society Project; Saundra Gardener, chair of the Sociology Department and Jennifer Nelson, an undergraduate student majoring in public management.

The discussion will be facilitated by Dorrer, who is also the deputy director of the workforce development program at the National Center for Education and the Economy.

The afternoon meeting will give audience members a chance to ask questions and discuss the topic with the entire panel.

"This is a very important issue for higher education in the United States," says Dorrer. "We hope this event will produce a real discussion among the faculty about ways to prepare students for the workplace of the future."

The conference is free and no pre-registration is required. It is open to all members of the University of Maine community and the public. It is being sponsored by the Department of Economics, the office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and the university's Corporate Affiliate Program.
Family and Friends Weekend Events Set

Sept. 15, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Many fun and educational activities are planned for the University of Maine's annual Family and Friends Weekend Fri., Sept. 25 to Sun., Sept. 27.

The weekend's events begin with Open Classroom Day on Friday. Family members are encouraged to attend classes with their student. An athletic momento and memorabilia exhibit is planned from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. A tour of the Aquaculture Research Center and presentation is planned at 3 p.m. A pulp and paper making demonstration will take place at Jenness Hall at 3 p.m.

The evening ends with a concert by the United States Air Force Band of the Rockies "Galaxy Brass" at 8 p.m. in the Hutchins Concert Hall of the Maine Center for the Arts. Tickets can be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Air Force Recruiting Office with a request for a maximum of four tickets to 117 Broadway, Bangor, ME 04401.

On Saturday, UMaine's student organizations get together for the annual Organizational Fair on the Mall. Over 100 student groups and organizations will participate with exhibits, food, demonstrations, displays and music.

Saturday will also feature a morning tour of the Lyle E. Littlefield Ornamentals Trial Garden at 8 a.m. and a University Bookstore Fashion Show on the Mall at 11 a.m. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the Fall Exposition Antique, Collectible and Craft Market will be held at the UMaine Fieldhouse. Admission is $1, with children under 12 free. Call Sue Gould at 947- 3103 for more information.

At 10:30 a.m., the Maine Men's Soccer team will be playing Boston University on the Soccer Field and at 3 p.m., Maine's football team will be playing Dartmouth College at Alfond Stadium. For ticket information on the football game, call 581-BEAR or 1-800-756-TEAM. Saturday night, the Ronny Romm ESP and Hypnosis Show will be held at Wells Commons at 8 p.m.

Sunday features a Kids 1K Fun Run at 11:30 a.m. at Alfond Stadium and a UMaine Student-Athletes 5K Run & Walk. All proceeds will support athletic scholarships and student-athlete academic needs. At Noon, the women's soccer team will play Fordham University on the Soccer Field. On Sunday, the Fall Exposition Craft Show will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On all three days, visitors will have the opportunity to visit The Hudson Museum, the Page Farm and Home Museum and Leonard's Mills. There will also be public swimming, skating and Planetarium shows all weekend.

Family and Friends Weekend is sponsored by the Center for Students and Community Life.
Pushaw Lake Watershed Program Planned

September 15, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Residents of the Pushaw Lake watershed which includes portions of Orono, Old Town, Hudson, Glenburn and Charleston can participate in a watershed stewards program being offered this fall by University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

John Jemison, Extension water quality specialist, described the program to the annual meeting of the Greater Pushaw Lake Association August 22. Participants will get 20 hours of free instruction in water quality issues during the winter months. In exchange, they commit to doing 20 hours of volunteer work to apply their new knowledge.

In other watersheds where volunteers have been trained, participants have met their obligation by helping to perform a watershed survey of potential sources of erosion and other types of pollution in the spring. Similar efforts have been conducted for Branch Lake near Ellsworth, Swan Lake in Waldo County, and the Royal River in southern Maine.

Citizens in those areas have identified a variety of problems including eroding roads, failing septic systems and heavily fertilized lawns on steep slopes.

"Cooperative Extension provides information to homeowners about how to correct these problems," says Jemison. "For example, if people want to protect their view of a lake, we can show them how to use low growing shrubs which protect the soil and the view."

Participation in the watershed stewards program is open to the general public including students, people with full and part-time jobs and retirees.

"Watershed protection has to come from the grassroots efforts of Maine citizens. We will provide interested citizens with the knowledge they need to identify potential sources of pollution that could cause water quality problems," said Jemison.

More information about the program is available from Jemison at 581-3241.
UMaine Offers New Students Four-Year "Degree Guarantee"

Sept. 15, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Incoming first-year students to the University of Maine this fall will be eligible for a new program created by President Peter S. Hoff -- a "Degree Guarantee" that students who wish to graduate within four years will get the classes they need to complete their degree or else they will get free tuition for their remaining courses.

The plan is a result of a directive Hoff issued to university administrators last November during his inaugural address.

"There seems to be a false impression that you can't get through here in four years even if you do everything right," says Douglas Gelinas, vice provost for undergraduate education, whose office is responsible for the program's maintenance. "That's not true. This offer is one way to assure students that we know they can do it."

Gelinas says there are many reasons students take more than four years. He explains that in addition to their studies, many students have jobs and thus register for less than fifteen credits a semester, the minimum number students need per semester to graduate in four years.

According to the Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange, 26.5 percent of UMaine students graduated in four years, two percentage points above the 24.5 percent average of the 176 other public institutions participating in the consortium.

"This program is essentially a promise on the part of the university that if full-time students are doing well academically and intend to graduate on time they will have access to the courses they need to complete their degree in four years," Gelinas says.

The Degree Guarantee program is a partnership in which both the University of Maine and UMaine students accept responsibilities.

Students must meet with their advisor every year to plan their schedules, beginning in the first year of study. They must also maintain a good academic standing and complete one quarter of their total degree requirements every year. If students choose to change a major or engage in special experiences such as foreign study, it might change the date at which they could expect to complete the degree.

In return, advisors will help students plan their schedules, and a degree audit at the end of their sophomore and junior years will track progress toward completion of all degree requirements.

If the student does everything right and is still unable to complete the program, UMaine will pay the tuition and course fees for any remaining needed courses.

"One of the things a student needs to do is plan ahead," says Gelinas. "It is possible to get through any major in four years."
**Wanted: High School Students Who Like Math**

Sept. 15, 1998  
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine Department of Mathematics and Statistics is looking for Maine high school students who want to excel in math. Faculty and graduate students have established the Maine Outreach School for Mathematics in an effort to offer additional math instruction to high school students throughout the state.

Eva Szillery, a native of Hungary and a UMaine math instructor, coordinates the program. Information has already been sent to Maine high school principals and math and science teachers.

"The goal is to provide students with information they may not otherwise have available in their schools," Szillery says. "The program is open to any student who wishes to study mathematics more deeply." There is no cost for participating students.

The program is modeled after a successful effort called the Gelfand Outreach Program in Mathematics in the former Soviet Union, now also being used in New Jersey. Participating students receive a booklet in the mail every month with information and a set of exercises in a specific subject. Students return the completed exercises to the department for comments.

Subjects include algebra, graphs, geometry, statistics and calculus. Students receive material only on the subject in which they are interested.

The material focuses on subjects which often give students trouble, says Szillery. Some of the ideas are not covered by standard math curricula or have been chosen because they are important in engineering and science fields.

Volunteer faculty members from the UMaine math department include Jerry Farlow, Phil Locke, Sergey Lvin, Grattan Murphy and Clayton Dodge. Graduate students will also assist. No grades are given, but high schoolers who complete a year of work will be given a completion certificate. Those who excel over the course of three years will receive a letter of recommendation to college.

Math, Szillery says, is a discipline which is both an art and a science, in which the greatest reward is in solving problems in solitude. She says she hopes that students in Maine will take advantage of the opportunity to communicate with professional mathematicians and give math a fair chance.

Interested students and high school teachers can get more information about the program from Szillery via the Internet at Szillery@gauss.umemat.maine.edu and by mail at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469.
Folk Traditions Festival to be Held at UMaine

Sept. 16, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The cultural heritage of Maine and the Maritime Provinces will be celebrated when the Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine holds its first annual Folk Traditions Festival Nov. 6-7. The festival will focus on Nova Scotia and its Gaelic culture. The music, dance and storytelling of the region will be celebrated in lectures, workshops and performances.

The festival begins on Friday with public and classroom lectures. A lecture and workshop schedule will be announced next month.

The day ends with a performance of Gaelic song and stories by Rosemary McCormack and Margo Carruthers, accompanied by David Burke. The performance will be held in the Minsky Concert Hall, Class of 1944 Hall at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, there will be several concurrent workshops available in the Class of 1944 Hall from 1-3 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. Workshop subjects will be: Gaelic language and song, Cape Breton Step Dancing, Cape Breton Fiddling, Accompaniment (guitar, piano).

At the end of the day, an evening Ceilidh of song and celebration will be celebrated in the Damn Yankee, located in the Memorial Union. It will begin at 6 p.m. with a dinner and buffet. From 7-8 p.m. there will be a performance of piping, highland dance, Irish dance and fiddlers. From 8 to 8:45 p.m., Rodney MacDonald, Glenn Graham, Mac Morin and Patrick Gillis will perform, along with a demonstration of step dancing by Four on the Floor.

Margo Carruthers and Rosemary McCormack will perform with David Burke from 8:45 to 9:15. From 9:15 to 10 p.m., Rodney MacDonald and Company will perform and there will be a Cape Breton square set dance until the early morning hours.

The Folk Traditions Festival takes place in conjunction with Canada and International Week celebrations at UMaine. Its purpose is to acknowledge the languages, songs, tunes, music styles, dances, folktales and legends that spring from shared ethnic and occupational experiences between Maine and Canada's Maritime Provinces. Each year, a particular tradition will be highlighted that shows the connections between the two cultures.

For tickets and information contact the Maine Folklife Center, South Stevens Hall, University of Maine, Orono 04469 (207)581-1891 or e-mail folklife@maine.edu. Advance registration is suggested.
New UMaine Publication Describes Groundwater Protection Methods

September 16, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Techniques for protecting groundwater are described in a new publication from the University of Maine Water Research Institute, Protecting Groundwater Supplies in Maine: Maine's Wellhead Protection Program. About 60% of Maine citizens rely on groundwater for their domestic water supply.

The illustrated 12-page publication is a collaborative effort of the WRI and the Maine Drinking Water Program. It describes how water percolates into aquifers and becomes stored for future use. It also lists steps water suppliers can take to protect groundwater sources from contamination.

Drawings of wells show how pumping changes the flow of water in aquifers. An aquifer consists of bedrock, sand and gravel deposits or some other type of rock material which stores useable quantities of water.

Among the points in the publications are the following:

€ An average of 1.2 million gallons of water falls on every acre of Maine an annual basis. In sand and gravel soils, up to half of this precipitation may be added to the water stored for future use. Lower amounts are absorbed by glacial till soils and bedrock.

€ Maine's Wellhead Protection Program is a voluntary effort designed to protect Maine's 2,200 public wells from contamination. The program specifies several steps regarding land use in areas which contribute water to public wells.

€ Among the potential sources of contamination are chemical storage facilities, auto service stations, farm fields, waste handling systems and urban runoff. Properly managed activities reduce or eliminate the chances for contamination.

The publication also describes the roles played by state and federal agencies, municipal governments, business associations and other providers of technical assistance such as the Maine Rural Water Association and the UMaine Cooperative Extension.

The publication is available through the Maine Drinking Water Program (287-2070) in Augusta and the WRI (581-3244). Authors are Steve Pinette of North Carolina, a former UMaine graduate student and Maine State employee; Steve Kahl of Old Town, director of the WRI; and Sherman Hasbrouck of Orono, a WRI communicator and land use planner.

The publication was produced with financial support from the WRI and the Maine Wellhead Protection Program.
Susan Heath and Patricia Stowell to Present Flute/Piano Recital at UMaine

Sept. 16, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- A recital featuring compositions for flute and piano will be presented by flutist Susan Heath, member of the music faculty at the University of Maine's School of Performing Arts, and pianist Patricia Stowell, guest artist, on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. in the Minsky Music Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall.

The recital program includes: Haydn's "Twelve Pieces for the Musical Clock" and Bhuslav Martinu's "First Sonata for Flute and Piano," as well as works by Claude Debussy and Franz Schubert. Maine composer Claude Monteux's composition "Seagulls at the Dump" will also be performed. Joining Heath and Stowell for the Monteux work are guest flutists Joan Curtis and Karen D. Hawthorne, members of the professional flute choir "Howlin' Winds."

Susan Heath holds a performance degree from the University of Michigan and has studied with Nelson Hauenstein, Clement Barone of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Francis Blaisdale of the New York Opera and Ballet Company, and Claude Monteux of the New England Conservatory. She has performed throughout the United States and Europe and is principal flutist for the Bangor Symphony Orchestra.

Heath is a member of the "Howlin' Winds" flute choir which specializes in performances of music by Maine composers and works composed especially for the ensemble. This summer the "Howlin' Winds" presented a concert at the Flute Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, where, among other works, "Seagulls at the Dump" was performed.

Pianist Patricia Stowell is a chamber musician and solo recitalist. Within the past year she has performed as soloist in Rockland, at the Farnsworth Museum, and in Bangor; in trio performances; and in programs of 4-hand music with artist Lorin Hollander. Other performances have included numerous concerts in the midwest and New England, as well as performance opportunities in Austria, Germany, Poland, Bulgaria and Moscow where she presented her dissertation on Scriabin and Russian Symbolism. Stowell returns to Bulgaria this November when she presents a master class and performs duo and trio American music for an American Festival held in Sofia.

Stowell received her doctorate in music from Northwestern University after graduation from Indiana University where she spent a term at the "Hochschule fur Musik" in Vienna, Austria. She also studied at the Hochschule fur Musik und Darstellende Kunst" in Stuttgart, Germany. Stowell has taught at Albion College, Eastern Michigan University, and the University of Southern Maine. She presently teaches privately in her Orono studio. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Bangor Symphony Orchestra and the Maine Center for the Arts.
Agriculture Forum Sponsored by Women's Agricultural Network

September 17, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A meeting to discuss how the University of Maine can work with Maine's small and part-time farmers will be held on the UMaine campus from 10:30 a.m. to noon, October 20 at Wells Commons. The public is welcome to attend.

The Maine Women's Agricultural Network is sponsoring the meeting and has invited LaVon Bartel, director of UMaine Cooperative Extension, and representatives of the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture to address the participants.

Their topics will include the responsibilities of UMaine to small and part-time farmers, educational programs targeted at women and others running a small farm operation and the effect of the state Board of Agriculture on UMaine's services to part-time farmers. There will be time for questions.

A fee of $10 will be charged for those staying for lunch. Participants should register with Vivianne Holmes, Androscoggin-Sagadahoc County Extension office, 800-287-1458, or via e-mail, vholmes@umce.umext.maine.edu.
UMaine Holds Fourth Annual Teaching History Conference

Sept. 17, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The History Department at the University of Maine is inviting history educators from around the state to the fourth annual conference on teaching history in Maine.

"Beyond the Textbook: Resources for Teaching History in Maine" will be presented on Friday, Oct. 23. A one-day program, the conference will focus on ideas and strategies for incorporating a variety of traditional and non-traditional resources into high school and middle school history curricula. This year, conference attendees will participate in a series of roundtable discussions and hands-on workshops conducted by educators from a wide range of institutions responsible for teaching history in the state, including archivists, high school teachers, education directors and museum curators.

The day begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. and welcoming remarks from Martha McNamara, assistant professor of history and Anne Pooler, associate dean of the College of Education and Human Development at 9 a.m.

At 9:15, there will be a plenary session on resources for Maine Studies. Amy Hassinger, author of the forthcoming Maine Studies Textbook will talk about "Finding Kathadin: A New Text for Maine Studies." Carol Toner of the Continuing Education Division at UMaine will then speak on "More than Moose and Lobsters: Introducing the Certificate in Maine Studies Program."

From 10:30 to noon, there will be three concurrent sessions that will explore strategies for incorporating the study of ordinary, accessible landscapes into history and geography curricula. The scheduled workshops are: "Putting History in its Place: Using History and Geography to Create a Women's History Trail in Rural Maine," taught by Cathleen McAnneny, assistant professor of geography and Allison Hepler, assistant professor of history at the University of Maine, Farmington; "Exploring Streetcar Suburbs: Bangor's Little City Neighborhood as a Model for Teaching the Twentieth Century," taught by Sara Martin, a UMaine graduate student in history; and "The City is a Classroom: Teaching History Using the Built Environment at Your Doorstep," taught by Gretchen Drown, interim education director for Greater Portland Landmarks.

After lunch, there will be two concurrent roundtable sessions from 1:30-2:30 p.m. The first will be on "Moving Images in the Classroom," during which panelists and participants will share their experiences using videos to engage students in classroom debate, oral history projects, library research and other activities. Panelists will be Rae Pelletier, social studies teacher at Boothbay Harbor High School; Mike Wood, social studies teacher at Deer Isle Stonington High School; Tammy Philbrook, english teacher at Orono High School and Lisa Ornstein, director of Acadian Archives at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

The second roundtable discussion will be on "Team Teaching with Museums and Historical Societies." Panelists will discuss how teachers of history can take full advantage of the resources available at Maine's museums and historical societies.

Panelists will be Caitlin Osborne, education coordinator for the Center for Maine History and Maine Historical Society; Sam Shogren, the curator of the Penobscot Marine Museum and Mary Ellen Barnes, executive director of the Maine Forest and Logging Museum at Leonard's Mills.

From 2:45 to 3:45, three hands-on workshops will be held on documentary and pictorial evidence in the classroom. The workshop topics will be "Web, Paper, CD?: Accessing and Using Historical Documents in the Brave New World" taught by David Richards, assistant director of the Margaret Chase Smith Library; "Eight Opinions: One Piece of Cloth" taught by Ryan Bradeen, social studies teacher at Bangor High School and
"Bringing Community into the Classroom: Sources from the Maine State Archives" by Jim Henderson, director of the Maine State Archives.

Teachers who attend the program earn 0.6 CEU credit, which can be claimed by filling out a brief form on the day of the conference. The conference is $15 for the day. Pre-registration deadline is Wednesday, Oct. 14. To register, contact Martha McNamara, assistant professor of history at UMaine at 581-1917.
UMaine Anthropologist's Findings Shed Light on Ancient Use of Marine Resources

September 18, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Some of the earliest inhabitants of South America appear to have depended more heavily on the ocean for part of their food supply than previously thought, according to a paper by a University of Maine anthropologist in the September 18 edition of the journal Science.

Eventually, the residents of a coastal community in Peru developed a maritime culture which included fishing for drum with nets and digging wedge clams.

The findings by a team led by Daniel H. Sandweiss of Bangor, assistant professor of anthropology and Quaternary studies, mean that marine resources were extensively used about one thousand years earlier than previously thought. The evidence also suggests that early peoples had a well developed maritime economy.

The team drew its conclusions based on excavations of an ancient settlement at Jaguay Canyon about a mile from the Pacific Ocean. Among the remains are pieces of charcoal, obsidian flakes, fish bones and clam shells. The obsidian source was located in the Andes Mts. about 80 miles away.

Members of the research team include Sandweiss; Heather McInnis, a UMaine graduate student in Quaternary Studies; Richard L. Burger, Yale University; Asuncion Cano, Bernardino Ojeda and Rolando Paredes of Peru; Maria del Carmen Sandweiss of the UMaine Dept. of Modern Languages; and Michael D. Glascock of the University of Missouri. Science is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
UMaine Chooses 1998-99 Class Book

Sept. 18, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Myths, misinformation and little-known facts of American history will be the topics of discussion across the University of Maine campus this fall as students read this year's class book, Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong by James Loewen.

The award-winning Lies My Teacher Told Me was selected by the UMaine Faculty Senate as the class book for the academic year 1998-99. The class book is required reading in all English composition classes, and is used as a discussion subject in various forums and panels on campus. This is the seventh year of the class book program at UMaine.

First-year students received copies of Lies My Teacher Told Me as part of orientation. In addition, a campuswide effort is being made to reach employees and other students to ensure that the University community is aware of the class book tradition and that members can be active participants, says Harvey Kail, associate professor of English and chair of the Class Book Committee.

"The original idea behind the class book was to raise the level of discourse on campus by providing something we can all read regardless of our disciplines, majors or colleges," says Kail. "This particular book brings new perspectives to our experiences with American history and how it is constructed in textbooks."

The ten-chapter book deals with such topics as the absence of racism in history textbooks, the importance of Christopher Columbus and what textbooks teach about the federal government. According to Loewen, a review of 12 leading high school textbooks revealed that students are not getting an accurate view of their country's history from modern textbooks. Loewen gives a critique and analysis of history teaching methods and offers solutions.

Loewen, a professor emeritus of sociology, taught race relations for twenty years at the University of Vermont. Now in Washington, D.C., he is researching a new book, Lies Across the Landscape: What Our Historic Markers and Monuments Get Wrong.

Loewen is the recipient of the 1996 American Book Award, the Oliver Cromwell Cox Award for Distinguished Anti-Racist Scholarship and the AESA Critic's Choice Award. Prof. Loewen is expected to visit campus for a lecture and discussion in March.

A panel discussion about the book will be held Nov. 19 as part of the UMaine Socialist and Marxist Controversy Series. Panel members will be: Nathan Godfried, associate professor of history; Maureen Smith, director of the Native American Studies Program and Shannetta Mennenga, interim assistant dean of Multicultural Student Affairs. The discussion will be in the Minsky Recital Hall, located in the 1944 Hall, from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m.

Valencia Daigle, a Campus Living graduate assistant, has put together a film series based on issues raised by the book. The Residents on Campus channel will show one film a month, beginning in September with the Civil War film Glory!

In the spring, a new Web-based course focused on the class book will be offered. Jim Toner, associate director of distance education, says the course will include virtual panel discussions and a involve as many as 20 UMaine faculty, a high school history teacher and campus organizations.

As in past years, there will be a Class Book Community Program. This not-for-credit discussion class is sponsored by UMaine, the Camden Conference and the Camden Library. Community members in Orono and Camden will be invited to various discussions about the book, which will be led by a team of faculty members.
Center for Community Inclusion Reaching Out to Students with Disabilities

September 21, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion is reaching out to people in the community with disabilities and letting them know college is a viable option for everyone.

The project, Opportunity to Completion, encourages students with disabilities to enroll in four-year undergraduate programs and successfully complete them. The project focuses on outreach, institutional empowerment and enhancing the campus climate for diversity.

As part of the outreach mission, the OTC project has made a video, Breaking Ground, which features six UMaine students with disabilities. The students talk about their college experiences, both the challenges and the rewards. A 30-second public service announcement has been drawn from the video.

The PSA focuses on one student, Bill, who has cerebral palsy. Bill says he had always dreamed of going to college, and he has made that goal a reality with the help of professors and fellow students.

Breaking Ground will have its premiere showing on Thurs., Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. at 101 Neville Hall on the UMaine campus.

The institutional empowerment phase of the plan involves a Higher Education Living and Learning Plan (HELLP) in which faculty will be trained to advice students in both academic and non-academic areas. The Center has also developed an On-Line Disability Information System (ODIS) to provide students with disabilities, faculty, and community members with relevant information.

In addition, the Center will also collaborate with existing campus diversity groups to conduct awareness programs related to disability as diversity. The OTC staff will offer technical assistance to faculty in developing teaching skills for diverse groups of students with disabilities.

The project is funded by a grant from the Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services. The Center for Community Inclusion at UMaine is a partnership of people bringing together the resources of the community and the university to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families.
EDUCATION, SOCIAL REFORM LEADER SPEAKING AT UMAINE

Sept. 23, 1998
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Leading education and social reformer Dr. James P. Comer will give two public addresses on Tuesday, October 6, during a visit to the University of Maine. Professor of child psychiatry at the Yale University Child Study Center, associate dean of the Yale School of Medicine and noted author, Comer is best known for his educational reform program designed to improve life and learning for poor children in the nation's inner-city schools.

The public is invited, free of charge, to hear Comer's discussions on the economic, educational, cultural and family traditions and conditions that shape attitudes and actions in urban, as well as rural states. Comer speaks at 11 a.m. in 100 D.P. Corbett Business Administration Building on the topic "Mobilizing the Caring Majority," and at 4 p.m. in Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union, when he will discuss "The Preventative Nature of School" as part of UMaine's Mental Health Awareness Week presentations.

Comer is 1998-99 Shibles Distinguished Visiting Professor in UMaine's College of Education and Human Development. In addition to giving public lectures during his visits, he will work with students, faculty and community and state leaders on a variety of educational, social and family issues.

A pioneer in the promotion and establishment of service integration, or "full service" schools, Comer contends that providing a caring environment and basic needs are essential to learning. Success, particularly academic success, is a remote and elusive concept when life's circumstances drive the human focus toward survival only, he says.

In his latest book, "Waiting for a Miracle: Why Schools Can't Solve Our Problems -- And How We Can," Comer calls for a new cultural mind-set -- that all children can learn and succeed. He notes that the traditional cultural view that anyone with good intelligence can learn, and teach, if only they make the effort has contributed to the nation's under-investment in the preparation and support of educators, and to an educational approach that does not adequately prepare most students for life, particularly the most vulnerable.
Hudson Museum Receives Conservation Grant

September 23, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine has received a Conservation Project Support grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The $43,995 grant will be used to re-house the Hudson Museum's significant organic ethnographic and archaeological holdings in a new storage facility. The holdings, which are mostly fiber, textile, wood, skin and leather objects, will be moved from their current home on the third floor of South Stevens Hall to a new state-of-the-art facility in the Class of 1944 Hall, which connects the Maine Center for the Arts and the Memorial Union.

Stephen Whittington, director of the Hudson Museum, says the project is scheduled to start in early October, and will take approximately a year to complete.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent federal grantmaking agency. The conservation grants are intended to help museums undertake important activities to help preserve collections. The Hudson Museum was one of 74 institutions nationwide to receive a grant, out of 226 applicants.
UMaine Expert Analyzes Maine's Second-Quarter Economy

September 23, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Maine's economy is strong. The state has had a robust second quarter of growth and appears to be having a good tourist season, according to a University of Maine economic specialist.

Jim McConnon, a business and economics specialist with UMaine's Cooperative Extension and associate professor of resource economics and policy in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture, used State Planning Office numbers for the three-month period ending on June 30, 1998 to develop his assessment of the state's economy. He found that overall, the economy is good, with unemployment down and retail sales up, but there is still a gap between northern and southern Maine.

This June, the unemployment rate in Maine is 3.8 percent. This is a marked improvement over last year, when the unemployment rate stood at 5.3 percent. "There were approximately 3700 more people employed this June compared to June of 1997," says McConnon.

Washington County had the highest unemployment, with 8.7 percent and Cumberland had the lowest at 2.3 percent. The nationwide unemployment rate for June was 4.7 percent, which leaves Maine below the national average.

Retail activity was generally up for the quarter, which measures all retail in April, May and June of 1998.

"In the second quarter, retail sales rose sharply in 1998 versus 1997 here in Maine. Consumer retail sales were up 8.1 percent," says McConnon. "We saw some real strong growth in retail sales coming into the summer period."

Retail sales figures are split up into seven categories: building supplies, general merchandise, other retail (specialty shops not included in general merchandise), auto transportation, restaurants, foodstores and lodging places.

Statewide, building supplies were up 16.2 percent; general merchandise was up 10.7 percent; other retail was up 7.8 percent; auto transportation was up 4.4 percent; restaurants were up 7.3 percent; foodstores were up 6.6 percent and lodging places were up 5.3 percent.

McConnon says retail has changed on the local level because of the advent of mass merchants in the early 1990's.

"Maine was one of the last states to experience the rise of mass merchandisers and there's been quite a proliferation of them," says McConnon. While mass merchandisers have brought a wide selection of products, they also have increased competition in local markets and have drawn customers outside of their local markets from rural areas.

McConnon says although he expects the economy to stay strong through the third quarter, which includes the tourist season, the uncertainty in the stock market and the potential adverse impact of the Asian crisis could affect spending and retail sales going into the fourth quarter.
"An Evening of Gerard Manley Hopkins;" Soprano Nancy Ogle to Present Unique Recital

Sept. 24, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The poetry of English mystic poet, ecologist and priest Gerard Manley Hopkins, set to music by contemporary American composers, will be the focus for a unique faculty recital presented by soprano Nancy Ogle, a member of the University of Maine's School of Performing Arts music faculty. Maine poet John Burns will join Ogle as narrator and pianist Ginger Yang Hwalek will play at the recital on Friday, Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Minsky Music Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall.

The impetus for the recital began as a collaboration between Ogle and New York composer Mary Ann Joyce Walter. Walter, who has set several Hopkins poems to music, wrote a song cycle, "Gold-Vermillion," which Ogle recorded in 1994. Walter then invited her to construct an all-Hopkins recital to present at an annual conference of the Gerard Manley Hopkins summer school in Ireland.

Ogle undertook a national search for composers who have set Hopkins' poems to music. With the help of Hwalek, she reviewed compositions by more than 60 contemporary American composers. Friday night's concert will feature the results of that search.

Among other composers who have set Hopkins' poems to music, and whose works will be featured in the recital, are Kile Smith, Ronald Ray Williams, Arthur Campbell, Joyce Suskind, Donald Betts, Don Hagar, Samuel Barber and Robert Greenlee.

"An Evening of Gerard Manley Hopkins" is one performance in a series that Ogle will present later this month as guest artist at Macalester College in St. Paul, MI. She will also perform the recital at the Gerard Manley Hopkins Summer School in Ireland in 1999.

Ogle holds a Master of Music Degree in Vocal Performance from Indiana University. Her postgraduate studies have included work with Birgit Nilsson, Edward Zambara, Allen Rogers and Elizabeth Cole. She has performed widely in the United States as well as England, Austria, Russia and Japan.

Ticket information may be obtained by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at: (207) 581-1755; 1-800-622-8499; or TDD/TYY (207) 581-1888.
UMaine Veterinarian Saves Aquaculture Jobs

September 25, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Just as veterinarians work side-by-side with farmers, specialists in fish diseases serve Maine's aquaculture industry by monitoring and treating parasites, viruses and other animal health problems. If left uncontrolled, diseases such as infectious salmon anemia, vibriosis and sea lice could be the marine equivalent of a plague of locusts and wipe out schools of farmed fish and with them, aquaculture jobs.

Mike Opitz of Orono works with farmers both on the land and at sea. As a Cooperative Extension veterinarian and a fish pathologist in the UMaine School of Marine Sciences, he tends to the health of chickens as well as salmon. His expertise has already saved money for Maine's aquaculture industry.

Sea lice is a salmon parasite which has caused severe losses on fish farms in the Canadian Maritimes. In 1996, with cooperation from salmon pen owners, government agencies and Chris Bartlett, a Sea Grant Extension colleague based in Eastport, Opitz identified and received federal approval for experimental use of a novel animal drug for fish, cypermethrin. The chemical kills the lice but leaves the salmon unharmed.

"It's still the only effective treatment available and the chemical of choice for treating for sea lice under a special permit from the Food and Drug Administration," says Opitz, "but we are studying alternatives and other control measures to reduce the potential for any impact on the marine environment."

As a co-chair of the sea lice task force, Opitz coordinates a control program for the aquaculture industry. It includes constant monitoring, training of personnel who apply cypermethrin treatments and research on alternatives.

Opitz and his colleagues have also focused their attention on infectious salmon anemia (ISA) which has caused losses in the Maritimes but has not yet been detected in Maine. Collaborators in this effort include Opitz; Microtechnologies Inc. of Richmond, Maine; Bruce Nicholson of the UMaine Dept. of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Molecular Biology; and Melissa Kelly of the Department of Biological Sciences. They have identified the virus which causes ISA and are now looking for effective control measures.

The setting for much of this work is a new fish isolation unit in Hitchner Hall on the UMaine campus. The facility consists of three recirculating water systems which can be precisely controlled for temperature, salinity and other conditions.

"When we study emerging diseases in fish, it's important that we keep these fish isolated," Opitz says. "We are already using the unit for work on ISA. It's an exotic disease in Maine."

Students who work with Opitz are taking advantage of another improved facility in which water and air temperatures can be carefully set from zero to 50 degrees Centigrade. "We call it the 'cool room.' We can control temperatures to mimic the range of conditions in the Gulf of Maine.

Students use it for their experiments," Opitz explains.

Ultimately, preventive measures may be the least expensive and most effective means for aquaculture firms to avoid disease problems. To promote their use, Opitz coordinates a program of "bio-security" audits. Participating firms review all aspects of their operations to make sure that they aren't inadvertently creating conditions which promote disease.
Mental Illness Awareness Week Activities Set at UMaine

September 28, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Departments and organizations from the University of Maine are joining together to discuss mental illness during the third annual Mental Illness Awareness Week Oct. 5-7.

"We really think there is a stigma about mental illness, so we want to dispel myths and get rid of that stigma," says Martha Eastman, assistant director for Health Promotion at Cutler Health Center. "We want the public to know that people with mental illness can lead productive, happy lives."

Information tables will be set up in the lobby of the Memorial Union Monday to Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day to give people more information about mental illness and a chance to participate in a quiz/raffle.

The week's activities begin on Oct. 5 with a Mental Health Agency Poster Session and Job Fair in the FFA Room and Lown Room of the Memorial Union from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., which is coordinated by the Career Center. Approximately 12 visiting agencies will be in the union to attract UMaine graduates to jobs they have in the mental health field. Also at 10 a.m., Sandy Sigmon, an associate professor of psychology at UMaine, will speak in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union on "Seasonal Affective Disorders."

At 11 a.m., a presentation on "Providing Mental Health Services in the Future" will be presented by Katherine Bubar, Region III director for the Maine Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. A panel discussion will be held at 12:30 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union on "Perspectives on the Concept of Mental Illness." Panelists will be Jay Peters, a lecturer in the School of Social Work; Douglas Nangle, assistant professor of psychology; Judy Burk of Acadia Hospital; Denise Delori, of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Maine; and moderator Jeffrey Hecker, director of Psychological Services at UMaine. An open reception in the Totman Lounge of the Memorial Union will follow at 2:30 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., Gail Steketee of the School of Social Work at Boston University will be speaking in the Bangor Lounge on "Cognitive Features and the Treatment of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder." Monday evening, the keynote address will be given by Jacki Lyden, a reporter with National Public Radio and author of Daughter of the Queen of Sheba, a story about dealing with Bipolar Disorder in relatives. Her address, "What to Do When Your Mother Becomes the Queen of Sheba" will be in the Bodwell Lounge of the Maine Center for the Arts from 7-9 p.m.

On Oct. 6, the day's activities begin at 12:15 with a panel presentation on "Medications for Mental Illness: Dispelling the Stigma" in the Bangor Lounge. Panelists will be Deborah McMahon, a certified family practice nurse practitioner in Bangor; Jacki Lyden, keynote speaker and Roger Powers, assistant professor of nursing at UMaine.

At 4 p.m. in the Sutton Lounge of the Memorial Union, James Comer of the Yale University Child Study Center and School of Medicine will speak on the "Preventative Nature of School." After his presentation, at 5 p.m. in the Sutton Lounge, a panel discussion on "Wrap-Around Model: Teaming for Children, Family, School and Community" will be held with members of the organization Wings for Children and Families, Inc. A theater presentation of "Borderline," a play by Tamela Glenn, will be presented at 8 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Building by the Theatre of the Silver Dragon.

Depression Screenings for students, employees and the community will be held Oct. 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the North Lown Room of the Memorial Union.

At 12:15 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge, a Women in the Curriculum Luncheon will be held in conjunction with Mental Illness Awareness Week on "Transactional Conflict Between Biology and Culture in Postpartum
Depression." The speaker will be Marie Hayes, an associate professor of psychology at UMaine.

A workshop on how to find mental health information on the World Wide Web will be held from 2:30-4 p.m. in the Fogler Library Classroom. The instructor will be Deborah Rollins, a social sciences and humanities reference librarian with Fogler.

The week is sponsored by the Center for Students and Community Life. Co-sponsors include the Career Center; Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Maine; Association of Graduate Students; Center for Community Inclusion; College of Education and Human Development; Counseling Center; the Departments of Economics, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology and Wildlife Ecology; Employee Assistance Program; Fogler Library; Onward Program; Psychological Services Center; Sandy and Bobby Ives; Schools of Nursing and Social Work; Tina Passman; Wings for Children and Families, Inc. and Women in the Curriculum.
National Acrobats of China at Maine Center for the Arts Oct. 6

Sept. 28, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The dazzling skill and breathtaking feats of the National Acrobats of China will take center stage at the University of Maine's Maine Center for the Arts on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 7:00 p.m. Skillful performers from the Fu Hsing Dramatic Arts Academy, the foremost acrobatic company in China, will demonstrate the centuries-old Chinese tradition which blends dramatized variety shows and choreographed acrobatics.

Often using objects of daily life such as chairs, tables, poles, ladders and plates as stage properties, the acrobats' perfect movements and flexible showmanship have provided entertainment and relaxation to audiences around the world. The National Acrobats of China have toured Europe, America and South East Asia. More than 500 performances are given each year in China and at international venues.

Among the acts for which the company is justifiably famous are the bicycle riding act with ten acrobats on one bicycle; the "Breaking Ladder" act with an acrobat performing on the top of a ladder placed on the shoulders of another performer; and "Playing with Candlesticks" in which a dancer performs elegantly with candles attached to the soles of her feet, her hands and her forehead.

Ticket information about the National Acrobats of China's performance may be obtained by calling the Maine Center for the Arts' Box Office at (207) 581-1755, 1-800-622-8499 or TDD/TTY (207) 581-1888. Reservations are recommended.
"Voices of the Rainforest" Program at UMaine

September 28, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A program of rare images and storytelling will provide a glimpse of one of the world's oldest rainforests on Monday, October 5 at the University of Maine. "Out of the Shadows of Borneo: Voices of the Rainforest," will begin at 7:00 p.m. in room 100, Donald P. Corbett Business Building. It is free and open to the public.

The program is the result of many years of recording the people, sights and sounds in part of Southeast Asia. It relates the lives of people whose struggle can be seen as a metaphor for humanity's ultimate connection to the earth and the pursuit of a sustainable biosphere.

The UMaine Student Environmental Action Coalition is sponsoring the program. More information is available from Stephanie Schroeder, Orono, 866-3890.
Kennedy Center's "Imagination Celebration on Tour" Brings "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" to UMaine

Sept. 29, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing," a stage adaptation of the best-selling book by children's author Judy Blume, will take the stage at the University of Maine's Maine Center for the Arts on Thursday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. The hilarious comedy tells the adventures of 9-year-old Peter Hatcher and his impossible kid brother, Fudge.

A favorite of children for over 25 years, "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" is recommended for audiences 9 years and above and their families. The lessons on sibling rivalry and responsibility, demonstrated through comic situations and humor, are familiar to any one, of any age, who has a younger brother or sister.

Adapted by Bruce Mason, "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" centers on Peter, who suffers from his younger brother's shenanigans. Peter tells how Fudge has kept the entire Hatcher family in disarray by ruining homework, throwing temper tantrums, and even eating Peter's pet turtle. Adult actors play all the roles.

The Kennedy Center's "Imagination Celebration on Tour" grew out of the need to offer high quality theatre for young people and families. Each production starts as a resident production at the Kennedy Center's Theatre Lab. The artistic team is chosen from professionals in both the Washington, DC area and around the country; artists have experience in both adult regional theatre and theatre for youth. This is the fourth consecutive touring season for the Kennedy Center.

Ticket information about "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" may be obtained by calling the Maine Center for the Arts' Box Office at (207) 581-1755, 1-800-622-8499 or TDD/TTY (207) 581-1888. Reservations are recommended.
Voices of Rural Maine Elderly Set the Stage for Health Care Education

September 30, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Their voices tell a familiar story. They talk of loneliness, of sons and daughters working far from home and of the importance of neighbors. These ten Bucksport senior citizens describe what it's like to grow old in a rural Maine community, and their stories have become part of an educational program for health care students.

"Aging in Rurality: the Bucksport Project" is a new compact disc offered by a group of health care providers and the University of Maine, known as the Academic-Community Partnership for Aging in Rural Areas.

Nationwide distribution to health educators and students is planned this fall under a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"We have an idyllic picture that elderly people in rural areas are going to be taken care of, that they have good social networks and that their families and neighbors will always be there. In reality, that's often not true. The economic pressures in rural Maine mean that family and friends are not there to provide that support system," says Joann Kovacich, director of the Interdisciplinary Training for Health Care for Rural Areas (ITHCRA) project at UMaine.

The result is that the burden of care falls to neighbors and professional health care providers such as nurses, social workers and occupational therapists. In some cases, Kovacich says, family members who live nearby assume new responsibilities for transporting a parent to the doctor or making sure that meals are being eaten.

"What happens is that the son or daughter can become exhausted," says Kovacich, "because he or she is responsible for two households."

The program features Kovacich as a narrator who instructs the user on how to navigate through the short video presentations of senior citizens and health care providers. Students can also express their own views on the situations confronted by senior citizens and have those opinions compared to actual circumstances.

"Our goal was to expose students to the real people that health care practitioners serve in a rural community. These folks don't live in a vacuum. Students need to have an understanding of the whole person," Kovacich stresses.

The program presents health care providers such as a registered nurse, social worker, occupational and physical therapists and a dietician. Each discusses the work they do and the experiences they've had in serving people in rural Maine.

"Rural health care providers often have to be alert for problems outside their area of expertise. For example, a social worker may need to be aware of mobility problems that a physical therapist can address. Or a dietician may need to be consulted if meals aren't adequate," says Kovacich.

Among the circumstances addressed in the program are loneliness, personal mobility, transportation and security. Organizations which provide related services in rural communities are often "doing great things," she adds, but they struggle to serve people in large geographic areas.

The compact disc program was developed with technical assistance from John Sproul, a UMaine computer science student who worked as an intern with The Artist Group, Inc. of Fairfield, a multi-media design company.
Kovacich and Sproul also worked with the Bucksport Regional Health Center, the Maine Geriatric Gerontology Education Center, Area Health Education Center and the University of New England.
Coming Out Week Schedule Set at UMaine

October 1, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine will observe Coming Out Week this year from Oct. 5 to Oct. 9. National Coming Out Day is Sunday, Oct. 10.

Throughout the week, an information table will be set up in the Memorial Union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day with pamphlets, brochures and educational material on coming out and other Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered concerns.

The week kicks off with a barbecue and flag raising on Monday, Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Mall. Students, faculty, staff and the public are encouraged to show up and support the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community.

That afternoon, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., a Gay, Lesbian, Transgendered and Questioning Discussion Group will meet in the Old Town room of the Memorial Union for all students wishing to discuss issues related to sexual orientation.

From 6:30 to 8 p.m., there will be Civil Rights March sign and banner making in the Walker Lounge of the Memorial Union to prepare for Saturday's march from the Maine Center for the Arts at UMaine to the Paul Bunyan Park in Bangor.

Monday evening, Oct. 5 the movie Chasing Amy will be shown in 101 Neville at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

Tuesday, Oct. 6 is Blue Jeans Day at UMaine. Members of the campus community are encouraged to wear denim to show their support for GLBT concerns.

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, author and activist Robyn Ochs will be on campus. She will be holding a workshop, "Choosing to Label: What's in a Name," which will be held at 4 p.m. in the Totman Lounge of the Memorial Union. Ochs will explore the advantages and disadvantages of choosing a label or words to describe sexuality.

Later that evening Ochs will be speaking in 101 Neville. Her lecture, "Some of Us Have No Icepick and Only One Lover: A Look at the Realities of Bisexual Identities" will be held at 8 p.m.

Ochs teaches courses on bisexuality and on gay, lesbian and bisexual cultures at Tufts University in Boston. She is the author of the Bisexual Resource Guide and the International Directory of Bisexual Groups. She is the first recipient of the Reinaldo Jose dos Santos Memorial Award for Bisexual Activism.

Members of the Maine Speakout Project will share their personal experiences and perspectives on being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in 100 D.P. Corbett.

On Thursday, Oct. 8, Tangible Fathers, a documentary by UMaine alumnus Bob Poirier will premiere at 100 D.P. Corbett. It explores the life of "Matthew" a Roman Catholic priest and his struggles with accepting his sexual identity in the light of his role as a man of the cloth.

Poirier, who studied international relations and theater at UMaine, will be on hand to lead a discussion about the film, which was produced by Allied Artists of Portland.

The week ends with an Interfaith Service at the Hammond St. Congregational Church at 7 p.m. on Oct. 9. This service will be in preparation for the Civil Rights March on Oct. 10.
Coming Out Week is sponsored by the Center for Students and Community Life, Wilde-Stein Alliance for Sexual Diversity, and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Concerns Committee.
Old Town Region Archaeology Meeting Oct. 25

October 1, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Archeological evidence for ancient human activity in the Old Town region will be the subject of presentations at a meeting at the University of Maine on Sunday, October 25. The Maine Archeological Society will host the event which starts at 11 a.m. in room 107, Donald P. Corbett Business Building. The public welcome, and there is no charge.

The schedule is as follows:

11 a.m., Karen Mack, a graduate of UMaine's Institute for Quaternary Studies, "The Bob Site, Archaic through Ceramic Occupation Periods on Pushaw Stream." Alice Kelley, Dept. of Geological Sciences, "Geoarcheology at Gilman Falls."

1:30 p.m., David Sanger, Institute for Quaternary Studies and Department of Anthropology, "8000 Years of Prehistory in the Old Town Region."

The meeting is being held to observe Maine Archeology Awareness Week, Oct. 19-25.
Secrets of an Ancient Forest

October 1, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- On a Canadian desert island well above the Arctic Circle, the remains of an ancient forest testify to warmer times. Tree stumps, fallen logs, needles and even seed cones nestle into exposed layers in the sands and silts of the nearly barren Geodetic Hills. The island sports a permanent central ice cap, and the Arctic Ocean ice pack stretches away in the distance.

Richard Jagels, a University of Maine forest biologist from Winterport, has been studying this ecological time capsule, hoping to learn how the trees adapted to continuous illumination in what was then a warm temperate climate. He would like to use that information to understand how today's forests may respond to changing environmental conditions and to transmit that knowledge to his students.

"Today, there are some small flowering plants, sedges and grasses which take advantage of the short summer and water from the melting permafrost," says Jagels. "The climate which supported dawn redwoods and other tree species about 40 million years ago was obviously very different. Alligator bones have been found near the site."

Jagels made his first trip to the site on Axel Heiberg Island in 1997 at the invitation of a colleague from the University of Pennsylvania. Canadian scientists have been studying the area since the mid-1980s when the trees were discovered by a helicopter pilot. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has provided new funding for geologists and ecologists to continue that work.

Members of the research team include Arthur Johnson and Ben LePage of the University of Pennsylvania and Kenneth Anderson of the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois. In 1991, the Geological Survey of Canada published a set of 14 papers about the ancient forest as part of its series of bulletins.

"What interests me most is the physiology and ecology of this forest," Jagels says. "How did these trees grow in a regime of continuous light? During May, June and July, the sun never sets, although it shines weakly at a low angle. The whole tree received direct sunlight at some time as the sun circled above the horizon." "We also want to know what sorts of stresses the trees had. We've been using stable isotope analysis to study that question."

Preliminary results suggest that these trees may have been stressed by a lack of moisture, or that they had modified metabolic pathways under continuous light.

"We've been looking at the structure of the tree remains and see wood production rates comparable with modern temperate forests. These results favor the hypothesis that the trees had modified metabolic pathways rather than moisture stress."

Although the ancient forest thrived under warm conditions, says Jagels, it still had to adjust to the total darkness of the winter months. Today's deciduous trees (oaks, maples, birches and others which lose their leaves in the fall) may trace their lineage to these northern tropical forests. Shedding needles and leaves conserves energy.

Jagels focuses on the species known as dawn redwood or its scientific name, Metasequoia. It was thought to be extinct until living trees were found growing in a remote part of China in the 1940s, and plantings are now common throughout the world.

In his Nutting Hall office, Jagels keeps a collection of branches, seed cones, leaves and other materials from the island. After so many years, they appear only a bit worse for wear. The woody material was well preserved in the swamp where it grew, although it has been somewhat compressed.
Two Ph.D. candidates, Mike Day and Mei Jiang, have been participating in the work. Day is also a research associate. He is conducting a photosynthetic analysis of Metasequoia and comparing his results to those from other species. Jiang has helped to obtain Metasequoia samples from China and to search the scientific literature on the species.

Although Maine is generally considered to be outside its range, several dawn redwoods have been planted on the UMaine campus. One stands in the courtyard of Barrows Hall, and specimens are located in the Littlefield Ornamental Garden and the Fay Hyland Arboretum.

Samples of ancient larch, gingko and birch have also been recovered from the island. Jagels and his colleagues are applying for additional research funds to continue their work.
UMaine and City of Bangor Team Up to Collect Old Paint

Oct. 1, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO - The University of Maine Department of Environmental Health and Safety and the City of Bangor will be working together this weekend to help Bangor residents dispose of a form of household hazardous waste.

Oil-based paints will be collected from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the City of Bangor's Recycling Center on Maine Ave. Only Bangor residents are eligible to participate in this program.

The paint collection project was led by Victoria Justus, UMaine's director of environmental health and safety. The project is a cooperative effort -- the city is providing the location for collection, and the university is funding the transportation to take the paint to a suitable disposal location.

"Old oil-based paint is a household hazardous waste that we want to keep out of our landfills, water and environment," says Justus. The waste will be taken care of by the university's contracted waste disposal service, Advanced Environmental Technical Service, (AETS).

Justus says this is a pilot program in what she hopes will be a continuing effort between the university and municipal government to take care of environmental hazards.

Jerry Hughes, recycling coordinator with the city of Bangor's Public Works Department, says the university's cooperation makes this project possible.

"It's a real community effort between the city and the university," he says. "It's a positive thing for both."

Hughes says Bangor residents who wish to participate will need to receive a Paint Collection Permit from the Treasurer's office at City Hall or the Public Works Department.

Latex paint cannot be collected as part of this project. Anyone wishing to dispose of latex paint should open the can and let the paint dry out, according to Hughes. This may take several months, depending on the quantity of paint. Once dry, the paint and container can be disposed of in the regular trash.

The oil-based paint collected will be bulked into 55 gallon drums and burned as a fuel, rather than buried in a landfill. Up to ten one-gallon containers per Bangor resident will be allowed.
Hudson Museum Palmer Collection Gaining National Attention

October 2, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Pieces from the Palmer Collection at the University of Maine's Hudson Museum are traveling the country this fall as curators discover the variety of its artifacts.

The Art Institute of Chicago is featuring seven pieces from the Palmer Collection in its exhibit "Ancient West Mexico: Art of the Unknown Past." This 226 piece exhibit has objects from 65 public and private collections and focuses on art from the societies of West Mexico between 200 BC and AD 500. The exhibit runs from Sept. 5 to Nov. 22 in Chicago. It will then be displayed at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

"This is the first really major exhibit of West Mexican art," says Stephen Whittington, director of the Hudson Museum. "The vast majority of pieces in the exhibit are ceramic figures that came out of tombs."

Whittington says the curator of the exhibit, Richard Townsend, visited the Hudson Museum in 1997.

"He was blown away," Whittington says. "He didn't have any idea what he was going to be facing when he walked into our storeroom. He saw things all over the place that were better than the objects he had already agreed to take from other lenders for the exhibit."

Whittington went to the exhibit's opening in Chicago and while there, discovered that the Palmer Collection has the largest number of West Mexican tomb figures in the country.

"Robert Pickering of the Denver Museum of Natural History, who was a visiting research associate at the Hudson Museum had said the only collection that was comparable to ours was at the Los Angeles County Museum," says Whittington. "He talked to the curator from there and discovered they had 300 pieces. Our collection is almost twice the size, with 550 pieces."

The Palmer Collection is significant for other reasons, as well. Whittington says many museums and private collectors clean dirt and bug casings off the pieces in their collections to make them more aesthetically pleasing. Recent scientific advancements, however, have shown that soil and casings left by the pupae of flies which inhabited the tombs can be used to determine the authenticity of an item.

Many of the pieces in the Palmer Collection still have the original dirt and bug casings on them. This could make the collection extremely valuable to researchers.

"Theoretically, you could do a chemical analysis of the dirt on an item and tell where it came from," says Whittington. "There are labs beginning to work towards that goal. We believe you'll be able to take the dirt on an item and compare it to a database of soil types from archeological sites."

In the future, Whittington hopes to CAT scan the pieces in the collection to see how they were built.

In addition to the Chicago exhibit, 56 objects from the Palmer Collection can also be found in the Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery at Keene State College in New Hampshire. "Worldviews: Maya Ceramics from the Palmer Collection" will be on display Sept. 12 to Oct. 25 at Keene before moving to the University of New Hampshire.

An emerald carving of a man from the collection was recently featured in Archaeology magazine. Tests, including trace element analysis and examination with an electron microscope, have revealed that it was most likely carved between 900-600 B.C., making it the only Precolumbian carved emerald known to exist.
Whittington says he hopes to have a catalog of the collection published, and is beginning a fundraising campaign to make this possible.

"A catalog based on this collection would be very broad-based in its appeal," says Whittington. "It will be nice as a coffee table book, but will also have some significant scholarly content."

The Palmer Collection was the gift of William P. Palmer, III, a UMaine alumnus. He began collecting pre-Columbian art around 1965. When the collection was given to the University of Maine in 1982, there were over 3000 pieces.
UMaine Fitness Program Gets Underway Monday

Oct. 2, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine's second Fitness 2000 program begins on Monday, Oct. 5. The program, which has as its goal the promotion of regular exercise as part of a team, is available to all UMaine students, staff members and faculty.

Participants earn points for their participation in physical activities, ranging from walking to, eventually, cross-country skiing. Each person's points are logged as part of a team record, with prizes awarded for individuals and teams that reach specific point totals. The program also aims to educate participants about health and fitness.

Catherine Gallant, a former UMaine's women's basketball player and coach now working as a graduate assistant in UMaine's recreational sports program, is working with Associate Director of Athletics David Ames to organize the program.

"It creates an atmosphere where people need to work together, either to motivate or to encourage one another to achieve points," Gallant says. "Ultimately, Fitness 2000 can be a competitive activity or an informative and self-motivational tool. It's whatever each participant wants to make it."

Cardiovascular screenings and health-related workshops are scheduled as part of Fitness 2000.

Peter Reid, UMaine's associate director of student records, is participating with a team of staff co-workers and work-study students for the second consecutive year.

"I noticed that Fitness 2000 gave several people the extra motivation they needed to meet their fitness goals last year, and that was a great benefit to those individuals," he says. "In addition, participating as a group is good for office spirit and morale."

Interested teams should sign up in the Recreational Sports office during their office hours of 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. A registration fee of $3.00 per participant helps pay for prizes and health programs.

Written by Matt Bill
Brother of Beat Poet to Visit UMaine

October 5, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The English Department at the University of Maine will host Gerald Perkoff, brother of beat generation poet Stuart Z. Perkoff on Oct. 15.

Gerald Perkoff will read and discuss the poetry of his brother at 4:30 p.m. in the English Department Reading Room, 304 Neville Hall. Perkoff is the editor of Voices of the Lady: Collected Poems of Stuart Z. Perkoff, which was published this year by the National Poetry Foundation.

Perkoff will give a short talk about his brother and the Beat generation and read some of Stuart's poetry. There will be a reception following with refreshments.

Stuart Perkoff was a part of the Venice West branch of the Beat movement in the 1950s and 60s. The Beats were a group of American poets and novelists in romantic rebellion against what they conceived of as the American "establishment." Stuart Perkoff died in 1974, at age 43. His poetry has been acclaimed for its natural use of the Beat language and of common street talk.

The visit is sponsored by the National Poetry Foundation, the UMaine English Department and the Lloyd H. Elliott Fund. Copies of Perkoff's book will be available for purchase.
"The Crackwalker" to Open Maine Masque's 93rd Season at UMaine's School of Performing Arts

Oct. 5, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- "Canadian playwright Judith Thompson has written a tough, contemporary script that's a challenge for all of us who are working on 'The Crackwalker,'" says Sandra Hardy of the University of Maine School of Performing Arts theatre faculty. "It's a play about bigotry and ignorance, about abusive love and the pathos of unrewarded struggle."

"The Crackwalker" opens Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 12 noon, with a special performance for high school students. A post-performance discussion, led by Hardy, the play's director, will look at the play from a theatrical point of view, offering insights into characterization and the acting challenges. Evening performances are scheduled Oct. 22, 23, and 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Hauck Auditorium, a matinee performance at 2:00 p.m. will be given on Sunday, Oct. 25. On Friday night, Oct. 23, a second panel discussion with distinguished guests will address the issues raised by Thompson in "The Crackwalker."

"Judith Thompson insists those of us who are fortunate, who haven't fallen through the crack, take a realistic look at the life of those who do. She's written a powerful script, perhaps not for the faint-of-heart, but for an audience who wants thoughtful, moving drama with strong writing and riveting performances," Hardy says. "Many of the scenes involve graphic language and painful characterizations, including adult retardation, but Thompson depicts a segment of our society which deserves the right to live in a non-condemning world. She never judges; she urges the audience toward greater insight, toward recognizing the dignity of the persecuted."

Canadian actor Grace Bauer serves as dramaturg for the production. A 1989 theatre graduate of the University of Maine, Bauer is presently acting professionally in Vancouver. "Thompson is, without question, the most popular, most recognizable, and the best Canadian playwright living today," Bauer says. Bauer is assisting the actors with audio tapes of the rhythm patterns in everyday Canadian speech. She is also coaching the pronunciation and accent for Canadian colloquialisms.

The multi-location set for "The Crackwalker" is designed by James Beer, a UMaine design student in theatre. Beer won the 1998 American College Theatre Festival's New England Regional competition in scene design with his set for "Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love" by Canadian playwright Brad Fraser.

Appearing in the cast of "The Crackwalker," the first performance of the 93rd season of UMaine's Maine Masque student theatre group, are: Misty Jordan, senior from Bar Harbor, as Theresa; Kristin Williams, graduate student from Millinocket, as Sandy; Andy Lyons, junior from Orono, as Alan; Christopher Ashmore, senior from Ellsworth, as Joe; and Carlos Henrique Fontes, visiting student from Natal, Brazil, as The Man.

"The Crackwalker" will be entered in the 1999 American College Theatre Festival competition.
"Fiddler on the Roof" 35th Anniversary Production at Maine Center for the Arts Oct. 13

Oct. 5, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- A lavish new production of "Fiddler on the Roof," Broadway's Tony Award-winning classic, will be performed at the University of Maine's Maine Center for the Arts on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. Directed by Sammy Dallas Bayes, the choreographer of the 1990 Best Revival Tony-winning Broadway production, the 35th Anniversary "Fiddler on the Roof" brings to life all the emotional and comic magic of the Broadway original. The Joseph Stien-Jerry Bock-Sheldon Harnick show stars John Preece as Tevye.

A perennial audience favorite, "Fiddler on the Roof" tells the story of Tevye, a poor Russian Jew struggling to raise his family, including three daughters, in a rapidly changing and threatening world. With exuberant dance, memorable songs and earthy comedy, the story of Tevye and his family is one of courage, perseverance and deep faith in the face of disappearing traditions.

An acclaimed stage veteran, Preece appears as Tevye with a cast of 30. Preece, who plays his 1000th performance of the tour de force role in this production, has received rave reviews for his moving portrayal. The new "Fiddler on the Roof" recreates all the dynamic Tony-winning elements of Jerome Robbins's original production, including design, staging and choreography.

"Fiddler on the Roof" is based on the stories of author Sholem Aleichem. Since its 1964 Broadway premiere, it has had three Broadway revivals and was produced as a major Hollywood film.

Ticket information may be obtained by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at (207) 581-1755 or 1-800-622-8499. Additional numbers are: TDD/TYY (207) 581-1888 and FAX (207) 581-1837.
Culturefest Kicks Off International Week at UMaine

Oct. 7, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The University will celebrate some of its many global connections during International Week, Oct. 31-Nov. 8.

International Week is the first campuswide celebration of its type in recent years, made possible by collaboration between the Office of International Programs, the Canadian-American Center, Hudson Museum and the Maine Folklife Center.

Culturefest '98 will start the nine-day observance on Saturday, Oct. 31. The increasingly popular fall event provides international students an opportunity to share aspects of their culture with other members of the University community. Cultural exhibits from different countries will be on display 11 a.m.-5 p.m. A 2 p.m. talent show, with entertainment from dance to singing and instrumentals, will be followed by a style show featuring students wearing traditional costumes. Ethnic food will be on sale throughout the day. Special children's activities from around the world also are planned.

Culturefest will be followed on Nov. 1 with International Sports Night at the Field House. From 6-10 p.m., members of the University community are invited to participate in demonstrations of international games such as cricket and bocci.

Coordinating the evening is Catherine Gallant, a graduate assistant in recreational sports.

Throughout the week, international films and lunchtime dialogues on global issues will be featured. A Japanese Tea Ceremony will be held Nov. 4. A workshop for K-12 educators will highlight Canada in the classroom - practical resources for teaching about Canada.

Among the internationally known speakers coming to campus are John Ralston Saul, one of Canada's most respected writers and thinkers, speaking Nov. 3 on "North America and the Global Experiment." Jaime Awe of the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Hampshire will speak that same day on "The Role of Caves in Ancient Maya Society." Canadian fiction writer Alistair MacLeod will give a public reading from his collection of short stories on Friday, Nov. 6.

International Week culminates with the first annual Folk Traditions Festival, Nov. 6-7, focusing on Nova Scotia and its Gaelic culture. The music, dance and storytelling of the region will be celebrated in lectures, workshops and performances. Nov. 8 the Quebec Chamber Orchestra will perform.
Schindler's List Survivor to Speak During UMaine Peace Week

October 7, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A holocaust survivor whose name was on Oskar Schindler's now-famous list will be the keynote speaker for University of Maine Peace Week Oct. 26-30, sponsored by UMaine's Peace Studies Program.

Zev Kedem will speak on Monday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. in the Maine Center for the Arts. His address, "Schindler's List: Remembering the Past to Create a Just Future" has been presented at over 200 universities and community organizations.

Kedem was eight when the Nazis invaded Krakow, killing many of the Jewish residents and sending others, including Kedem, to Auschwitz and other concentration camps. He endured the horrors of six different concentration camps, and was saved by being one of 1,100 placed on Schindler's list. After being liberated in 1945, he was sent to England and lived in an orphanage. He studied engineering at Oxford and moved to Jerusalem, where he helped rebuild the Old City. Kedem was a consultant to and appeared in Stephen Speilberg's Schindler's List.

The movie Schindler's List will be shown the week before Peace Week on Thursday, Oct. 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. in 100 D.P. Corbett.

Other events planned for Peace Week are:

Monday, there will be a presentation of the Diversity Leadership Institute of Maranacook Community High School. "Standing Up for Equality" will be from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union.

On Tuesday, Oct. 27 there will be a breakfast conversation with Zev Kedem from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Dexter Lounge in Alfond Arena. Esmerelda Miranda, president of Rural Communities of Chalatenango, will speak on "Organizing Rural Women in El Salvador: Successes and Challenges" Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. This is presented in conjunction with the Women in the Curriculum/Women's Studies Luncheon Series.

Wednesday evening, at 7 p.m., there will be a showing of the movie "The Salt of the Earth" in 101 Neville Hall, sponsored by the Maine Peace Action Committee.

On Thursday, Oct. 29 in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union, journalist and human rights activist Zafaryab Ahmed will speak at 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. He is an Amnesty International political prisoner and will speak on "Human Rights in Pakistan." This presentation is cosponsored by the Socialist/Marxist Lecture Series.

Later that afternoon, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union, a conversation will be held on "Envisioning a Future that is Compassionate and Just." UMaine students, staff and members of the community are invited to participate.

A book sale will be held Monday through Wednesday during the week in the Memorial Union Lobby.

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

Peace Week is sponsored in part by the Departments of Psychology, Economics, and History and the Schools of Nursing and Social Work, Equal Opportunity, the Center for Students and Community Life, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Center for Community Inclusion, Women's Studies/Women in the Curriculum Program, Bureau of Labor Education, the President's Office, the Employee Assistance program, Cultural Affairs Committee, the Arthur R. Lord Fund and the Class of 1934 Fund.
Unity Teen-Ager Wins National 4-H Award

October 7, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A Unity teen-ager has pursued her love of animals to the benefit of Maine's elderly citizens and her own education.

Gillian Stoodley, 15, takes her dog to nursing homes to provide pet therapy for elderly residents. She manages a herd of goats and benefits from the sale of milk and kids. She has demonstrated proper techniques in animal husbandry at the Common Ground Fair and made and sold her own brand of soap, "dirt hogs."

It was no surprise to her parents, Judy and Bartlett Stoodley, that their daughter won the Joe Yeager Leadership Award at a national 4-H forestry camp in August. The award is given to the camper who exhibits outstanding communication, management, decision-making and interpersonal skills.

She has participated in 4-H programs since she was seven years old, and she is home-schooled. "We monitor her progress, but she is in charge of pursuing her education," says her mother. The Maine 4-H program is administered by UMaine Cooperative Extension.

Over the last three years, Gillian has also represented Maine at the annual Eastern States Exhibition which brings 4-H participants together to share their skills. As a member of a state team, she has become an expert in obedience training and grooming.

Pet therapy has become an important part of Gillian's interest in dogs. In order to take her dog into a nursing home, she and her pet were evaluated on their response to actions that might startle the animal. She was also shadowed by nursing home staff members, but according to Judy Stoodley, Gillian is now on her own when she takes her pet to visit elderly residents.

Gillian also gives museum tours at the Elsie Bates Museum at the Hinckley School and the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine.
1998 Northern Maine Children's Water Festival Scheduled

October 8, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- More than 700 elementary and middle school students will participate in educational sessions and games at the University of Maine on Tuesday, October 13, during the Northern Maine Children's Water Festival.

The goal of the festival is to engage students in an exploration of the scientific and cultural aspects of Maine's water resources. Students will play games such as "Driplial Pursuit" in which they demonstrate their knowledge of Maine's rivers, lakes, wetlands and groundwater. They will conduct a bucket brigade and learn what it takes to keep Maine's water clean and healthy for fisheries and human consumption.

Water festivals have been held in northern and southern Maine since 1994. This year, a Stage Show will feature Bruce Johnson performing A Time for Magic. Quiz shows will feature local TV and radio personalities from WABI, WVII, WLBZ, WZON, and WCBB.

Participating schools include the following: Asa C. Adams Elementary School, Orono; Pemetic Elementary School, Southwest Harbor; Orland Consolidated, Orland; Easton School Department; John R. Graham School, Veazie; Enfield Station School, Enfield; Lamoine School, Lamoine; Gouldsboro Grammar School, Gouldsboro; Mattanawcook Jr. H.S., Lincoln; Surry Elementary School,; Alexander School, Alexander; Central Middle School, Corinth; Norridgewock Central, Norridgewock, Stillwater Montessori, Old Town; and Margaret Chase Smith School, Skowhegan.


Organizers include the Maine Department of Environmental Protection; the University of Maine Water Research Institute, Cooperative Extension and Conferences & Institutes and Project WET; and the Penobscot Riverkeepers of Old Town.
Carnegie Foundation Honors UMaine Professor

Oct. 8, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has named University of Maine Professor Irving Kornfield as its 1998 Maine Professor of the Year, an award given annually in recognition of college faculty members who excel as teachers and influence the lives and careers of their students.

Kornfield has been on the UMaine faculty since 1977 and holds the rank of professor in the UMaine School of Marine Sciences. He teaches in both the School of Marine Sciences and Dept. of Biological Sciences, teaching undergraduate and graduate classes in evolution and marine ecology. His thriving research activity focuses on evolutionary biology. He also worked with the Maine Warden Service to develop UMaine's wildlife DNA forensic facility. Kornfield was recognized as UMaine's Distinguished Maine Professor in 1997.

"Professor Irv Kornfield is the only person I know who comes to a lecture on evolution for honor students carrying a human skull and a peacock feather, and uses them both to excellent effect to illustrate his points," says UMaine Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Douglas Gelinas. "He truly is the kind of faculty member that typifies a university at its best: an excellent research scientist who involves students in his work, and who is also one of the best classroom teachers around. His lectures are always interesting, always clear, always thought-provoking, and never, ever routine. The University of Maine can be proud to count him as one of its finest teacher-scholars."

The Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) established the Professors of the Year program in 1981. CASE works in cooperation with The Carnegie Foundation and various higher education associations to administer the award, nominees for which can be teachers at public or private institutions of higher learning.

J. Malcolm Shick, a long-time colleague of Kornfield's and chair of UMaine's Department of Biological Sciences, notes that Kornfield's courses are viewed by his students to be both exciting and challenging.

"He is highly respected by students for his impressive command of the subjects he teaches, his ability to enliven that material, and his convincing demonstration of how the material is relevant to the students' own lives," Shick says.

Bruce Sidell, director of the School of Marine Sciences and another long-time colleague of Kornfield's, points out that Kornfield's work makes a difference to the people of Maine.

"Irv is an exemplary member of our faculty," Sidell says. "Our students are beneficiaries of the enthusiasm and the excellence of his instruction. His vital research program takes him to the far reaches of the globe in pursuit of understanding evolutionary biology, but he equally devotes his expertise to critical marine issues in Maine, such as population structures of some of the Gulf of Maine's most important commercial fisheries, lobster and haddock."

Nominees for the award are evaluated by two panels of experts who review the accomplishments of all candidates. The panels include students, professors, academic deans, education writers, and government, foundation and association representatives. UMaine civil engineering professors Dana Humphrey (1994) and Habib Dagher (1995) are among the four previous winners of the Maine Professor of the Year Award.
UMaine Professor Receives Grant for Acadia National Park Study

October 8, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A University of Maine professor has received a grant from the National Park Service to study and document archaeological finds in Acadia National Park.

Stephen Hornsby, professor of anthropology and Canadian studies, received the $76,000 grant to do a cultural land use survey of the national park.

"Acadia is often only seen as a natural park. The wilderness aspects of the park are the only ones emphasized," says Hornsby. "This grant is to recover the cultural artifacts." Cultural artifacts include remains of tourist cottages, old roads that are no longer used and other signs of early American influence on the park area.

Hornsby is assisted in his research by Kim Sebold and Peter Morrison, graduate students; David Sanger, professor of anthropology and quaternary studies; and Alaric Faulkner, professor of anthropology. Next year, the researchers will send a report to the Park Service with their findings.

Hornsby, who specializes in historical geography, says this study will raise awareness of the different aspects of Acadia. The Park Service may use the researcher's findings in the future to put up signs that point out the historical and archaeological significance of the park.
Workshop Provides Resources for Teaching About Canada

October 8, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Canadian-American Center at the University of Maine will present a free afternoon workshop for K-12 educators to offer practical resources for teaching about Canada.

"Focus: Acadia" will be held Nov. 5 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge of the Maine Center for the Arts. Faculty from all academic disciplines are invited and Continuing Education Units are available.

The day will be a combination of presentations to the whole group and visiting "investigation stations" throughout the room. There will be four speakers who will focus on different aspects of Acadian culture.

Ray Pelletier, associate professor of French and associate director of the Canadian-American Center at UMaine, will give an introduction to Acadia. Mona Gauthier, an Acadian from the Magdalen Islands, will speak about present-day Acadians.

Joanne Alex, directress of the Stillwater Montessori School and Maine's Teacher of the Year, will be explaining and showing a "Teach about Acadia" educational kit for grades K-12. Mura Toner, education department/head of interpretation at Kings Landing Historical Settlement, will talk about New Brunswick's Acadian neighbors, the Loyalists.

Canada-in-the-Classroom is an outreach program which facilitates K-12 teachers, post-secondary educators and others who wish to teach about Canada. Its programs and services augment teachers' background knowledge of Canada, as well as providing useful and relevant materials and resources for adding Canadian content or teaching a Canadian unit. To register for this program, RSVP by Oct. 23 to Betsy Arntzen at 581-4225 or email at barntzen@umit.maine.edu
Astrofest to Celebrate our Place in Space

October 9, 1998
Contact Joe Carr, 207-581-3571

ORONO --People of all ages will have a chance to walk among the planets at the University of Maine Astrofest Saturday, Oct. 24. The Astrofest's day activities from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. will provide an opportunity to walk through a scale model of the planets, as well as listen to astronomers, teachers, stargazers and storytellers talk about topics ranging from the astronaut experience to what to look for when buying a telescope. A number of mini-lab activities will be set up to help participants explore the sky.

An evening Star Party is planned from 7-10 p.m., weather permitting.

Jordan Planetarium director and Astrofest organizer Alan Davenport describes the Star Party as a "bunch of telescopes and people focused on the sky." The public is invited to use the telescopes, and a number of astronomers will be available to answer questions.

"Hopefully, people will develop an appreciation and better understanding of the universe around us," Davenport said. "And perhaps they will improve their basic skills for observing and enjoying the universe in their own backyard."

The free public event, sponsored by the Planetarium and the Penobscot Valley Star Gazers, will take place in the Jordan Observatory, Planetarium, and Memorial Union.

Astrofest Schedule:

9:15 a.m. Planetarium Program

10:15 a.m. Storytelling, Damn Yankee; and Planetarium Program

11 a.m. "Discovering the Biggest Thing in the Universe," by David Batuski, FFA Room

12:15 p.m. Storytelling, Damn Yankee; Planetarium Program; and "Buying a Telescope," Observatory (FFA Room in inclement weather)

1 p.m. "Exploring Jupiter: The Galileo Mission," by Dawn Rensema, FFA Room

2 p.m. "The Astronaut Experience," by Richard Glueck, FFA Room

2:15 p.m. Planetarium Program

3 p.m. Storytelling, Damn Yankee

7-10 p.m. Star Party, Observatory (clear skies permitting; call 581-1348 after 6 p.m. to verify that the event will be held)
Employee Loyalty Discussed at UMaine Conference

October 9, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- In this age of corporate restructuring, employee retention can be a struggle for businesses. The Corporate Affiliate Program at the University of Maine has scheduled a workshop on employee loyalty in today's society.

The workshop, "Loyalty and the Culture of Work" will be held Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at UMaine's Wells Conference Center.

The program begins at 9 a.m. with registration and a welcome from John Alexander, the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at UMaine. Alexander will be followed by the day's keynote speakers.

The first speaker is Tom McMullen, a consultant with the Hay Group, an international human resources management consulting firm. He will discuss the importance of aligning human resources systems to support desired organization work culture. A practical model of work culture will be presented as well as the types of human resources programs which support various work cultures.

Dr. Mary Young will speak next. Young is a researcher, consultant, speaker and writer on workplace issues and trends. Her research has been reported in Business Week, the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Financial Times and other media. She helps companies develop HR practices for building employee commitment.

After lunch, three concurrent workshops will be offered. The first is "Rewarding Loyalty: Creative Incentives that Work." Maine companies will share their best practices for encouraging employee commitment. Among the companies represented will be Hannaford Brothers, Tufts Health Plan and Wright Express.

"Cultivating Loyalty in an Era of Corporate Restructuring" is the second workshop. In this, panelists from Bell Atlantic and Merrill Merchants Bank will address the issue of maintaining employee loyalty in the business culture of mergers, acquisitions and divestitures.

The third workshop is "Legal Issues: Can Loyalty Be Enforced?" Tom Johnston, Esq. of the firm Eaton, Peabody, Bradford and Veague will focus on employment, non-competition and confidentiality agreements with employees and the enforceability of those agreements. He will also discuss intellectual property issues.

The Corporate Affiliate Program is intended to expand multifaceted relationships between the University of Maine and business and industry to include research and educational programs, technology and people exchanges, and recruitment of students and graduates. It is also an important mechanism to identify current and emerging areas in industry in which the University can make a contribution. For more information, or to register for the workshop, call Renee Kelly at 581-1141.
Folklife Center Receives Maine Community Foundation Grants

October 9, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine has recently received two grants from the Maine Community Foundation totaling $9,000.

The first grant of $5,000 will be used to help prepare for the first annual Folk Traditions Festival Nov. 6-7. The festival, which is part of International Week at UMaine, will focus on the Gaelic culture of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia with workshops, demonstrations and performances.

The second grant of $4,000 will support the work of Tammy Packie as she documents the last days of the Port Clyde cannery in Rockland. Packie, a free-lance photographer from Hulls Cove, is taking pictures and conducting interviews with sardine packers and fishermen to document the history of the sardine factory and traditional fishing practices in coastal Maine.

When the research is completed, Packie will create a traveling exhibit and a photographic monograph of 100 black and white photos with text from the interviews. The Folklife Center is sponsoring her research and will be the repository for the tape-recorded interviews.

The Maine Community Foundation is a pool of permanent, charitable funds, the income of which benefits Maine non-profit organizations and public agencies with 501c3 status.
Hudson Museum Speaker to Discuss Maya Culture

October 9, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A professor of anthropology from the University of New Hampshire will speak at the University of Maine's Hudson Museum as part of International Week on campus.

Jaime Awe, assistant professor of Anthropology at UNH, in a lecture entitled "The Role of Caves in Ancient Maya Society" will speak about the investigation of several caves in Belize that were used by the ancient Maya to conduct rituals. Awe will discuss the nature of the rituals performed in these caves, the events for which they were held and the participation of women in rituals.

The lecture will be on Nov. 3 at 3:30 p.m. in the Bodwell Area of the Maine Center for the Arts and is free and open to the public.

Awe's writing has appeared in various publications. Most recently, his article "Defining Royal Maya Burials: A Case from Pacbitun, Belize" was published in New Perspectives on the Prehistory of the Belize Valley, which he helped edit.

The lecture is sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee, which administers the Arthur R. Lord Fund and Class of 1934 Fund, the Dean of Libraries and Cultural Affairs, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Hudson Museum. For more information, call 581-1901.
UMaine Professor to Study Domestic Violence in Aroostook County

October 14, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University of Maine Department of Public Administration is working with law enforcement in Aroostook County to study views of violence and domestic abuse in Northern Maine.

Carolyn Ball, associate professor of public administration, is in charge of survey research being conducted at the request of Sheriff Theodore St. Pierre and District Attorney Neale Adams.

Approximately 600 surveys will be going out to residents of Presque Isle, Caribou and Houlton this week. The survey is sponsored by the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's office.

"The Aroostook County Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's office have recognized that they need to pool their resources to combat violence, in particular domestic violence, in the community," says Ball. "The surveys are just one part of this effort to better understand the needs and concerns of citizens in the County."

The grant will also connect police departments and law enforcement agencies in Aroostook County so they can share data on crimes and better identify ways to reduce domestic violence. With new computers, they hope to be better able to identify patterns and reduce crime.

The public administration department began working with law enforcement agencies throughout Maine in 1993 to develop community policing surveys. This collaboration has resulted in surveys being distributed to citizens in 55 communities throughout Maine. Over 5,000 citizens have responded about their views on crime in their communities and ways to reduce crime.

In 1997, many law enforcement agencies moved to a problem-solving phase of community policing. Community policing is based upon the premise that citizens, organizations and the police must work together to solve community problems. Rather than law enforcement reacting to problems, the purpose of problem-solving is for law enforcement agencies, individual citizens, community groups and businesses to work together in a partnership to devise solutions.

Ball says the Aroostook County project is one of four the department of public administration is working with as part of a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The department is also working with police and community leaders in Gardiner, Lincoln County and Lewiston.

Professor Carolyn Ball will be meeting with Sheriff St. Pierre and District Attorney Adams at the Caribou District Attorney's office on Thursday, Oct. 15 at 3 p.m. Media are welcome to attend.
Folklife Center Sets Festival Workshop Schedule

October 15, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine has scheduled a variety of workshops and performances to teach about Cape Breton's Gaelic Culture during the Folk Traditions Festival Nov. 6-7.

On Friday, Nov. 6, from 12 to 1:30 p.m., Rosemary McCormack, Margo Carruthers and author Alistair MacLeod will be in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union discuss "Gaelic Song and Story." The panelists talk about how the Gaelic language and culture is expressed in stories and songs on Cape Breton Island.

Rosemary McCormack is co-owner of B&R; Enterprises, a business that specializes in the production of Gaelic language and song materials. Margo Carruthers is a performer who appears on two compact discs, Tir Mo Ghraidh and Nollaig Chridheil. She also teaches Gaelic in the Nova Scotia school system. Alistair MacLeod is a professor of English and creative writing at the University of Windsor, Ontario. He has published poetry and is the author of The Lost Salt Gift of Blood (1976), and As Birds Bring Forth the Sun and Other Stories (1986)-- two collections of short stories.

That evening, at 8 p.m., Rosemary McCormack, Margo Carruthers and David Burke will perform "Gaelic Song, Stories and Folklore" at the Minsky Recital Hall in the Class of 1944 Hall.

David Burke is a veteran performer and arranger on the Cape Breton music scene, who has been involved with the Gaelic story and song presentation Gu Siorruidh Buan/Timeless Tales from Gaelic Tradition. Tickets are $10.

On Saturday, Nov. 7 there will be four concurrent workshops, at 1-3 p.m. and repeated at 3-5 p.m. Each workshop is $5, and they are: Gaelic Language and song in the Class of 1944 Hall, taught by Rosemary McCormack and Margo Carruthers.

Cape Breton Step dancing will be in the FFA Room of the Memorial Union and will be taught by Rodney MacDonald, a master fiddler and step dancer and Mac Morin, a dancing musician and pianist and Boston's Four on the Floor.

Cape Breton fiddling will be taught by Glenn Graham and Rodney MacDonald, a fiddling duo and two-time nominees at the 1998 East Coast Music Awards. This workshop will be held in the Class of 1944 Hall.

Accompaniment will be taught in the Class of 1944 Hall by Mac Morin, pianist and Patrick Gillis, guitarist.

Saturday evening, the night ends with a Ceilidh, a dinner, music and dance potpourri in the Damn Yankee of the Memorial Union. The celebration will feature performances by many of the workshop performers as well as Four on the Floor, a dance group of four young women from Boston who specialize in step dancing as traditionally performed in Inverness County Cape Breton and fiddler Brendan Carey Block of New Hampshire.

Elaine Mulholland, a native of Northern Ireland, and a graduate student in history at UMaine, will demonstrate traditional Irish step dancing. Tickets for the Ceilidh are $10.

For ticket information, call the Folklife Center at 581-1891. The Folk Traditions Festival takes place as part of International and Canada Week celebrations at UMaine. The Festival's purpose is to acknowledge the languages, songs, tunes, music styles, dances, folktales and legends that spring from shared ethnic and occupational experiences between Maine and Canada's Maritime Provinces. Each year, a particular tradition will be highlighted that shows the connections between the two cultures.
Brown University Professor to Speak on Race and Entertainment

October 16, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO - The Philosophy Department at the University of Maine is sponsoring a lecture by a Brown University professor who will explore race as it appears in humor and horror presentations.

"Monsters and Chumps: Race in Comedy and Horror" will be presented on Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. in 100 Neville by Lewis Gordon, professor of Afro-American Studies, Contemporary Religious Thought and Modern Culture at Brown University.

Gordon visits UMaine as the Marshall Dodge Memorial Lecturer, a series that brings to campus scholars that offer views on moral, environmental and social philosophy. As Dodge was a performer, the philosophy department especially welcomes lectures that offer philosophical treatments of comedy and the arts.

Gordon's lecture will explore motifs that recur in comic presentations and horror presentations and how the United States subtext of race informs them, and offer philosophical criteria to determine why and how these films work. He will show clips from various films to illustrate his points.

At Brown, Gordon is also an affiliate in Latin-American Studies, Education and the Center for the study of Race and Ethnicity in America. In addition, he is visiting professor of political philosophy in the School of Government at the University of the West Indies at Mona, Jamaica and of African and American Studies at Yale University.

He is the author of several books, including Bad Faith and Antiblack Racism, Her Majesty's Other Children: Sketches of Racism from a Neocolonial Age, and the forthcoming Existenia Africana.
Hudson Museum to Feature Portrait of a Small Town

October 21, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A photo exhibit chronicling the everyday life of Sumner, a town in western Oxford County, will be exhibited at the University of Maine's Hudson Museum Nov. 3 to May 16.

"Sumner 200: Portrait of a Small Maine Town" is a series of more than 50 black and white photographs by Mark Silber, who runs Hedgehog Hill Farm in Sumner and teaches anthropology part-time at the University of Southern Maine.

The photographs, which were taken to commemorate the town's bicentennial, create a portrait of a small town community. Silber photographed and interviewed the town's residents for two years to create the exhibit and an accompanying book.

"It was the town's bicentennial, and I wanted to capture a wide cross section of the town," says Silber. "A lot of towns are changing from rural to urban or suburban. This was a good chance to preserve the character of a small town for posterity."

The photos will be exhibited along the ramps at the Hudson Museum, which is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. A catalogue of the exhibit is available for purchase at the Hudson Museum Shop.

The project was created with support from the Maine Humanities Council, Mead Corporation, Kenduskeag Foundation and Norway Savings Bank.
Philosophy Colloquium Series Sets Fall Schedule

October 22, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Philosophy Department at the University of Maine has planned the fall speakers for the annual Philosophy Colloquium Series.

Christa Acampora, assistant professor of philosophy, says the department brings in speakers that reflect the interests of UMaine faculty, but bring a different perspective to philosophical subjects.

"We discuss contemporary research in philosophy and provide students with opportunities to see philosophers at work," says Acampora.

The visitors give a talk, followed by about 45 minutes of discussion with colloquium attendees. There are series both in the fall and spring. This year, the lectures are:

"How do you look at a photograph?: The Nature of Technological Art" by Nikolas Pappas, associate professor in the City University of New York Department of Philosophy. Pappas will discuss aesthetics and mechanical art. His lecture will be held Oct. 26 at 3:30 p.m. in the Levinson Room of The Maples.

"Monsters and Chumps: Race in Comedy and Horror" by Lewis Gordon, professor of Afro-American Studies, Contemporary Religious Thought and Modern Culture and Media at Brown University; visiting professor of Political Philosophy in the School of Government at the University of the West Indies at Mona Jamaica, and visiting professor of African American Studies at Yale University. Gordon will explore motifs that recur in comic presentations and horror presentations and how the U.S. subtext of race informs them. This lecture is the Marshall Dodge Memorial Lecture for the fall, and will be held Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. in 100 Neville Hall.

"The Nature of Self and Self-Other Relations in the Philosophy of Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi" by Professor Doug Allen of the UMaine Department of Philosophy. Allen will discuss his recent research in the nature of self and self-other relations in Gandhi's philosophy. This lecture will be held on Nov. 19 at 4 p.m. in the Levinson Room of The Maples.

The Philosophy Colloquium Series is sponsored by the Department of Philosophy with support from the Cultural Affairs Committee.
UMaine Engineering Awards Made to Area Residents

October 22, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine College of Engineering made awards for outstanding teaching and research activities in engineering during its annual banquet October 16. Among the recipients were Joseph Genco and Eric Landis of Orono, Peggy Agouris and David Cyr of Bangor, Amos Cline of Costigan and Peter Wolcott of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Genco received the Ashley S. Campbell Award for major contributions to chemical engineering education. Genco has developed courses that combine real-world relevance with rigorous theoretical analysis. He has served as director of the Pulp and Paper Pilot Plant for the last six years.

Landis received the award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Teaching by Young Faculty. He was selected as Best Teacher of the Year by his students in 1996 and has continued to achieve top ratings for his teaching.

Agouris has received the 1998 Early Career Research Award. A native of Athens, Greece, she joined the Dept. of Spatial and Information Science and Engineering in 1995 and, in the last year alone, competed successfully for more than $200,000 in federal research grants. Her collaboration with industry includes Autometric in Bangor and Bath Iron Works.

David Cyr was honored with the Graduate Assistant Teaching Award. He is a native of Caribou and received his bachelor's degree from UMaine in chemical engineering in 1993. He worked for Nalco Corporation for two years before returning the UMaine for graduate work. He has excelled at teaching laboratory sections and taking the place of faculty during emergencies. Students have given him a high ranking for his teaching.

Amos E. Cline received the Leila C. Lowell Award for his work in managing the electronics shop and the computer system in the Department of Chemical Engineering. His skills and knowledge of electronics have contributed significantly to maintaining the department's facilities. He has also designed and constructed teaching and research equipment and helped to secure donations of equipment from industry.

Peter J. Wolcott received the 1998 Distinguished Engineering Award. He is a graduate of Orono High School and a member of the University of Maine Class of 1983. Wolcott is currently the president of Precision Resource, now the largest fineblanking company in North America, with annual sales of more than $100,000,000. The company's products include high precision parts used in such diverse products as General Motors fuel pumps, Intel Pentium II processors and Leatherman pocket tools.
Artworks Program Begins New Year of Teaching

October 23, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Art students at the University of Maine are teaching in a program that gives community children the opportunity to explore the world through art.

Artworks is a Friday after-school program for grades one through eight that began Oct. 9 and continues through Dec. 4. It is held from 3:45 to 5 p.m. in Carnegie Hall, Merrill Hall and Wells Conference Center on the UMaine campus.

According to Eleanor Weisman, assistant professor of art and art education, the course serves two purposes -- to provide after-school children a way to learn about art while giving UMaine students a forum to develop teaching skills.

"We try to provide meaningful art activities that allow children to interact in a peer group that is different from what they have at school," says Weisman. "Also, we want the children to become familiar with the university environment as a place they are welcome."

Weisman says the children who take the class are encouraged to express themselves through art, rather than simply doing a project the teacher assigns.

The class sections are organized by grade levels and two art students are assigned to each section. These students are responsible for organizing a curriculum and teaching the course each week.

At the end of the course, the UMaine art students will set up an exhibit on the second floor of Carnegie Hall, and a reception will be held for parents.

The twelve students are all juniors majoring in Art Education, and their participation in the program is required. Artworks is taught as part of the Introduction to Curriculum course, which gives students their first practical experience as art educators.

Before teaching the Artworks lessons, Weisman says the students take a course in the Foundations of Art Education, which gives a historical and philosophical background to their field. A second course, Methods and Materials, shows students different teaching styles and strategies.

"They start working with real people and testing their ideas," says Weisman. "It prepares them for student teaching and for future employment."
UMaine Engineering Students Win Scholarships from Associated Contractors of Maine

October 23, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Craig Weaver of Pittsfield, a student in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Maine, is the first winner of the Carl Cianchette Scholarship which was endowed in honor of a co-founder of Cianbro Corporation. The $1,500 award was made by Carl's son Mac Cianchette at a meeting of the Associated Constructors of Maine in September.

Three other UMaine engineering students also received scholarships from the AGC of Maine Education Foundation. Elizabeth Lancaster of Norridgewock won the $3,000 Herbert E. Sargent Scholarship, named for the founder of the Stillwater-based construction firm. Jason St. Peter of Caribou and Jared Williams of Old Town each won $1,000 scholarships. All are studying Construction Management Technology.
ORONO, Maine -- Their voices tell a familiar story. They talk of loneliness, of sons and daughters working far from home and of the importance of neighbors. These ten Bucksport senior citizens describe what it's like to grow old in a rural Maine community, and their stories have become part of an educational program for health care students.

"Aging in Rurality: the Bucksport Project" is a new compact disc offered by a group of health care providers and the University of Maine, known as the Academic-Community Partnership for Aging in Rural Areas.

Nationwide distribution to health educators and students is planned this fall under a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"We have an idyllic picture that elderly people in rural areas are going to be taken care of, that they have good social networks and that their families and neighbors will always be there. In reality, that's often not true. The economic pressures in rural Maine mean that family and friends are not there to provide that support system," says Joann Kovacich, director of the Interdisciplinary Training for Health Care for Rural Areas (ITHCRA) project at UMaine.

The result is that the burden of care falls to neighbors and professional health care providers such as nurses, social workers and occupational therapists. In some cases, Kovacich says, family members who live nearby assume new responsibilities for transporting a parent to the doctor or making sure that meals are being eaten.

"What happens is that the son or daughter can become exhausted," says Kovacich, "because he or she is responsible for two households."

The program features Kovacich as a narrator who instructs the user on how to navigate through the short video presentations of senior citizens and health care providers. Students can also express their own views on the situations confronted by senior citizens and have those opinions compared to actual circumstances.

"Our goal was to expose students to the real people that health care practitioners serve in a rural community. These folks don't live in a vacuum. Students need to have an understanding of the whole person," Kovacich stresses.

The program presents health care providers such as a registered nurse, social worker, occupational and physical therapists and a dietician. Each discusses the work they do and the experiences they've had in serving people in rural Maine.

"Rural health care providers often have to be alert for problems outside their area of expertise. For example, a social worker may need to be aware of mobility problems that a physical therapist can address. Or a dietician may need to be consulted if meals aren't adequate," says Kovacich.

Among the circumstances addressed in the program are loneliness, personal mobility, transportation and security. Organizations which provide related services in rural communities are often "doing great things," she adds, but they struggle to serve people in large geographic areas.

The compact disc program was developed with technical assistance from John Sproul, a UMaine computer science student who worked as an intern with The Artist Group, Inc. of Fairfield, a multi-media design company.
Kovacich and Sproul also worked with the Bucksport Regional Health Center, the Maine Geriatric Gerontology Education Center, Area Health Education Center and the University of New England.
Maine Beef Conference Scheduled

October 26, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The annual Maine Beef Conference will be held on December 5 at the Ramada Inn in Bangor and focus on the latest information in herd health and feeding techniques. Presenters will include Maine beef producers as well as popular national speakers.

The theme of this year's conference is "Quality Beef Is Everyone's Business." Connee Quinn, Ph.D., of Elanco Animal Health and a cow-calf producer from Nebraska, will give presentations on the Beef Quality Assurance Program and Profitability Points for Cow Calf Producers.

John Crouch, Director of Performance Programs with the American Angus Association will speak on EPD's - A Tool for Beef Quality and The Value of a Herd Bull. John's responsibilities with the American Angus Association include overseeing the Angus Herd Improvement Program and genetic evaluation program for the Angus Sire Evaluation.

This year's conference program has been expanded to include a feedlot topics segment. Speaking on Ration Development with By-Product Feeds is Shane Murphy, Beef Specialist with Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture. Dr. Ib Hagsten a veterinarian with Hoechst-Roussel will give a talk on ways to improve rate of gain on the feedlot by using feed additives and implants.

The day-long program will conclude with presentations from three local beef producers. Each will discuss a different aspect of Maine's beef industry. They are Matt Randall, a commercial cow-calf operator from southern Maine; Duane Theriault, feedlot operator and potato farmer from Aroostook County; and Erick Jensen, Farm Manager for Wolf's Neck Farm and a retail marketer of natural beef.

A trade show will offer a computer software demonstration as well as information from businesses. For more information on the conference, contact Dee Potter, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, at 1-800-287-1421 in state or (207) 834-3905 outside of Maine.
Maryann Hartman Award Recipients Named

October 26, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Maine women in four diverse fields are being recognized for their accomplishments and inspiration to other women with this year's Maryann Hartman Awards.

The awards are sponsored by the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program at the University of Maine. This year's recipients are Barbara Cooney-Porter for her contributions to children's literature; Eleanor Humes Haney for her leadership in women's spirituality; Lucy Anne Poulin for her commitment to economic and social justice; and Eleanor G. Sargent for her public health activism.

The four recipients will be honored at an awards ceremony on Tues., Nov. 10 from 5-7 p.m. at the Wells Conference Center at UMaine. Admission is free.

"These four women have made major contributions to Maine in a variety of fields," says Mazie Hough, co-chair of the award committee. "They serve as role models for UMaine students and women around the state because they pursued their dreams and committed their lives to creating alternatives for others."

The Maryann Hartman Awards were created in 1986 to celebrate the contributions of Maine women locally and nationally in a wide range of endeavors. The award was named after Dr. Maryann Hartman, a former associate professor of speech communication and distinguished educator, feminist, scholar and humanist who died in 1980.

Profiles of the four award recipients:

Author/illustrator Barbara Cooney-Porter who now makes her home in Damariscotta, was born in New York and is the mother of four. She has written more than 100 children's books for which she has received two Caldecott Medals and one American Book Award. Her three favorites -- Miss Rumphius, Island Boy and Hatie and the Wild Waves--are all set in Maine. Cooney holds honorary degrees from four colleges and has had her books translated into ten languages. In 1989 she received the first Maine Library Association's Lupine Award and in 1996 she was officially recognized by Governor King as a Maine State Treasure. Recently, she has been instrumental in the effort to provide Damariscotta with a new library.

Eleanor Humes Haney, who has lived in Maine since the 1970s, is a feminist theologian and community activist. Currently affiliated with the Maine College of Art and the Bangor Theological Seminary, she has authored several books and articles, including Vision and Struggle: Meditations on Feminist Spirituality and Politics. She is also a founder of Astarte Shell Press. Her commitment to economic and spiritual justice for women is evident in the many organizations she has founded. These include the Feminist Spirituality Community in Portland; the Center for Vision and Policy, which established alliances between indigenous and non-indigenous people in Maine and New Brunswick; MaineShare, which facilitates paycheck contributions to organizations not supported by the United Way and the Maine Community Loan Fund, which provides low interest loans to those in need.

Lucy Anne Poulin is the president and co-founder of Homeworkers Organized for More Employment (H.O.M.E.), Inc. a cooperative community dedicated to economic and social reconstruction for individuals and families in transition from homelessness to independence. Poulin, who grew up in poverty on a rural Maine farm, also worked in a fiber mill and a chicken processing plant before joining a Carmelite convent. In 1970, she founded H.O.M.E. in Orland. Begun as an outlet for women's home crafts, today H.O.M.E. offers housing, food, clothing, safety, education, health care and employment. Poulin also established the Covenant Community Land Trust, which working with H.O.M.E., provides an opportunity for home ownership for low income families.
Eleanor G. Sargent of East Machias has served her state, country and the world as a nurse in a variety of settings and with a primary emphasis on rural Maine. She grew up on a farm in Mount Chase and has three daughters. She is a nurse anesthetist and has practiced in Maine for over 45 years. From 1986 to 1996 she traveled in teams with Feed the Children, providing medical care in developing countries. At the same time she collected two million dollars worth of hospital equipment for a new children's hospital in Guatemala and El Salvador. While she has provided health care in such various places as Alabama, Montana and Guatemala, her longest commitment has been to rural Maine. She has gathered 2,000 pounds of food for distribution to the Temporary Shelter for the Homeless, Inc. in Aroostook County and worked with Feed the Children in Maine and abroad. In 1997, she received the Machias Rotary Outstanding Achievement Certificate for International Service. Currently, she is president of the Downeast Educational Fairground in Washington County.
Writers Gather to Fight Hunger in Maine

October 27, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The University Bookstore at the University of Maine will host local writers in an event designed to help stamp out hunger in Maine and around the world.

The Annual Share Our Strength Writers Harvest Reading will be held Thursday, Oct. 29 from 7-9 p.m. in the Bookstore, located in the Memorial Union at UMaine. Donations of food and/or money are requested, but not required.

Participating writers include Constance Hunting, professor of English; Terry Crouch, a lecturer in English; Jennifer Pixley, a lecturer in English; Virginia Nees-Hatlen, associate professor of English; Margery Irvine, a lecturer in English; Rhea Cote Robbins; and Pat Ranzoni.

The UMaine event is part of a campaign that involves more than 2000 authors in over 500 bookstores, community centers and college campuses nationwide. Food donations will be given to Manna, a soup kitchen on Center Street in Bangor. Cash donations will be given to the Maine Coalition for Food Security, a group that works to increase access to quality, nutritious food for low-income families in the state. The coalition educates the public about hunger, participates in the Campaign to End Childhood Hunger and expands access to nutrition programs.
Extension 1999 Calendar Available

October 28, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Home gardeners will benefit from monthly practical tips for their perennial gardens in the 1999 North Country Garden Calendar published by Cooperative Extension. The calendar is illustrated by Melanie Brown Twitchell from Ellsworth. She is a Master Gardener.

The illustrations show different perennials and garden scenes which indicate good planting locations. Some of the topics described in the calendar include perennials for the woodland garden, edible flowers, vines, salt tolerant plants and hot peppers.

Single copies are $5 each and can be ordered from Gale Jameson, UMaine Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-7270 (in Maine only) or 207-581-2953.
UMaine Professor Conducts Downtown Gardiner Study

October 28, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A University of Maine professor recently completed a report for the Gardiner Police Department that identifies concerns of community business members.

Carolyn Ball, associate professor of Public Administration, was hired by the police department to conduct the survey after they received a U.S. Department of Justice Problem-Solving Grant. The police department had recognized that business owners had concerns about petty crime such as loitering and littering, nuisances such as skateboarding by youth and sometimes serious crime such as vandalism.

"The survey process began in April with community meetings initiated by the police chief," says Ball. The chief, Michael Coty, and faculty from the UMaine Public Administration department met with youth in April and members of the Gardiner Business Guild in May. The information from these meetings was used to develop a survey that was distributed to business owners.

"We went door to door and surveyed all the businesses," says Ball. She was assisted in this by two public administration graduate students, Andrea Tessier and Patricia Kontur. The students distributed surveys to approximately 103 businesses. Out of those, 85 were completed and returned.

"The results of the survey show that the downtown business community would like a more visible police presence and are concerned about parking issues," says Ball. "Also, although many citizens speculated that young people were causing problems for business owners, the survey results showed that people hanging around were not necessarily teenagers but also older individuals."

The results of the report will be presented to the Gardiner City Council on Monday, November 2, says Ball, and Chief Coty will discuss with the council his plans to implement changes. He will also meet with the Business Guild and community members in separate meetings.

Ball will now evaluate the Gardiner Police Department's report. They are required by the grant to put together a plan to deal with the problems that were identified through the study. She plans another survey next summer to determine whether changes made were effective in reducing the concerns of business owners.
Engineering Students Get Hands-On Training, Help to Make Maine Businesses More Productive

October 29, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 20-7-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Good grades in this course could be dollars saved for the Maine economy. Between July 1997 and June 1998, students and professional engineers in the University of Maine's Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) identified more than $1.4 million in savings for manufacturing firms last year based on evaluations of energy and waste management.

Since 1993, the Center has provided a learning environment for students and earned its bread and butter as part of a federally funded network of similar university-based centers around the country. At UMaine, two professional engineers and 11 undergraduate students, mostly in the School of Engineering Technology, visit factories and develop money-saving recommendations. The service is free to participating companies, and the U.S. Department of Energy provided $150,749 in grant support last year.

During that time, according to Scott Dunning, IAC director, students and staff inspected and prepared recommendations for 23 companies. Those companies include tool and die manufacturers, lumber mills, and factories which make shoes, boats, furniture and food products. On average, the money which would be spent by companies to implement the recommendations would be paid back in slightly more than one year.

"Managers know their processes well, but they don't generally have the time to focus on one aspect such as energy or waste. We've been looking at lots of manufacturing plants with those things in mind, and we can usually zero in on cost saving measures right away," says Dunning.

The Center's professional staff includes Mark Armstrong, P.E., a graduate of Maine Maritime Academy with 12 years of experience in industrial process control, and Curt Bartram, P.E., a state employee who works with the Department of Economic and Community Development's energy audit program. Jill Schoof, associate professor of electrical engineering technology, is assistant director.

"We train the students to use test equipment and evaluate areas where savings are usually found. The students work with a mentor and then call the business managers, collect data about the plants and give a formal presentation before the managers," says Dunning.

"One of the most important products of the IAC is our graduates. Students leave here with an impressive portfolio of experiences with industry. One graduate got a job in a paper mill based on savings he identified during a quick tour of the plant during his interview. I called the manager to give the student support, and the manager said it wasn't necessary. He had hired him on the spot," says Dunning.

The IAC's nerve center is located in a second floor room in East Annex. It features shelves of industrial process manuals, file cabinets filled with audit records and a blackboard used to track projects. Students mix attendance in classes with calls to businesses or calculations of potential savings.

After extensive preparation and review of a manufacturers bills, students and staff spend a day at each company taking measurements with "state of the art" test equipment. Then, they spend six to eight weeks developing a comprehensive report which includes recommendations, implementation costs and payback calculations.

Students currently working in the program include Rick Peck of Pittsfield, Seth Prentice of Wells, Roger Ewer of Bangor, Chad Poulin of North Vasselboro, Matthew Korbet of Sidney, Shawn Doherty of Palermo, Chuck Foster of Ellsworth, Daniel Patrick of Brunswick, Aaron St. Pierre of Jay, Christopher Malm of Caribou and Brett Chambers of Chester Springs, Pennsylvania.
The Center can be contacted at 207-581-2329 or via Internet at www.eece.maine.edu/EET/IAC/
Alpinist to Speak on History of Big Wall Climbing

October 30, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Jim Bridwell, one of the world's foremost alpinists, will present a narrative slide show on the evolution and history of big wall climbing at the University of Maine on Nov. 4.

In "Changing Times: The Evolution of Big Wall Climbing" Bridwell will show vintage slides from the 1960s that highlight the golden age of American mountaineering and show the development of climbing and climbing gear. The presentation will be in 101 Neville Hall at 7:30 p.m. and there is a $2 admission fee.

Big wall climbing is defined as climbing over 2000 vertical feet and taking average parties several days and nights to complete. Bridwell is a native of California and the creator of the Yosemite Search and Rescue Team. He has had a long and successful career of climbing and first ascents.

The show is hosted by Maine Bound and the Center for Students and Community Life.
Former Orono Resident Receives 1998 Distinguished Engineering Award

November 4, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Peter J. Wolcott of Woodbury, Connecticut, president of Precision Resource and a member of the University of Maine Class of 1983, has received the 1998 Distinguished Engineering Award from the UMaine College of Engineering. He is a graduate of Orono High School.

Wolcott served on the UMaine School of Engineering Technology Industrial Advisory Committee and the President's Club. He also donated a valuable piece of test equipment to the Mechanical Engineering Technology program.

"My engineering education taught me skills that I have used throughout my career. Manufacturing companies like ours have come to recognize that skilled people are their most valuable assets," says Wolcott.

"We understand that engineering institutions like UMaine are a critical source for what will become our future assets, without which, our potential would be severely limited. Simply put, UMaine supplies the fuel which will help power many manufacturers into the 21st century."

As president of Precision Resource, Wolcott oversees a contract manufacturing company that specializes in the field of fineblanking and is North America's largest company of this type with over $100 million in annual sales. The company employes more than 800 people in six divisions and produces parts and sub-assemblies used in such diverse products as General Motors fuel pumps, Intel Pentium II processors and Leatherman pocket tools.

Fineblanking is a hybrid metal forming process that combines the technologies of stamping and cold extrusion. The process creates high precision parts with cleanly sheared edges. Precision Resource also has extensive finishing and assembly capabilities.

During his years at UMaine, Wolcott worked for Fairfield Tool & Die Company as an Apprentice Tool & Die Maker. After graduating from Maine, he joined Precision Resource as an engineer at the California Division. At that time the company operated three divisions with $12 million in annual sales. In 1985 Wolcott was transferred to Connecticut and became division manager. In 1986 he was promoted to group vice president with operating responsibility for all divisions. He is currently the president of the company.

Wolcott graduated from UMaine with an Associate of Science, and Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology.
UMaine Scientist Embarks on First-Ever American Collaboration in a Chinese Antarctic Research Voyage

Nov. 4, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 208-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A first-ever American collaboration with the Chinese government's Antarctic science program is taking a University of Maine scientist to the edge of the southern continent's seasonal ice pack this winter. Cindy Pilskaln, faculty member in the School of Marine Sciences, will spend Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's on a Chinese research vessel during a two-month trip to measure specific properties of the southern Indian Ocean and deploy an oceanographic instrument mooring to a depth of more than two and a half miles.

Pilskaln and Fei Chai, also of SMS, initiated the project with the Chinese government in 1997. Their research is supported by a two-year $368,920 grant from the National Science Foundation Office of Polar Programs.

In addition to deploying the mooring which was designed by Pilskaln, American and Chinese scientists will work together to collect data on temperature, salinity, algal production, nutrient concentrations and light transmission. Pilskaln will be joined by Vernon Asper, a biogeochemist at the University of Southern Mississippi.

"We're looking at the role of the southern ocean in the global carbon cycle," says Pilskaln. "It's a very productive area with a high potential for strong drawdown of atmospheric carbon dioxide through primary productivity and carbon particle export. The U.S. has just finished up a big carbon cycling field program off Antarctica in the Ross Sea on the Pacific Ocean side of the continent. There aren't any comparable data from the Indian Ocean side."

Pilskaln has published extensively on the geochemical cycling of particulate organic carbon and biogenic silica in the oceans. She has conducted similar studies in the North and Equatorial Pacific, the Gulf of Maine, the Black Sea and other areas. Chai, an expert in numerical modeling, is an author of one of the mathematical models used to estimate the exchange of carbon dioxide between the ocean and the atmosphere as a function of nutrient and productivity levels.

The mooring which will be deployed consists of a steel cable equipped with current meters, sediment traps that collect sinking organic material and other instruments for collecting temperature and pressure data. An array of 51 glass balls will provide subsurface flotation for the mooring. The whole string will be anchored to the sea floor with railroad wheels, a type of weight which is commonly used by oceanographers.

"It's a standard oceanographic operation," says Pilskaln, "but when one stops to think about the costs, it's like taking three or four Mercedes and anchoring them to the bottom of the ocean. Each sediment trap is worth $20,000. There's over $30,000 worth of glass flotation. The current meter costs about $12,000. The Argos satellite transmitter is $5,000. There's $24,000 invested in the two acoustic releases."

After the mooring has been in place for about a year, Pilskaln and her team will return to retrieve it. Using an acoustic transponder, they will release the mooring from the anchor which will be left on the bottom. If all goes well, the mooring will float to the surface where scientists will pick it up, along with data and samples that have been collected by the instruments.

"This is the first time ever that a Western country has collaborated with the Chinese in the Antarctic on an oceanographic project in which American and Chinese scientists will work side by side," says Pilskaln. "We had heard that the Chinese were interested in starting new collaborations with American oceanographers, and we were interested in working in the southern Indian Ocean. The United States is making significant efforts to
engage the Chinese in many different ways. Scientific collaboration certainly represents one way in which we can develop a good working relationship that extends into other areas of interaction."

Pilskaln plans to leave on November 19. She grew up in California and Massachusetts and received her master's and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. Chai is a native of China and received his bachelor's degrees at Ocean University of Qingdao in China and his Ph.D. at Duke University.
UMaine Staff Member Receives Kennedy Fellowship

November 6, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The director of the Center for Community Inclusion, an interdisciplinary education and research institute in disability studies at the University of Maine has been awarded a public policy fellowship by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation.

Lucille Zeph will begin her work with the foundation in January and spend a year in Washington, D.C. on sabbatical.

"The focus is on national policy and disability, which is the primary work of the center and my primary area of interest," says Zeph. "This particular fellowship is a mid-career fellowship, so the expectation is that it will provide an opportunity for me to take what I already know and apply it on a national level and use this as a learning experience."

Zeph has been at UMaine for 19 years. In that time, she has been a professor of education and was responsible for developing the graduate program for education specialists in severe disabilities in the College of Education. She has run the Center for Community Inclusion since it was founded in 1992.

"This is a particularly important year for disability legislation in that the Developmental Disabilities Act, which creates this center and other University Affiliated Programs, Developmental Disabilities Councils and Protection and Advocacy centers throughout the country, is up for reauthorization," says Zeph.

The Center for Community Inclusion is part of a national network of University Affiliated Programs that work to ensure that people with developmental and related disabilities have opportunities to be full participants in their communities. They work on this goal through education, research and community outreach programs.

Zeph says her exact appointment will not be known until after the elections, but she will be working to educate national leadership on issues relating to disabilities, most likely with the U.S. Senate.

"I think this appointment will give me a much better idea of how national policy is set and give me a close look at the process," Zeph says. "At the same time, it will allow me to take some of what I have learned and share it with people in leadership positions."

Next summer, Zeph will have the opportunity to participate in the week-long Bioethics course at Georgetown University's Kennedy Institute of Ethics.

The Kennedy Foundation's objectives are the prevention of mental retardation by identifying its causes and improving means by which society deals with its mentally retarded citizens. The Public Policy Fellowship Program was started in 1980 to provide skilled leadership in government and public policy.
Grant Rewards Students for Research

Nov. 5, 1998
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- A $10,000 grant from the Nellie Mae Fund for Education to the University of Maine Upward Bound program is helping some high-achieving, low-income students with first-year college expenses. This is the sixth year the non-profit foundation has awarded grants to support pre-collegiate research internships for Upward Bound Math/Science students during the "Bridge" year between high school and college.

The 1998 grant allowed Upward Bound to award subsidies for essential college costs to 10 students, five of whom are attending UMaine. The grant recognizes students for their research, developed and conducted during the summer with UMaine faculty. Student research and resulting papers ranged from the effect of cerebral palsy on speech development to biodegradability of latex balloons in the environment.

The Math/Science students spend their summers meeting the program's intense academic and research demands and do not have the chance to earn money for college. "It's a trade-off that reflects their commitment to learning and their understanding of the long-range value of education," says Upward Bound Director Linda Ives. "That's why this grant is so important and appreciated."

Upward Bound is a federally funded TRIO program established to advance equal educational opportunity by helping students overcome economic, social, academic and cultural barriers to higher education. TRIO programs at UMaine are administered by the College of Education and Human Development.

The Classic Upward Bound program, in its 33rd year at UMaine, serves 100 economically disadvantaged students in high schools in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo and Hancock counties. The Regional Math/Science Center program, in its seventh year at UMaine, serves between 40 and 50 highly motivated, math and science-focused students in schools throughout New England. Both programs provide counseling and tutoring in the students' schools, as well as a summer residential experience at UMaine. Students in the Classic program have the opportunity to work in a career-related field and earn some money during their summer experience.
UMaine ROTC Sets Veterans Day Schedule

Nov. 6, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Students in the University of Maine's Army and Navy ROTC programs will honor those who have served in the U.S. armed forces when the cadets participate in a series of activities on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Cadets will participate in a silent vigil on the steps of UMaine's Fogler Library from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., paying tribute to prisoners of war and those missing in action from Maine. A placard listing the names of those people will be displayed at the vigil, which will be staffed by students in one-hour shifts.

The UMaine Army ROTC Color Guard will march in the Bangor/Brewer Veterans Day parade, walking directly in front of the University of Maine band.

Members of the University and local communities are invited to join cadets for a Retreat Ceremony from 3:55 p.m.-4:25 p.m. at the flagpole on the hill near Wingate and Coburn Halls on the UMaine campus. The ceremony will feature a ceremonial retiring of the American flag and a talk by Lt. Col. Marc G. Girard, the new professor of Military Science and commanding officer of the Army ROTC battalion at UMaine.

The tradition of honoring American veterans dates to 1918, when President Woodrow Wilson established Armistice Day to honor the 116.000 Americans who died in World War I. Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day, honoring all American veterans, living and dead, in 1954.
Students Testing the Waters with UMaine's Water Research Institute

November 9, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Students in the Penobscot River watershed will take a water quality snapshot of the river and its tributaries on November 17 in cooperation with the University of Maine Water Research Institute (WRI). More than 40 locations along the river and its tributaries will be sampled, and the information will be used in classrooms for educational purposes.

Water samples will be sent to the WRI for analysis, and information about water quality characteristics such as acidity, color and nitrogen will be returned to the schools.

The project is part of the Institute's Testing the Waters program which has received funding from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Maine Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and the Institute are also providing support.

To prepare for the river sampling event, teachers and students will participate in a workshop November 12 with members of the WRI, State Representative Matt Dunlap, Tammis Coffin of the Penobscot Indian Nation and Barbara Welch of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. That event will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the WRI in the Sawyer Environmental Sciences Building.

In addition to listening to presentations, the participants will tour the Institute's labs. They will discuss the river, various pollution sources and water quality data collected by scientists. Teachers and students will also learn about water quality sampling methods and how to interpret data. The meeting will conclude at 2:30 p.m.

In December, some Penobscot River samples will be taking a longer ride for science through the efforts of a Brewer High School teacher who is participating in the Testing the Waters program. Mike Hutchins teaches math and is working with teachers from Skowhegan and Calais on a project to send water samples and pine tree seeds on an upcoming space shuttle flight. Hutchins says that what he learns in Testing the Waters will help him to interpret data from the shuttle experiments.

According to Mary Ann McGarry, coordinator of Project WET for the Water Research Institute, teachers and students will benefit from accurate information tailored to Maine's environment. "Lots of teachers and students are interested in studying water quality in their science courses," she says, "but some of the commercial testing kits are not appropriate for our conditions. We're providing answers about how to do accurate tests for water hardness, phosphorus, nitrogen and other things."

The WRI has conducted the Testing the Waters program since 1995. A Water Careers Festival is planned May 6, 1999 for students and teachers.
UMaine Bureau of Labor Education Points Out Pitfalls of Privatization

November 9, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- In an attempt to shrink the size of government and cut costs, many elected officials have suggested privatizing public programs such as Social Security or education. A University of Maine educator says such proposals should be studied carefully more before any decisions are made.

UMaine's Bureau of Labor Education has published a fact sheet on this issue, "Problems and Pitfalls of Privatization: Costs, Efficiency, Accountability and Quality." John Hanson, director of the bureau, says this is the first of four such sheets dealing with various aspects of privatization.

"It's a topic that's being widely discussed," Hanson says. "There has been some controversy surrounding the topic, so we hope to raise issues that need to be considered before public programs are contracted out to private companies."

Hanson says although privatization is often touted as a simple solution to many problems, including inefficiency and budgetary concerns, increasing evidence suggests that the policy trend is much more complex and problematic than many people realize.

"There have been a lot of serious and extremely costly mistakes made," says Hanson. "It doesn't always result in the benefits proponents expect."

One of the problems privatization can cause is in budgetary costs and efficiency. Hanson says that normally the attempts at evaluating cost savings are limited in their scope. They often fail to take into account hidden costs such as health care and other employee benefits.

Hanson says private sector businesses who bid to offer government services often underestimate the actual costs of providing those services. For example, in California a large company was contracted by the state to build a computer system for tracking child-support payments. The state later canceled its contract when the cost mushroomed from an originally projected cost of $99 million to $277 million.

"In the end, taxpayers end up paying most of these costs," says Hanson. Those same taxpayers, he says, will also end up having fewer avenues for redressing their complaints against a company.

Governmental agencies, for many years, have built up direct lines for accountability and responsibility. Contracted services often have limited avenues for handling complaints, and problem solving through this process can be complex, confusing and lengthy. Governmental agencies are usually limited to contractual remedies for resolving any conflicts, Hanson says.

Hanson says the experiences in treating the mentally ill in the U.S. document the failure that can occur under a system of privatization with insufficient accountability controls. In the early 60's, the National Institute of Mental Health provided millions of dollars to private sector enterprise to build, staff and maintain community mental health centers. Research has revealed that little or no monitoring was established to account for the results of these centers, and only 46 percent of them were fulfilling their commitments.

Overall, Hanson says he is not totally opposed to privatization in certain areas, and there are situations where it makes sense.

"If evidence suggests privatization might save money while providing the same or better level and quality of services under certain circumstances, it ought to be explored to determine if it can actually work," says Hanson.
Hanson says government officials and administrators should explore alternatives to contracting out and eliminating public sector jobs such as organizational innovation or labor-management initiatives based on employee involvement in planning.

The fact sheet is available from the Bureau of Labor Education at the University of Maine. The bureau was established in 1966 and has conducted programs, conferences and institutes in its mission to assist working men and women through continuing education. The bureau is accredited by the University and College Labor Education Association.
"Hay Fever" Season at UMaine -- Maine Masque to Present Noel Coward Comedy

Nov. 11, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO - Fast paced comedy and an eccentric, Bohemian family are the key ingredients in "Hay Fever," opening Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Hauck Auditorium on the University of Maine campus.

Produced by the student group Maine Masque, now in its 93rd season, and the UMaine School of Performing Arts, "Hay Fever" was written by Noel Coward, the English author of audience-pleasing plays on both sides of the Atlantic.

"Hay Fever" is set in the 1920's at the English country home of the Bliss family: Judith, mother and successful, retired actress; David, father and author of best-selling romance novels; Simon, son and satirical cartoonist; and Sorel, daughter and would-be-member of fashionable society. Each family member has secretly invited a guest to stay through the weekend in a house with only one guest room!

The comedy is non-stop, aided and abetted by a maid who takes most things in stride and guests who are forced to make the best of an impossible weekend when their hosts simply ignore them.

Janet Warner-Ashley of the UMaine School of Performing Arts theatre faculty, directs the comedy romp. The colorful, high style, twenties costumes are designed by Prof. Jane Snider of the UMaine theatre faculty. Frank Booker, scenic designer, has created the English country house set. Graduate student James Day is set decorator.

Appearing in the cast are Elaine DiFalco, theatre faculty member, as Judith; Timothy Simons, sophomore from Readfield, as David; Matthew Vire, senior from Orrington, as Simon; and Katherine Penniman, senior from Cardville, as Sorel. The four unsuspecting guests are Adam Crowley, sophomore from Caribou; Kelly Sanders, senior from Dexter; Ric Sechrest, graduate student from Orono and Bangor; and Michelle McCue, sophomore from Hampden. Jocelyn Richard, senior from Lewiston, appears as the long-suffering maid.

"Hay Fever" will be performed November 18, 19, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. Matinee performances are November 20 at 12:00 noon and November 22 at 2:00 p.m. Ticket information and reservations may be made by calling: 581-1755; 800-622-8499; or TDD/TYY (207) 581-1888.
Annual Book Drive Under Way

Nov. 12, 1998
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.

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 afternoon, Dec. 11. The annual book collection, in cooperation with the Kiwanis Club, has made thousands of books available to deserving area children over the past 20 years.
Jazz and Poetry Concert in Orono

Nov. 12, 1998
Contact: Kay Hyatt at 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- An evening of poetry, stories and music will celebrate the arrival of winter and the coming of Christmas on Friday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., at the Orono United Methodist Church.

Jazz and Poetry concert organizers Jeffrey Wilhelm and Peggy Jo Wilhelm, flautist, will be accompanied by Laura Artesani on piano and Jim Artesani on bass guitar. All are Orono residents and UMaine faculty.

Jeff Wilhelm will read selected poems centering around the featured reading of Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales." Classic jazz music will intertwine the readings.

This is the 13th year the Wilhelms have presented the Jazz and Poetry holiday celebration, a tradition they brought to Orono in 1995 after moving here from Wisconsin.

The program, a holiday offering for the entire family, is free and open to the public.
"Sawn Lake" on Ice at Maine Center for the Arts as St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet Presents Classic

Nov. 13, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet will bring the art of ice skating and classical ballet to the University of Maine's Maine Center for the Arts on Friday, Nov. 27 with performances at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The fairy tale ballet "Swan Lake" will be danced on ice instead of the stage floor when ice skates replace ballet shoes.

Founded in 1967, the St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet combines the grand tradition of Russian ballet with lush production values, lavish costuming and exquisite choreography. "Swan Lake" tells the story of Prince Siegfried and Swan Queen Odette. The 25 member ensemble appear in a production that includes a whirling, dizzying display of spectacular feats combined with flowing grace and beauty of movement.

The stage in the Hutchins Concert Hall at the Maine Center for the Arts will be turned into an ice rink for the two performances. Using space age materials and solar technology, the team of engineers will transform the stage into skatable ice in 24 hours. When the performance ends, the entire rink will be removed in approximately four hours and transported to the next performance site.

The St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet is touring for its third consecutive season in the United States. The Company is known internationally for its grace and skill on ice.

Ticket reservations may be made by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at: (207) 581-1755; 1-800-622-8499 or TDD/TTY (207) 581-1888.
University Singers Present Fall Concert

November 13, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Maine -- The University Singers, UMaine's select choral group, presents its annual fall concert on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 2:00 p.m. in the Minsky Music Recital Hall. Under the direction of Dennis Cox, School of Performing Arts music faculty, the University Singers offers a variety of choral works spanning the centuries.

The 16th century work "O Vos Omnes," by Morales, Spanish composer of the high Renaissance, opens the program. It is followed by Benjamin Britten's "Festival Te Deum" and Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms." The later work, in three movements, will be sung in Hebrew.

The second half of the program offers music on the lighter side with selections by Brahms, Joseph Martin and Vijay Singh's "Glimpse of Snow and Evergreen." The concert closes with Duke Ellington's exuberant "It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing."

The "Maine Steiners," an a cappella ensemble for male voices, and "University Junction," a jazz choir specializing in vocal jazz, provides intermission entertainment.

Ticket reservations may be made by calling the Maine Center for the Arts box Office at: (207) 581-1755; 800-622-8499; or TDD/TTY (207) 581-1888.
Citizen Network Keeps Eyes Open For Toxic Algal Blooms

November 16, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Like their predecessors in war time, a network of trained citizen volunteers is monitoring Maine's coast and looking for invaders from the sea. Every summer, tiny marine algae, a type of phytoplankton also known popularly as "red tide," appear in Maine's coastal waters where they can turn shellfish from a valued resource to a potential poison.

"It was generally a low toxin year. Our volunteers try to monitor twice a week near locations where the Department of Marine Resources monitors shellfish for red tide. They gather water samples off docks and bridges and from boats and conduct their analyses in the field," says Wendy Norden of the Waldoboro office of University of Maine Cooperative Extension, network coordinator.

The volunteers in the Phytoplankton Monitoring Program have just completed their second year of activity. Their mission is to provide an early warning system to detect the plankton which can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) and other problems for consumers of shellfish. Red tide is a bit of a misnomer, Norden notes, because most toxic algae do not turn the water red.

"If the volunteers find toxic algae in the water, they inform the Department of Marine Resources," says Norden. Participants from Wells to Eastport are working with Extension and the DMR with financial support from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund.

In one case last summer at Eastport, says Norden, volunteers identified Alexandrium , a red tide plankton, in the water nine days before evidence of toxins showed up in harvested clams. To insure food safety, DMR officials harvest a small number of clams, grind the meat and inject mice with an extract. If present, the toxin produced by the algae is strong enough to kill a mouse within 15 minutes of being injected.

The volunteers also found possible indications of another toxic algal species, dinophysis. Scientists have been aware of its presence in Maine waters, but until now, they have had little knowledge of its abundance. Dinophysis causes diarrhetic shellfish poisoning.

A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, Norden conducts training sessions for volunteers and presents data collected by the network to organizations concerned with the quality of Maine's marine environment.

At present, over 80 volunteers participate through 18 distinct monitoring groups at specific coastal locations. The look for four potentially toxic algae species as well as non-toxic species.

Norden arranges twice-a-year training workshops in which volunteers receive information on how to collect samples, record data and report the results. In addition to the plankton, the volunteers collect information about salinity, water temperature and wind speed.

"The volunteers have microscopes for examining water samples and identifying different types of plankton," says Norden. "After they collect a water sample, they put it under the microscope and classify the potentially toxic algae as rare, common or abundant." Scientists and government officials have known for many years that the Gulf of Maine harbors a toxic species, Alexandrium, which causes PSP. Researchers from universities in New England, private research labs and government agencies launched a five-year research project last spring to understand what conditions favor the growth and spread of Alexandrium plankton.
UMaine to Observe World AIDS Day

November 16, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- On the tenth anniversary of the first observation of World AIDS Day, the Peer Educators at the University of Maine have planned a series of events from Nov. 30 to Dec. 3 to inform the community about this growing pandemic.

"We are doing this because HIV/AIDS is becoming so prevalent in today's society," says Steve Caron, a third-year student involved in the Peer Educator Program. "It's a world-wide problem that people need to be aware of."

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 the AIDS pandemic.

According to a 1997 HIV/AIDS report by the American Association for World Health, there are 806 reported cases of AIDS in Maine.

"People don't think it can happen to them," says Amy Levine, a third-year student and peer educator. "They really don't have an idea how high the numbers are."

The week's activities begin on Monday night at 7 p.m. in Hancock Hall with "Sex Connection." This program is set in a game show format, with questions on topics such as anatomy and physiology, contraceptives, sexually transmitted infections (STI) and safer sex.

"We don't try to scare people with facts and figures," says Caron. "All our programs are interactive, so people are getting facts and figures in a fun way."

On Tuesday at 7 p.m. in York Hall, a program entitled "Welcome to Reality" will be held. Participants, through activities and games, will be presented with facts about HIV/AIDS and the global effects of the pandemic, as well as information on prevention.

Also on Tuesday in Cumberland Hall at 7 p.m., "Men and Women Sharing" will be held. In this event, men and women are split up 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. Caron and Levine say although this isn't specifically about sex or HIV/AIDS, it is a way to open communication and break down the barriers between men and women.

Maine Precaution, an acting troupe made up of UMaine students, will perform two shows of "Everything You Wanted to Know about Sex and Much More" on Wednesday. The first show will be at 7 p.m. in Penobscot Hall and the second at 8:30 p.m. in Aroostook Hall.

"These are wonderful, entertaining skits about three to five minutes long that entertain while teaching people about serious subjects," says Caron.

On Thursday evening, Nancy, a young woman with HIV, will speak at 7 p.m. in Knox Hall. Nancy will share her life story from her days as a student athlete to the aftermath of testing positive for HIV in 1993.

After this presentation, a candlelight vigil will be held in the parking lot of Cutler Health Center at 8 p.m. This vigil is to show support for HIV/AIDS research and education. Snacks and coffee will be provided free of charge.
All events are free and open to the public and are supported by Campus Living and the Center for Students and Community Life. The Peer Educator program at the University of Maine works to raise awareness on campus about challenges college students face.
Collegiate Chorale/Athena Consort in Concert at UMaine's School of Performing Arts

Nov. 17, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The annual fall concert of the University of Maine's Collegiate Chorale and the Athena Consort will be presented on Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Music Recital Hall. Together, the two performing ensembles will present a program of music spanning the centuries.

The Collegiate Chorale, a combined chorus of 90 singers representing many academic disciplines and sharing a love of singing, is under the direction of Shannon Chase, a graduate teaching assistant completing a master's degree in choral conducting at UMaine's School of Performing Arts. Among the works presented by the Chorale will be Mozart's "Sanctus and Hosanna" and Bach's "Sicut Locutus est." Featured on the program will be ethnic, cultural music from around the world, including the countries of Spain, Israel, South Africa, Russia, and the United States.

The Athena Consort, an intimate ensemble for women's voices, will perform early music as well as lighter favorites. Francis John Vogt, member of the School of Performing Arts music faculty, is director of the Consort.

Ticket reservations may be made by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at (207) 581-1755, 800-622-8499 or TDD/TYY (207) 581-1888.
Cooperative Extension Financial Program Teaches Teens Money Management

November 17, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A program sponsored by Cooperative Extension at the University of Maine is teaching teens statewide how to manage their money.

The curriculum was formed by the National Endowment for Financial Education and is provided to high schools nationwide through cooperative extension programs. In a classroom environment, students are taught basic money management skills such as how to balance a checkbook, handle credit or buy insurance.

"Money is what drives much of our culture," says Bill Weber, youth development and resource management specialist with UMaine's Cooperative Extension. "It causes conflicts in relationships and is the one of the leading causes of divorce. It's important for students to get a grounding in the nuts and bolts of financial management."

Weber says most of the teens who go through the program save more money or start a savings account.

A recent evaluation of financial education curriculum reveals that just 10 hours of classroom instruction can change the way teens handle their money.

The study was undertaken jointly by the National Endowment for Financial Education and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service.

According to the study, 86 percent of the students who have taken this class demonstrated an increase in financial knowledge or behavior when dealing with money, and 56 percent say their savings habits had improved. This change is noteworthy, because research indicates that those who are taught to save as teens will save more as adults.

Weber says the program is taught in 230 schools across the state to approximately 13,000 students. Cooperative Extension provides training for teachers and free workbooks to school systems that take part in the program.

One of those schools is Traip Academy in Kittery. Mary Trigge, a teacher in Family Consumer Science, teaches the program to juniors and seniors at her school.

"The curriculum was all set and ready to use," says Trigge. "It has made my job easier. It's information these students really need to know."

Trigge says this course is the first exposure many of her students receive to the principles of money management. She teaches checkbook use, how to buy insurance and has the students plan a five-month family budget.

"For some of them, it's the only instruction of this type they are going to get," says Trigge. "It will prevent headaches or problems later in life if they know this information. Some of my former students have told me that they have saved money by applying things they learned during the course."

Christine Barcomb, a senior at Traip Academy, has taken the course from Trigge. Barcomb says what she has learned will be useful for the rest of her life.

"I was awful with money before the course," Barcomb says. "I took the course through Single Survival, a class provided through our high school that teaches kids how to survive on their own. I'll be better now at budgeting my money."
Weber says that Cooperative Extension is planning regional workshops to instruct more teachers on how to present this curriculum in their school systems.

The National Endowment is an independent nonprofit organization committed to educating Americans about personal finance and empowering them to make positive and sound decisions to reach financial goals.
Hudson Museum to Host Maine Indian Basketmakers

November 17, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine will host the fourth annual Maine Indian Basketmakers Sale and Demonstration on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot basketmakers will sell their hand-made, one-of-a-kind ash splint and sweet grass basketry. Work baskets, such as creels, pack and potato baskets and fancy baskets ranging from strawberry and blueberry shaped baskets to curly bowls may be found. Also available will be quill jewelry, wood carvings and birchbark work.

This year, those wanting a sneak peek can pay $5 and get in the museum at 9 a.m. for early bird shopping.

The museum also plans activities for the day, including demonstrations of brown ash pounding, fancy basketmaking, music and storytelling and the Burnurwurskekek Singers with drumming, singing and dancing.

There will also be a family activity in which participants will make a holiday candy basket or a birchbark picture frame. These workshops are for adults and children 10 and older and limited to 15 people. For registration information, call 581-1901.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Bodwell Area on the second floor, the Indian Island Cafe will be serving up traditional foods.

The Hudson Museum is located in the Maine Center for the Arts on the UMaine campus. Admission to the sale is free, some activities will have fees. This event is supported by the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance and the Native American Studies Program, University of Maine.

Schedule of Events:

9 - 10 a.m. Early Bird Shopping. $5 Admission fee for this special shopping opportunity.

10 - 11 a.m. Brown Ash Pounding and Work Basket Demonstration by Eldon Hanning, Micmac

10:30 - 11 a.m. Music and Storytelling by David Sanipass, Micmac

11 a.m. - Noon Family Activity

€Holiday Candy Basket Workshop with Theresa Hoffman, Penobscot

€Birchbark Picture Frame Workshop with Richard Love, Penobscot

Pre-registration is required, and there is a $15 activity fee. Group size limited to 15. Ages 10+. Call 581-1901 to register.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Indian Island Cafe traditional foods, Bodwell Area.

1 - 2 p.m. Burnurwurskekek Singers with drumming, singing and dancing. Barry Dana, Rob Dana, John Neptune, Ron Bear, Dean Francis; Penobscats. Also Anne Akins Wood, Penobscot, Dancer.

2 - 3 p.m. Fancy basket demonstration by Caron Shay, Penobscot.
Media Invited to Hear, Discuss Report on Challenging Behaviors in Maine Schools

November 17, 1998
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

Maine principals are using a variety of strategies and specialists, from within their own staff as well as outside resources, to address the challenging student behaviors they are encountering in elementary and high schools, according to a new study from the University of Maine/Maine Principals' Association Research Partnership. These interventions seem to be effective with most students, but the serious needs and behaviors of a small group are far exceeding schools' ability and resources.

The report, "Principals' Perspectives on Challenging Behaviors in Maine Schools," based on interviews with more than 30 principals, will be presented Friday, November 20 at the Maine Principals' Association annual fall conference in Portland. The session is scheduled for 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in the Cumberland/Kennebec Room, Holiday Inn by the Bay.

Media are invited to attend the presentation and directly following the session to meet with UMaine researchers and Maine Principals' Association representative who will be available to discuss the significance of the report and its recommendations and to answer questions.

Elizabeth Johanson, principal of Lincoln Elementary School in Augusta, who chairs the Association's Ad Hoc Committee on Challenging Behaviors in Schools, will be present to discuss that panel's work and recommendations for action by legislators, educational policymakers and schools.

Copies of the report and the ad hoc committee's recommendations will be available to the media at the November 20 presentation and media follow-up opportunity.
SPIFFY Fund Continues Strong Growth

November 17, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Despite the erratic behavior of this year's stock market, the Student Portfolio Investment Fund of the University of Maine Foundation (SPIFFY) continues to grow in value.

The student-run fund was begun in the fall of 1993 with an initial investment of $200,000 by the University of Maine Foundation. An additional $150,000 was added a few years later. This year, the fund's value has reached $630,722, a return nine percentage points above the portfolio's benchmark.

The average annual total return over the past five years, according to the Foundation, is 16.12 percent.

"I think we're off four percent from our high, which is less than the market is off," says Ben Lupien, a fourth year economics major from Waldoboro and a group co-chair. "We think we've done pretty well."

During the stock market rallies of mid-July, the fund reached an all time high of $670,000. The group currently holds shares in 35 stocks, eight bonds and some options.

"At that time, we brought in the top return of all the portfolios in the University of Maine Foundation," says Amy Hall, a fourth year business finance major from Gorham and the group's other co-chair. "Like most portfolios, we pretty much followed the trend," says Lupien. "We lost some money, but we're climbing back towards our all time high."

Stock purchases are made based on member recommendations. Students within the group research stocks and make presentations to the weekly meeting. Members are given a week to consider proposals, which are voted on at the following meeting.

Students who join the organization are encouraged to attend regularly in order to vote on stock proposals. SPIFFY membership is not limited to business majors.

"We have English majors, economics majors and other people who are just interested in the market," says Hall.

Both Hall and Lupien say that their experience in the group has helped them in their understanding of the market and given them the education they need to open their own stock portfolios, which many members have done.

"It helps someone like me who wasn't really sure they were interested in this field," says Lupien. "Now, I'm interested in being a financial analyst, working on Wall Street or managing my own portfolio. I want to save money and invest it wisely." Hall says her experience in the group and the strength of the portfolio may give her an edge when looking for a job after graduation.

"I had an interview for a summer internship, and a lot of the interview turned into talking about SPIFFY. The employer was fascinated by the program," Hall says.

Bob Strong, professor of finance and SPIFFY's faculty advisor, says he believes a student's experience with SPIFFY can give them a solid foundation for their future employment.

"Quite a few graduates have told me they think it was SPIFFY that made them different from other applicants and gotten them jobs," says Strong.
Strong says in addition to the educational benefits, the group is helping the University of Maine Foundation, which takes a percentage of the value of the portfolio for academic programs such as scholarships.

We know the students are doing quite well," says Amos Orcutt, president of the University of Maine Foundation. "In some quarters, they have beat the professional managers."

Orcutt says the giving the students this opportunity is one of the most unique and exciting things the Foundation has done, and is pleased with the results.

"The experience of managing a portfolio with real money and learning basic organizational skills is great," says Hall. "I think it helps students train for the overall job experience."
Comfort and Calories Add Up During the Holidays

November 19, 1998
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Ever wonder how the terms "little old ladies" and "little old men" became so common and endearing? The answer is a good lesson to recall before you dig into the dip or reach for that second piece of pie during the food-centered holidays, according to a University of Maine fitness expert. These smaller, more active folks are still around because they have outlived their overweight, sedentary peers.

One-third of adults in the United States and one-quarter of the children are obese, meaning that more than 30 percent of their total body weight is fat, says exercise physiologist Nellie Orr. The average person gains five to seven pounds during the holidays from over-consumption and lack of activity, and far too many keep adding more bulk year after year. Orr earned her Ph.D. in exercise physiology from the University of Pittsburgh and is a faculty member in UMaine's Kinesiology and Physical Education program.

Holidays can be stressful and difficult for just about everyone, and painful for those suffering a personal loss. It's easy to gain consolation from overeating, especially high-fat comfort foods. But comfort isn't the only thing gained, Orr cautions. One pound equals 3,500 calories, so that extra seven pounds packed on during the holidays is the result of nearly 25,000 extra calories.

"Beyond essential fat, which is required for proper physiological functioning, extra fat is excess tissue," says Orr.

Like all tissues of the body, fat requires energy -- energy which is produced through the process of metabolism and supplied to the tissues by the cardiovascular system, she explains. The extra burden of the additional weight places excessive stress on the musculoskeletal system, which can lead to low back pain and joint pain. The result of the excess fat and the related stresses of transporting and nourishing it predisposes us to cardiovascular disease, diabetes and musculoskeletal problems and contributes to premature disability and death, says Orr. On the plus side, exercise and foods with a lot of nutrients help us function better, maintain good health and recover more quickly from illness or injury.

There are no "quick and easy fixes" to being healthy and fit, says Orr. Someone who has led a sedentary lifestyle for 20 years can't get in condition in two weeks, and those 20 pounds gained over the past two years can't be lost in two days.

American society is preoccupied with consumption, says Orr. "We talk about Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner, not the essence of the holiday. Thanksgiving is a day to give thanks, not to see who can eat the most. The more we realize the true significance of the holiday, the less likely we are to over indulge," she says.

Enjoy the traditions, but with some modification and certainly with moderation, Orr suggests. If possible, go for a walk, before and after holiday meals. The exercise, as well as the fresh air, is good for you. Walking a mile burns off 100 calories. That's a pound of fat a month, or 12 pounds a year. Always look for ways to expend calories, not for the closest parking spot.

Any kind of movement helps, but with remote control clickers that do everything from changing the channel to opening the garage door, our thumbs and forefingers often get the best work-out of the day. We even have wheels on our office chairs so we can roll from the desk to the filing cabinet, notes Orr, and we can run errands and get just about any kind of food by "driving through" and never getting out of our cars.

The biggest obstacle to healthy eating and exercise, during the holidays or as a matter of lifestyle, is attitude, says Orr, and she points out that the health and fitness industry has not always played a positive role. Often
people are just overwhelmed with all the information about fat and calories and by fitness standards that seem unobtainable, so they don't do anything, she explains.

Instead of focusing on the product -- weight and aerobic ability -- we need to focus on the process -- eating healthy and exercising, says Orr. The outcome will take care of itself. The key is to feel good about yourself and to adopt a healthy relationship toward food. There's no such thing as "good" or "bad" food if eaten in moderation, says Orr. A good rule of thumb is to have more chip than dip, more potato than sour cream, and more bagel than cream cheese.

Orr also suggests:

€ Savor and appreciate the food you consume.

€ If you know you are going to an event in the evening where lots of food will be served, ease up on what you eat during the day.

€ Be cautious with alcohol. In addition to other negative effects, many alcoholic beverages served during the holidays such as fruity punches and egg nog are loaded with calories.

€ If you really like a certain food, don't be too restrictive. You will just overindulge later.

€ Enjoy the food you prefer and don't punish yourself for eating unhealthy.

€ Try to eat more foods that are high in nutrients.

€ Teach others about making healthy food choices.

€ When you receive high-calorie food as a gift, share some and freeze some .

€ Take every advantage to be more active.

€ Don't trick yourself into overeating with the promise that you will begin a rigid diet tomorrow. "Tomorrow" never comes.
Faculty/Student Chamber Music Recital at School of Performing Arts

Nov. 20, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Music fans will have a unique opportunity to hear a variety of instrumental ensembles, not traditionally part of a chamber music recital, at UMaine's School of Performing Arts "Faculty/Student Chamber Music Recital" on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Music Recital Hall. Along with the more familiar string and piano chamber ensembles, the evening will feature a trombone quartet, clarinet quartet, guitar trio, saxophone quartet, flute choir, and mixed brass quartet.

Works by G. F. Handel, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Bach, Mozart, Haydn, and Scott Joplin are among the selections to be performed. "Canon and Fantasy," a composition by UMaine music faculty member Beth Wiemann, will be presented by the "20th Fret Guitar Trio." A Baroque chamber ensemble, composed of baritone, cello and harpsichord, will also be featured.

The "Faculty/Student Chamber Music Recital" is under the direction of Ginger Yang Hwalek, School of Performing Arts music faculty. Music faculty performing during the recital are: Fred Heath, Susan Heath, Diane Roscetti, director of the School of Performing Arts, and Peggy Jo Wilhelm.

Tickets may be reserved by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at: (207) 581-1755; 1-800-622-8499 or TDD/TYY (207) 581-1888.
Study Looks at Maine Principals' Experiences with Challenging Behaviors in Schools

November 20, 1998
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

PORTLAND, Maine -- Maine schools are encountering a variety of challenging behaviors by students and are using a number of strategies to address the problems, according to a study tapping the experiences of 33 elementary and high school principals. While the interventions are effective with most students, the serious needs and behaviors of a small group far exceed schools' ability and resources, according to researchers at the University of Maine's College of Education and Human Development.

The study, conducted over the past year, also reflects the importance and effectiveness of parental involvement in developing, supporting and evaluating behavioral intervention and prevention strategies. But the degree to which schools are able to rely on parental support varies. In some incidents, parents are as frustrated and unable as the schools to cope with the behavior of their children.

The report, "Principals' Perspectives on Challenging Behaviors in Maine Schools," is based on interviews with 20 principals from different configurations of K-8 schools; four from grade 5-8 schools; and nine principals of either grades 7-12 or 9-12 schools. Sponsored by the UMaine-Maine Principals' Association Research Partnership, the report was presented and discussed November 20 at a seminar on challenging behaviors held in conjunction with the Maine Principals' Association's annual fall conference in Portland.

"We now have an idea of the major behavioral issues being exhibited in Maine schools," says lead author Jim Artesani, assistant professor of special education. The report documents that there is a group of students out there, 2-5 percent in any given school, who seem impervious to all efforts and with needs so complex that any effective intervention requires the involvement of communities and service agencies, according to Artesani. "It's common with what we see in the national literature," he says.

Principals described behaviors that fall into three major categories -- Defiant, which includes non-compliance with rules, insubordination, disrespect, resistance and refusal; Aggressive, which physically hurts another individual, such as fighting, throwing objects, kicking, assaulting and ripping things off walls; and Harassment, such as name calling, verbal and physical intimidation and bullying. The principals noted that fighting is often a result of verbal and physical harassment that took place earlier.

The report documents that most schools are trying to manage problem behavior with existing personnel, with teachers as the first line of defense, particularly those with specific training in crisis intervention or behavioral programming. Schools are also drawing upon a wide array of resources, including other in-house personnel such as special education and guidance staff, educational technicians and social workers, as well as outside specialists, parents and peers to help develop appropriate interventions and support services.

Encouraging the development of pro-social skills has always been a natural, informal part of what schools do, according to UMaine Professor Walter Harris, a specialist in behavioral disorders who also worked on the report. "Principals and teachers are beginning to realize that this previously hidden curriculum needs to become an explicit, visible, well-planned part of a school's overall mission and expectations that represent community values," Harris says. "Some schools are beginning to address this task, but many are reluctant to do so, believing that values and social behaviors are the exclusive province of home and family."

Teaching pro-social behaviors based on community values is not a complex matter, according to Harris, but it requires community support and sustained attention and commitment from teachers and administrators.

Schools can set boundaries, teach appropriate behaviors and develop programs to help kids, but schools aren't social service agencies, Artesani points out. Serious behaviors are caused by long-standing, complex factors and it takes time and resources far beyond the schools' capacity to tackle these problems.
Artesani emphasizes that communities need to know what schools are coping with in terms of student behavior. "Kids should not have to be shot to grab the headlines," he says. "The fact that they are getting into fights, being defiant and harassing one another and teachers should be enough to get public attention and helpful response."

Among other findings in the report:

€ Challenging behavior is more evident in males than females, particularly the serious behaviors, such as physical aggression.

€ There was little distinction between regular and special education students in exhibiting challenging behaviors.

€ An encouraging number of schools are using programs that build the capacity of students and staff to effectively manage challenging behaviors, such as social skills curricula, peer mediation, anger management, advisory teams and various types of staff training.

€ Principals also experience the frustration of parents whose children do not pose behavioral problems. Some of these parents don't think schools are doing enough to control the situation, and they want the disruptive kids out of the school.

€ Principals consider their own roles as critical and appear to feel to a significant extent that challenging behaviors are their responsibility.

€ Principals consistently expressed the crucial role of parental involvement in dealing with behavioral issues. But they also feel that parents and home circumstances can undermine school attempts to address serious problems. They express frustration, but also an understanding of the larger issues involved, such as mental health problems, physical, sexual and psychological abuse, poverty and lack of social skills.

School may be more successful than they realize in addressing most challenging behaviors, says Artesani. They generally seem able to access well-trained staff, consultants and strategies that are working with most students. But the inability to reach that small group of students engaging in serious and disruptive behavior, combined with the lack of family and community effort to support effective programming and monitoring can overshadow progress with less intense problems.

Among other recommendations, the researchers suggest that schools:

€ Conduct a systematic evaluation of challenging behaviors in individual schools.

€ Clarify school and parental expectations around behavior.

€ Develop a set of schoolwide values concerning student behavior and principles upon which rules can be developed.

€ Develop a schoolwide discipline plan in conjunction with community agencies.

€ Develop a statewide web page on the issue, with links to other related pages and a bulletin board for posting information and posing questions.

€ Develop working relationships with parents prior to the advent of behavioral problems.

The Maine Principals' Association's Professional Executive Committee has also received recommendations from the ad hoc committee it established in May 1997 to study student behavioral problems. The Ad Hoc Committee on Challenging Behaviors in Schools has drafted recommendations for consideration by legislators, educational policymakers and schools. Suggested actions range from greater collaboration and sharing of critical information among agencies dealing with youth at risk to comprehensive pre-kindergarten-grade 12 prevention programming, including components such as diversity, tolerance, conflict resolution and alcohol and drug abuse education.
American Association for the Advancement of Science Honors UMaine Biologist

Nov. 23, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Bruce Sidell of Old Town, the director of the University of Maine School of Marine Sciences, has been awarded the distinction of AAAS Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science for his contributions to science. Sidell is the only scientist from Maine honored among the 283 recipients of the award this year.

A ceremony will be held at the organization's annual meeting in Anaheim, California in February. According to a AAAS letter announcing the award, Sidell is being honored "for pathbreaking studies on cold water adaptations of fishes."

"Of course, I am personally gratified by my selection," says Sidell. "My election to Fellowship reflects directly upon the work of many of my graduate students and postdoctoral fellows over the years. Perhaps more importantly, however, I hope that this honor is seen as a broader indication of the quality of many of our research programs at the University of Maine."

Research in Sidell's lab currently focuses on the physiology and biochemistry of Antarctic icefishes which provide a model for understanding how animals adapt to stress. The icefish family is one of a group of fishes which have evolved to dominate the fish populations of the southern ocean surrounding Antarctica. Icefish have unique characteristics including large hearts and a lack of oxygen-carrying hemoglobin in their blood.

Other UMaine faculty who have received the AAAS Fellow distinction in the past include Robert Steneck, also of the School of Marine Sciences, and Malcolm Shick and Ronald Davis of the Department of Biological Sciences.

Fellows are nominated by a steering group of scientists within their disciplines, or by three Fellows, or the AAAS Executive Officer. Approval comes from the AAAS Council. Founded in 1848, AAAS has more than 144,000 members and publishes the weekly journal Science.
Sample Your Favorite Opera at UMaine's School of Performing Arts' Opera Workshop

Nov. 23, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- An "Opera Sampler" will be presented by UMaine's School of Performing Arts Opera Workshop on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Music Recital Hall. The program of arias and scenes will include much-loved excerpts from Bizet's Carmen, Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro, Puccini's La Bohème, and Verdi's Falstaff. Excerpts from Rossini's La Cenerentola, Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors, and Carlisle Floyd's Susannah will also be featured.

Nancy Ellen Ogle and Francis John Vogt, members of the School of Performing Arts music faculty, direct the performance. Laura Artesani and Jurai Kojs are piano accompanists. Dress rehearsal on Friday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. is open to the public with no admission charge. Ticket reservations for the performance on Dec. 5 can be made by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at (207) 581-1755; 800-622-8499 or TDD/TYY (207) 581-1888.
Turkey Guide for a Safe Thanksgiving

Nov. 23, 1998  
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777  

ORONO, Maine -- Safely thawing and roasting a turkey can be done by following a few simple steps, according to Mahmoud El-Begearmi, University of Maine Cooperative Extension food and nutrition specialist. The following guidelines help ensure that unwanted bacteria in food aren't among the guests at the Thanksgiving table.

What to buy?

Frozen turkeys should be purchased three to five days for safe thawing in the refrigerator. A fresh turkey should be stored in the refrigerator no more than two to three days before cooking.

Three ways to thaw frozen meat:

The preferred way to thaw a frozen turkey is in the refrigerator. Placing the bird in cold water or microwaving it just before cooking are also acceptable.

Meat should never be thawed on the counter at room temperature.

How much to buy:

Generally, allow one pound of turkey per person.

To Stuff or not to stuff your turkey:

It is safer to cook the stuffing outside the bird. However, if you like to stuff bird, it should be stuffed right before cooking. Cook stuffing to 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Storing leftovers:

In the freezer, turkey should be stored at zero degrees F or below for the following maximum periods of time: plain slices - four months; slices with broth or gravy - six months; other poultry dishes - four to six months; with stuffing and gravy - one month.

In the refrigerator at 40 degrees F or below maximum periods are: cooked turkey - three to four days; stuffing and gravy - one to two days; other cooked dishes - three to four days.
UMaine Economist Returns from Work in New Zealand

November 24, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- A University of Maine economics professor has returned from a year-long sabbatical spent learning and working with the intricacies of a foreign economy.

James Breece, associate professor of economics, spent a year at the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) in the Modeling Group of the Economics Department, located in the city of Wellington.

"It's the central bank, the government bank that is responsible for regulating private banks and setting monetary policy," says Breece. "I did economic modeling and forecasting based on a new core economic forecasting model. The primary benefit of my visit to the RBNZ was to learn the new modeling technique used by world organizations and the governments of several small open economies."

Breece says the Economics Department of the bank is made up of approximately 35 economists. In addition to modeling, Breece says, they conduct quarterly economic forecasts, monitor global economic events, conduct economic inquiries and make monetary policy recommendations to the Governor of the RBNZ.

"We would make monetary policy recommendations on interest and exchange rates to the governor, who has a position much like that of Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan in this country," Breece says. The New Zealand economy relatively recently switched over to a free market system, according to Breece.

"Before 1985, it was considered to be one of the most highly socialist countries outside of Eastern Europe," he says. "In 1985, the country implemented economic reforms that opened the economy and has been referred to by many as the New Zealand Experiment. As an economist, it was a exciting to live in a country where these social experiments were being conducted and watch it from the inside out." While he was there, the Asian financial crisis first appeared, which affected New Zealand.

"New Zealand exports a lot of their commodities to Asia and Japan, so they immediately felt the economic turmoil and went right into a recession," says Breece. "It was a bit chaotic part of the time I was there, when we were deciding how to appropriately set monetary policy when facing a recession."

Breece says the size of New Zealand, with a population of around 3 million gave him an opportunity to be close to monetary policy makers, an experience he never would have had in this country.

"Professionally, it was very rewarding. I teach economic modeling, forecasting and international economics," Breece says. "It helped my professional work in terms of learning new forecasting and modeling techniques. It will certainly help me in my teaching when I teach international economics, because I have many new international examples to point to. UMaine students will benefit from my experiences in New Zealand."
UMaine's 100-Member Oratorio Society to Present Holiday Concert

Nov. 25, 1998
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Music of the holiday season will be featured during the annual winter concert of the University of Maine Oratorio Society on Monday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Minsky Music Recital Hall. Under the direction of Kevin Birch, School of Performing Arts music faculty, the 100-member Oratorio Society is composed of singers from both campus and community.

The concert program will include "Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest," a recent work by American composer Conrad Susa, which incorporates traditional Spanish carols. The singers will be accompanied by harpist Jara Goodrich and by guitarist Keith Crook and percussionist Stuart Marrs, both members of the music faculty.

Composer Benjamin Britten's seasonal classic "A Ceremony of Carols," scored for women's voices and accompanied by harpist Jara Goodrich, will also be featured. "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," Randall Thompson's musical setting of Robert Frost's timeless poetry for tenor and bass voices, will be conducted by Daniel Williams, assistant director of the Oratorio Society. The entire chorus will present Handel's rousing "Coronation Anthem No. 2" (The King Shall Rejoice.)

Ticket reservations may be made by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at (207) 581-1755; 1-800-622-8499 or TDD/TYY (207) 581-1888.
Maine-Made Industrial Assembly Machine Loaded to UMaine

Nov. 30, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A new partnership between a Maine-based manufacturer, LANCO Assembly Systems of Westbrook, and the University of Maine is giving UMaine engineering students access to sophisticated industrial technology.

The company has loaned an automated assembly system to the UMaine School of Engineering Technology for student research purposes. The system features conveyor belts, robotic arms and other devices which assemble component parts into a finished product as directed by programmable computers.

Tom Zack, president of LANCO Assembly Systems and a 1970 UMaine graduate, will formally present the system in a ceremony at 9 a.m., Friday, Dec. 4 in Barrows Hall. Scott Dunning and Karen Horton, faculty members in the School of Engineering Technology, will provide opening remarks. The event will conclude at 10 a.m.

"We hope that the LANCO machine can be integrated into course study to demonstrate real-world applications of technologies being taught in the classroom," says Zack. "By providing the university with a functional automated system, we also hope to generate interest among the students to consider this field after graduation."

Scott Dunning of the Electrical Engineering Technology program says, "this is an excellent demonstration of how industry-University collaborations can improve educational opportunities for Maine students while assisting Maine industry."

The process line was originally designed to demonstrate the quality of LANCO products for trade shows. Maine students are currently learning to use the system which allows them to take the theoretical principles of automation and process control and apply them to a working process line.

The system is used in classes for Mechanical Engineering Technology and Electrical Engineering Technology students. Students will also be examining opportunities to improve on the system design.

LANCO Assembly Systems, Inc. is a global company focused on providing modular automation systems and services to customers in the automotive, appliance, electronics, medical, and consumer products industries.
Oceanographers Propose Gulf of Maine Red Tide Theory

Dec. 2, 1998
Contact Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A species of marine algae that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning in New England and the Canadian Maritimes appears to be more abundant off shore in the Gulf of Maine than scientists had initially believed, according to preliminary information from the first year of a five-year research project. The species, known as Alexandrium tamarensis, may take advantage of a natural pattern of nutrients which develops in the Gulf in mid and late summer, according to David Townsend, University of Maine professor in the School of Marine Sciences.

A new theory to explain the phenomemon has emerged from work by Townsend, Neal Pettigrew, Andrew Thomas and their students, all of UMaine, who are collaborating with scientists from other research institutions including the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the University of New Hampshire and Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. They have earned more than $5 million in grant support from the National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"We think we're on the verge of understanding what causes red tide outbreaks in the Gulf," says Townsend. "I presented these ideas to a meeting in Boothbay Harbor last summer."

If confirmed by detailed analysis of 1,200 water samples, the new theory could pave the way for predicting red tide outbreaks and reducing their impacts on human health and the region's shellfish industry. More than 2,000 samples were collected during cruises in the Gulf last summer.

Alexandrium contaminated shellfish have caused deaths among consumers, most recently during a 1988 outbreak in Prince Edward Island. As a precaution, shellfish beds can be closed for weeks at a time when red tide is detected.

The Theory

According to the theory, Alexandrium grows in the nutrient rich water which stays just below the surface in the eastern Gulf of Maine. Strong tides in the Bay of Fundy mobilize nutrients from deeper water layers, and currents carry this plume southwest along the coast of New Brunswick and Maine. At a point near Jonesport, part of this current turns south toward deep water.

Alexandrium is found in abundance in and on the edges of this current. In the microscopic world of marine algae, it is a relatively large organism and has the ability to swim. It turns out that swimming may give the species a competitive advantage over other algae, says Townsend, especially during the mid and late summer months.

That's because, as the summer wears on, a layer of warm water tends to grow at the surface of all northern hemisphere water bodies. If left undisturbed by strong tides or currents, the warm water is like a wet blanket on a smoldering fire. Lacking in nutrients, it tends to dampen the growth of algae. Moreover, it pushes colder, nutrient rich water down to depths where there is not enough light for algae to grow.

"It turns out from other studies done in the lab that Alexandrium needs high levels of light and nutrients. These two things are usually mutually exclusive in the ocean. In the summertime, other phytoplankton have already used up the nutrients in the surface waters. It's pretty well depleted. The light is highest in the surface waters, and it's dark down deep where there are lots of nutrients. You have to bring the two together, and this tidal mixing in the eastern Gulf of Maine brings them together," Townsend explains.
With nutrient rich water only a few meters below the surface, the theory goes, Alexandrium is able to swim down to absorb the necessary nutrients at night and return to the surface during the day to bask and grow in sunlight. In the western Gulf of Maine, nutrient rich water is too deep, beyond the reach of the algae.

During cruises in June, July and August, the researchers sampled water at 215 different points along the coast up to 70 miles offshore. "By the time we did the August survey, we could look at the print out of how water temperatures changed with depth and say whether we were or were not going to find Alexandrium there. It worked quite well," says Townsend.

Rivers and the Sandwich

The theory also explains other observations that scientists have made about red tide in past years. For example, local pollution sources have been thought to promote red tides. Since freshwater tends to stay on the surface of the Gulf, high levels of nutrients coming out of rivers discharging to the Gulf can indeed give Alexandrium a boost.

Monhegan Island has also been known as a red tide "hot spot," says Townsend, who wrote a scientific paper in 1983 proposing an explanation. "Turns out I was dead wrong. There's always been a lot of toxicity in the mussels out there. It's always the first one to become toxic in the summer. It's the only one we sample on a regular basis that's off shore. Everything else we sample is along the coast. This is the only outer island that's sampled. If you're going to look for it to occur first, you'd naturally look for it out where it lives."

Another mystery involves a stage in the Alexandrium life cycle known as a cyst. The algae form cysts when they are under stress. When conditions improve, the cysts respond by developing into active cells.

"Well, the cysts are in the water all the time," says Townsend. "It's like saying where do the diatoms come from in the spring in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean? The answer is, there are always some around."

Scientists have also known for many years that red tide algae are rarely seen along a section of the Maine coast from eastern Penobscot Bay to Jonesport. "Either side of that, we see paralytic shellfish poisoning in the mussels that are monitored by the Department of Marine Resources. John Hurst down there refers to this as the sandwich. Nothing in the middle and bread on both sides. Nobody really understood it," says Townsend.

Based on the observation that the nutrient rich current moves away from the coast at Jonesport, it makes sense that Alexandrium would be much less abundant there.

"The theory provides for the first time a foundation that's purely oceanographic in nature, rather than that there's a source of pollution here, and something else there. It clearly shows that it's the oceanography of the region that controls this. Unless we have oceanographers applying themselves to these problems, these things will remain elusive, and that's been the case until now," Townsend says.

The five-year project is part of an international effort to understand the causes of toxic algae outbreaks which have plagued the world's coastal waters in recent years. Further information about the Gulf of Maine project is available on the Internet, crusty.er.usgs.gov/ecohab/.
Vocal Group Records Christmas Album at UMaine's 1944 Hall

December 4, 1998
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Orono-based choral group Impromptu! has released their first compact disc, which was recorded with the University of Maine's new digital recording equipment in Minsky Recital Hall.

The CD, "Above All the Bustle" is a collection of classical, traditional and contemporary Christmas songs performed a cappella. Bronwyn Kortge, the group's artistic director, says many of the songs on the album may be new to listeners.

"There are some traditional Christmas songs," Kortge says. "Some songs, though, will tug on the strings of the brain because although they will seem familiar, our arrangements use unusual melodies."

Songs on the album include "Puer Nobis"; "A New Year Carol"; "Sleigh Ride"; "As Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" and "Of A Rose, A Lovely Rose."

"The disc is a good mix of quiet thoughtful music and fun upbeat and lighthearted looks at Christmas," says Kortge. "Many of the compositions are introspective in nature, with texts that call you to take a look at the true meaning of the season."

Impromptu! is a predominantly a cappella vocal ensemble currently comprised of nine men and women who sing professionally in the Bangor area. Kortge says they normally perform a wide range of music, ranging from madrigals and other classical genres to swing, pop and modern compositions.

The group's members include UMaine student Luke Hedger, and Francis John Vogt, a voice instructor with the School of Performing Arts. Two UMaine alumni, Todd Lake and Jon Hawley, are also members. Vogt, who has been part of the group for three years, says he thought the recording went well.

"It really sounds good to me," Vogt says. "Because we recorded in an actual performance hall, I think we got some nice acoustics and reverb that we would not have gotten in a studio."

The Minsky Recital Hall in the Class of 1944 Hall contains a 16-track digital recording system, comparable to that used by million-selling recording artists. The system gives students hands-on experience and training in recording technology.

The disc was recorded, mixed and mastered by John Dyer, a Blue Hill-based recording artist. Dyer has been in music and the recording industry since the late 1970s and has produced music for television commercials and movies such as Sling Blade and Ghostbusters II.

Dyer also helped the School of Performing Arts when they purchased, installed and learned to operate the recording equipment in the Class of 1944 Hall. This year, he is teaching a course in sound recording at the university.

"Working with John was wonderful," says Kortge. "It was the first recording that many of us had done and he had a way of making us feel comfortable. It's a wild experience to perform with a microphone two feet from your face and no audience."

Kortge says normally, the group performs in small venues such as churches or community halls and doesn't require amplification. She says the group evolved out of the pre-show entertainment for the Penobscot Theatre's summer Shakespeare Festival on the Bangor riverfront.
The recording is available on CD or cassette in the Ellsworth and Bangor Grasshopper Shops; Island Music in Southwest Harbor and Borders in Bangor.

The group will perform two concerts this season, featuring some songs from the new album: Dec. 10 on Maine Public Radio, "Live at Eleven" with Dave Bunker at 11 a.m.; Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at St. Francis by the Sea in Blue Hill; and Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the All Souls Congregational Church in Bangor.